

**Report to North Central Area Committee**

**Re: St. Anne's Park – Redevelopment of Rockery and Pond area adjacent to Mount Prospect Avenue**

I wish to advise the Area Committee of redevelopment proposals for the Old Rockery/Pond area of St. Anne's Park adjacent to Mount Prospect Avenue.

These features were developed in the early 1970's but while the Rockery area worked well for a number of years the pond had basic design problems which have undermined this feature both from an amenity and ecological viewpoint.

The Rockery which comprised of large boulders set into the escarpment with a series of stepped pathways has gradually become a public safety problem and the Rockery concept itself is no longer considered a suitable or appropriate feature in this area of the Park.

The Pond was constructed of puddle clay and never had the depth or flow through of water to enable it to work effectively. Shallow ponds warm up in summer which encourages undesirable Algae and Aquatic plant growth. Over the past decade or so the pond has become choked each summer with these growths thereby presenting a poor visual image. The small watercourse feeding the pond could rarely supply sufficient water to maintain good water quality and even the addition of a fountain in recent years in an attempt to increase water movement and aeration has not improved matters.

**Redevelopment Proposals**

It is proposed therefore to redevelop the pond area as high quality amenity lawns with tree planting and a variety of floral displays. This will entail the filling in of the pond and diverting the current water supply to its former watercourse which discharges into the south lagoon underneath the James Larkin Road.

The Rockery area will be dismantled and recontoured to merge with adjoining park areas while maintaining the existing badger sett area – badgers are a protected species and cannot be the subject of interference. The most elevated area of the existing Rockery presents outstanding views over the South Lagoon of Bull Island and onto the Dublin/Wicklow mountains – it is proposed to develop a seating/viewing area at this location to exploit such views.

Subject to Area Committee approval these improvements can be undertaken on an incremental basis over the next 6/9 months by our own Parks staff. The proposed works can be funded from our current estimates.

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**Eoin Ward**  
**Senior Executive Parks Superintendent**