

POLICY/PRACTITIONER POLICY RECOMMENDATIONS

<p>Connectivity and Access</p>	<p>Connecting up green corridors</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">- Rewild area by enhancing dead planting, less mowing/maintenance to create more diverse habitats and create green corridors by connecting up these green spaces.- A landscape-led development plan, with greening at its core could ensure that plans for trees and greenspaces are not subject to shocks such as recession or sidelined by other large infrastructure projects.- Make best use of small spaces for greening <p>Connecting up large sites and organisations - greening the physical and social ecosystem</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">- Development of structured collaboration with greening stakeholders in the area, avoiding duplication of work – this may improve greening connectivity.- Open up large sites and campuses to the community e.g. Digital Hub; New Children’s Hospital; Diageo; NCAD; James’ Hospital.- Open up the newly regenerated estates to the wider environment and wider community. This is particularly the case for Dolphin House and the St. Michael’s estate/Emmet Road development.- Need for streamlined thinking around greening in large organisations. Identify who is driving the greening agenda – this needs championing and coordinating between groups.- A number of organisations in the area have employees interested in greening and who are part of an ‘in house’ greening team/group. Create a platform for these groups to work together with the community and other stakeholders in the area.
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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Carry out an analysis of the greening 'closest in' to homes (e.g. 400m-800m walking radius) and also the greenspaces which people use outside their local neighbourhood. This is especially the case for examining access and quality of greening for residents of housing complexes in the area. <p>Blue space access and use</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Develop a whole landscape approach to the canal area. - The forthcoming greenway will need to be carefully considered and integrated successfully into plans made for the canal. The increased cycling/walking traffic will change the area. - Undertake water activation initiative to change the relationship residents, particularly young people have with the canal and the river. Enhanced access and the opening up of berths for kayaking/canoeing would encourage more active use of the blue spaces in the area. This can be carried out with the amenity groups (e.g. IWAI) and community youth groups in the area. - There is a concern that green infrastructure is excluding potential for blue infrastructure and therefore the term natural infrastructure may be more useful and appropriate going forward. - Many secondary rivers have been engineered out of the public realm' SUDS is a major reason for the inclusion of blue infrastructure in any plan for natural infrastructure. Smaller rivers such as the Camac are a great asset and should be utilised. - Ensure that any plan for the Camac restoration also incorporates the adjacent greenspaces – Grattan Crescent park, Turvey Park, both of which are underutilised spaces.
Care and Maintenance	<p>Resources and funding</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Overarching plan is needed for the maintenance and protection of trees along the canal.

- **Audit and enhance funding for children and youth outdoor facilities at St. Michael's estate and other housing complexes to identify deficits and maintenance concerns especially around playing pitches.**

Training

- **Maintenance is key to successful landscape schemes and trained horticulturalist gardeners are needed to maintain planting.**
- **Need for community training and awareness on the management of environments without chemicals – build on sustainable gardening outreach work carried out by the Dublin South Central Area office..**
- **The clearing and cleaning of the canal would ensure that the area can be utilised for swimming – if young people were involved in clearing it out then they could take ownership over it.**
- **There is a deficit nationally of tree specialist and arbor culturalists – further funding required to enhance tree specialist knowledge in Dublin and other cities – in parks and also in planning enforcement.**

Maintenance programmes

- **Provide an online up to date programme of tree maintenance (DCC and other landholders in the area).**
- **An enhanced communication process is required to explain the reasons behind maintenance decisions (trees/planting) in the area.**
- **Covid 19 has magnified overcrowding (e.g. along the canal) and also the lack of maintenance of footpaths in the area. An enhanced maintenance programme is required in high pressure areas during periods of intense use to improve accessibility.**
- **Develop collaborative working groups to deal with widespread and ongoing maintenance issues that affect this and other areas e.g. national invasive species working group is ongoing.**

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Clarity is needed on the use of glyphosate in Dublin city. A coordinated no-spray policy amongst public landowners is required along with an associated communications programme. A renewed outlook on the role of weeds, dead planting and wild planting in both private residential gardens and larger public and private spaces would also reduce the perceived desire for use of weed killer.
Development pressures	<p>Multifunctionality</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - An audit of sustainable sports provision in the city especially D8 including the benefits and trade-offs of the provision of sports pitches in built-up neighbourhoods. Sports pitches within the area should have multiple functions, enhanced climate/sustainability criteria and serve a variety of users. - Innovative, multifunctional spaces (green walls; green roofs; multi-use green and blue spaces) are required to be part of a workable greening landscape in the area. This requires structured collaboration with stakeholders in the area. - A more qualitative approach needs to be taken in planning for the multifunctionality of greening initiatives rather than just the quantity. - Study and collaboration in retrofitting the older buildings in D8 to include greening solutions (e.g. vertical walls; parklets). - Think in a multifunctional manner – what are the many benefits from trees: pollution abatement; shading; wellbeing impacts. <p>Planning resources</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Research and develop tools to better understand the impacts of gentrification in the area. - Develop a community garden and allotment strategy to ensure that food growing is not only seen as temporary and subject to development pressures.

- To deal with the legacy issue of this built up environment, a map of public greenspace and other greenspace owned by other stakeholders would assist in the planning out of potential and realistic green corridors and how they interlink.
- There is a need for a greater understanding of planning tools to capture land value change during rezoning process (with resulting speculative development).

Tree planting in built-up, intensified areas

- An increase in trained arborists would enhance surveillance of any tree damage that is the result of underground services maintenance along footpaths.
- To offset the difficulty in planting street trees where there are major issues with services and ducting, look to converting car parking spaces to tree growing spaces.

Community benefit:

- Community gain/ community benefit agreements need to be made more explicit and the concept of community benefit needs to be unpacked in a way that can have clear impact for policy and practice, particularly in terms of local green employment; educational opportunities in greening; integration of local businesses and enterprises; community green spaces; community wellbeing. Build on the work carried out in Fatima and the New Children's Hospital to create a scaled model for community benefit.

Housing complexes

- Ensure the environment in and around housing complexes is green and enjoyable during the regeneration process, particularly for those whose childhood is affected by a 10-15 year regeneration process.
- Ensure appropriate play and greenspace provision in newly regenerated housing complexes.
- Examine the pressures on each housing complex from surrounding development, including gentrification.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Build on the role of greenspace in community development and the social bonds that tie communities together. - Develop research on the role of transitory populations on housing in the area and the subsequent impact on greening.
Governance	<p>Civic structures</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Public amenity has increased in people’s awareness and local councilors are voicing that, but public understanding of civic structures needs to be improved and communicated more effectively - this is the remit of civic auhtorities. <p>Community benefit</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Currently social benefit is seen to sit within a policy vacuum. Critically explore the potential for a community greening benefit agenda with large developments. Examples include involving local social greening enterprises in place keeping and site development. - Create a platform to share expertise in community benefit to support greening. <p>Ecological literacy</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - People have different aesthetic preferences. An ecological literacy programme such as that being carried out by the DCC South Central Area Office (sustainable gardening) is one way of introducing people to how plants and planted areas can look without the use of glyphosate (and other weed killers) and how to work with weeds and wildlife. - There is a renewed interest in greening locally, in local politics and also from people living in the area – this needs to be harnessed. <p>Greening Forum</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - A Dublin 8 community greening forum would benefit from involvement of a public agency to support the activities of the collective, whilst still maintaining a community-led coalition status.

Plan-making and implementation

- There is a need to streamline area and city development plans that involve greening elements.
- A focused plan for the canal area needs to take account of recreation, biodiversity, the impact of an increase in cycling and walking due to any future proposed infrastructure (such as a Greenway) and any subsequent commercial activity.
- Develop post-plan evaluations to ensure that plans are implemented and resources are directed effectively.
- Open up a conversation between NGO, civil society orgs and policy makers and management authorities on the implementation of greening initiatives.

Structured collaborations

- Develop platforms for structured collaboration within the area to maximise resources and work with communities.
- Ensure any green tech solutions are grounded within the community and all maintenance and place keeping elements are in place.
- Use 3d visualisation to support communities to visualize what a greener future would look like in Dublin 8 – develop structured collaborations within the area to move this forward.
- Engage with the work of the C40 cities to become more proactive in climate action.

Stakeholder roles

- The role of the state in the planning and implementation of greening initiatives is paramount.
- To avoid greenwashing, any private investment in greening needs to be in equal partnership with the community to ensure a genuine long-term commitment.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Ensure all new plans for the area from various state bodies DCC, Waterways Ireland; OPW are streamlined for greening. - There is a need for a detailed management strategy for the trees along the Grand Canal. Any new Masterplan for the canal area should involve local civic society organisations and local users and particularly those who are active in its use, maintenance and development. - Streamline and make visible how large and smaller scale greening projects can combine to inform a greening strategy and how public funding is allocated towards these. <p>Housing complexes</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Historical dis-investment has led to the decline of the Dolphin House estate. The new site regeneration should include further examination and investment in greening. The site is in close proximity to the city centre means that it is under pressure for space. - Provide spaces within housing complexes and neighbourhoods for gardens and tree planting that can engage residents. Provide expertise for supporting communities to do this.
Health and Wellbeing	<p>Greening for health</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The work of Fatima Groups United social prescribing initiatives and the national Mental Health Ireland ‘Woodlands for Health’ programme are exemplars of working with nature and greening to support those accessing health services. Using nature connectedness as a means to enhance health and wellbeing is made possible by creating more space for access, privacy and quiet enjoyment of public greenspaces as well as funding for such initiatives. - A focus on connecting with nature rather than just time spent in nature may enhance both individual and community wellbeing. The greening environment must afford these greening connections in the form of planting, connection with soil, access to wildlife and biodiversity. Further ecological literacy work with communities may nurture nature connectedness. - Create a sense of community and openness in designing/planning large new developments.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Covid 19 brought an increased number of walkers and cyclists to the canal area. This has emphasised the point that the canal is a rich amenity and ecological corridor. This supports the case for a comprehensive management plan for the canal area, one which takes nature connectedness into account and the views of all users. <p>Ecological literacy</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Develop a method for supporting local communities to articulate their greening needs and demonstrate how greening can impact positively on mental wellbeing for both individuals and communities. This is particularly the case in higher density environments where individuals may not have had access to greenspace and nature during childhood. <p>Youth wellbeing</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Any youth space developed needs to be co-designed with local young people – ownership is key. - Focus on nature connections – building relationships with nature to enhance a sense of ownership and activate individuals especially young people. <p>Resourcing</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Further resourcing of the community and youth sector would ensure this sector has the resources it needs to support local communities to maintain a good quality of life and enhance community wellbeing. - A more liveable strategy for Dublin city should have greening and public amenity at its core.
Safety and Security	<p>Sense of ownership</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Greening and landscape elements, particular co-designed and co-maintained with young people and the community along with improved lighting and light touch policing are recognised as ways to improve current anti-social behaviour, particularly along the canal. Enhanced funding for the community and voluntary sector would have an enormous impact on youth and child wellbeing in the area. - Some residents have negative perceptions of the Grand Canal. As more people use the canal, passive surveillance is increased. Making the canal more walker and cycle friendly will enhance usage. And increased usage will need to be managed effectively.

	<p>Health and safety</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - A shared and common approach to health and safety is needed between organisations in terms of tree maintenance and risk. In this way a less risk adverse strategy to tree and greenspace maintenance could open up a space for more biodiverse areas.
<p>Climate and Soils</p>	<p>Streamlining of plans</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - New plans and strategies developed by state bodies have are increasingly emphasising climate change goals. These plans should be streamlined to ensure a combined approach to climate action. - The new Water Framework directive will impact on project planning and implementation in the area. Identify land as needed to contribute to flood management in the future. And there's a there is money available to these areas to develop these areas so that they can mitigate potential floods in the future. And part of that is environmental and greening as well as more traditional engineering structures, such as such as walls and dams. <p>Right tree: right place</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Whilst acknowledging that we have to provide the biggest area of tree species possible. It has to be the right tree for the right location. Should narrow paths with multiple underground services prevent effective planting of trees, then car parking spaces and other de-paving measures afford more space for a street tree to survive. Planters are viewed as providing temporary solutions but are not a long term solution in terms of biodiversity, climate change or amenity. <p>Resourcing</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Invest in more green jobs, wildlife, conversation etc. - At a city wide and national scale without political support, funding and budgets, greening will be slower to emerge.

