



Environment SPC Submission to the Dublin City Development Plan 2016 -2022.

- **Climate Change Strategy**

The new Development Plan should adopt a general objective that low-lying areas within the City be zoned amenity rather than mixed-use to mitigate the flooding risks associated with Climate Change.

Specific locations should then be addressed by way of Local Plans. For example, in relation to SDRA 6 – Poolbeg West zoning (Chapter 15, Section 15.1.1.9):

- The zoning should be amended to designate as public open space the eastern part of the proposed mixed use area (the area coloured purple and white on the map of Poolbeg West on page 140). This area was a meadow after it was reclaimed from Sandymount Strand and should remain as an open amenity area for public use
- This area should be included in the GIO14 objective to seek Special Amenity Area status for Sandymount Strand and Irishtown Nature Park. (SAAO). Page 86

Keeping this area free of development will assist in flood prevention by providing an extended flood plain. Retaining it as open space will remove development pressure on the immediately adjacent green area to the east known as the goose green. The goose green is south of the Ringsend WWTW and is a mandatory area of grass reserved for overwintering by migratory Light-bellied Brent Geese which is already part of SPA 004024 South Dublin Bay.

- **Parks Use & Management**

Introduction of an additional City Performance Indicator. This to address:

- **Number of Dublin City Council Green Flag Award Parks**

This assists the provision of good quality public parks and green spaces, managed in environmentally sustainable ways. The Green Flag Award Scheme helps create public recognition of good quality green spaces, and in doing so aims to rebuild people's confidence in them. The award aspires to raise expectations of what a public green space can offer and to reassure people that the high regard they have for their public parks and green spaces is not misplaced.

The inclusion of the above performance indicator will aid in delivering the on other elements of the draft city plan. Namely:

GI12: To ensure equality of access for all citizens to the public parks and open spaces in Dublin city and to promote more open parks with increased accessibility and passive surveillance where feasible. (Chapter 10, Page 86)

GIO12: To improve visitor facilities, including cafes, toilet, shower and changing room facilities, based on the recommendations of the Parks Strategy. (Chapter 10, Page 86)

GI15: ... It is the policy of Dublin City Council to maintain and enhance the safety of the public in its use and enjoyment of the many public parks, open spaces, waterways and linkages within the city, ... (Chapter 10, Page 87)

GIO28: To encourage and facilitate the introduction of amenities in parks such as table tennis, games tables, outdoor gyms, adult exercise equipments, bowling greens, etc. (Chapter 10, Page 90)

- **Urban Agricultural Support:**

Introduction of an additional City Performance Indicator. This to address:

- **Number of active Community Gardens and allotments upon Dublin City Council public green spaces**
- **Cumulative Acreage of Dublin City Community Gardens and Allotments**
- **Ratio of Dublin City Council allotment plots to allotment plot holder waiting list numbers.**

This recognises and supports the important role of community gardens and allotments within the city. This role includes promoting community development, informal education, healthy living and eating, and encouraging food security and the

reduction of food miles required to feed the city. Support for community gardens also assists with green waste recycling and biodiversity enhancement.

In addition to the above mentioned performance indicator the inclusion of the following policies should also be considered for inclusion:

- **A policy to facilitate the sale/exchange of the local produce from urban food production at Dublin City markets and events.**
- **A policy to promote training, education, and employment at community gardens. This should seek to use the city's community gardens in a more formal way to deliver education and transferable skills.**
- **A policy delivering a city bee keeping action plan within community gardens and other urban green spaces.**

The inclusion of the above performance indicator, and policies will aid in delivering the on other elements of the draft city plan. Namely:

"The City Council is also a lead partner in a major EU Project, TURAS - Transitioning towards Urban Resilience and Sustainability, the goal of which is to cater for the demand from individuals and communities for greater inclusivity in planning and to jointly develop strategies for adaptation to climate change and to improve urban resilience." (Chapter 12, P108)

"Through urban food production and community gardens, which are efficient tools to educate schoolchildren and engage the interest of young people in particular, it addresses the disconnect between the production and consumption of food and helps increase its perceived value." (Chapter 10, P82)



Cllr. Naoise Ó Muirí - chairperson

