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

Minutes of South Dublin County Council Clondalkin Area Committee Meeting dealing with Economic Development, Libraries & Arts, Corporate Support, Performance & Change Management, Water & Drainage, Public Realm, Environment, Housing, Community, Transportation and Planning, held on 18th September 2019.

**COUNCILLORS PRESENT**

Councillor W. Carey

Councillor T. Gilligan

Councillor E. Higgins

Councillor P. Kavanagh

Councillor E. O’Broin

Councillor F. Timmons

An apology for inability to attend, was received from Councillor K. Egan.

Cathaoirleach, Councillor P. Kavanagh presided.

**OFFICIALS PRESENT**

A/Senior Executive Officer Mr. M. McAdam

Senior Planner Ms. H. Craigie, Mr. J. Frehill

County Librarian Ms. B. Fennell

Senior Executive Officer Ms. M. Staunton, Ms. E. Leech

Senior Executive Planner Ms. F. Redmond, Mr. E. Burke

Senior Executive Parks Supt. Mr. D. Fennell

A/Senior Executive Engineer Ms. J. McGrath

Administrative Officer Ms. S. Kelly, Ms. A. Byrne, Ms. F. Hendley, Ms. S. Sinclair

Senior Staff Officer Mr. C. Gorman

Staff Officer Ms. P. O’Reilly

Assistant Staff Officer Ms. I. Kenny

Prior to commencement of the meeting, it was **AGREED** by the Cathaoirleach and the Members present, to vary the sequence of business on the agenda in accordance with Standing Orders, to bring forward to the start of the meeting, Headed Item Nos. 20, 21, 22 & 23 (H20, H21, H22 & H23) and Motion Nos. 15, 16, 17 & 18 (M15, M16, M17 & M18).

### **C/278/19 – (H1) Item ID: 62851 - Confirmation & Re-affirmation of Minutes of Meeting of 17th April 2019**

The minutes of the April meeting of the Clondalkin Area Committee dealing with Planning, Transportation, Libraries & Arts, Economic Development, Performance & Change Management, Corporate Support, Environment, Water & Drainage, Public Realm, Community and Housing, held on 17th April 2019 which had been circulated, were submitted and **APPROVED.**

[Minutes of 17th April](http://www.sdublincoco.ie/sdcc/departments/corporate/apps/cmas/documentsview.aspx?id=63795)

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

“That the recommendations contained in the minutes of 17th April 2019, be **ADOPTED** and **APPROVED.”**

**C/279/19 – QUESTIONS**

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

“That pursuant to Standing Order No. 13, Questions 1 – 16 be **ADOPTED** and **APPROVED**.”

## **Economic Development**

### **C/280/19 – (Q1) Item ID: 63240 – Ownership of relevant lands in Rathcoole**

Proposed by Councillor William Joseph Carey

"To ask Chief Executive for confirmation of ownership of the relevant lands surrounding the proposed development for housing, GAA playing pitches, Department of Education, public parking area, and amenity areas surrounding these projects in the Rathcoole."

**REPLY:**

Lands surrounding the proposed housing development, playing pitches and amenity areas, and within the curtilage of the overall area, as identified and presented at the July meeting of the Council, are in the ownership of South Dublin County Council.

### **C/281/19 (H2) Item ID: 62825 – New Works**

(No Business)

### **C/282/19 – (H3) Item ID:63223 - Area Committee Representative to Brú Chrónáin Steering Committee**

**Area Committee Representative to Brú Chrónáin Steering Committee**

“A steering committee has been established for the Round Tower Visitor Centre - Brú Chrónáin in accordance with the agreement entered into with the Happy Pear in respect of the Lease. The committee meets on a quarterly basis. The committee is made up of representatives from South Dublin County Council, the local community and The Happy Pear, including one rep from the Area Committee members.

Former Councillor Breeda Bonner sat on the Steering Committee representing the Area Committee members but attended her last committee meeting in July 2019. It is now up to the committee to decide who will replace Ms Bonner. The committee might may wish to consider the Area Committee Chair to be ex-officio the Committee representative on the steering committee.”

It was **AGREED** by the Members present, that the current ACM Chair, Councillor P. Kavanagh be appointed as the next Area Committee Representative toBrú Chrónáin Steering Committee.

The report was **NOTED.**

### **C/283/19 – (C1) Item ID: 62826 - Correspondence**

[Cor 1 OPW](http://www.sdublincoco.ie/sdcc/departments/corporate/apps/cmas/documentsview.aspx?id=63772)

The Correspondence was **NOTED.**

## **Libraries & Arts**

### **C/284/19 – (Q2) Item ID: 62918 – Proposed Library for Rathcoole**

Proposed by Councillor F. Timmons

"To ask the Chief Executive for a report into the proposed Library for Rathcoole that will serve Newcastle, Saggart and Brittas?  To ask that it includes a multi-purpose meeting/music space that would be of use to the Community?"

**REPLY:**

"The proposed library for Rathcoole is being incorporated in the masterplan for the Rathcoole area. Preliminary planning is in progress, and the suggestion of a multi-purpose meeting room can form part of the detailed design stage of the project when that time occurs".

### **C/285/19 – (Q3) Item ID: 62922 – Call It Out Campaign**

Proposed by Councillor F. Timmons

"To ask the Chief Executive to look at ways South Dublin County Council can support the Call It Out campaign in our County Libraries?  The Call It Out campaign calls for an end to Biphobia, Transphobia and Homophobic behaviour, and to look at holding talks and displaying Call It Out posters. The Campaign is a joint initiative of the Transgender Equality Network Ireland ([TENI](http://www.teni.ie/)) and the [Hate and Hostility Research Group](https://ulsites.ul.ie/hhrg/) at the University of Limerick."

**REPLY:**

"The ethos of the Library Service is to provide an inclusive democratic space for all our citizens. We do not actively get involved in social/political campaigns, but we can display contact information on our library notice boards for the public."

### **C/286/19 – (H4) Item ID: 62827 – Library News & Events**

The following report was presented by Ms. B. Fennell, County Librarian:

[HI 4](http://www.sdublincoco.ie/sdcc/departments/corporate/apps/cmas/documentsview.aspx?id=64079)

### Following a discussion with contributions from Councillors P. Kavanagh and E. O’Broin, Ms. B. Fennell, County Librarian responded to the members queries. and the report was **NOTED.**

### **C/287/19 – (H5) Item ID: 62828 – Application for Arts Grants**

The following report was presented by Ms. B. Fennell, County Librarian:

[HI 5 St. Cuthbert's](http://www.sdublincoco.ie/sdcc/departments/corporate/apps/cmas/documentsview.aspx?id=64072)

### Following contributions from Councillors F. Timmons and E. O’Broin, the report was **NOTED.**

### **C/288/19 – (H6) Item ID: 62829 – New Works**

(No Business)

### **C/289/19 – (C2) Item ID: 62830 - Correspondence**

(No Business)

## **Corporate Support**

### **C/290/19 – (H7) Item ID: 62831 – New Works**

(No Business)

### **C/291/19 – (C3) Item ID: 62832 - Correspondence**

[Cor 1 Minister for Justice & Equality](http://www.sdublincoco.ie/sdcc/departments/corporate/apps/cmas/documentsview.aspx?id=63773)

The correspondence was **NOTED.**

### **C/292/19 – (Q4) Item ID: 62535 – Clondalkin Creche**

Proposed by Councillor T. Gilligan

"To ask the Chief Executive to give an update on the facilities in the creche in Clondalkin Civic Offices?"

**REPLY:**

South Dublin County Council carried out a public competitive process for the provision of creche facilities in Tallaght County Hall, and Clondalkin Civic Offices. Oakview Lodge Ltd. was awarded the contract on April 1st, 2019, which resulted in a change in operator.

While the tender document specified the provision of services required, it was only when the transfer process began that information came to light, which resulted in a need to review service provision in the Clondalkin service.

The changes made resulted in dissatisfaction for some parents but were necessary to improve the service and to ensure service compliance with all Childcare regulations. Parents were regularly informed of changes to service provision.

The Clondalkin service is currently reconfiguring its space to comply with Childcare regulations and ensure an excellent standard of service, with works due to be completed this autumn.

### **C/293/19 – (M1) Item ID: 62910 – Level of Crime & Anti-Social Behaviour**

It was proposed by Councillor F. Timmons and seconded by Councillor E. O’Broin:

"That this Area Committee writes to the Minister for Justice and the Garda Commissioner to demand additional resources for the Clondalkin LEA.  The level of crimes and anti-social behaviour is unacceptable as is the Garda Response time. As elected members we demand that our area gets additional resources to tackle growing crime in Clondalkin, Newcastle, Rathcoole, Saggart and Brittas. We also commit to sending a copy of this motion to Clondalkin and Rathcoole Stations to show our support and solidarity with our local Guards."

The following report by the Chief Executive which had been circulated, was **READ:**

“If the Motion is passed, a letter will be issued to the Minister for Justice, the Garda Commissioner and a copy sent to Clondalkin and Rathcoole Garda Stations for their attention. When a reply is received, the Committee will be notified accordingly.”

The Motion was **PASSED** without debate.

### **C/294/19 – (M2) Item ID: 63246 – Additional Junior School for Rathcoole/Newcastle**

It was proposed by Councillor William Joseph Carey and seconded by Councillor F. Timmons:

"The committee agrees to write to the Department of Education requesting the inclusion of an additional junior school for the Rathcoole/Newcastle area in addition to that already included in the Departments Capital Plan, to meet the need for additional school places in those areas."

The following report by the Chief Executive which had been circulated, was **READ:**

“If the Motion is passed, a letter will be issued to the Minister for Education and Skills for his attention, and when a reply is received, the Committee will be notified accordingly.”

The Motion was **PASSED** without debate.

### **C/295/19 – (M3) Item ID: 62921 – Direct Provision**

It was proposed by Councillor F. Timmons and seconded by Councillor P. Kavanagh:

"That this newly elected Area Committee once again condemns the system known as Direct Provision and the Centre known as the Towers in Clondalkin. We recognise the dignity and rights of every human being to a home and safe place to live and work.  We call for the end of the 'Direct Provision' system and the introduction of a humane reception system in line with international best practice. We commit again to write to the Minister for Justice."

The following report by the Chief Executive which had been circulated, was **READ:**

“If the Motion is approved, a letter will be issued to the Minister for Justice for his attention. When a reply is received, the Committee will be notified accordingly.”

Following a discussion with contributions from Councillors F. Timmons, P. Kavanagh, W. Carey and E. O’Broin, the Motion was **PASSED.**

## **Performance & Change Management**

### **C/296/19 – (H8) Item ID: 62833 – New Works**

(No Business)

### **C/297/19 – (C4) Item ID: 62834 - Correspondence**

(No Business)

## **Water & Drainage**

### **C/298/19 – (H9) Item ID: 62835 – New Works**

(No Business)

### **C/299/19 – (C5) Item ID: 62836 - Correspondence**

(No Business)

## **Public Realm**

### **C/300/19 – (Q5) Item ID: 63247 – Knockmitten Astro Turf Pitch**

Proposed by Councillor William Joseph Carey

"To ask the Chief Executive to provide an update on the provision of an Astro Turf pitch in partnership with Knockmitten Utd FC on the grounds of Knockmitten Community Centre, including a timeline for when the construction of the Astro will commence and conclude."

**REPLY:**

South Dublin County Council were notified that the proposed All Weather Pitch at Knockmitten Community Centre received Sports Capital Grant Funding in the 2018 notification of grants. The Council carried out a Part 8 process in 2017 in relation to the proposal and the Part 8 was passed by the Council.

As notified to all parties at the time of application the delivery of the Sports Grants Programme is subject to the programmed delivery of all the sports pitch grants the Council has currently underway. The 4 No. 2015 Sports Capital Grant allocated projects are currently underway; 2 are close to completion and are at establishment stage, 1 is on site and close to completion and 1 has just completed a tender process and it is hoped to commence on site with that one shortly. Once those projects are progressed, the Knockmitten All Weather Pitch, which is from the 2018 Capital Grant Allocations, will be detailed design and tendered.

In the interim, South Dublin County Council have engaged with the ESB to allow the relocation of the ESB lines that are required prior to commencement of the project. A tender for consultants for All Weather Pitches has also recently taken place and the standstill period is currently underway. The timelines for the project will be subject to successful completion of the tendering process in terms of tendering for both the design and construction stages and agreement of a construction programme with the successful contractor. South Dublin County Council also have a Sports Pitch Strategy underway; which will give more detail about the placement and provision of Astro Pitches across the county.

### **C/301/19 – (Q6) Item ID: 63231 – Register of Trees**

Proposed by Councillor Peter Kavanagh

"To ask the Chief Executive has a register of trees for the Clondalkin local electoral area been compiled? Does this include age and importance to natural heritage?"

**REPLY:**

The Council is in the process of surveying all the street trees in the County as part of the Tree Maintenance Programme. There are approximately 60,000 street trees in the County and over 21,000 trees have been surveyed. Survey details includes location, size, maintenance requirements. This does not include the surveying of trees in parks or generally in open spaces.

### **C/302/19 – (Q7) Item ID: 62916 – Corkagh Fisheries**

Proposed by Councillor F. Timmons

"To ask the Chief Executive for a report into the Corkagh Fisheries and that they are restocking and some work is carried out to get them used again? When will a decision be made on their long-term use?"

**REPLY:**

On behalf of South Dublin County Council, a Landscape Architect consultancy firm is undertaking a Master Planning assessment of Corkagh Park and all of the amenities and services offered in the Park.

It is anticipated that the Consultants will make a presentation to the October meeting of the full Council.

### **C/303/19 – (H10) Item ID: 62837 – New works**

(No Business)

### **C/304/19 – (C6) Item ID: 62838 - Correspondence**

(No Business)

### **C/305/19 – (M4) Item ID: 62532 – Name Stone outside St. John’s Wood, Castlechurch and Newcastle**

Proposed by Councillor T. Gilligan

"That this Area Committee request for name stone outside St. John's Wood, Castlechurch and Newcastle."

In the absence of Councillor T. Gilligan, the motion **FELL.**

### **C/306/19 – (M5) Item ID: 62721 – Water Fountains**

It was proposed by Councillor E. Higgins and seconded by Councillor W. Carey:

"That this Area Committee calls on Management to install water fountains in Rathcoole and Corkagh Parks in support of a greener environment, along with an action plan to inform sports clubs and park users that they are available in order to encourage use of same with the intention of reducing the use of plastic bottle and litter."

The following report by the Chief Executive which had been circulated, was **READ:**

“The Council's Public Realm Section has to date installed one public drinking water fountain located between County Hall, the Civic Theatre and the Library and has plans at the present time to install a further seven of these units at various locations around the County.  The current plan includes installation of a drinking water fountain in on-street locations in both Clondalkin Village and Rathcoole Village.  These installation works will take place between September and October.   While neither Corkagh Park nor Rathcoole Park are included in the current list of locations which are planned for water fountain installations, they will be considered for inclusion in a further round of water fountain installations at a future date.”

The Motion was **PASSED** without debate.

### **C/307/19 – (M6) Item ID: 62909 – Maintenance of Bawnogue Area**

It was proposed by Councillor F. Timmons and seconded by Councillor W. Carey:

"That this Committee calls on South Dublin County Council to look at the general maintenance of the Bawnogue Area.  To consider painting the walls beside Melrose and Deansrath. The planting of additional trees and look at ways to brighten up and maintain and enhance the aesthetics of the general area of Bawnogue. (to also include fixing potholes and bollards that are broken or gone)"

The following report by the Chief Executive which had been circulated, was **READ:**

“The Motion as presented involves several Council Department. In order to fully address the request for works, additional details of location would be required to enable a thorough examination of the issues.

For example, the responsibility for the painting of walls generally rests with the property owner. Details of the walls in question should be provided so that the ownership can be established.

Potholes on public footpaths and roads would fall under the remit of the Roads Maintenance Section. The request for works to potholes will be forwarded to the Roads Maintenance Section for consideration, however, the provision of additional information regarding locations would help to streamline the inspection process.

There are a few missing/damaged bollards at Deansrath Grove/Lawns and these have been listed for replacement as per commitment earlier this year. The installation crew have recently been replacing bollards in the Neilstown area and will move to Bawnogue next as soon as it can be included in the works programme for the area. An assessment of bollards on open spaces in other estates in the area will be carried out with a view to replacing any that are damaged or missing.

Tree planting was carried out in Westbourne, Kilcronan, Lealand and Lindisfarne estates during spring 2018.  In total 180 trees were planted. The Public Realm Section is continuing to roll out a tree planting programme and tree planting is planned for 2019 in Melrose (12 trees) and Ashwood/Alpine (28 trees).

Further works proposed to brighten up the area include the planting of flowers which was identified as one of the winning projects under the participatory budget scheme. The scheme will be implemented this year and flower bulbs will be planted at 4 roundabouts on St Cuthbert’s Road. The roundabouts are; Westbourne roundabout, Kilmahuddrick roundabout, Kilcronan roundabout & Melrose roundabout. Flower bulbs will also be planted opposite Scoil Nano Nagle at Ashwood.  Pollinator friendly bulbs have been chosen for the scheme and they will include a mix of Anemone, Chinodoxa, Fritillaria, Crocus, Hyacinthoides, Narcissus, Allium, Muscari, Nectaroscordum and Tulipa.  The bulbs will be planted later this year to flower in spring 2020 and yearly thereafter.”

Following a discussion with contributions from Councillors F. Timmons, E. O’Broin, W. Carey and P. Kavanagh, Mr. D. Fennell, Senior Executive Parks Superintendent responded to the members queries.

The Motion was **AGREED.**

### **C/308/19 – (M7) Item ID: 63236 – Ruin of Kilmahuddrick Church**

It was proposed by Councillor Eoin O'Broin and seconded by Councillor P. Kavanagh:

"The ruin of Kilmahuddrick Church and its surrounds is the second oldest medieval site in Clondalkin after the Round Tower. It has potential to be a tourist attraction and a landmark, and a well-maintained heritage site for the county. Unfortunately, the site has been abandoned and is covered with untold amounts of waste and overgrown hedges and ivy. This motion is calling on this area committee to organise a clean-up of Kilmahuddrick Church and the surrounding area as far as the moat of the church. The clean-up should take due consideration of the architectural and archaeological heritage of the site, conservation of the site going forward, and to the hygiene and health and safety issues connected to the type of waste found it its vicinity."

The following report by the Chief Executive which had been circulated, was **READ:**

“A clean-up of the area is currently underway. Works commenced in early September with the dredging and removal of rubbish from the moat. Further works will follow during the winter period with the cutting back of vegetation in the vicinity of the church. It is not proposed to cut back any vegetation from the church at this stage as this would have a detrimental impact on the stability and security of the building. An assessment of litter in the church will be carried out with a view to cleaning it up having regard to the safety of the staff involved.”

Following a discussion with contributions from Councillors E. O’Broin, F. Timmons, W. Carey and P. Kavanagh, Mr. D. Fennell, Senior Executive Parks Superintendent and Mr. M. McAdam, A/Senior Executive Officer responded to the Members queries.

The Motion was **AGREED.**

### **C/309/19 – (M8) Item ID: 62586 – Process for Name Stones**

Proposed by Councillor T. Gilligan

"That the Chief Executive outlines the process for a name stone outside a Housing Estate."

### In the absence of Councillor T. Gilligan, the Motion **FELL.**

### **C/310/19 – (M9) Item ID: 62924 – Darkness Into Light**

It was proposed by Councillor E. Higgins and seconded by Councillor F. Timmons:

"That this Area Committee gives all necessary support to establishing a Darkness into Light event at Corkagh Park in 2020."

The following report by the Chief Executive which had been circulated, was **READ:**

“South Dublin County Council will support the local organising committee in making an application and hosting an event in Corkagh Park in 2020.”

This item was **MOVED** without debate.

## **Environment**

### **C/311/19 – (Q8) Item ID: 63024 – Mahon’s Lane and Baldonnell Road Litter Blackspots**

Proposed by Councillor E. Higgins

"Can a drone pilot be rolled out in order to assess and monitor litter blackspots? Mahon's Lane in Saggart and Baldonnell Road are litter blackspots in areas that are difficult to clean without closing the road, so would make the perfect pilot location."

**REPLY:**

South Dublin County Council purchased two drones in December 2017, and they have been operated by Waste Enforcement Officers and Litter Wardens since February 2018 for the detection and investigation of illegal dumping and illegal waste management activities across the County to assist in evidence gathering and support verbal and written evidence of offences.

The operation and usage of drones is strictly regulated and controlled by the Irish Aviation Authority. Staff operating the drones have been trained and tested in accordance with IAA guidance and current legislation. Whilst the use of drones by Waste Enforcement Officers and Litter Wardens is a valuable tool, it does have its limitations.  In accordance with IAA restrictions, the drone must be controlled, at all times, by an operator within a distance of 300m of the drone position.  The battery life of the drone is approximately 20 to 25 minutes, which restricts any one drone surveillance operation to a maximum flight duration of approximately 1.5 hours (each drone has 4 batteries).  Due to the current restrictions of the legislation, limitations of the technology and staffing resources, the use of drones to carry out such prolonged surveillance at one location, would have an impact on SDCC's ability to enforce the other aspects of Waste Management Legislation, which SDCC is required to enforce.  Based on the above limitations, the use of drones for continuous monitoring of litter black spots is not possible at this point in time.

All incidents of littering and illegal dumping reported or detected in any area are investigated by the Council's Litter Warden Service and all dumped material is searched for evidence. Where evidence is found, the appropriate enforcement action is taken under the Litter Pollution Act 1997, as amended. Increasingly, it is found that no personal information relating to polluters is contained within the dumped material, with personal information having been removed or shredded.

As always, the Council is grateful for assistance and support from local residents or others in their investigations of such incidents as they arise. In the absence of substantive evidence/witness statements and the presence of such witnesses in court it is not possible for us to bring successful prosecutions.

### **C/312/19 – (H11) Item ID:62839 – New Works**

(No Business)

**C/313/19 – (H12) Item ID: 63276 - Quarterly Report on Litter Management Plan**

The following report was presented by Mr. M. McAdam, A/Senior Executive Officer:

[HI 12 Litter Management Plan Quarterly Update](http://www.sdublincoco.ie/sdcc/departments/corporate/apps/cmas/documentsview.aspx?id=64023)

### Following a discussion with contributions from Councillors F. Timmons, E. O’Broin and P. Kavanagh, Mr. M. McAdam, A/Senior Executive Officer responded to the Members queries.

The report was **NOTED.**

### **C/314/19 – (C7) Item ID: 62840 – Correspondence**

(No Business)

## **Housing**

### **C/315/19 – (Q9) Item ID: 62919 – Vacant Houses on Station Road**

Proposed by Councillor F. Timmons

"To ask the Chief Executive for a report into the vacant houses on Station Road and when will they be turned into much needed housing stock?"

**REPLY:**

In accordance with the National Vacant Housing Re-use Strategy 2018- 2021, each Local Authority has a Vacant Homes Officer that acts as central advisory point for property owners in terms of providing advice, assistance and information on these schemes which are available to bring properties back to use. There are several initiatives in place with the aim of encouraging and enabling privately owned vacant homes to be brought back into use whether to the social housing or private rented market these include:

1. Repair and Leasing Scheme
2. Buy and Renew Scheme
3. Long- Term Leasing
4. RAS
5. HAP

In addition, the Housing Agency is engaging with banks, financial institutions and investors to purchase suitable units for social housing use.

The aim in the first instance would be to encourage property owners to engage with the Council and find solutions for the vacant home units without having to resort to the Compulsory Purchase process. However Local Authorities do have a range of legislative powers available to deal with under- utilised and derelict properties for example through the Compulsory Purchase Powers and Derelict Sites Legislation.

The units at this location are privately owned and the Developer, has indicated that it is their intention to complete the units and sell them on the open market.

### **C/316/19 – (H13) Item ID: 62841 – New Works**

(No Business)

### **C/317/19 – (H14) Item ID: 63277 - Quarterly Housing Supply Report**

The following report was presented by Ms. M. Staunton, Senior Executive Officer:

[HI 14 Quarterly Housing Support Report](http://www.sdublincoco.ie/sdcc/departments/corporate/apps/cmas/documentsview.aspx?id=64201)

### Following a discussion with contributions from Councillors E. O’Broin and W. Carey, Ms. M. Staunton, Senior Executive Officer responded to the Members queries.

The report was **NOTED.**

### **C/318/19 – (C8) Item ID: 62842 - Correspondence**

(No Business)

### **C/319/19 – (M10) Item ID: 62920 – Homeless Hostel**

It was proposed by Councillor F. Timmons and seconded by Councillor W. Carey:

"That this Area Committee be updated on a suitable Homeless Hostel to be constructed in the Clondalkin area within the lifetime of this Council and that the Area Committee be kept regularly updated on this dire community need."

The following report by the Chief Executive which had been circulated, was **READ:**

“South Dublin County Council is acutely aware of the need for the provision of appropriate housing and related services to meet the needs of housing applicants and homeless persons in this County. The Council has considered a number of properties which were assessed for suitability, however an acceptable property has not yet been identified.

While suitable properties have not yet been identified in the Clondalkin area, there has been further provision provided for homeless persons across the County, which is of benefit to all those in need of emergency accommodation.

The Housing Department with its partners in the DRHE will continue in its efforts to identify accommodation in South Dublin.  If Councillors are aware of any premises in their area, which they feel could be adapted for use as homeless accommodation, they should contact management within the Housing Department who can assess its suitability.  Members will be kept informed of any proposals.”

Following a discussion with contributions from Councillors F. Timmons and E. O’Broin, Ms. A. Byrne, Administrative Officer responded to queries raised.

The motion was **AGREED.**

### **C/320/19 – (M11) Item ID: 63244 – Mill Centre (Part V Social & Affordable Housing)**

It was proposed by Councillor W. Carey and seconded by Couuncillor F. Timmons:

"That the area committee agrees that the Chief Executive should engage with the owners of the land surrounding the Mill Centre with a view to securing a voluntary increase in the Part V Social and Affordable Housing provision of any proposed residential development on those lands."

The following report by the Chief Executive which had been circulated, was **READ:**

“An application to construct 1,009 build to rent apartments, creche and associated works on this site was lodged with An Bord Pleanála in June 2019.  When a decision is made by the Bord, the Council will then engage with the owners in relation to Part V.”

Following a contribution from Councillor W. Carey, Ms. M. Staunton, Senior Executive Officer responded to queries raised.

The motion was **AGREED.**

### **C/321/19 – (M12) Item ID: 63245 – Compulsory CPO for Vacant Houses on Station Road**

It was proposed by Councillor W. Carey and seconded by Councillor F. Timmons:

"That the Area Committee agrees that the Chief Executive should bring forward a Compulsory Purchase Order for the vacant houses at Station Grove, Clondalkin, Dublin 22 to ensure that these much needed homes are brought into use."

The following report by the Chief Executive which had been circulated, was **READ:**

“In accordance with the National Vacant Housing Re-use Strategy 2018- 2021, each Local Authority has a Vacant Homes Officer that acts as central advisory point for property owners in terms of providing advice, assistance and information on these schemes which are available to bring properties back to use. There are several initiatives in place with the aim of encouraging and enabling privately owned vacant homes to be brought back into use whether to the social housing or private rented market these include:

1. Repair and Leasing Scheme
2. Buy and Renew Scheme
3. Long- Term Leasing
4. RAS
5. HAP

In addition, the Housing Agency is engaging with banks, financial institutions and investors to purchase suitable units for social housing use.

The aim in the first instance would be to encourage property owners to engage with the Council and find solutions for the vacant home units without having to resort to the Compulsory Purchase process. However Local Authorities do have a range of legislative powers available to deal with under- utilised and derelict properties for example through the Compulsory Purchase Powers and Derelict Sites Legislation.

The units at this location are privately owned and the Council has engaged with the Developer, who has indicated that it is their intention to complete the units and sell them on the open market.”

Following a discussion with contributions from Councillors W. Carey, F. Timmons and P. Kavanagh, Ms. E. Leech, Senior Executive Officer responded to the Members queries.

The motion was **AGREED.**

## **Community**

### **C/322/19 – (H15) Item ID: 62843 – New Works**

(No Business)

### **C/323/19 – (H16) Item ID: 63330 – Deputations for Noting**

[HI 16 Adamstown Cricket Club](http://www.sdublincoco.ie/sdcc/departments/corporate/apps/cmas/documentsview.aspx?id=64074)

### The report was **NOTED.**

### **C/324/19 – (C9) Item ID: 62844 - Correspondence**

[Cor 1 Minister Zappone](http://www.sdublincoco.ie/sdcc/departments/corporate/apps/cmas/documentsview.aspx?id=63794)

The correspondence was **NOTED.**

## **Transportation**

### **C/325/19 – (Q10) Item ID: 62707 – Proper Tarmac outside houses at Woodford Close**

Proposed by Councillor T. Gilligan

"That this Committee comments on the work required outside relating to proper tarmac/gravel outside a number of houses at Woodford Close?"

**REPLY:**

The footpaths and road at Woodford Close do not require maintenance. The gravel is being carried from the non-completed driveway of the additional house that was constructed.

### **C/326/19 – (Q11) Item ID: 62978 – Rathcoole Village Traffic Reports**

Proposed by Councillor E. Higgins

"Can I get a copy of the traffic reports done on Rathcoole Village over the past 18 months in response to ACM motions and discussions at the Traffic Committee Meetings?"

**REPLY:**

No reports have been compiled.

### **C/327/19 – (Q12) Item ID: 62734 – Steel Barriers on Main Road, 9th Lock Road**

Proposed by Councillor T. Gilligan

"To ask the Chief Executive to install steel barriers on the Main Road, 9th Lock Road at Cappaghmore to afford some level of pedestrian protection?"

**REPLY:**

Road Maintenance Department do not install steel barriers on roads. If there is a specific location that needs examination, contact the Traffic Department.

### **C/328/19 – (Q13) Item ID: 62979 – Rathcoole Park**

Proposed by Councillor E. Higgins

"Can I get a copy of the report done on the site adjacent to Rathcoole Park which showed that the site was not suitable for a car park due to the Boherboy Water Scheme piping?"

**REPLY:**

The report will be provided in due course. Please consult Public Realm Department.

### **C/329/19 – (H17) Item ID: 62846 – New Works**

(No Business)

### **C/330/19 – (H18) Item ID: 62848 – Proposed Declaration of Roads to be Public Roads**

(No Business)

### **C/331/19 – (H19) Item ID: 63111 - Initiation of Review of South Dublin County Council (Control of Parking) Bye Laws 2010**

The following report was presented by Ms. S. Kelly, Administrative Officer:

**Legislative Background to the making of ByeLaws:**

“Control and regulation of the parking of vehicles Bye Laws are made via the general statutory powers on bye law making which are conferred on [**Local Authorities by Part 19 of the Local Government Act 2001.**](http://www.irishstatutebook.ie/eli/2001/act/37/section/198/enacted/en/html#part19) These powers are themselves supplemented by [**Section 36 of the Road Traffic Act 1994 (No 7 of 1994)**](http://www.irishstatutebook.ie/eli/1994/act/7/section/36/enacted/en/html) with specific reference to the parking of vehicles in parking places on public roads.

The approval of a Bye Law is a Reserved Function of the Council, as is the consideration of submissions, should submissions have been received.

Once made, a copy of the Bye Law must be published in the newspaper, in Iris Oifigiúil and a copy issued to the appropriate Minister and Superintendent of Garda Divisions.

The date when the control and regulation of parking Bye Law comes into force is the date set by the text of the actual bye law must be no less than 30 days after the byelaw was made.

**Review of South Dublin County Council Pay Parking Bye Laws 2010**

The South Dublin County Council Pay Parking Bye Laws were made in 2010 and a review is now being initiated.   This review will include an examination of, but will not be limited to, the following:

1. Area of application including inclusion of areas that have been taken in charge / declared public roads
2. Review of existing parking prohibitions and restrictions eg double yellow lines/loading bays/disable bays/electric cars
3. Commercial and Residential Permits
4. Parking impediments to footpaths / footways
5. Review of hours applicable in zones - maximum permitted period of parking
6. Review of Days
7. Review of Tariff

The review will be subject to a statutory public consultation process as required under **Local Authorities by Part 19 of the Local Government Act 2001 and** [**Section 36 of the Road Traffic Act 1994 (No 7 of 1994)**](http://www.irishstatutebook.ie/eli/1994/act/7/section/36/enacted/en/html) and it is envisaged that this will be undertaken between December 2019 and January 2020.  During this period members of the public and Elected Members may make observations and submissions.

In the interim Elected Members are also invited to submit items for consideration during the development of the draft Bye Laws.

Prior to the commencement of the public consultation process a pre-consultation draft will be prepared and presented to the LUPT SPC.

Following the public consultation process a report on the observations and submissions will be prepared and any proposed amendments will be presented to the LUPT SPC for discussion at the February 2020 SPC meeting, with a view to adoption at the March 2020 Council Meeting.”

The report was **NOTED.**

### **C/332/19 – (C10) Item ID: 62847 - Correspondence**

(No Business)

### **C/333/19 – (M13) Item ID: 63084 – Part 8 Monastery Road Permeability Scheme**

It was proposed by Councillor W. Carey and seconded by Councillor F. Timmons:

"This committee calls upon South Dublin County Council to immediately proceed with plans under the NTA Monastery Road Walking Scheme to install a signalized pedestrian crossing on the Woodford arm of the SIAC roundabout."

The following report by the Chief Executive which had been circulated, was **READ:**

“The Part 8 for Monastery Road Permeability Scheme was approved by the Council and a contractor has appointed.  The start date for the works is the week beginning September 23rd, 2019.

The scheme will provide a signalised pedestrian crossing on the Woodford Hill approach to the SIAC roundabout.

The scheme aims to improve the public realm by providing upgraded footpaths, shared pedestrian and cycle space, improved signage and new signalised crossing on Woodford Hill and the bow bridge (L1019) just south of the Ibis roundabout. It will provide improvement along the length of Monastery Road that is heavily used by commuters and school pupils attributed to several primary and secondary schools located in Clondalkin Village and the Red Cow Luas Station on the other end of the scheme. The scheme will enhance walking facilities and to some extent the cycling facilities from Clondalkin Village to the Luas Station in the Red Cow thus encouraging modal shift from the car to more sustainable mode of transport like walking, cycling and the Luas.”

The motion was **AGREED** without debate.

### **C/334/19 – (M14) Item ID: 63085 – Pedestrian Crossing at Junction of Fonthill road/St. John’s Road West**

It was proposed by Councillor W. Carey and seconded by Councillor

"This committee calls upon South Dublin County Council to bring forward a plan to establish a pedestrian crossing at the junction of Fonthill Road/St. John's Road West at the access gateway to Clondalkin Commons."

The following report by the Chief Executive which had been circulated, was **READ:**

“A traffic and Pedestrian Count will be scheduled at this location to determine if the conditions for a crossing are met.”

The motion was **AGREED** without debate.

## **Planning**

### **C/335/19 – (Q14) Item ID: 62977 – Playground at Aylmer Heath**

Proposed by Councillor E. Higgins

"What correspondence has the Council had with Knightstone Construction in relation to the half-built playground in Aylmer Heath, Newcastle?"

**REPLY:**

The playground in Alymer Heath, Newcastle is completed and open. This was confirmed by site inspection on 9th September 2019 when a number of children were playing there.

### **C/336/19 – (Q15) Item ID: 63237 – Implementation of All Ireland Pollinator Plan**

Proposed by Councillor Peter Kavanagh

"To ask the Chief Executive if he will report on the implementation of the All-Ireland Pollinator Plan in the Clondalkin Area, with regard to areas signposted as "managed for biodiversity" which have now been mown and cleared. To further ask if these areas will be planted with wildflowers and other native plants to encourage biodiversity?"

**REPLY:**

As part of the All-Ireland Pollinator Plan, specific areas of grassland in our parks and along some roadside verges were selected in 2019 for a reduced mowing regime.   This reduced frequency of grass cutting allowed wildflowers to flower and set seed, providing additional opportunities for pollinating insects which are currently challenged by habitat loss and chemical usage.  The use of the 'Managed for Biodiversity' signs assisted with spreading the message and the results have in general been positive.  Most residents supported the initiative and requests were received that other areas also be looked at for similar reduced mowing for 2020.

In the general Clondalkin area in particular, areas in Corkagh Park, Ballymount Park, Bawnogue, and Kilcronan were selected for this altered mowing regime.

As the season comes to a close, any areas that currently remain uncut will be mown before the end of the season, to remove all dead growth before next year's season commences.

While other pollinator projects can be designed so as to specifically plant or sow wildflower meadows where none currently exist, the approach taken this year was to work with the existing soils and floral communities already occurring in the areas chosen.  This, in the long term, is a more cost-effective approach and allows for better streamlining of ongoing maintenance patterns into the future.

### **C/337/19 – (Q16) Item ID: 62917 – RIC Barracks**

Proposed by Councillor F. Timmons

"To ask the Chief Executive for a report into The RIC Barracks - what can be done to get this building into use? Is access available to inspect inside and if so, what is the condition? Also, what is the situation with ivy on top of the building? Will this damage the roof? The building would make a great tourist information office?"

**REPLY:**

A number of detailed replies, reports and updates have been provided to date by the Councils Architectural Conservation Officer. Any attempt to serve notices on the owner or gain authorised access to the property to facilitate a proper inspection by the Enforcement Section, Planning and Environmental Services, Derelict sites have been exhausted as the owner is in absentia.

There are no signs of any immediate damage to the structure and the site remains secure. Environmental Services confirmed that under the recommendations of the County Architect the file was closed last year, and no further notices have been issued to the absentee owner since last October 2017 by Derelicts Sites.

A request was submitted to Active Land Use, Planning Department to request that the site be assessed to determine if the former RIC Barracks (Riverside House, RPS Ref. 136) can be added to the Vacant Sites Registry, the assessment is pending. The property remains in private ownership and therefore it is not the remit of the local authority to determine a use for the property.

### **C/338/19 – (H20) Item ID: 63343 – Clonburris SDZ Planning Scheme 2019**

It was **AGREED** by the Cathaoirleach in consultation with the Members, to consider Headed Item No. 21 (H21) with this item, as they were of a similar subject matter:

The following report was presented by Mr. E. Burke, Senior Executive Planner:

**Clonburris SDZ Planning Scheme 2019**

[Clonburris Location Map](http://www.sdublincoco.ie/sdcc/departments/corporate/apps/cmas/documentsview.aspx?id=64174)  
[Clonburris Masterplan Map](http://www.sdublincoco.ie/sdcc/departments/corporate/apps/cmas/documentsview.aspx?id=64175)

**Introduction**

The purpose of this report is to summarise the outcome of the plan making process for the Clonburris SDZ. The final Clonburris SDZ Planning Scheme 2019 is referred to as the consolidated Planning Scheme in this report.

**An Bord Pleanala Decision**

An Bord Pleanála decided on May 8th 2019, under the provision of the Planning and Development Act, 2000, as amended, to approve the making of the planning scheme for Clonburris subject to modifications and clarifications.

The Development Agency (South Dublin County Council) has now prepared a consolidated Planning Scheme document, integrating the alterations and modifications approved by An Bord Pleanála. The consolidated Planning Scheme shall be used by the planning authority in assessing all planning applications in the SDZ.

SDCC will publish a notice of approval of the Scheme as required under the Planning and Development Act, 2000, as amended, following the briefings of the Clondalkin and Lucan Area Committees. The Planning Scheme will be available at [www.clonburris.ie](http://www.clonburris.ie/) and at the planning counter.

**Changes to the Draft Planning Scheme**

This purpose of this report is to broadly outline the changes that were permitted to the Draft Planning Scheme (September 2017). There are 4 categories of changes that are now integrated into the Draft Planning Scheme by South Dublin County Council:

1. Modifications made by An Bord Pleanala (May 2019)
2. Clarifications and corrections by An Bord Pleanala (May 2019)
3. Material Alterations made by SDCC (June 2018)
4. Non Material Alterations made by SDCC (February 2018)

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Source of Change** |  |
| Material Alterations (June 2018) approved by An Bord Pleanala | 34 |
| Material Alteration Amended by An Bord Pleanala (May 2019) | 1 |
| An Bord Pleanala Modifications (May 2019) | 11 |
| An Bord Pleanala Corrections (May 2019) | 4 |
| Non Material Alterations to the Draft Planning Scheme (Feb 2018) | 37 |
| **Total** | 87 |

Please note that the changes above are not a comprehensive list of the changes to the Draft Planning Scheme as a number of the approved changes require consequential changes across the Planning Scheme e.g density increases impacted the unit numbers.

**Summary of the key outcomes of the ABP decision**

Details largely unchanged from the Draft Planning Scheme:

1. Scheme based around two urban centres at Clonburris and Kishogue railway stations;
2. Urban Framework layout including street network, urban centres and land uses;
3. Quantum and location of strategic open space;
4. Quantum and location of schools;
5. Residential development locations, includes adjacent to Ashwood and R120 and;
6. Phasing Programme.

In summary, the primary changes to the Draft Planning Scheme of the plan making process are considered to be:

1. Removal of a series of Material Alterations made on phasing of public transport (bus, train and Luas);
2. Increase in the density ranges for the Urban Centres, increasing the maximum units in the Planning Scheme to 11,098;
3. Minor increase in the building height ranges fronting onto primary streets, increasing the maximum heights in the Urban Centres;
4. Removal of pedestrian overbridge on Outer Ring Road;
5. Removal of Material Alterations adopted by Elected Members that included specifics on amenities and pitches in Parks that pre-empted the Parks and Landscape Strategy;
6. Addition of an option to allow a 10% transfer of residential units between sub sectors;
7. An additional Landmark building at Clonburris Urban Centre;
8. Caveat added to Phasing requirements to increase flexibility;
9. Social and Affordable Housing text included in the Planning Scheme as per Material Alteration; and
10. Fire Station and Garda Station text as per the Material Alterations.

Full Details of the An Bord Pleanala decision are available <http://www.pleanala.ie/casenum/301962.htm>

### **(H21) Item ID: 63344 – Implementation of Clonburris SDZ Planning Scheme**

The following report was presented by Mr. J. Frehill, Senior Planner:

**Implementation of Clonburris SDZ Planning Scheme**

South Dublin County Council is progressing with the implementation of the Clonburris SDZ Planning Scheme 2019. The Planning Scheme has a number of prior to commencement requirements in relation to engineering layouts for water services, surface water plans, energy, parks and biodiversity. South Dublin County Council is advancing analysis of these infrastructure requirements for the SDZ and developing estimated costings to make informed decisions on delivering the Clonburris SDZ Planning Scheme. Details of this analysis and updates on implementation will be presented to the Elected Members in the coming months.

Following a discussion with contributions from Councillors E. Higgins, T. Gilligan, F. Timmons, E. O’Broin, P. Kavanagh and W. Carey, Mr. J. Frehill, Senior Planner and Mr. E. Burke, Senior Executive Planner responded to the Members queries.

The reports were **NOTED.**

### **C/339/19 - (H22) Item ID: 63345 - Strategic Housing Development - Stage 3 application submitted to An Bord Pleanála - Newcastle South & Ballynakelly**

The following report was presented by Ms. F. Redmond, Senior Executive Planner:

[HI 22 Strategic Housing development - Stage 3 application submitted to An Bord Pleanala](http://www.sdublincoco.ie/sdcc/departments/corporate/apps/cmas/documentsview.aspx?id=64183)

Following a discussion with contributions from Councillors F. Timmons, E. Higgins, T. Gilligan, E. O’Broin, P. Kavanagh and W. Carey, Ms. H. Craigie, Senior Planner and Ms. F. Redmond, Senior Executive Planner responded to the Members queries.

The report was **NOTED.**

**C/340/19 – (H23) Item ID: 63346 - Strategic Housing Development - Stage 3 application submitted to An Bord Pleanála - Outer Rind Road (R136),  Old Nangor Road (L5254), Cherrywood Park, Kilcarbery Avenue and Corkagh Park**

The following report was presented by Ms. F. Redmond, Senior Executive Officer:

[HI 23 Strategic Housing Development - Stage 3 application submitted to An Bord Pleanala](http://www.sdublincoco.ie/sdcc/departments/corporate/apps/cmas/documentsview.aspx?id=64182)

### Following a discussion with contributions from Councillors F. Timmons, P. Kavanagh, E. O’Broin, T. Gilligan and E. Higgins, Ms. H. Craigie, Senior Planner and Ms. F. Redmond, Senior Executive Planner responded to the Members queries.

The report was **NOTED.**

### **C/341/19 – (H24) Item ID: 62849 – New Works**

(No Business)

### **C/342/19 – (C11) Item ID: 62850 - Correspondence**

(No Business)

### **C/343/19 – (M15) Item ID: 63225 – 4 Districts Woodland Biodiversity Study**

**Cathaoirleach's Business**

It was proposed by Councillor P. Kavanagh and seconded by Councillor F. Timmons:

"This committee calls on South Dublin County Council to reverse its decision refusing a biodiversity study for the area of the proposed Part 8 development in Rathcoole in the area locally known as the 4 Districts Woodland."

The following report by the Chief Executive which had been circulated, was **READ:**

“The South Dublin County Council Development Plan 2016 – 2022 (Development Plan) has a range of planning policies and objectives covering Green Infrastructure, Heritage, Conservation and Landscapes.

Further to the Development Plan, the Council is currently preparing a countywide Biodiversity Strategy. The Development Plan policies and Biodiversity Strategy seek to protect and promote biodiversity across the County. They also ensure biodiversity and ecology are appropriately and carefully considered during the plan making, planning consent and development processes on all lands in the County.

The referred to woodlands at Rathcoole in the ownership of SDCC are partially zoned New Residential (RES-N), Rural (RU) and Open Space (OS). The Council is currently considering how new homes and associated community facilities could be provided in this area to support a new residential community. An initial discussion on this was held at the full Council meeting on 8th July. A preliminary urban framework layout was displayed at that meeting. The preparation of that preliminary urban framework for the area was carried out by a multi-disciplinary team including an urban designer, planner, architect, transport engineer, archaeologist, ecologist, arborist, landscape architect and an environmental planner. As such, the preliminary layout is informed by environmental and biodiversity considerations.

In the event that the Council proceed with a planning application for these lands there would be a requirement to prepare a comprehensive planning pack that is in line with the policies in the County Development Plan and to carry out the relevant ecological, biodiversity, flood risk and sustainable urban drainage assessments.

Specifically, in relation to Ecological Protection, the Development Plan states

‘In order to comply with European and National legislation on nature conservation, and to ensure that areas of biodiversity value are adequately protected, an Ecological Assessment will be required for development proposals that have the potential to impact on environmentally sensitive sites. This includes sites that are protected under EU and National Legislation; sites that may be in use by, or contain protected species or habitats; or sites that are in proximity to significant watercourses.’

An ecological assessment is an appraisal of the likely impacts to wildlife (flora and fauna) of a development project and is undertaken by a suitably qualified professional ecologist. This would include an examination of the extent of flora and fauna on the site, the identification of what is important and what may need to be protected or mitigated. This work would inform any future planning application/ proposal for the site.

To progress a development proposal for the land, the Council will carry out all the necessary ecological and biodiversity assessments in line with National and Council adopted planning policies and strategy.”

This item was **MOVED** without debate.

### **C/344/19 – (M16) Item ID: 62766 – Swiftbrook Paper Mills, Saggart**

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

"That this Area Committee calls for the preservation of what's left of The Swiftbrook Paper Mills in Saggart and investigates how it can be preserved for future generations, this will include several Departments of South Dublin County Council working together.    We also request that the area is regularly maintained for litter and graffiti removal by South Dublin County Council.  Also, that the Mill is clearly signposted, and an information board is erected to explain its significance and history and the book written by Mervyn Ennis on Swiftbrook Paper Mills is made available in Bru Chrónáin. That a report be issued on what steps are and can be taken and what the current position of the Mills is in our County Development plan?  Also, to clarify who owns the Mills and could South Dublin County Council take in charge in order to maintain and preserve it?"

The following report by the Chief Executive which had been circulated, was **READ:**

“The Rag Store, Mill Chimney and single-storey mill building are Protected Structures (RPS Ref. 330) located within the former Swiftbrook Mills.  The Rag Store is currently in residential use at first and second floor level and the incubator units at ground floor level are currently unoccupied.  The Mill Chimney and single-storey mill building were restored during 2014 by the owners who received funding under the Built Heritage Jobs Leverage Scheme (national grant funding for protected structures).  The existing Chimney and single storey building have not been taken in charge and therefore remain in private ownership. It is the responsibility of the owner to maintain the buildings.  The original boundary walls and entrance gates are also protected structures (RPS Ref. 314) and repairs and conservation works were carried out during the initial development of the site as part of the overall development for which planning permission was granted during 2001. A signpost was erected by the Saggart Historical group with funding from the Tourism Promotion Unit however, there is no interpretation as such at the site.

The book on the Mills written by Mervyn Ennis was published under the Heritage Plan budget in 2016.  A limited run was printed, and some boxes were left with the County Library to distribute. The book is available in the Libraries. It is noted that facilities for making the book available at Bru Chronáin are limited.”

This item was **MOVED** without debate.

### **C/345/19 – (M17) Item ID: 62768 – Biodiversity Study of Woodland Area, Rathcoole**

It was proposed by Councillor E. Higgins and seconded by Councillor E. O’Broin:

"That this Area Committee seeks a Biodiversity study of the Woodland Area in Rathcoole as a matter of urgency."

The following report by the Chief Executive which had been circulated, was **READ:**

“The South Dublin County Council Development Plan 2016 – 2022 (Development Plan) has a range of planning policies and objectives covering Green Infrastructure, Heritage, Conservation and Landscapes.

Further to the Development Plan, the Council is currently preparing a countywide Biodiversity Strategy. The Development Plan policies and Biodiversity Strategy seek to protect and promote biodiversity across the County. They also ensure biodiversity and ecology are appropriately and carefully considered during the plan making, planning consent and development processes on all lands in the County.

The referred to woodlands at Rathcoole in the ownership of SDCC are partially zoned New Residential (RES-N), Rural (RU) and Open Space (OS). The Council is currently considering how new homes and associated community facilities could be provided in this area to support a new residential community. An initial discussion on this was held at the full Council meeting on 8th July. A preliminary urban framework layout was displayed at that meeting. The preparation of that preliminary urban framework for the area was carried out by a multi-disciplinary team including an urban designer, planner, architect, transport engineer, archaeologist, ecologist, arborist, landscape architect and an environmental planner. As such, the preliminary layout is informed by environmental and biodiversity considerations.

In the event that the Council proceed with a planning application for these lands there would be a requirement to prepare a comprehensive planning pack that is in line with the policies in the County Development Plan and to carry out the relevant ecological, biodiversity, flood risk and sustainable urban drainage assessments.

Specifically in relation to Ecological Protection, the Development Plan states

‘In order to comply with European and National legislation on nature conservation, and to ensure that areas of biodiversity value are adequately protected, an Ecological Assessment will be required for development proposals that have the potential to impact on environmentally sensitive sites. This includes sites that are protected under EU and National Legislation; sites that may be in use by, or contain protected species or habitats; or sites that are in proximity to significant watercourses.’

An ecological assessment is an appraisal of the likely impacts to wildlife (flora and fauna) of a development project and is undertaken by a suitably qualified professional ecologist. This would include an examination of the extent of flora and fauna on the site, the identification of what is important and what may need to be protected or mitigated. This work would inform any future planning application/ proposal for the site.

To progress a development proposal for the land, the Council will carry out all the necessary ecological and biodiversity assessments in line with National and Council adopted planning policies and strategy.”

This item was **MOVED** without debate.

### **C/346/19 – (M18) Item ID: 63235 – Proposed Planting of Trees by Minister Bruton**

It was proposed by Councillor E. O'Broin and seconded by Councillor W. Carey:

"Given that there are only 60,000 trees in the area administered by South Dublin County Council (http://www.sdublincoco.ie/Media/Item/33641), and given that Minister Bruton has proposed planting 22 Million trees annually for the next 20 years (<https://www.independent.ie/irish-news/plan-to-plant-a-whopping-22m-trees-more-than-6000-croke-park-pitches-a-year-to-beat-greenhouse-gases-38452822.html>) and given that there are approximately 10,000 trees in the area of Rathcoole known as the Four Districts Woodland (facebook.com/fourdistrictswoodland) which is also the area designated for housing according to the draft proposal presented to the full council in July (H18 MIXED TENURE DEVELOPMENTS), I propose that relevant council officials discuss with this area committee the options available to both deliver social housing in Rathcoole and preserve as much of the four district woodland as possible. The small areas of the woodland proposed to being preserved in the draft plan presented to the council meeting in July, i.e. in the south west corner of the site and along the stream, are unviable as a woodland. They are not large enough to constitute a working woodland ecosystem. At a minimum the areas to the south or alternatively to the north of the stream that dissects the woodland should be preserved to constitute a viable woodland habitat. As part of any discussion I would like this area committee to discuss the situation with the lands to the east of the Four Districts Woodland marked as 'proposed pitches (5)' in the plan presented in July."

The following report by the Chief Executive which had been circulated, was **READ:**

“The South Dublin County Council Development Plan 2016 – 2022 (Development Plan) has a range of planning policies and objectives covering Green Infrastructure, Heritage, Conservation and Landscapes.

Further to the Development Plan, the Council is currently preparing a countywide Biodiversity Strategy. The Development Plan policies and Biodiversity Strategy seek to protect and promote biodiversity across the County. They also ensure biodiversity and ecology are appropriately and carefully considered during the plan making, planning consent and development processes on all lands in the County.

The referred to woodlands at Rathcoole in the ownership of SDCC are partially zoned New Residential (RES-N), Rural (RU) and Open Space (OS). The Council is currently considering how new homes and associated community facilities could be provided in this area to support a new residential community. An initial discussion on this was held at the full Council meeting on 8th July. A preliminary urban framework layout was displayed at that meeting. The preparation of that preliminary urban framework for the area was carried out by a multi-disciplinary team including an urban designer, planner, architect, transport engineer, archaeologist, ecologist, arborist, landscape architect and an environmental planner. As such, the preliminary layout is informed by environmental and biodiversity considerations.

In the event that the Council proceed with a planning application for these lands there would be a requirement to prepare a comprehensive planning pack that is in line with the policies in the County Development Plan and to carry out the relevant ecological, biodiversity, flood risk and sustainable urban drainage assessments.

Specifically in relation to Ecological Protection, the Development Plan states

‘In order to comply with European and National legislation on nature conservation, and to ensure that areas of biodiversity value are adequately protected, an Ecological Assessment will be required for development proposals that have the potential to impact on environmentally sensitive sites. This includes sites that are protected under EU and National Legislation; sites that may be in use by, or contain protected species or habitats; or sites that are in proximity to significant watercourses.’

An ecological assessment is an appraisal of the likely impacts to wildlife (flora and fauna) of a development project and is undertaken by a suitably qualified professional ecologist. This would include an examination of the extent of flora and fauna on the site, the identification of what is important and what may need to be protected or mitigated. This work would inform any future planning application/ proposal for the site.

To progress a development proposal for the land, the Council will carry out all the necessary ecological and biodiversity assessments in line with National and Council adopted planning policies and strategy.”

Following a discussion with contributions from Councillors E. O’Broin, F. Timmons, E. Higgins, T. Gilligan and W. Carey, Ms. H. Craigie, Senior Planner responded to the Members queries.

The report was **NOTED.**

The meeting concluded at 5.57pm

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**Cathaoirleach**