

**ENVIRONMENT, CLIMATE CHANGE & ENERGY STRATEGIC POLICY
COMMITTEE**

**MEETING HELD 24th SEPTEMBER 2015 at 5.00pm IN THE COUNCIL
CHAMBER**

Report of Chairperson – Cllr. Cormac Devlin

The Chairperson, Cllr. Cormac Devlin presided. In attendance were: Cllr. Marie Baker, Elizabeth Clooney, Cllr. Jennifer Cuffe, Cllr. Mary Fayne, Marese Hegarty, Cllr. Lynsey McGovern, Cllr. Carron McKinney, Christopher Moriarty, Denis Mulvey, Cllr. Sorcha Nic Cormaic, Cllr. Seamas O'Neill, Cllr. Carrie Smyth, Cllr. Ossian Smyth

Officials in attendance were: Richard Shakespeare (Director of Services) Tim Carey (A/Senior Parks Superintendent) Gerry O'Donnell (Executive Parks Superintendent), and Emma de Faoite (Clerical Officer)

► **Councillor Cormac Devlin**

The chair invited a representative presentation on a low carbon cement product that is seeing more widespread use in the construction sector in Ireland. Andrew McGrane and John Reddy of Ecocem Ireland gave a general talk on the production and usage of this cement in their industry, outlining its background, benefits and growing shared market within the sector. Committee members were informed of the 5 or so manufacturers of this cement in Ireland and where the public may access it on the domestic retail end of the process.

Following queries and thanks from committee members the presentation was **NOTED**.

► **Marese Hegarty**

"That the SPC studies and considers the National Biodiversity Data Centre's National Pollinator Initiative and in turn proposes that DLR does likewise, with a view to consider to supporting the plan. Subsequent to that proposes that DLR looks at ways to offer support to Parks, Gardens and community-based initiatives, which promote pollinator-friendly projects".

Marese spoke to the committee about the All Ireland Pollinator Plan 2015-2020 and how DLR can be involved. Pollinating bees in Ireland and globally are under severe threat owing to negative human impact on their habitats and food sources. A major component of the plan is to bring about pollinator initiatives at community level to restore bee populations. Marese is involved with one such initiative at Kilcross in Sandyford, which will be a test case for the study. Local Authorities will be involved by using public land as pollinator-friendly territory. It was **AGREED** that the Committee will read the plan and vote on whether to bring it to Council at December's SPC. The presentation was **NOTED**.

- ▶ Gerry O'Donnell of the Parks Department and Richard Cremins, formerly of DLR gave a detailed presentation on the Dublin Mountain Partnership (DMP) and the Dublin Mountain Way (DMW) trail. The DMP came into being in 2008 to improve the recreational facilities available to users of the mountains with sensitivity towards landowners affected. DLR is one of the partner organisations. The trail is approximately 40km and bookended by Shankill in the East and Tallaght in the west. Walkers will find a fully waymarked route to help them along and cyclists benefit from a 13km bike trail. There are 14 volunteer rangers who perform a range of duties who are there to facilitate users. Recently the DMW was added to *1001 Walks You Must Take Before You Die* (Barry Stone, p.499, March 2015) and all information can be found on www.dublinmountains.ie. The presentation was **NOTED**

The meeting concluded at 6.20 pm