

# Report of Environment, Recreation & Amenity Strategic Policy Committee

Date: November 6<sup>th</sup> 2014. Ait :Halla na Cathrach, Gaillimh

Report by Brendan Smith.

Attendees:

On behalf of Galway City Community Forum:

*Adrian Reidy*

*Brendan Smith*

Also Present:

*Councilors Terry O'Flaherty (chair), Billy Cameron, Donal Lyons, Catherine Connolly, Pdraig Conneely, Mike Crowe and Peter Keane.*

*Mr. Simon Heaslip (Business sector),*

*Mr. Tom Connell, Director of Services, Mr Joe Tansey, Senior Engineer,*

*Mr. Stephen Walsh, Senior Executive Parks Superintendent.*

*Ms. Helen McDonagh, Administrative Officer.*

*Administration to committee*

*Ms. Cliona Clancy, A/Assistant Staff Officer.*

## **1. Overview of an SPC**

Cllr. Terry O'Flaherty and Tom Connell gave an overview of the workings of an SPC. Such committees were focused on the development of policy, based on issue papers brought forward by the Executive, which would feed into the preparation of solid draft proposals. These proposals, in turn, will be brought before full Council for consideration. The Members were further informed that this particular committee was the broadest SPC, within the Council, with a very significant and important work programme.

## **2. Environment, Recreation & Amenity Dept. Overview**

The Director of Services outlined for members the staff structure within the Environment, Recreation & Amenity Department referencing the principal officers and their main roles and responsibilities. He said these officers would come before the SPC, in due course, with their own policies for consideration. Mr. J. Tansey, Senior Engineer, added that a certain amount of the work of this particular Directorate is centered around the various sites, such as Carrowbrowne and Sandy Road, with additional staff based here, while Mr. S. Walsh referenced the linkages between his department and others, such as planning, in a consultative role.

## **3. Directorate Strategic Priorities.**

An overview of the list of Strategic Priorities as given to members was discussed.

<b>Landfill Site Management</b>	Remediate and correct site deficiencies	€100,000.00	E.P .A.	Quarterly Reports Update	Mid 2015
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<b>Composting Site</b>	Exit Composting Business	Current Budget	Inhouse/ E.P.A./ Government Depts.	Report to Council in October	End of 2014 / Early 2015
<b>Silver Strand Coastal Protection Project</b>	Develop Coastal Walks and Coastal Protection	€7/8million	Foreshore license and Department of Marine	Quarterly Report Update / SPC	Funding Dependent
<b>South Park Remediation</b>	Remediate Site	Consultants Costs	Completed	Members Consulted	Completed
<b>Burial Ground Site Acquisition</b>	Acquire Site	€2/3million	Part 8 Planning	Council/SPC	End of 2015
<b>Assessment of Litter Collection Infrastructure</b>	Develop business case for new infrastructure	Annual €40,000	-	Quarterly Report Updates / SPC	2015/2016
<b>Litter Management Plan</b>	Review Plan		Public	Report to Council	2015
<b>Management/Operation of Knocknacarra Community Centre</b>	Put in place structure	Tender Process at present	Inhouse	Reports to Members	2015
<b>Management/Operation of Ballifoile Community Centre</b>	Plan for Operation Budget	Will Reference Knocknacarra	Inhouse	Reprts to Members	2015
<b>Develop Floral City Initiative</b>	Initiative from French Horticultural advice	€30,000.00	Inhouse	Quarterly Report	2015
<b>Advance Pilot Initiative on Park Maintenance</b>					

It was pointed out that these could be amended or added to as members considered appropriate. **Brendan Smith referenced additional items that should be included, of the SPC work programme namely Community Gardens, Environmental/Waste Education, Forest Parks, and Biodiversity Plan.**

Cllr. C. Connolly agreed with Brendan's inclusions and further requested that **allotments** be added. She further requested that the reference to a remediation plan for Southpark be amended to read as Masterplan for Southpark. In addition, she considered that a policy on the provision of Parks Furniture should be included with potential for linkages to GTI/Letterfrack Colleges investigated. Cllr. D. Lyons wanted to see Park bye-laws added and queried if there was potential for the Men's Sheds group to become involved in the city floral display through box making. In addition, he asked that consideration be given to providing sites on both the east and west of the city for new burial grounds. He also considered it essential that money be allocated for the Silver Strand Coastal Protection Project. The Chairperson confirmed that a full report on coastal protection measures would come before the SPC.

#### ***4. Annual Workplan of SPC for 2014-2015***

##### ***Environment Workplan***

- Regional Waste Management Plan
- Litter Management Plan
- Composting Site/E.P.A.

- Waste Presentation Bye-laws
- Ballyloughane Beach/Water Quality
- Fire Services
- Casual Trading
- Waste Management Infrastructure
- Busking
- Library Service
- Circus Industry
- Derelict Sites.

#### ***Recreation & Amenity Workplan***

- Parks Bye-Laws
- Commercial Usage of City Centre Parks
- Policy on the license of Recreation & Amenity lands
- Recreation & Amenity Capital Project Proposals
- Future Work Practices / Grass Cutting
- Pitch Licenses
- Recreation & Amenity Needs Study
- Community Centres
- Strategic Priorities of Departments

The Chairperson sought agreement on a number of items to be prioritised for the SPC work programme. Mr. T. Connell, Director of Services informed members that a presentation on the Draft Waste Management Regulations, which will be going on public display in mid November, would be presented as the first item of the next meeting. Members expressed concern that the merging of both Environment, Recreation & Amenity into one SPC would not allow adequate time to deal with all the issues in each area. In addition, some members considered that the start time of the meetings at 3:00pm did not facilitate those Councillors or Community Representatives who worked full-time. Following discussion on the matter it was agreed that all meetings would commence at 3:30pm and finish no later than 5:00pm. In addition, each meeting would comprise a mix of items from both work programmes, as agreed at the previous meeting. Documentation for consideration at the meeting would be emailed in advance and Mr. S. Walsh also requested member feedback/issues on the material in advance of any SPC meeting. Members wishing to add an item to the agenda were advised to contact the Chairperson directly. Cllr. B. Cameron considered that some of the shared services were not relevant to the work of the SPC however, the Director considered that any discussions on future proposals for the Library or Fire Services in the City should start at SPC level. Cllr. Donal Lyons requested that Stage 3 of the Lough Rusheen Park be placed back on the Capital Programme.

The items agreed for the next meeting were:

- *Presentation on the Draft Regional Waste Management Plan*
- *Busking Bye-laws*
- *Ballyloughane/Grattan Beach Water Quality*
- *Commercial Usage of City Centre Parks.*

The next meeting of the Environment, Recreation and Amenity SPC was scheduled for Thursday 11th December at 3:30pm.

