COMHAIRLE CONTAE ÁTHA CLIATH THEAS
SOUTH DUBLIN COUNTY COUNCIL



MEETING OF SOUTH DUBLIN COUNTY COUNCIL

Monday, July 08, 2019

HEADED ITEM NO. (14)

**HEADED ITEM: Economic Enterprise and Tourism Development Directorate**

**LIBRARY PROVISION FOR WEST OF COUNTY INITIAL REPORT**

**REPLY:**

**As part of the 2019 Budget process it was agreed that during 2019 studies would commence on Library provision in the West of the County.**

**Given that the County Library based at County Hall Tallaght provides a significant service to the Tallaght area and the wider County, the needs for Library services in the West of the County, particularly Rathcoole/Newcastle/Saggart is considered below.**

**Policy background**

In a general policy context, the provision of library services in the County is supported in Section 3.4.0 of the South Dublin County Council Development Plan 2016-2022.

**Community Infrastructure Policy 2: Section 3.4.0 Libraries**

It is the policy of the Council to continue to provide an innovative, community focused public library service to all who live, work and study in South Dublin County.

**Objective 1:** To support the development of the County’s library services and the implementation of the Actions set out in the South Dublin Library Development Plan 2012-2016 (**and any future plans).**

**“Open to You” South Dublin Library Development Plan 2018 – 2022,** over the lifetime of the plan will explore the possibility of regional services points in densely or fast- growing areas of population.

**Population Forecasts and South Dublin County Council Development Plan 2016 -2022 Context**

Census 2016 revealed that the fastest growing areas in South Dublin County are Saggart-Citywest, Rathcoole and Tallaght Springfield.

Also, In the context of the Core Strategy of the South Dublin County Council Development Plan 2016-2022, the catchment for the library can be summarised as the Saggart- Citywest (Emerging Moderate Sustainable Growth Town), Newcastle (Small Town) and Rathcoole (Small Town) settlements in the Settlement Hierarchy.

|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Settlement Hierarchy**  | **Total Land Capacity in Development Plan 2016 – 2022**  | **Total Housing Capacity in Development Plan 2016 – 2022** | **2011** **Population**  | **2022 Population Forecast**  | **% of County Total Housing Capacity in the Settlement** |
| Saggart - Citywest | 138 hectares (Ha) | 4,196 | 9115 | 17,972 | 10% |
| Newcastle  | 28 ha | 701 | 2680 | 4,235 | 2% |
| Rathcoole | 45 ha | 1,062 | 4019 | 5,703 | 3% |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |

**Projected Population –** Extracted from South Dublin County Council Development Plan 2016 -2022. However as outlined in the 2016 Census figures, Newcastle has already surpassed the projected 2022 figure, **(population 4527: 2016 Census)** and Rathcoole has almost reached its projected figures **(population 5009: 2016 Census**).

The following is a table of national and second level schools in the areas of Saggart-Citywest, Newcastle and Rathcoole.

**Primary Schools as per Dept of Education, 2018-19**

**Rathcoole**:

Holy Family National School, Rathcoole 704

Scoil Chronán, Rathcoole 379

**Saggart**

S N Naomh Mhuire, Saggart 702

**Citywest**

Citywest and Saggart Community N.S., Fortunestown Lane 356

Citywest Educate Together, Fortunestown Lane 382

Scoil Aoife, Citywest Drive 171

**Newcastle**

Caisleain Nua Liamhna, Newcastle Lyons 574

**Secondary Schools as per Dept of Education, 2018-19**

**Rathcoole**:

Holy Family Community School, Rathcoole 948

**Saggart**

NO secondary school, one planned for 2020. Students currently attend schools in wider Tallaght area

**Citywest**

NO secondary school, one planned for 2020. Students currently attend schools in wider Tallaght area

**Newcastle**

No secondary school

**The following extracts from Section 5.1.0 of the Development Plan will aid the feasibility and/or site selection process:**

**Urban Centres: Policy 1**

It is the policy of the Council to continue to develop the County’s network of town centres, village centres, district centres and local centres, based on the following hierarchy:

* Tallaght as the County Town;
* Clondalkin as a vibrant Town Centre;
* Traditional Village Centres as vibrant and sustainable centres;
* A network of District Centres to serve a district catchment; and
* A network of Local Centres and local shops to serve a local catchment.

**Urban Centres: Objective 1**

To direct retail, commercial, leisure, entertainment, civic, community and cultural uses into town, village, district and local centres and to achieve a critical mass of development and a mix of uses that is appropriate to each level in the urban hierarchy.

**Urban Centres: Objective 2**

To recognise the pre-eminence of our County’s town centres and traditional villages as the preferred location in considering development proposals for non-retail civic, public service and community developments, and to apply a sequential approach as appropriate for such proposals.

Further to the above, the areas of Saggart-Citywest, Newcastle and Rathcoole have a range of land use zoning objectives. The Urban Centres of these settlements are defined by the land use zonings as follows:

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Settlement**  | **Urban Centres Zoning** |
| Saggart – Citywest | Village Centre (VC) zoning at Saggart & District Centre (DC) zoning at Citywest Shopping Centre |
| Newcastle  | VC Zoning in Newcastle  |
| Rathcoole | VC Zoning in Rathcoole  |

**Current development proposals**

Also presented to the July Council meeting is a significant development proposal on Council owned zoned lands adjacent to Rathcoole village adjacent to an existing proposed additional school site for Rathcoole.

The current provision of library services to the area by South Dublin mobile libraries, although welcome, is limited in what it can deliver. As part of the consultation process for the Library Development Plan ‘Open to You’ there was a call for the provision of a full-time library service in the Rathcoole area. The provision of this service will benefit the growing community in multiple ways. In addition to providing the public with access to a wide range of services: computers, Internet, education, cultural programmes and courses, it will provide a trusted and valued community space. Active participation in national initiatives, such as Right to Read, Work Matters, Healthy Ireland, Music Generation and Creative Ireland will ensure that the citizens of the area have access to a broad range of knowledge, information, technology, culture and heritage in a welcoming, inclusive and supportive way.

**Conclusion:**

As stated in the introduction the purpose of this paper is to examine the most appropriate method of providing a library service to the Western area of the County, developing rapidly, but most remote from the County Library in Tallaght.

Based on analysis of the above policy requirements and the data set out above it is recommended that the location should be Rathcoole village for the below reasons.

* Rathcoole is an established South Dublin village that has been, and will continue to be, subject to significant development.
* The village is best located to both serve the adjacent villages of Saggart and Newcastle, and the surrounding rural hinterland.
* Rathcoole is home to a cluster of existing and planned schools, both primary and secondary, with large student numbers.
* The current SDCC development proposal at Rathcoole provides an opportunity to provide the service in conjunction with, and for, both the existing population and the new residents of the village.
* It will add greatly to network of library services in the County.