The RATHMINES INITIATIVE

C/O 6 Prince Arthur Terrace,
Rathmines, Dublin 6, D06 A8P5

12 March 2025

To; all Councillors of the South East Area Committee, Dublin City Council.

Re; DCC Planning & Property Report, November Motion 6 of Cllr. Fiona Connelly

Proposed CPO of Property Adjoining Swan Leisure Centre

Dear Councillors,

I am following up on Mary Freehill's email to you in advance of Monday's meeting of the South East Area Committee.

I understand that consideration of the Planning & Property Development section's report is being deferred until your May meeting.

The Rathmines Initiative believes that this report does not acknowledge the actual situation in relation to housing or the need for expansion of the Swan Leisure Centre.

While it mentions planned provision of new housing at the Gulistan site, this was first agreed in 2018 but after the passing of seven years since then, it has not yet proceeded even as far as a Part VIII application. With the unexplained delays on the part of DCC and the disappointing reneging by the HSE on their commitment to proceed with the related health centre, confidence is waning that this housing will be provided within a reasonable time period. In the meantime Rathmines and surrounding area has the longest housing application list ever.

Regarding the Swan Leisure Centre, contrary to what the report claims, the lived experience of users of the centre is as Mary Freehill describes it. Whilst the centre has excellent management and booking systems, it is the case that most classes are booked out within minutes of their being released for booking, and have waiting lists for disappointed applicants.

The Rathmines Initiative would appreciate if you would keep the foregoing in mind when next considering the report.

Yours Sincerely,

Ciarán McGahon, pp The Rathmines Initiative