

PERI-URBAN REGIONS PLATFORM EUROPE / DUBLIN REGIONAL AUTHORITY

CONFERENCE: ENABLING SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITIES - THE ROLE OF PERI-URBAN AREAS

Date: Tuesday 24th May, 2011

Venue: Finnstown House, Lucan, Co. Dublin

Context:

At the heart of sustainable communities is the idea that we, as communities, must live within our resources and aim to achieve more with less, which requires a change in the way we design, use, consume and dispose of products and services while maintaining our environment.

The Dublin Region's approach to 'Enabling Sustainable Communities' is two-pronged (1) we are developing, at the regional and local government levels, policies which provide the background to sustainable living and (2) we are engaging with local communities, schools and business to develop joint community/government action to achieve local progress and buy-in.

This conference will address this two-pronged approach and provide a European perspective.

PROGRAMME:

9.00am WELCOME ADDRESS
Councillor Peter Coyle, Cathaoirleach (Chair), Dublin Regional Authority

SESSION 1:

EUROPEAN PERSPECTIVE - BUILDING SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITIES

9.10am The challenges for Europe's peri-urban regions: lessons learned from the PLUREL project
SPEAKER: Dr. Kjell Nilsson, University of Copenhagen and project leader of PLUREL

PLUREL - Peri-urban Land Use Relationships - Strategies and Sustainability Assessment Tools for Urban-Rural Linkages - was an EU funded research project which ended in December 2010. www.plurel.net

LOCAL POLICIES TO DRIVE SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITIES

9.30am Green Infrastructure
SPEAKER: Mr. Gerry Clabby, Heritage Officer, Fingal County Council

Green Infrastructure (GI) is a generic term encompassing the protection, management and enhancement of urban, peri-urban and rural environmental resources (natural and managed) through the identification and provision of multi-functional and interconnected green spaces. The Green Infrastructure approach provides an opportunity to reassess the manner in which we plan, manage and use our many different types of green spaces.

9.55am Sustainable energy
SPEAKER: Mr. Eddie Conroy, County Architect, South Dublin County Council

South Dublin County Council has embraced the role of Local Authority as social focus and leader in energy and sustainable drive. South Dublin County Council has been successful in its bid to participate in the multi-city EU project 'LEAP' under the Intelligent Energy Europe Programme. Team members have begun the process of calculating the carbon emissions base line for all sectors in the County. In the process of establishing Tallaght Town Centre as a local sustainable community, South Dublin County Council is working with key local stakeholders, with a view to agreeing an approach to addressing the energy and climate change challenge at a local level. This includes investigating the feasibility of district heating in the town centre.

10.20am Smart Travel
SPEAKER: Mr. Paul Hogan, Senior Planner, South Dublin County Council

Adamstown Strategic Development Zone is a developing urban district situated 16km west of Dublin City Centre in the heart of Dublin's peri-urban area and on the Dublin to Cork rail corridor. South Dublin County Council in conjunction with the National Transport Authority developed a travel programme for Adamstown residents called Smarter Travel Adamstown. The pilot was supported by Dublin Bus and the Adamstown Developers. Smarter Travel Adamstown was launched in May 2009, on the same day as the inaugural Adamstown 8K Road Race which promotes a range of travel options for work, school, shopping, leisure and sporting activities.

10.45am QUESTION AND ANSWERS

11.15am Break

SESSION 2:

LOCAL COMMUNITY INITIATIVE - CARBON/SOCIAL CREDIT SCHEME

11.45am Carbon/Social Credit Scheme in the Dublin Region
SPEAKER: Ms. Patricia Potter, Director, Dublin Regional Authority

People tend to see sustainable behaviour as inconvenient and expensive. Trying to limit the environmental impact of our day-to-day shopping, travelling and waste disposal requires thought, time and effort to change existing habits. Government and campaigners, service providers and industry are all searching for ways to motivate people to behave more sustainably. One of the difficulties in bringing about change is that people are usually not rewarded for their efforts in any tangible way. The Carbon/Social Credit Scheme (2CS) is a Dublin based initiative with the aim of providing the mechanism for citizens/communities to participate in sustainable behaviour and to be rewarded for these actions.

12.10pm Local Engagement - Community Credit Scheme
SPEAKER: Ms. Mary Keegan, Fettercairn Community Centre

Fettercairn Community Centre is in the process of developing a community garden on the community centre's grounds in association with South Dublin County Council. The local residents have identified a number of projects in their working plan to develop the area. South Dublin County Council and Veolia are also liaising with the community centre with a view to developing the surrounding lands.

12.30pm Local Engagement - Schools Gardening Initiative
SPEAKER: Mr. Tom Moriarity, School Principal, Educate Together, Adamstown

Adamstown Castle Educate Together National School (1st level) is working with four other national schools and South Dublin County Council in the Lucan area to create, develop and maintain a school garden which will be maintained and tended by the schools' pupils and parents. A balanced approach to nutrition is the key to good health and studies suggest that gardening not only results in improved physical and mental well-being but also raises awareness of healthy eating and appreciation for nature. This initiative proposes to measure the perceived differences in attitude to diet and health amongst pupil's pre and post participation.

12.50pm Question & Answers

1.30pm Close