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|  | **Animal Welfare Oversight Committee**  **Minutes of Meeting held on 4th September 2023** |

Conference Room 233 Block 2 Floor 3, Civic Offices and via Teleconferencing (Zoom)

9.00 am – 9.45am

**Members In Attendance:**

Cllr. Deirdre Heney, Chair (DH)

Cllr. Caroline Conroy (CC)

Cllr. Donna Cooney (DC)

Cllr. Cieran Perry (CP)

Catherine Lawler (CL) (Department of Agriculture)

Martina Kenny (MK) (My Lovely Horse Rescue)

**Dublin City Council Representatives**

Ursula Donnellan, Senior Executive Officer (UD)

Richie Herlihy, Administrative Officer (RH)

Maeve Furlong, Animal Welfare Inspector (MF)

**Minute Taker**: Gareth Matthews, Staff Officer (GM)

**Apologies:**

Chief Superintendent John Gordon, An Garda Síochána (CS,JG)

Inspector Peter Woods, An Garda Síochána

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|  |  | **Discussion** | **Matters Arising / Actions** |
| 1 | **Minutes of last meeting (19/06/23)** |  | Minutes agreed. |
| 2. | **Manager’s Report and Updates** |  | |
|  | Dog Control Statistics | YTD statistics presented and noted.  Chair)Length of time spent by dogs awaiting court proceedings an issue  Number of Garda seized dogs in DCC and duration of time in the shelter to be included in report going forward. | A.W Unit & Hollygrove have expanded contacts for rehoming dogs. Recent success in N. Ireland. |
|  | Dog Shelter Facility | Dublin Dog Hub DBE certificate granted.  Security measures have increased. An isolation unit/area as well as infrastructural improvements & operational/safety procedures to be established. | R.H) Contract terms at draft stage and negotiations ongoing Following agreement in principle on contract terms, VEAT Notice will be published to comply with Public Procurement requirements. |
|  | Horse Control Statistics | YTD statistics presented and noted.  Chair) Action required to make an impact on illegal horse ownership.  Difficulties arising from attempted seizures  - Logistics of seizure operations take time.  -Garda support required to increase safety measures  -Horses removed from original/multiple locations to properties/locations out of sight.  M.K) Daytime seizure in Kilkenny successful. Notable amount of Garda presence required. | Practicalities of  Daytime multi-agency seizure to be considered further. |
|  | Procurement Process for New Control of Horses Contract | Following a process led by Education Procurement Service involving all stakeholders the Request for Tender for the Horse Seizures Procurement is now in its final stages. Once the final Award Criteria is agreed the RFT will be issued without delay. | Noted. |
|  | Ballyfermot Horse Report | R.H) A.W staff to meet with Gardaí from Ballyfermot Station and Cherry Orchard Equine members to discuss measures required and operational planning to reduce number of Horses on public land. | Efforts to continue to find a workable solution in consultation with and input from local key people including public representatives. |
|  | Horse Carriage Multi-agency checkpoints | Chair- Night time checkpoint in Temple Bar needs to take place. | M.F.) Commenced planning with Gardaí for night time multi-agency checkpoints to be carried out. |
|  | DCC Animal Welfare & Control Services | Advertisement for external Animal Welfare Warden live on 1st Sept, closing date for applicants 21st Sept.  U.D) Internal competition interview for A.W Warden position scheduled for Friday 8th September. External interviews to take place as soon as possible. Depending on response, shortlisting may be required. | GM) to circulate A.W Warden job spec. and application to committee members.  All committee members asked to increase awareness of the competition to potential candidates. |
|  | Joint Training Programme | M.F) Training has been arranged, delay in roll out due to low participant numbers. DSPCA have been engaged to contribute in delivery of training.  Chair) Mark Randell to be contacted and involved in the delivery of training programme. | Chair) Training is required now, DCC AW Officers to receive training when appointed. |
| 3. | Meakstown-Dublin City Council Capital Programme 2024-2027 | The Chair outlined a proposal to put forward a recommendation from the AWOC that a DCC owned site at Meakstown be included in the Capital Programme 2024-2027 for the development of an animal shelter facility, and requested that members support the proposal. | The proposal was endorsed by the Committee.  Outline report to be prepared and circulated to members in advance of the Capital Programme process. |
| 4. | Animal Welfare Charter | R.H) Document to be circulated to all committee members for discussion and suggested inputs welcomed | To be discussed at next scheduled meeting. |
| 5. | Members update | No reports |  |
| 6. | A.O.B | Chair) Reminded all that Halloween is approaching. DCC have agreed policy to not support events with the use of Fireworks involved. | Cllr members asked to support the exclusion of events involving fireworks for the protection and welfare of Animals. |
|  | **Next meeting TBC** | | |