**COMHAIRLE CONTAE ÁTHA CLIATH THEAS  
SOUTH DUBLIN COUNTY COUNCIL**

Minutes of South Dublin County Council November 2017 County Council Meeting held on 13th November 2017.

**PRESENT**

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Councillors** |  | **Councillors** |
| Bonner, B. |  | Leech, B. |
| Casserly, V. |  | Looney, D. |
| Donovan, P. |  | Mahon, K. |
| Duff, M. |  | Mc Cann, C. |
| Duffy, F. |  | McMahon, C. |
| Dunne, L. |  | McMahon, R. |
| Egan, K. |  | Murphy, E. |
| Ferron, B. |  | Murphy, M. |
| Foley, P. |  | Nolan, R. |
| Genockey, M. |  | O’Brien, D. |
| Gilligan, T. |  | O’Brien, E. |
| Gogarty, P. |  | O’Connell, G. |
| Graham, J. |  | O’Connor, C. |
| Hendrick, E. |  | O’Donovan, D. |
| Higgins, E. |  | O’Toole, L. |
| Holland, S. |  | Richardson, D. |
| Johansson, M. |  | Russell, R. |
| Kearns, P. |  | Timmons, F. |
| Lavelle, W. |  | Ward, M. |
| Lawlor, B. |  |  |
|  |  |  |

**OFFICIALS PRESENT**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Chief Executive | D. McLoughlin. |
| Directors/ Heads of Function  A/Heads of Function  Head of Finance  County Architect | B. Coman, L. Maxwell, T. Walsh.  L. Leonard, C. Ward.  R. FitzGerald.  E. Conroy. |
| Senior Executive Officers | H. Hogan, M. Maguire. |
| Administrative Officers | C. Murphy, N. Noonan. |
| Staff Officer  Clerical Officer  IT. Support  Sord | P. Brennan.  M. Dunne.  R. Saiz, T. McManus.  A. O’Brien. |

The Mayor P. Gogarty Presided.

Apologies were received from Councillor C. King.

**H1/1117 CONFIRMATION AND RE-AFFIRMATION OF MINUTES**

Minutes of the September County Council Meeting on 23rd October 2017which had been circulated were submitted and **APPROVED** as a true record and signed in the proposition of Councillor P. Gogarty seconded by Councillor T. Gilligan.

**H2/1117 FILLING OF CASUAL VACANCY ON SOUTH DUBLIN COUNTY COUNCIL IN ACCORDANCE WITH S. 19 OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 2001 FOLLOWING THE RESIGNATION OF COUNCILLOR ANNE- MARIE DERMODY**

The following reports by the Chief Executive, which had been circulated, were presented by Ms. L. Maxwell, Director of Corporate Performance and Change Management and were **CONSIDERED:**

**REPLY:**

“A Casual Vacancy has occurred on South Dublin County Council (Templeogue-Terenure Electoral Area) as Councillor Anne- Marie Dermody has announced her resignation from South Dublin County Council with effect from 1st November 2017.

[**Section 19 of the Local Government Act 2001**](http://www.irishstatutebook.ie/2001/en/act/pub/0037/sec0019.html) provides that a Casual Vacancy shall be filled by the Co-option by the Local Authority of a person to fill the vacancy and such Co- option shall be made at the next meeting of the Local Authority after the expiration of 14 days from the occurrence of the vacancy or as soon after the expiration of the 14 days as circumstances permit.

Mr. Conor Mc Mahon has been duly nominated by the Fine Gael Party, being the registered political party who nominated Councillor Anne-Marie Dermody for Co-option, and in accordance with Section 19 (5) Mr Mc Mahon's written consent to his proposed co-option has been received.

Members are required to ratify the co-option of Mr. Conor McMahon at today's meeting**.”**

The reports were **NOTED** and it was proposed by Councillor P. Donovan seconded by Councillor B. Lawlor and **AGREED:**

“That **Mr. Conor McMahon** be co-opted to fill the vacancy occurring as a result of the resignation of Councillor Anne-Marie Dermody on Sunday 1st November 2017.”

Tributes were made to outgoing Councillor Anne-Marie Dermody by Councillors P. Donovan, E. Higgins, E. Murphy, S. Holland, R. McMahon, D. O’Donovan and M. Duff.

Councillors P. Donovan, E. Higgins, E. Murphy, S. Holland, R. McMahon, D. O’Donovan and M. Duff wanted to welcome the incoming Councillor C. McMahon.

The Mayor Councillor P. Gogarty thanked Councillor Anne-Marie Dermody for her service to the Council and he asked Councillor C. McMahon to take his seat and welcomed him to the Council.

Councillor Conor McMahon wanted to thank the Mayor and all the Councillors for all their kind words.

Mr. D. McLoughlin, Chief Executive welcomed Councillor C. McMahon to the Council.

**H3/1117 FILLING OF VACANCY ON THE ECONOMIC ENTERPRISE AND TOURISM DEVELOPMENT SPC DUE TO THE RESIGNATION OF COUNCILLOR ANNE-MARIE DERMODY**

The following reports by the Chief Executive, which had been circulated, were presented by Ms. L. Maxwell, Director of Corporate Performance and Change Management and were **CONSIDERED:**

“A vacancy exist on the Economic Enterprise & Tourism Development SPC previously held by Councillor Anne Marie Dermody who has recently resigned

It is a matter for the Council to appoint a replacement to the above position and this is now before the Members for consideration and recommendation.”

It was proposed by Councillor E. Higgins and seconded by Councillor P. Donovan and **AGREED** that Councillor C. McMahon be appointed to the Economic, Enterprise and Tourism Development SPC.

**H4a/1117 REPORTS OF AREA COMMITTIES RATHFARNHAM/TEMPLEOGUE - TERENURE AREA COMMITTEE - 10th OCTOBER 2017**

Dealing with Public Realm, Water & Drainage, Housing, Community, Planning Economic Development, Libraries & Arts, Corporate Support, Performance & Change Management

It was **NOTED** that there was **NO** Business under this Heading.

**H4b/1117 REPORTS OF AREA COMMITTIES - CLONDALKIN AREA COMMITTEE – 18th OCTOBER 2017**

Dealing with (**Public Realm -1 Report)**, Water & Drainage, Housing, Community, Planning, Economic Development, Libraries & Arts, Corporate Support, Performance & Change Management

The following report by the Chief Executive, which had been circulated, was presented by Ms. T. Walsh, Director of Environment, Water and Climate Change and was **CONSIDERED:**

“The Council is acutely aware of long and on-going problems associated with scramblers and has been in liaison with An Garda Síochána in relation to this issue.

Public Realm works have been initiated in attempts to combat the problem e.g. run of 1.2 metre high fencing along the side of the green space areas, provision of bollards etc.,

Similarly, An Garda Síochána, South Dublin County Council and Motorcycling Ireland launched an awareness campaign about the correct use of quads bikes and scramblers in advance of Christmas 2016. This campaign requested parents who were considering buying these bikes as a Christmas present for their child to make sure that they were informed as to the legal requirements around these bikes and the use of them.

It is considered that the Council's parks and Open Spaces Byelaws are sufficiently strong to enable enforcement by AGS within the Council’s parks and open spaces and Claude 3.1 h refers as follows "....... save with the permission of the Council, no person shall bring into a Park any Mechanically Propelled Vehicle which includes for the avoidance of doubt motorcycles, motor-cross / quad bikes or other powered vehicles. Such vehicles may be removed from the park / open space by An Garda Síochána".

While it is acknowledged that there may be / is difficulty in bringing successful prosecutions, the Council passed a motion at the January 2017 Council meeting calling for the introduction of primary legislation to regulate ownership and use of vehicles. The Minister for Justice’s reply at that time indicated that such legislation would require a review of road traffic legislation and the communication had been referred to that Department.  As no response was received from the Minister for Transport, Tourism and Sport, a reminder was recently issued to his office.

As the problem is not limited to the Clondalkin area, it may be appropriate that the potential establishment of a county wide task force be considered jointly by the Environment Public Realm and Climate Change and Land Use Planning & Transportation SPC.”

It was **AGREED** that as the problem is not limited to the Clondalkin area, it would be appropriate to establishment a County wide task force to be considered at a joint Environment Public Realm and Climate Change and Land Use Planning & Transportation SPC.

**H4c/1117 REPORTS OF AREA COMMITTEES - TALLAGHT AREA COMMITTEE - 23rd OCTOBER 2017**

Dealing with Public Realm, Water & Drainage, Housing, Community, Planning, Economic Development, Libraries & Arts, Corporate Support, Performance & Change Management

It was **NOTED** that there was **NO** Business under this Heading.

**H4d/1117 REPORTS ON AREA COMMITTEES - LUCAN AREA COMMITTEE – 24th OCTOBER 2017**

Dealing with Public Realm, Water & Drainage, Housing, Community, Planning, Economic Development, Libraries & Arts, Corporate Support, Performance & Change Management

It was **NOTED** that there was **NO** Business under this Heading.

**H5/1117 STANDING COMMITTEES ORGANISATION, PROCEDURE & FINANCE**

It was **NOTED** that there was **NO** Business under this Heading.

**H6/1117 STRATEGIC POLICY COMMITTEES - APPOINTMENT AND RE- ELECTION OF PUBLIC PARTICIPATION NETWORK REPRESENTATIVES ON STRATEGIC POLICY COMMITTEES**

The following report by the Chief Executive, which had been circulated, was presented by Ms. L. Maxwell Director of Corporate Performance and Change Management and was **CONSIDERED:**

Appointment and Re-election of Public Participation Network Representatives on Strategic Policy Committees

“South Dublin PPN recently held a nominations/elections process to fill/refill SPC seats which were due for renewal.  The following were ratified by the Plenary at its meeting 28th September 2017:

Arts, Culture, Gaeilge Heritage & Libraries SPC – Mr. Peter Kavanagh re-elected,

Economic Development, Enterprise & Tourism Development SPC – Ms. Tara De Buitler re- elected,

Environment, Public Realm & Climate Change SPC – Ms. Connie Kiernan re-elected,

Housing SPC – Ms. Catríona Mc Clean – newly elected,

Land Use Planning and Transportation SPC – Mr. Michael Noonan re–elected,

Social and Community SPC – Ms. Grainne Ní Mhuirí re-elected,

These are now before the Council for Noting.”

The Report was **NOTED.**

Councillor K. Mahon sought clarification on the provision of services during the period following the closure of the current facility at Castletymon and the opening of the replacement library.

**H7/1117 REPORTS REQUESTED BY AREA COMMITTEES**

It was **NOTED** that there was **NO** Business under this Heading.

**QUESTIONS**

It was proposed by Councillor P. Gogarty seconded by Councillor F. Timmons and **RESOLVED**:

“That pursuant to Standing Order No. 13, Questions numbered Q1 – Q27 be **ADOPTED** and **APPROVED.”**

**Q1/1117 HOUSING WELFARE SERVICE**

**QUESTION:** **Councillor M. Duff**

Would the Chief Executive make a report indicating the circumstances under which the Housing Welfare Officers will become involved with people on the Housing Waiting list?

**REPLY:**

The Housing Welfare Section provides a social work service to social housing tenants who are experiencing difficulties in relation to their tenancies.

Housing applicants are not normally provided with a social work service by the Council.  Very occasionally when the circumstances demand the Housing Welfare Section do engage with applicants for the purpose of providing them with advice and information or referring them to appropriate supports.  This would normally be in the case of suicide ideation, other major trauma or exceptional social circumstances.

Occasionally in exceptional circumstances and on a case by case basis a housing manager can request a social work assessment be carried and that a support plan be drafted

Housing Welfare Service is not in a position to influence the position of housing applicants on the housing list.

**Q2/1117 LIBRARY OPENING HOURS**

**QUESTION:** **Councillor M. Duff**

Would the Chief Executive indicate if there is an intention in the near future to extend the opening hours of all Libraries in the County Area and if so, will he detail the individual Libraries by name and area.

**REPLY:**

'There are no plans at present to increase the opening hours of branch libraries, which are currently 54.5 hours per week in our fulltime branch libraries, which includes four late night openings and Saturday opening. The matter could be considered as part of the new Library Development Plan Strategy 2018-2022, which we are currently out on public consultation on. Also the matter will be considered as part of the opening of the two new library projects for North Clondalkin and Castletymon.'

**Q3/1117 ACQUIRING LANDS**

**QUESTION:** **Councillor M. Duff**

Will the Chief Executive inform this Council if any discussion has taken place or if he intends to discuss the possibility of South Dublin County Council acquiring lands from State Agencies, such as the HSE, which may be surplus to their requirement, now or in the future, which may be suitable for building Social Housing.

**REPLY:**

Property reform is part of Public Service Reform Plans 2011 – 2013 and 2014 – 2016. The Property Asset Management Delivery Plan was published in July 2013. Actions under that plan included: (i) Protocols for Intra-state Transfer and Sharing, (DPER Circular 11/2015) (ii) Policies for Acquisition and Disposal of Property (DPER Circular 17/2016) and (iii) an on-line mapping register of all property owned or leased by Public Service Bodies (The State Property Register). All decisions to Dispose or Acquire will use the State Property Register and comply with the protocol hierarchy. On examination of the OPW state property register there are no state properties listed as ‘surplus to requirement’ in South Dublin County.

**Q4/1117 DODDER VALLEY PLAYSPACE**

**QUESTION:** **Councillor P. Foley**

To ask the Chief Executive for confirmation of the proposed dates for the commencement of the Part 8 process for the Play Space in Dodder Valley Park?

**REPLY:**

The proposed Play Space for Dodder Valley Park was agreed in principle as part of the recently completed Part 8 for Dodder Valley Mount Carmel in October 2017.

As outlined within the Chief Executives Report for the Part 8 in October, the Design of the play space in Dodder Valley will be subject to a number of complex considerations including assessment of need, location requirements and an in-depth examination of the environmental and ecological constraints within the area. This work will involve surveys and environmental, it is envisaged that the Part 8 will commence in summer 2018.

**Q5/1117 LGF/LPT**

**QUESTION:** **Councillor P. Foley**

There is a perception among the public that Council’s throughout the Country have significantly more funds available since the introduction of Property Tax in 2013. Can a breakdown be provided relating to South Dublin County Council for each of the last 10 years outlining funding received from both sources, separately - the Local Government Fund and Property Tax?

**REPLY:**

Set out below is a comparison between the Local Government Fund (LGF) and Local Property Tax (LPT) for the years 2008 to 2017. It should be noted that during this period significant changes were made to the compilation of both figures. In particular, the allocation in 2014 was reduced following the establishment of Irish Water, also in 2017 South Dublin County Council had an additional €2,932,356 added to its baseline funding but the local authority is now required to remit pension related deductions (PRD) to the Department.

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| |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | |  | **Local Government Fund** | **Total Local Property Tax** | **20% Equalisation Fund** | **15% Variation** | **Allocated by DHPCLG** | **LGF Compensation** | **RE PRD** | **Discretionary LPT** | | **2008** | 27,396,258 |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | | **2009** | 21,567,210 |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | | **2010** | 19,625,192 |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | | **2011** | 18,087,797 |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | | **2012** | 16,485,014 |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | | **2013** | 16,370,168 |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | | **2014** | 923,906 |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | | **2015** |  | 32,653,416 | -6,530,683 | -4,898,012 | -18,668,144 | 0 | 0 | 2,556,577 | | **2016** |  | 30,637,996 | -6,127,599 | -4,595,699 | -17,458,892 | 100,771 | 0 | 2,556,577 | | **2017** |  | 31,387,132 | -6,277,462 | -4,708,070 | -14,976,017 | 0 | -2,932,356 | 2,493,227 | |

**Q6/1117 SPEED DISPLAY SIGNS**

**QUESTION:** **Councillor P. Foley**

An amount was allocated in last year’s budgets for the provision of new digital speed indicators.  Can details be given of where these speed indicators have been provided or, if not yet provided, on the proposed locations for these indicators and when they are likely to be installed?

**REPLY:**

There has been no additional provision for the supply of new speed display units in either the 2016 or 2017 works programs. Instead the agreed approach is that in the current year it is intended to install additional sockets to enable the rotation of existing units. This is found to be effective.

**Q7/1117 CENTRE MANAGEMENT**

**QUESTION:** **Councillor Emma Hendrick**

To ask The Chief Executive to give a report on how many community centres in South Dublin County Council are operated by the Council and how many are operated by a board of management trading as a limited company? Out of the community centres trading as a limited company how many Council representatives are on their board of management?

**REPLY:**

The Council does not manage or operate any community centres in the County. The community services team supports communities and organisations to establish management structures which are suitable for their local needs. The team provides advice and support to assist with the delivery of best practise and to ensure that boards exercise their fiduciary and governance responsibilities.

**Q8/1117 TRAVELLER ACCOMMODATION**

**QUESTION:** **Councillor M. Johansson**

To ask the Chief Executive, to outline how many are currently living in Traveller Specific Accommodation in the County with a breakdown in LEA's, and how many are in need of Traveller Specific Accommodation?

**REPLY:**

Following the Annual Count in 2016 there were 282 Traveller families in the County.

110 Families accommodated in Group Housing

90 Families residing in Halting Site Bays.

Some families have also been housed in Social Housing but this number cannot be quantified as in the returns we are not allowed categorise by ethnic status.

At present there are 31 families seeking Traveller Specific Accommodation with a preference to be accommodated North of the Naas Road and 45 families seeking accommodation South of the Naas Road.  These families comprise mainly of extended families living in traveller specific housing but seeking accommodation in their own right.

**Q9/1117 SOCIAL HOUSING**

**QUESTION:** **Councillor D. Looney**

To ask the Chief Executive to state the Councils plans for further social housing building beyond the projects outlined in response to questions at October's Council meeting (existing Part 8's, PPP, joint venture, etc.). Are plans in place for future Part 8's and can he provide details of such?

**REPLY:**

These are the schemes which are currently on site and due on site before year end 2017 as reported at the October 2017 Council meeting.

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| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Schemes | No. of Units | Status | **Q4 2017** | **Q1 2018** | **Q2 2018** | **Q3 2018** | **Q4 2018** | **Q1 2019** |
| St Marks Green, Clondalkin | 11 | On Site |  |  | **11** |  |  |  |
| MacUilliam (Fortunestown) | 28 | On Site |  |  |  | **28** |  |  |
| Mayfield Estate | 18 | On Site |  |  | **18** |  |  |  |
| Dromcarra, Tallaght | 14 | On Site |  |  |  | **14** |  |  |
| St. Aidans, Tallaght | 90 | On Site |  |  | **66** | **19** |  |  |
| Killininny, Co Dublin | 24 | Due to start on site late November 2017 |  |  |  | **24** |  |  |
| St. Cuthbert’s, Clondalkin | 63 | Tenders in and under assessment |  |  |  |  | **63** |  |
| Letts Field, Neilstown, Clondalkin | 37 | On Site |  |  |  |  | **37** |  |
| Ballyboden, Rathfarnham | 40 | Commenced on site 31st October |  |  |  |  |  | **40** |
| Killinarden, Tallaght | 27 | On Site |  |  |  |  |  | **27** |
|  | **352** |  |  |  | **95** | **85** | **100** | **67** |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |

We also have 3 Sites at Feasibility Stage:

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| 3 Sites for Older Persons (Cluid)  (Tallaght, Fernwood & Maplewood) | 110 |
| Homeville, Firhouse | 10 |
| Eircom Site, Nangor Road Clondalkin | 50 |
| ***TOTAL*** | ***170*** |

In addition to the above we are also progressing 109 units at Kilcarbery through the National Bundle 1 PPP scheme and the integrated housing project also at Kilcarbery of which 30% of the total units will be Social Housing units.

Work is progressing in identifying further projects and drawing up a schedule to advance Part 8s on Council owned land. This process requires feasibility and identifying constraints on the sites. A report is being prepared for submission to the Housing Strategic Policy Committee at its meeting scheduled for 20th November 2017.

**Q10/1117 HALLOWEEN**

**QUESTION:** **Councillor D. Looney**

To ask the Chief Executive to provide a report on the costs associated with dealing with bonfires and other Halloween activities this year, and to make a statement on the matter.

**REPLY:**

The exercise to survey and map bonfire sites commenced on 1st November. An exact figure of the number of Bonfires is still being collated, this will determine the ultimate cost of the clean- up phase of Halloween 2017.  The information that is to hand currently is for the pre- Halloween period and is as set out below.

* South Dublin County Council brought all available staff into work on Saturday October 28th and Monday October 30th and over this period and including Tuesday October 31st a total of 55 tonnes of bonfire materials was collected by the staff and prevented from being placed on bonfires.
* In the two week period prior to Halloween a further quantity of waste materials totalling 156 tonnes was collected by SDCC staff and it is estimated that the vast majority of this was material intended for bonfires.
* The estimated cost to dispose of bonfire materials collected pre Halloween night alone is €20,000 approximately.  Note this is the cost of disposal only, it does not include the labour cost to collect the materials nor does it include any element of the cost to clean up bonfire sites after the fires have stopped burning.

A number of locally organised Community Celebration Events were also supported by the Community Services Department with a range of grants awarded.  The total amount of grant aid approved for Halloween 2017 was €12,463.92.

**Q11/1117 REGISTER OF ELECTORS**

**QUESTION:** **Councillor D. Looney**

To ask the Chief Executive, in light of recent announcements regarding likely referendums and elections to take place in 2018 and 2019, what plans the Council have to increase voter registration, and to make a statement on the matter?

**REPLY:**

The 2018-19 Draft Register of Electors was published on the 1st November 2017 and is available on the Council's Website until the 25th November 2017 to enable people to check to ensure all their details are correct. This is preceded by house-to-house checks on current details of the residents on the register.

Every Library, Post Office and Garda Station in the Council’s administrative area has a copy of the Draft Register so that people are reminded to check if they are registered when they are in these places, as well as being able to check online. An advertisement was placed in The Echo Newspaper on 25/10/2017 to promote the fact that the draft register would be published on 1/11/2017. All forms for registration purposes are available on the Councils website at [registerofelectors@sdublincoco.ie](mailto:registerofelectors@sdublincoco.ie).

South Dublin County Council's Social Inclusion Unit also actively works in conjunction with ACT(Active Citizens Together) continuously promote “Value your vote” campaigns and Registration Drives to ensure maximum participation in the registration process and carry out additional campaigns in advance of known elections and referenda.

**Q12/1117 COMMUNICATIONS AND EMERGENCY SITUATIONS**

**QUESTION:** **Councillor D. Looney**

To ask the Chief Executive to provide details on how emergency situations such as extreme weather warnings are communicated to Councillors; to ask why Councillors are not included in terms of communications in the Council's Major Emergency Plan; and that, noting the "on-the-ground" presence of Councillors in communities, their connections with local groups and their ability to spread messages widely and quickly, will he include Councillors in the next review of the Major Emergency Plan and ensure that Councillors are fully updated on all major emergencies, weather warnings and other relevant events?

**REPLY:**

By definition major emergencies are rare events, which can occur with little or no warning. South Dublin County Council's Major Emergency Plan was prepared in accordance with the requirements of “A Framework for Major Emergency Management” (2006) and sets out the arrangements which will facilitate the Council's response to any Major Emergency. The Major Emergency Plan shall be activated following a formal declaration by the Chief Executive or South Dublin County Council personnel nominated by the Chief Executive that a Major Emergency exists. The plan is also activated on the notification of a declaration of a Major Emergency by any of the following: An Garda Síochána, Health Service Executive and a Government Department.

While this incident was not declared a Major Emergency in the South Dublin Area, many of the processes from the Major Emergency Management System were utilised, the provision of information to the public and the Elected Members before, during and after a response to an incident is a very important part of the MEP communications strategy, it takes two forms, warning and informing.

During Ex-hurricane Ophelia the Council used social media including [Web](http://www.sdcc.ie/), [Facebook](http://www.facebook.com/SouthDublinCountyCouncil) and [Twitter](http://twitter.com/sdublincoco/)  to keep the Public and Elected Members updated with the latest news and projections.

On Friday 13th October Met Eireann and the National Directorate for Fire and Emergency Management issued a Level Orange Weather Warning for gale force wind as Ex-hurricane Ophelia tracked across the Country.  At this stage availability of crews for the weekend ahead was assessed and plans put in place if required. The status Orange level warning remained in place until Sunday evening when a Status Red Warning was issued for the entire Country. Following this South Dublin County Council issued a notice on the web site and via social media that the Parks, Libraries and Sports and Community facilities would be closed on Monday 16th.

A meeting was organised for the Crisis Management Team for 8:30am on Monday morning. Notice was issued to Councillors and then to staff that the council offices would be closed from 12pm and all staff should be safely at their homes by this time. Operational staff remained on standby to respond if required.

South Dublin County Council participated in the Eastern Region co-ordination of the Principle Response Agencies (PRA’s). An incident room was set up by An Garda Síochána in Hardcourt Street and a number of conference calls were held to co-ordinate the effort of the 4 Dublin Authorities, Dublin Fire Brigade, the HSE and An Garda Síochána.

South Dublin County Council communicated information and updates to the public via social media and to the Councillors directly via emails throughout the storm. There were a total of 50 posts across the Facebook and Twitter platforms reaching approximately 167,000 and 175,000 respectively. These notices were also displayed on the South Dublin County Council website. Many Councillors did retweet these post and South Dublin County Council are appreciative of this. Councillors were emailed directly on a number of occasions during Storm Ophelia on Monday 16th October updating them on the current situation.

The media and communication sub group of the Eastern Region meet on a regular basis and will continually review how messages and information is communicated to both the public and the Elected Members.

**Q13/1117 ALLOTMENTS**

**QUESTION:** **Councillor R. McMahon**

To ask for a full report on allotment in the County to cover the following

- how many and where

- what income does the council generate from these

- is there a waiting list and how many are on it

- are there plan to increase the number of allotments in the County and if so what are they

**REPLY:**

There are 421 Council allotments, which are located in the following areas:

* Tymon Park, Tallaght – 13
* Corkagh Park, Clondalkin – 38
* Friarstown, Bohernabreena – 294
* Mill Lane, Palmerstown – 76

The income generated during 2017 was €35,231.

There is currently a net waiting list of 80 applicants (96 in total, with some applicants indicating duplicate preferences).

 An Allotment Strategy, which will commence shortly and will consider various locations for additional allotments.  The Strategy will examine, inter alia:

* the current waiting list
* existing sites
* the enhancement of existing allotment facilities; some of which is progressing at the moment
* the geographical distribution
* the case for additional allotment facilities provision

**Q14/1117 WATER POLLUTION**

**QUESTION:** **Councillor R. McMahon**

To ask the Chief Executive to give a report Water pollution incidents dealt with over the last 12 months

- where are the main hot spots

- what are the causes

- has there been any prosecutions

**REPLY:**

South Dublin County Council’s Water Pollution section responded to 59 water pollution complaints and queries in the period October 2016 to September 2017. The nature of these complaints and queries varied from observed poor water quality in rivers by members of the public, to reports of specific discharges to rivers, or issues and queries relating to storm water drainage from an industrial or housing development.

Water pollution is primarily observed, reported and queried in urban areas which, due to population density, is to be expected. Water quality issues in rural areas are generally managed through planned farm and septic tank inspection which are reported separate to water pollution complaints.

In most water pollution incidents the cause is accidental or unknown to the polluter, such as a home heating oil tank leak. For some offences the Council may employ enforcement notices to evoke a statutory bind on the polluter specifying tasks and timelines to be achieved and these are effective in resolving water pollution issues without the need for prosecution.

**Q15/1117 ADDITIONAL FUNDING WINDOWS AND DOORS**

**QUESTION:** **Councillor C. O'Connor**

To ask the Chief Executive if he has any plans to provide additional funding to the window door repair programme given that many tenants throughout the county are concerned at the delays in dealing with their requests for action in the matter; will he give assurances and present an update.

**REPLY:**

There are currently 841 properties on the Council's current Windows and Doors Replacement Programme.

The list is live and added to each year through tenant contact. The waiting time on the list is dependent on a number of factors including, rent status and whether or not the tenant is involved in any anti-social behaviour. Priority may be given to applicants with serious medical conditions. The current average waiting time is 4-5 years.

The budget for programmed windows and doors in 2017 is €570,000 with a further €150,000 allocated for the replacement of one off single windows and doors in urgent need of attention.  These together with energy efficiency initiatives throughout the County will bring the total to a €1M spend by year end.

Any increase in spending for this programme would have to be approved by the Council for the 2018 budget.

**Q16/1117 HOMELESS**

**QUESTION:** **Councillor C. O'Connor**

To ask the Chief Executive  if he would report to the Council on his efforts to facilitate those homeless from our county confirming the numbers being facilitated and the efforts being made to ensure that these families are accommodated close to their home areas and will he make a statement.

**REPLY:**

The Council is understanding of the difficulties facing families experiencing homelessness at this time.

Previously the only option available to the Council was to give families presenting as homeless the option to self-accommodate. This enabled families to source their own accommodation in location more suitable to their needs as opposed to be placed in a designated location and also gives families the option to source accommodation outside the County if necessary and should they wish to do so.  Families who present as Homeless are given advice on how the Self Accommodation option operates by staff in the Homeless Unit. This is a practice that will be phased out as alternative accommodation become available. The Council does not have the required resources to source emergency accommodation for families who present as homeless.

Family Hubs are a new model of temporary accommodation for homeless families with assistance to move on to a home of their own. They represent a better, more caring and more cost-effective alternative to commercial hotels and B&B's.

Hubs are available at Tallaght Cross, The Abberley and Respond Gleann Na nEorna in Tallaght. These facilities will when fully complete cater for in excess of 100 families.  The DRHE is currently examining the possibility of acquiring another Hub in the County.

We continue to work with the DRHE and look for suitable locations or property throughout the County which could be used to provide emergency accommodation and will keep the Council briefed.

While it is not possible to accommodate persons close to their chosen areas close to schools and services etc. all families have recently been provided with a LEAP Card to access public transport.

**Q17/1117 TRAVELLER CENSUS**

**QUESTION:** **Councillor C. O'Connor**

To ask the Chief Executive if he has considered the recent findings of the Census in relation to the Travellers Community; if he proposes any actions in the matter and if he will make a statement.

**REPLY:**

Under Section 6 of the Traveller Accommodation Act 1998 and as amended by Section 21 of the Housing (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 2009, an Assessment of Needs was conducted by South Dublin County Council in April 2013. Staff from the Traveller Accommodation Unit visited all of the temporary and emergency sites and conducted interviews to determine preference for accommodation requirements.  Notices that the Assessment was being conducted were placed in the local and national press. Staff from the Traveller Accommodation Unit also followed up with site visits to engage with applicants who had applied previously but were not responding to the Housing Needs Assessment. Local Traveller Development Groups and Agencies involved in Traveller services were notified of the Assessment being conducted and requested to ensure that all families in touch with them were made aware of the process.

This Assessment formed the basis for the Council's Traveller Accommodation Programme 2014-2018.

In addition an annual count is carried out each November and this combined with the Assessment of Needs and the Traveller Accommodation Programme formulates our approach going forward.

**Q18/1117 SCRAMBLERS**

**QUESTION:** **Councillor C. O'Connor**

To ask the Chief Executive if he has made any progress in devising an action plan to deal with the menace of scramblers in our Open Spaces throughout our county; will he appreciate the concerns of many in respect of this matter and will he present an update.

**REPLY:**

The Council is aware of protracted and on-going problems associated with scramblers and has been working with An Garda Síochána in relation to this issue.

Public Realm works have been initiated in attempts to combat the problem e.g. run of 1.2 metre high fencing along the side of the green space areas, provision of bollards etc. but these have not stemmed the actions of a minority who continue to engage in anti-social and menacing behaviour.

Similarly, An Garda Síochána, South Dublin County Council and Motorcycling Ireland launched an awareness campaign about the correct use of quads bikes and scramblers in advance of Christmas 2016. This campaign requested parents who were considering buying these bikes as a Christmas present for their child to make sure that they were informed as to the legal requirements around these bikes and the use of them.

It is considered that the Council's Parks and Open Spaces Byelaws are sufficiently strong to enable enforcement by AGS within the Council’s parks and open spaces and Clause 3.1 h refers as follows "....... save with the permission of the Council, no person shall bring into a Park any Mechanically Propelled Vehicle which includes for the avoidance of doubt motorcycles, motor-cross / quad bikes or other powered vehicles. Such vehicles may be removed from the park / open space by An Garda Síochána".

While it is acknowledged that there is difficulty in bringing successful prosecutions, the Council passed a motion at the January 2017 Council meeting calling for the introduction of primary legislation to regulate ownership and use of vehicles. The Minister for Justice’s reply at that time indicated that such legislation would require a review of road traffic legislation and the communication had been referred to that Department.  As no response was received from the Minister for Transport, Tourism and Sport, a reminder was recently issued to his office.

As the problem is not limited to any one area, it may be appropriate that the potential establishment of a county or regional task force be considered jointly by the Environment Public Realm and Climate Change and Land Use Planning & Transportation SPC and in the context of the region by the other Dublin LA's that are incurring similar scrambler related issues.

**Q19/1117 DUBLIN FIRE BRIGADE**

**QUESTION:** **Councillor C. O'Connor**

To ask the Chief Executive to present a report on fire services from the Chief Fire Officer in respect of services to our county; will he detail discussions he has had in respect of the needs of our county and will he make a statement.

[Dublin Fire Service - SDCC statistics](http://www.sdublincoco.ie/sdcc/departments/corporate/apps/cmas/documentsview.aspx?id=57412)

**Q20/1117 LIHAF PROJECTS**

**QUESTION:** **Councillor F. Timmons**

In Reference to the 22 LIHAF projects have now been signed off by the Minister for Housing, Planning & Local Government, How much has SDCC put in for and what is the timeframe for delivering these projects?

**REPLY:**

South Dublin County Council has been awarded c. €28m to be allocated to infrastructural projects in Kilcarbery, Adamstown SDZ and Clonburris SDZ respectively. These projects will be delivered in tandem with the provision of c. 4000 residential units between now and 2021.

Of the 4000 residential units to be delivered, 2000 will be provided by private developers in Adamstown, 1000 will be provided by private developers in Clonburris, whilst the balance of residential units will be provided (1) through the PPP process and (2) via a joint venture process between South Dublin County Council and a private developer on the Kilcarbery site.

The infrastructural projects for which LIHAF has been awarded consist of the following:

**Adamstown SDZ:**

1. The Celbridge Link Road: c. €5m allocated;
2. Tandy’s Lane Park and Airlie Park: c. €15m allocated between both public parks.

It is anticipated that subject to the receipt of the relevant planning permissions, each of these projects will be delivered by the end of Q1 2020.

**Clonburris SDZ:**

1. Surface Water Upgrade Scheme: €3m allocated.

It is anticipated that subject to the adoption of the Clonburris SDZ, this project will be delivered by the end of Q1 2020.

**Kilcarbery**

c. €4.39m allocated

1. Spine access road including junction upgrade
2. Pumping Station and rising foul main to existing foul sewer network
3. A foul sewer outfall

It is anticipated that subject to the receipt of planning permission that these works should be delivered by the end of Q4 2021.

All of the above projects and the respective funding from the Department of Housing, Planning and Local Government (DHPLG) are subject to grant agreements, with finalisation of same at an advanced stage between the DHPLG and South Dublin County Council.

**Q21/1117 TOWN AND VILLAGE RENEWAL**

**QUESTION:** **Councillor F. Timmons**

Re the €21.M for Town & Village Renewal what funding has South Dublin County Council asked for and what was allocated? When will the work be carried out?

**REPLY:**

The funding initiative referred to in the question is the Town & Village renewal scheme 2017 which was launched on April 13th 2017 by the Dept. of Heritage and Rural Affairs.

Two categories of eligible towns/villages are provided for:

**Category 1:**  Towns/villages with population of <5,000.

**Category 2:** Towns with population of 5,000 – 10,000.

Following the announcement of the scheme, the Council advertised the details on our website and a major media campaign followed nationally.

One application was received and the Council has been notified of approval for this application. The Economic Development Department is working with the group on drawdown of the funds.

Funding will issue in 2 tranches, the first 50% when a satisfactory level of the project has been completed. The remaining 50% of the funding will issue on total completion of the project. It is expected that all projects will be totally complete and full drawdown made by July 2018.

**Q22/1117 FAST TRACK PLANNING**

**QUESTION:** **Councillor F. Timmons**

To ask for a report into any changes to FastTrack planning that the Minister Eoghan Murphy has made or is proposing to make to the planning system and how these will effect planning?

**REPLY:**

FastTrack planning, referred to as Strategic Housing Development relates to developments over 100 dwellings units or 200 student accommodation units. Such applications must be made directly to An Bord Pleanála and there is no subsequent appeal process. A Bord Pleanála have 14 weeks to make a decision and to meet this target additional information may not be requested. The applicant must engage with the Planning Authority in consultation and advice before making the application to An Bord Pleanála.   The Planning Authority must make observations on any application made and such observations must include a summary of the views expressed by elected members at an Area Committee meeting where the application is discussed.

Since the process commenced 8 developments have been subject to consultation with South Dublin County Council and one application has been made to An Bord Pleanála for permission.

**Q23/1117 SMOKE ALARMS**

**QUESTION:** **Councillor F. Timmons**

To ask for a full report into Fire safety for older and vulnerable people in our County what efforts are being made by SDCC and what is the cost of same? How many smoke alarms will be available and how to people apply?

**REPLY:**

South Dublin County Council is making smoke alarms available to vulnerable and older residents of the county free of charge. This year’s allocation of alarms is to fit 2 alarms in 250 homes. Alarms are fitted with a 10 year long-life battery and do not require connection to mains electricity.

This initiative is funded by the Department of Environment, Community and Local Government.

The scheme was advertised in local newspapers on the 26th October 2017 and on the Council website and on social media, and posters will be displayed in the Council’s community centres.

The application form is available on the Council’s website, alternatively interested persons can ring 01-4149270 or email [comdevof@sdublincoco.ie](mailto:comdevof@sdublincoco.ie) for an application form.

This scheme is not available to tenants of South Dublin County Council. **Applications will be considered on a first come, first served basis.**

**Q24/1117 BE SAFE – BE SEEN ROAD SAFETY**

**QUESTION:** **Councillor F. Timmons**

Can South Dublin County Council work with the RSA to run a be safe - be seen campaign as we are coming into winter months when visibility is poor?

**REPLY:**

South Dublin County Council will be promoting the 'Be Safe - Be Seen' campaign starting on Friday 27th October ahead of the October Bank Holiday weekend and to coincide with the clocks going back in conjunction with the RSA and An Garda Síochána. The Road Safety Officer, will be leading this campaign locally.

**Q25/1117 VACANT HOUSE OFFICER**

**QUESTION:** **Councillor M. Ward**

Have the Council got plans to hire a vacant house officer, when will the position be filled and what is the job specification of the roll?

**REPLY:**

The Council is finalising its Vacant Homes Strategy to submit to the Department of Housing Planning and Local Government. The Minister for Housing Planning and Local Government in his communication of the 25th August (Circular letter PL 7/2017 refers) set out the requirement for each Local Authority to prepare a Vacant Homes Strategy including early actions to be taken at a local level. The development of a Strategy by each Local Authority is as set out in Rebuilding Ireland: Action Plan for Housing and Homelessness. Pillar 5 sets actions to address the utilisation of Existing Housing – Action 5.1 under this Pillar states:

* Develop a National Vacant Housing Re-Use Strategy, informed by Census 2016 Data, to:-
* Complete a register of vacant units across the country,
* Identify the number, location and reasons for longer term vacancies (i.e. over 6 months) in high demand areas, and
* Set out a range of actions to bring vacant units back into use

The strategy will be presented at the Housing Strategic Policy Committee Meeting on 20th November 2017.

**Q26/1117 HALLOWEEN**

**QUESTION:** **Councillor M. Ward**

Can the manager provide a report on how much Halloween activity funding was applied for this year, how much was approved and what was the breakdown per LEA?

**REPLY:**

The table below sets out the amount of funding per LEA so far this year

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **LEA** | **Amount of funding** |
| Clondalkin | €6,428.92 |
| Lucan | €775.00 |
| Rathfarnham/Templeogue/Terenure | €1,720.00 |
| Terenure/Templeogue | €600.00 |
| Tallaght Central | €640.00 |
| Tallaght South | €2,300.00 |
|  | €12,463.92 |

**Q27/1117 NEW LIBRARIES**

**QUESTION:** **Councillor M. Ward**

Can the manager provide a report on the building of new libraries in the County, when will they commence and what dates will they be opened?

**REPLY:**

Work is progressing on both Library projects for North Clondalkin and Castletymon. Shortlisting for contractors for North Clondalkin will commence on 9th November 2017. Tenders will issue mid-January with construction commencing in March 2018. An anticipated opening date for North Clondalkin will be early summer 2019.

Tenders for Castletymon Library are set to issue early March 2018. Construction will commence in May with a likely opening date of late summer 2019'.

**H8/1117 DECLARATION OF ROADS TO BE MADE PUBLIC ROADS**

The following reports by the Chief Executive, which had been circulated, were presented by Ms. L. Leonard, Director of Land Use, Planning and Transportation and were **CONSIDERED:**

[H8a) 1-4 Park View, Pairc Mhuire, Saggart](http://www.sdublincoco.ie/sdcc/departments/corporate/apps/cmas/documentsview.aspx?id=57438)  
 [H8b) Greenacre Court Knocklyon](http://www.sdublincoco.ie/sdcc/departments/corporate/apps/cmas/documentsview.aspx?id=57440)  
 [H8c) Greenhills Court Tallaght](http://www.sdublincoco.ie/sdcc/departments/corporate/apps/cmas/documentsview.aspx?id=57439)  
 [H8d) Liffey Hall, Liffey Parks Lucan](http://www.sdublincoco.ie/sdcc/departments/corporate/apps/cmas/documentsview.aspx?id=57442)

It was proposed by Councillor P. Gogarty, seconded by Councillor D. Richardson and **RESOLVED:**

“That the Roads referred to in the attached schedule be and are hereby declared to be Public Roads.”

**H9a/1117 PROPOSED DISPOSAL OF PROPERTIES /SITES-** **PROPOSED DISPOSAL OF THE FEE SIMPLE IN 31 CASTLE LAWNS, TALLAGHT, DUBLIN 24**

The following reports by the Chief Executive, which had been circulated, were presented by Mr. C. Ward, A/Director of Economic, Enterprise and Tourism Development were **CONSIDERED:**

“The following have applied, in accordance with the provisions of the Landlord and Tenant (Ground Rent) (No 2) Act, to acquire the fee simple in the property

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| ADDRESS | LESSEE(S) | PURCHASE PRICE |
| 31 Castle Lawns, Tallaght, Dublin 24 | Nora Mills | €110.65 |

It is proposed, in accordance with the provisions of the landlord and Tenant (Ground Rents) (No 2) Act, 1978 and subject to the provisions of Section 183 of the Local Government Act 2001, to dispose of the fee simple in the site listed above.

**Daniel McLoughlin**

**Chief Executive”**

The report was **NOTED** and it was proposed by Councillor P. Gogarty, seconded by Councillor M. Duff and **RESOLVED:**

“That the proposed Disposal of the Fee Simple in 31 Castle Lawns, Tallaght, Dublin 24, be **ADOPTED** and **APPROVED.”**

**H9b/1117** **PROPOSED DISPOSAL OF PROPERTIES /SITES PROPOSED DISPOSAL OF THE FEE SIMPLE IN 41 PAIRC MHUIRE, SAGGART, CO. DUBLIN**

The following reports by the Chief Executive, which had been circulated, were presented by Mr. C. Ward, A/Director of Economic, Enterprise and Tourism Development were **CONSIDERED:**

The following have applied, in accordance with the provisions of the Landlord and Tenant (Ground Rent) (No 2) Act, to acquire the fee simple in the property

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| ADDRESS | LESSEE(S) | PURCHASE PRICE |
| 41 Pairc Mhuire, Saggart, Co. Dublin | Iana Boghile & Parity Chisi | €43.30 |

It is proposed, in accordance with the provisions of the landlord and Tenant (Ground Rents) (No 2) Act, 1978 and subject to the provisions of Section 183 of the Local Government Act 2001, to dispose of the fee simple in the site listed above.

**Daniel McLoughlin**

**Chief Executive”**

The report was **NOTED** and it was proposed by Councillor P. Gogarty, seconded by Councillor M. Duff and **RESOLVED:**

“That the proposed Disposal of the Fee Simple in 41 Pairc Mhuire, Saggart, Co. Dublin, be **ADOPTED** and **APPROVED.”**

**H10/1117 MANAGEMENT REPORT**

The following reports by the Chief Executive, which had been circulated, were **CONSIDERED:**

[H10a) Strategy Report](http://www.sdublincoco.ie/sdcc/departments/corporate/apps/cmas/documentsview.aspx?id=57386)  
 [H10b) Statistic Report](http://www.sdublincoco.ie/sdcc/departments/corporate/apps/cmas/documentsview.aspx?id=57387)

Councillor R. McMahon had a few question with regard to the Management Reports.

Mr. D. McLoughlin Chief Executive and Ms. T. Walsh, Director of Environment, Water and Climate Change responded to Councillor R. McMahon’s questions.

The Reports were **NOTED.**

**H11/1117 APPLICATION FOR GRANTS**

The following report by the Chief Executive, which had been circulated, was presented by Mr. B. Coman, Director of Housing, Social and Community Development and was **CONSIDERED:**

[H11 Application for Grants](http://www.sdublincoco.ie/sdcc/departments/corporate/apps/cmas/documentsview.aspx?id=57369)

A discussion followed with contributions from Councillors W. Lavelle and P. Gogarty.

The report was **NOTED** and it was proposed byCouncillor P. Gogarty, seconded by Councillor T. Gilligan and **RESOLVED:**

**“**That the recommendations contained in the report be **ADOPTED and APPROVED**.”

**H12/1117 APPOINTMENT AND RE-ELECTION OF PUBLIC PARTICIPATION NETWORK REPRESENTIVES TO:**

The following report by the Chief Executive, which had been circulated, was presented by Ms. L. Maxwell, Director of Corporate Performance and Change Management and was **CONSIDERED:**

**(i) SOUTH DUBLIN LOCAL COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE**

**(ii) SOUTH DUBLIN JOINT POLICING COMMITTEE**

“South Dublin PPN recently held a nominations/election process to fill/refill the (i) Local Community Development Committee and (ii) Joint Policing Committee which were due for renewal.

The Following were ratified by the plenary at its meeting on the 28th September 2017

LCDC Justin Byrne re-elected

LCDC Aiden Lloyd newly elected

LCDC Maurice Walsh re-elected

LCDC Tricia Nolan newly elected

LCDC Gerry Stockil newly elected

JPC Michael Noonan re-elected

JPC Enda Creegan newly elected

JPC Ann Corrigan re-elected

JPC Tara Deacy re-elected

These are now before the Council for **NOTING.”**

The Report was **NOTED.**

**H13/1117 APPLICATION FOR FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE UNDER THE CAPITAL ASSISTANCE SCHEME FROM CLANMIL IRELAND CLG IN ACCORDANCE WITH SECTION 6 OF THE HOUSING (MISCELLANEOUS PROVISIONS) ACT, 1992**

The following report by the Chief Executive, which had been circulated, was presented by Mr. B. Coman, Director of Housing, Social and Community Development and was **CONSIDERED:**

“The Department of Housing, Planning, Community and Local Government have given delegated sanction to all local authorities to approve the acquisition of properties under CAS 2017 by AHBs without the prior approval of the Department.

South Dublin County Council have used this delegated sanction per Circular Housing 30/2017 to approve the acquisition of one unit by Clanmil Ireland CLG, subject to compliance with the terms of that Circular with particular regard to verifying housing need, providing independent valuations, working within the acquisition ceilings and establishing deliverability.

An application was received from Clanmil Ireland CLG on the 20th of October for a grant to acquire 12 Belfry Way, Citywest, Dublin 24under the Capital Assistance Scheme. The Association is an approved Voluntary Body under **Section 5 of the Housing Act, 1988.**

The property will be used to accommodate people from South Dublin County Council’s housing list.

Under [**Section 6 (8) of the Housing (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act, 1992**](http://www.irishstatutebook.ie/1992/en/act/pub/0018/sec0006.html) the granting of assistance under the Capital Assistance Scheme is a reserved function of the Council and is subject to the approval of the Department of Housing, Planning, Community and Local Government.

**Accordingly, the following motion is required:**

“That this Council recommends that the application for a grant in the sum of **€310,000** under the Capital Assistance Scheme to Clanmil Ireland CLG for the acquisition of property at 12 Belfry Way, Citywest, Dublin 24, or any substitute property up to a similar amount, in accordance with the requirements of Section 6 of the Housing (Miscellaneous) Act, 1992 be approved”.

The Report was **NOTED** and it was proposed byCouncillor P. Gogarty and seconded by Councillor G. O’Connell and **RESOLVED:**

“That the Application for Financial Assistance under the Capital Assistance Scheme be **ADOPTED and APPROVED.**”

**CORRESPONDENCE**

**Departmental**

**Co1/1117** Letter dated 5th October 2017 from Department of Children and Youth Affairs regarding pay for Child Care Workers

**Departmental**

**Co2/1117** Letter dated 31st October 2017 from the Department of Housing, Planning & Local Government regarding reducing the age of electors to 16 years of age

**Co3/1117** Letter dated 17th October 2017 from Tipperary County Council regarding Urban Road Minor Improvement Grant

**Co4/1117** Email dated 25th October 2017 from Wexford County Council regarding Rural Post Offices

**Motions for discussion**

In accordance with **Standing Order No.** **13** it was **AGREED** with the consent of the Members to vary the sequence of business and to take (of similar subject matter) in tandem.

**M1/1117 MAYORS BUSINESS - CLIMATE CHANGE**

It was proposed by Councillors P. Gogarty and seconded by Councillor F. Timmons**:**

“That this Council:  
 Welcoming the National Mitigation Plan on climate change, but also noting the lack of urgency and identifiable pathways outlined in the plan, as well as our dependency on foreign imports of energy, calls on the Minister for Communications, Climate Action and Environment, and Taoiseach, to work together constructively to ensure:

-    All new buildings are required to be built to passive house standard by 2025;  
 -    All new cars and vans in built or imported into Ireland will be zero emission by 2025, with an emphasis on promoting electric vehicles and a related charging infrastructure;  
 -    At least 30% of all electricity to be provided by solar PV by 2025, including related storage systems and incentives for microgeneration and selling back to the grid at domestic and business level to be provided as well as Government partnership investment in large-scale solar farms; and

- Incentives for any Irish-based enterprise showing innovation and job creation potential in the above areas.”

**REPORT:**

If the Motion is passed a letter will issue to the appropriate Minister and An Taoiseach and when a reply is received, it will be issued to the Members.

A discussion followed with contributions from Councillors P. Gogarty, E. Higgins and K. Mahon.

The Motion was **AGREED.**

**M2/1117 MAYORS BUSINESS -- IMMIGRATION POLICY**

The following Motion in the name of Councillors P. Gogarty was **MOVED** without debate.

“That this Council calls on the Taoiseach, the Minister for Justice and the Minister for Foreign Affairs to initiate a wide-ranging but rapid review of immigration policy, including a potential role for the Citizens’ Assembly, so that we can modernise our approach and develop a more clearly defined system of work permits for non-EU migrants in the future.2

**REPORT:**

If the Motion is passed a letter will issue to An Taoiseach and appropriate Ministers and when a reply is received, it will be issued to the Members.

The Motion was **AGREED.**

**M3/1117 GAMBLING LAWS**

It was proposed by Councillors D. Richardson and seconded by Councillor B. Ferron:

“That this Council calls on the Minister for Justice to introduce proper legislation around gambling laws in this Country, we have not seen this addressed by any Minister for Justice.  This is one of the most hidden addictions in our Country, advertising on line gambling, under age gambling, we get no revenue from on line gambling under the current laws.  The laws date back to 1913 with amendments in 1956 it's time for proper legislation.”

**REPORT:**

If the Motion is passed a letter will issue to the appropriate Minister and when a reply is received, it will be issued to the Members.

A discussion followed with contributions from Councillors D. Richardson, V. Casserly, M. Ward, L. O’Toole, R. McMahon, R. Nolan, D. O’Donovan, B. Leech, P. Foley, D. Looney and P. Gogarty.

The Motion was **AGREED.**

**M4/1117 YOUTH UNEMPLOYMENT**

It was proposed by Councillors D. Looney and seconded by Councillor G. O’Connell**:**

“That this Council, noting that SDCC remains seriously understaffed given the population in the County, endorses SIPTU's "Your County, Your Youth, Your Future" campaign. This Council supports the establishment of a working group to campaign for policies which will tie together local authority recruitment and dealing with youth unemployment in our area.”

**Report:**

South Dublin County Council has been consistently proactive in working to address youth unemployment in the county - effort which was recognised in recent correspondence from SIPTU to the Chief Executive to inform us of their national campaign, in which SIPTU acknowledged that SDCC had taken a lead role on addressing youth unemployment and that our initiatives were noted at pay talk negotiations and that this experience contributed towards the establishment of some of the key support measures in the Public Service Stability Agreement on Apprenticeships, Traineeships and recruitment in the public sector.

This effort is embedded as a core objective of the Corporate Plan: *To examine trainee opportunities in the sports and hospitality sections of South Dublin County Council as well as graduate and apprenticeship opportunities within the council*. The following are some examples of how we are working to achieve this objective:

* **Apprenticeship programme** across the trades of Painters, Plumbers, Fitter Mechanics, Bricklayers and Carpenters;
* **Social clauses** to provide for local employment in significant construction contracts managed by the Council such as Kilcarbery and the new library in Rowlagh;
* **Sportivate** - SDCC in partnership with the Dublin and Dun Laoghaire Education and Training Board, providing young people between the ages of 18 and 25, the chance to break into the sports industry or to further their education opportunities by undertaking a Level 4 FETAC award. The programme is currently in its second iteration;
* **Catering/Hospitality programme** for youth unemployed leading to opportunities for employment and/or further training with Institute of Technology Tallaght, Department of Social Protection (DSP) and Dublin and Dun Laoghaire Education and Training Board (DDLETB);
* Meaningful **work placements** within the Council for students of the Institute of Technology, Tallaght as well as other third level institutions and with local post-primary schools;
* Ongoing participation in **Labour Activation programmes**such as the Community Employment schemes and previously the Gateway Programme.

The reference to an 'understaffing' of South Dublin County Council in comparison to the population of the County is not accepted. The Irish local authority sector has five categories according to population and local authority size, and SDCC is a Level 2 local authority, Workforce plan - agreed with both the Unions and the Department - is commensurate with us being a Level 2 local authority. Current vacancies do exist but this is due to a high level of retirements and promotional opportunities across the sector nationally. SDCC is competing with other local authorities and public sector bodies to fill a significant number of vacancies in the sector at present.

A discussion followed with contributions from Councillors D. Looney, G. O’Connell, M. Murphy, M. Ward and P. Gogarty.

Mr. D. McLoughlin Chief Executive and Ms. L. Maxwell, Director of Corporate Performance and Change Management responded to the Members queries.

The Report was **NOTED.**

**M5/1117 CRAIGAVON TWO**

It was proposed by Councillors F. Timmons and seconded by Councillor T. Gilligan:

"That this Council supports the calls for the Criminal Cases Review Commission in Britain to investigate the case of the Craigavon 2 (Brendan McConville and John Paul Wotton) as a miscarriage of justice in the hope that they will send the case back to the British courts for a fresh appeal. This Council acknowledges that the case of the Craigavon 2 requires significant re-examination due to concerns about how the convictions were achieved. This Council also calls on the Minister for Foreign Affairs, Simon Coveney TD to bring this issue to the attention of the British government as a matter of urgency."

**REPORT:**

If the Motion is passed a letter will issue to the Criminal Cases Review Commission in Britain and to the appropriate Minister Simon Coveney TD and when a reply is received, it will be issued to the Members.

A discussion followed with contributions from Councillors F. Timmons, B. Ferron, J. Graham, M. Ward, E. O’Brien, G. O’Connell and P. Gogarty.

The Motion was **AGREED.**

**M6/1117 MEM**

It was proposed by Councillors C. O'Connor and seconded by Councillor F. Timmons:

“That this South Dublin County Council applauds the endeavours of the Council's Emergency Team and all the workers involved in dealing with the challenge presented by Ophelia on 16th October last and in responding to the Motion will the Chief Executive present a report in the matter and also confirm if he believes that any lessons were learned which will be useful for future challenges in that regard.”

**REPORT:**

On Friday 13th October Met Eireann and the National Directorate for Fire and Emergency Management issued a Level Orange Weather Warning for gale force wind as Ex-hurricane Ophelia tracked across the country. Operational management and supervisors monitored the situation in conjunction with Met Eireann and the Eastern Region co-ordination centre and assessed and assigned standby crews for the weekend. The status Orange level warning remained in place until Sunday evening when a Status Red Warning was issued for the entire country. Following this SDCC issued a notice on the web site and via social media that the Parks, Libraries and Sports and Community facilities would be closed on Monday 16th October.

A meeting was organised for the Crisis Management Team for 8:30am on Monday morning. Notice was issued to Councillors and then to staff that the council offices would be closed from 12pm and all staff should be safely at their homes by this time. Operational staff remained on standby at home to respond if required.

South Dublin County Council participated in the Eastern Region co-ordination of the Principle Response Agencies (PRA’s). An incident room was set up by An Garda Síochána in Hardcourt Street, throughout Monday 16th conference calls were held to co-ordinate the effort of the 4 Dublin Authorities, Dublin Fire Brigade, the HSE and An Garda Síochána.

SDCC communicated information and updates to the public via social media and to the Councillors directly via emails throughout the storm. There were a total of 50 posts across the Facebook and Twitter platforms reaching approximately 167,000 and 175,000 respectively. These notices were also displayed on the SDCC website.

Approximately 140 trees came down in the storm and crews only responded to incidents in order to keep critical main roads such as the N81 clear during the storm. The main clean-up work occurred in the days following the storm.

The key lessons learned were that ongoing communication with the public was very important to keep them informed of the current situation and to reinforce the recommendation from the National Group that everyone should stay at home. This was also an important factor in reducing incidents and hence there was a reduced need to call PRA’s out to dangerous situations.

A Major Emergency was not declared in South Dublin County in this instance but the Regional Co-ordination and communication and the setting up of the Crisis Management Team are features of Major Emergency Management that were utilised successfully.

Tragically, three people lost their lives as the storm traversed the Country; however, there seems to be a consensus that this loss of life could have been considerably worse without the co-ordinated actions of all involved in the response.

A national Ex - Hurricane Ophelia debrief meeting is scheduled for November 22nd at which relevant staff from SDCC will attend, a report will be prepared incorporating the reports supplied from local authorities and the other organisations that participated at national level, the report will include issues identified and make recommendations to embed enhanced co- ordination and management of emergencies and so that lessons can be identified from this scenario to further refine and improve how we respond to other emergencies that will occur in the future.

A discussion followed with contributions from Councillors C. O’Connor, D. Looney, B. Bonner, E. Higgins and P. Gogarty.

Ms. T. Walsh, Director of Environment, Water and Climate Change responded to the Members queries.

The Report was **NOTED.**

**M7/1117 KUVAN**

It was proposed by Councillors M. Johansson and seconded by Councillor F. Timmons:

"That this Council calls on the Government and the HSE to authorise the drug Kuvan for those living with Phenylketonuria (PKU) in Ireland.

PKU is a rare genetic disorder. Ireland has one of the highest rates of the condition in the world. Kuvan is currently available in twenty European countries."

**REPORT:**

If the Motion is passed a letter will issue to the appropriate Minister and when a reply is received, it will be issued to the Members.

A discussion followed with contributions from Councillors M. Johansson, F. Timmons, E. Murphy and E. Higgins.

The Motion was **AGREED**.

**M8/1117 CHILDRENS HOSPITAL**

It was proposed by Councillors B. Ferron and seconded by Councillor C. O’Connor:

This Council calls on the Minister for Health to name the new National Children's Hospital in honour of Dr. Kathleen Lynn.

**REPORT:**

If the Motion is passed a letter will issue to the appropriate Minister and when a reply is received, it will be issued to the Members.

A discussion followed with contributions from Councillors B. Ferron, R. McMahon, M. Johansson, C. O’Connor, E. Higgins, B. Leech, B. Bonner and P. Gogarty,

A show of hand vote was taken the result was as follows:

**FOR: 22 (TWENTY TWO)**

**AGAINST: 3 (THREE)**

**ABSTAINED: 2 (TWO)**

The Motion was **PASSED.**

**M9/1117 SALT BINS**

It was proposed by Councillors P. Donovan and seconded by Councillor P. Foley:

“That this Council calls for a review of Salt reservoirs issued in recent times in key locations across the County as part of our winter readiness program.  Include the location suitability and if further reservoir locations should be provided and also whether salt needs to be replaced in the reservoirs.”

**REPORT:**

There are approximately 40 salt bins in use in the County. This is appropriate considering the size of the County and the number of gritting routes in the County. The bins will be examined and new salt added.

The 2017-2018 Winter Maintenance Plan will be presented to all ACM's in November.

A discussion followed with contributions from Councillors P. Donovan, E. Higgins and P. Gogarty

Ms. L. Leonard, A/Director of Land Use, Planning and Transportation responded to the Members queries.

The Report was **NOTED.**

**M10/1117 DAMAGED WALLS**

It was proposed by Councillors M. Ward and seconded by Councillor E. Murphy**:**

"When Council properties are damaged as a result of vehicle impact, such as boundary walls demolished due a road traffic incident that this Council instructs the Chief Executive to seek redress for damage from the drivers insurance or in the case of a uninsured driver from the Motor Insurance Bureau of Ireland (MIBI)?

**REPORT:**

When a Council property is damaged and the person who caused the damage is known then a claim is made to the relevant insurance company or the MIBI if appropriate.  However in most cases where walls are damaged the culprit is not known to the Council.

A discussion followed with contributions from Councillors M. Ward and B. Leech.

Mr. B. Coman, Director of Housing, Social and Community Development responded to the Members queries.

The Report was **NOTED.**

The Meeting finished at 6.28pm.

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Mayor

Date: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_