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

Minutes of South Dublin County Council September 2019 County Council Meeting held on Monday 9 September 2019

### **PRESENT**

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Councillors** |  | **Councillors** |
| Bailey, C. |  | Lawlor, B.  |
| Carey, W. |  | Mahon, K. |
| Casserly, V. |  | McMahon, R. |
| Collins, Y. |  | McManus, D. |
| Costello, T. |  | Moynihan, S. |
| Duff, M. |  | Murphy, E. |
| Duffy, F. |  | O’Brien, E. |
| Dunne, L. |  | O’Brion, E |
| Edge, A. |  | O’Connell, G. |
| Egan, A. |  | O’Connor, C. |
| Fay, S. |  | O’Donovan, D. |
| Gilligan, T. |  | O’Toole, L. |
| Gogarty, P. |  | Pereppadan, B. |
| Hayes, A. |  | Priestley, W. |
| Higgins, E. |  | Richardson, D. |
| Holohan, P. |  | Seery-Kearney, M. |
| Kavanagh, P. |  | Sinclair, L. |
| Kearns, P. |  | Timmons, F. |
| King, C. |  | Tuffy, J. |
|  |  | Ward, M. |

### **OFFICIALS PRESENT**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Chief Executive | D. McLoughlin.  |
| Directors/ Heads of FunctionHead of FinanceCounty Architect | L. Maxwell, T. Walsh, F. Nevin. C. Ward, M. Mulhern. R. FitzGerald.E. Conroy.  |
| Senior Executive OfficersFinancial Management AccountantSenior Parks SuperintendentSenior EngineerA/Senior Executive OfficerA/Senior Engineer | C. Hurson, M. Staunton, E. Leech, M. Maguire, L. LeonardMary KellySuzanne FurlongC. GalvinM. McAdamD. Sargent |
| Administrative OfficersA/Executive Accountant | M. Reilly, N. Noonan,A. O’Melia |
| Staff OfficerClerical OfficerIT. SupportSord | L. AbbeyD. MurphyR. MurrayV. Rose. |

The Mayor, Councillor V. Casserly, presided.

Apologies were received from Councillor M. Johansson

A minutes silence was observed as a mark of respect for the Living Bereaved.

### **H1/0919 CONFIRMATION AND REAFFIRMATION OF MINUTES**

1. Minutes of Annual Meeting of South Dublin County Council 7th June 2019which had been circulated were submitted and **APPROVED** as a true record and signed in the proposition of Councillor V. Casserly seconded by Councillor F. Timmons.
2. Minutes of July County Council Meeting 8th July 2019which had been circulated were submitted and **APPROVED** as a true record and signed in the proposition of Councillor V. Casserly seconded by Councillor F. Timmons.

### **H2/0919 REPORTS OF AREA COMMITTEES**

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

### **H3/0919 STANDING COMMITTEES ORGANISATION, PROCEDURE & FINANCE**

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

### **H4/0919 STRATEGIC POLICY COMMITTEES**

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

### **H5/0919 REPORTS REQUESTED BY AREA COMMITTEES**

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

**QUESTIONS**

It was proposed by Councillor V. Casserly, seconded by Councillor F. Timmons and **RESOLVED**:

### “That pursuant to Standing Order No. 13, Questions numbered Q1 – Q53 be **ADOPTED** and **APPROVED.”**

### **Q1/0919 FIX MY STREET**

### **QUESTION: Councillor Carly Bailey**

To ask the Chief Executive for a further breakdown of the fixmystreet.ie report.

In July 2019, following a question from Councillor Joanna Tuffy, it was stated that there had been 2083 reports to the end of May 2019 and 5250 reports in 2018. Can the Chief Executive provide further information including what percentage of reports were responded to in both time lines. Where a resolution was provided, what percentage of reports were notified of such a resolution?

**REPLY:**

In 2018, there were 5250 reports submitted to fixyourstreet.ie. Of these 99% have been resolved.

Up to 30th May 2019 there were 2083 reports submitted. Of these 98% have been resolved.

Each report submitted is responded to by a South Dublin County Council official within 2 working days, notifying the reporter of what action, if any, to be taken by the council.

### **Q2/0919 DRINKING WATER FOUNTAINS**

### **QUESTION: Councillor Carly Bailey**

To ask the Chief Executive for a list of where the public water fountains will be located throughout the county and if he will make a statement on the matter. It was noted that one was placed near to the Limekiln entrance of Tymon Park for what appeared to be a photo op a number of months ago. There was huge disappointment when it was learned that this was just temporary and understandably there is now a large expectation that a permanent public water fountain will be placed back in this area.

**REPLY:**

A tendering process for the supply of drinking water fountains was carried out by the Council's Public Realm Section in June/July of this year.  Following conclusion of the tender process and award of the contract an order was placed for the supply of 8 units, 4 of these in urban centre locations and 4 in parks locations, one of these will be installed in Tymon Park at the new playground on the Castletymon Road side of the park.  These units are due for delivery to the Council on September 6th and installation will take place once they have been received.  The tender process carried out will enable additional units to be purchased under the supply contract and arrangements will now be put in place to purchase a further 8 units.  Locations for these are currently being examined and considered and it is proposed that one of the units will be installed at the Tymon Park/Limekiln car park location where the 'dummy' unit was installed temporary earlier in the year.

### **Q3/0919 TEENAGE FACILITES**

### **QUESTION: Councillor Carly Bailey**

To ask the Chief Executive for an update on plans for projects and expenditure for Teen Hang Out Spaces following a very insightful survey conducted by SDCC that was reported earlier on this year. To ask whether such projects will be allocated fairly across the county, a timeline of same and for the Chief Executive to give a statement on the matter.

**REPLY:**

The proposal in relation to the provision of Teen Spaces has been approved by the Council with project locations and capital funding approved and agreed for 2019. The programme is to continue in 2020 and 2021.  However projects for these years have not been proposed yet and locations have yet to be considered.  It is proposed to complete the 2019 projects and review the outcomes; this review will inform the proposed projects and locations for future years. In 2019 the current plans have been agreed and will progress with pilot projects at the following locations across the county:

* Collinstown Park
* Griffeen Park; Esker side
* Ballycragh Park
* Kingswood Open Space
* Avonbeg Open Space

The proposals are as follows:

**Collinstown Park:**

A robust area of activity for teenagers, with a goal, basketball net and a large play equipment items, provision of wi-fi and seating scattered throughout the area. The estimated cost is €120,000.

**Griffeen Park Esker side:**

(Close to the proposed informal ball-wall meeting area for teenagers). It is proposed to augment the facilities at this location to allow for multi-use by a wider section of teenagers. Provision of a tea shop / coffee-pod type facility to serve this area of the park and which would also provide both supervision and toilet facilities to park users. Seating and Wi-Fi is to be incorporated into the plans. The estimated cost is €120,000.

**Kingswood Open Space:**

Giant bench as a formal meeting area for teenagers (as agreed during the playspace programme), including other large play type equipment for older children and wi-fi provision with an estimate of €40,000.

**Avonbeg Open Space:**

A MUGA type facility was agreed in principal during the playspace programme, close to the existing playspace with an estimate of €80,000.

**Ballycragh Park:**

It is proposed to augment the facilities at this location to allow for a formal activity area for teenagers wit equipment designed for use by older children. Seating and Wi-Fi is to be incorporated into the plans. The estimated cost is €110,000.

At the Council meeting in January 2019, it was agreed that the next stage would incorporate further consultation directly with teenagers in the above areas. Intensive consultation directly with teenagers has taken place in early 2019 in relation to the above projects. This feedback is being incorporated into the current design stage. Once the current design stage is completed the projects will be subject the required procurement and tender processes. Subject to successful procurement processes the programme for construction will be agreed with the successful contractor. Public Realm are also currently in discussions with the Broadband Officer in relation to accessing grants to provide broadband access.

### **Q4/0919 PODDLE RIVER FAS**

### **QUESTION: Councillor Carly Bailey**

To ask the Chief Executive to provide a progress report on the River Poddle Flood Alleviation Scheme and for him to make a statement on the matter.

**REPLY:**

The River Poddle FAS has been progressing since Q2 2018 with Stage (i) Preliminary Design. Hydrological and Hydraulic analysis of the scheme has been completed along with a full Topographical Survey, Structural Condition Survey and an independent engineering assessment of the proposed embankment in Tymon Park. Following the hosting of two Public Information Days in December 2018, the preferred option for the scheme was identified and works commenced in preparing the Environmental Impact Assessment Report (EIAR) and Planning Drawings for the scheme.

The EIAR and Planning Drawings are currently in final draft stage and it is expected to present the required Part 10 Planning Application to An Bord Pleanala in Q3 2019, where it is predicted the application could take up to 6 months to process. Following the application to ABP, further public information days will be held in early Q4 2019 to outline the extents of the proposed scheme and all planning information will be placed on the project website [www.poddlefas.ie](http://www.poddlefas.ie/). Following planning approval, construction of the scheme is currently estimated to commence in Q2 2020. Upcoming works in Q3/Q4 2019 include the commencement of the Site Investigation contract to assist in the detailed design for the scheme.

### **Q5/0919 GLYPHOSATE**

### **QUESTION: Councillor Carly Bailey**

To ask the Chief Executive to provide further information related to the use of glyphosates that are outsourced to Oxygen and for him to make a statement on the matter.

Can the Chief Executive confirm that Oxygen are aware of the council motion relating to glyphosate use? A number of residents across the county have complained to me over the summer that they have seen people spraying glyphosates on public footpaths, outside their property and near to public parks. Nor did it appear that the staff member had put up signage to confirm that glyphosates were being sprayed, nor did there seem to be any concern as to wind conditions. Can the Chief Executive therefore also confirm that any entity acting on the council's behalf are in full compliance of the regulations relating to glyphosate use and what does the council do to ensure that this is the case?

**REPLY:**

South Dublin County Council carries out weed control in connection with its grass cutting, road sweeping and village cleaning and maintenance operations. The elected members of the Council passed a motion in May 2017 banning any use of glyphosate in or close to public parks, public playgrounds and public gardens.  This ban has been implemented by Public Realm Operations since its adoption.  Where the use of glyphosate based weed killer is not permitted in the locations mentioned the Council has had to utilise other methods of weed control and these range from identifying areas where weed control can cease completely to utilising other methods such as weed removal by hand.  In addition, trials are currently underway on the use of non-glyphosate based weed killer however the results obtained to date are not conclusive.  SDCC staff have attended trials run by other local authorities on the use of hot foam and hot water-based weed control techniques however these have been deemed to be not suitable for our purposes.

Weed control along public roads, footpaths and in roadside margins presents a specific problem due to the nature of the task at hand.  The Council maintains close to 1,000km of roads including main roads, housing estate roads and industrial estate roads.  Labour intensive methods of weed control are not appropriate to this task, such is the volume of work involved.  The Council's road sweeping contractor, Oxigen Environmental, therefore continues to use a glyphosate-based weed killer to deliver the weed control element of their contract. The contractors staff engaged in this work are required to be properly trained in the task, are required to use the appropriate equipment including PPE and are also required to be registered with the Dept of Agriculture as a professional user of pesticides in accordance with the Sustainable Use Directive.   The Council meets regularly in relation to the provision of services under this contract and examines all relevant matters including the weed control element of the contract.  The contractor to date has only been required to display signage required for traffic management purposes.  The suggestion that signage should be displayed alerting the public to the fact that weed spraying is taking place will be raised with the contractor at the next available opportunity.

This Council will continue in its efforts to reduce the use of glyphosate in its weed control operations and in keeping with the National Pollinator and National Biodiversity Plans.

### **Q6/0919 PUBLICLY OWNED LAND**

### **QUESTION: Councillor Carly Bailey**

To ask the Chief Executive to put together a report that will outline to councillors how much undeveloped public/local authority owned land is in the SDCC area and what % lie in each of the 7 LEAs. This will enable councillors to make more informed decisions regarding Part 8 developments. It would be of huge benefit to councillors to have this report before the year ends.

**REPLY:**

Land use is managed and approved via the County Development Plan. The delivery of new homes is now monitored across Dublin via the Housing Task Force that was set up in 2017.

The Council does not hold information on landownership for other public bodies in the SDCC area.

In relation to Council owned land, previous reports in 2017 to the Council and SPC have indicated a figure of up to c 600 HA of undeveloped land in SDCC ownership, (including land zoned for residential and industrial uses but excluding large open spaces and parks). However, this figure would need to be updated to take account of recent transfers and sales. Portions of Council owned land is now under development for housing and/or are subject to Part 8s. Development proposals are being outlined for further large sites within that ownership at the July Council meeting. A report on Council owned land will be prepared by the end of the year for consideration.

Council decisions on Part 8 proposals should be made against the policies of the adopted County Development Plan, the extent of publicly owned land in an area is not a Town Planning matter.

### **Q7/0919 TENDERING AND BREXIT**

### **QUESTION: Councillor William Joseph Carey**

To ask the Chief Executive, what is the estimated level of trade currently undertaken through the tendering process for the procurement of goods and services? Can he outline how this process may be affected by Britain leaving the EU without a trade deal being in place and also, what are the implications for the operations of services by SDCC?

**REPLY:**

A range of goods, services and works are required to facilitate South Dublin County Council deliver the range of services provided in the County.  The type of tendering process applicable is governed by EU regulations, national guidelines and local rules. The process applicable depends on the level of spend, as summarised below:

* Supplies & Services: above €221,000; Works: above €5,548,000

Advertised in the Official Journal of the European Union

Advertised on [www.etenders.gov.ie](http://www.etenders.gov.ie/)

Drawdown from Office of Government Procurement (OGP), Local Government Operational Procurement Centre (LGOPC) or other Frameworks available to the Council

* Supplies & Services: €25,000 - €221,000; Works: €50,000 - €5,548,000

Advertised on [www.etenders.gov.ie](http://www.etenders.gov.ie/)

Advertised in the Official Journal of the European Union (optional)

Drawdown from Office of Government Procurement (OGP), Local Government Operational Procurement Centre (LGOPC) or other Frameworks available to the Council

* Supplies & Services: below €25,000; Works: below €50,000

Quotations sought as per local rules - electronic platforms used, where feasible.

Suppliers invited to quote via QuickQuotes on [www.etenders.gov.ie](http://www.etenders.gov.ie/) or Request for Quotations on [www.supplygov.ie](http://www.supplygov.ie/), as appropriate

Drawdown from Office of Government Procurement (OGP), Local Government Operational Procurement Centre (LGOPC) or other Frameworks available to the Council

In 2018 the Council advertised 60 tender competitions at a national level only on [www.etenders.gov.ie](http://www.etenders.gov.ie/), while 13 competitions were advertised both on [www.etenders.gov.ie](http://www.etenders.gov.ie/) and in the Official Journal of the European Union.  In the first six months of 2019 the Council advertised 23 tenders nationally on www.etenders.gov.ie, and an additional 15 tenders were advertised on both [www.etenders.gov.ie](http://www.etenders.gov.ie) and in the Official Journal of the European Union. Mini-tenders were also run from Office of Government Procurement (OGP), Local Government Operational Procurement Centre (LGOPC) and other national/regional frameworks.

How the provision of goods, services and works will be affected by Britain leaving the EU without a trade deal being in place is very difficult to quantify.  Information notes on Brexit and Public Procurement were issued to public bodies by the Office of Government Procurement in December 2018 and in June 2019.  This and other government guidance on Brexit has been, and will continue to be, carefully considered and applied to limit in so far as possible any implications for the operation of services by South Dublin County Council.

### **Q8/0919 CASUAL TRADING**

### **QUESTION: Councillor William Joseph Carey**

To ask the Chief Executive how many casual traders licences are issue each year and how many of these are subject to rates by SDCC. What is the basis for the demand for rates upon casual traders?

**REPLY:**

The [South Dublin County Council Casual Trading Bye-Laws](https://www.sdcc.ie/en/services/business/casual-trading/casual-trading-bye-laws-2016.pdf) were adopted by the Elected Members of Council at their meeting held on the 20th June 2016 and came into effect on the 1st of August 2016.

The schedule of current designated Casual Trading Areas under the Byelaws is as follows:

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Designated Casual Trading Area | Goods |  Licence Fee (€) |
| Category A – Flowers |
| Esker Cemetery | Flowers | 500 |
| Bohernabreena Cemetery | Flowers | 500 |
| Newcastle Cemetery | Flowers | 500 |
| Category B – Mobile Food Outlets |
| Western Industrial Estate | Food | 760 |
| Killinarden Ring Road | Food | 760 |
| Viewing Point at Killakee | Food | 760 |
| Category C - Markets |
| Fettercairn Community Centre | General | 50 |
|   | Farmers Markets |   |
| Category D – Car Parks within Public Parks |
| Tymon Park – Wellington entrance | Ice Cream/Confectionery | 10,000 |
| Tymon Park – Tymon North entrance | Ice Cream/Confectionery | 5,000 |
| Tymon Park – Limekiln entrance | Ice Cream/Confectionery | 5,000 |
| Corkagh Park – St. John’s entrance | Ice Cream/Confectionery | 10,000 |
| Corkagh Park – Camac Valley entrance | Ice Cream/Confectionery | 10,000 |
| Griffeen Valley Park | Ice Cream/Confectionery | 5,000 |
| Tymon Park – Wellington entrance | Tea/Coffee/Confectionery | 5,000 |
| Corkagh Park - St. John’s entrance | Tea/Coffee/Confectionery | 5,000 |
| Griffeen Valley Park | Tea/Coffee/Confectionery | 5,000 |
| Category E – Seasonal TradingLocations may be determined by executive decision by South Dublin County Council |
|   | Christmas Trees | 200 |
|   | Village Festivals/Summer Fetes/Christmas Fairs | 50 |

Casual trading licences are not subject to Rates. The Valuation Office have stated that temporary structures are not rateable.

### **Q9/0919 PAID PARKING**

### **QUESTION: Councillor Yvonne Collins**

To ask the Chief Executive for a list of income from paid parking by area and/or village and to present same in tabular form.

**REPLY:**

A total of €216,933 has been receipted in respect of on / off street paid parking from 1/1/2019 to 28/8/2019.

The schedule attached provides a breakdown of income received by area / location.

[Q9 Schedule by location](http://www.sdublincoco.ie/sdcc/departments/corporate/apps/cmas/documentsview.aspx?id=63924)

### **Q10/0919 ABANDONED VEHICLES**

### **QUESTION: Councillor Yvonne Collins**

To ask the Chief Executive for a report on abandoned cars by area

**REPLY:**

Vehicles that are abandoned (which display identification marks) are managed by the Council's Litter Warden Service under Section 71 of the Waste Management Act 1996 as amended, which provides inter alia for the following:

1) Investigation of vehicle reported

2) Ownership checks & enquires

3) Communications with the owners (where known)

4) Taking ownership and removal of abandoned vehicles.

It can take up to 8 weeks to complete the above procedure depending on its complexity and level of co-operation from other relevant bodies.

In the case of burnt out vehicles, contact is made with An Garda Síochána to establish if the vehicles are "of interest" or require a Garda investigation. Generally, burnt out cars on public grounds causing risk to public safety are removed as soon as possible.

It should be noted that some complaints of "abandoned" cars are solely traffic related which are matters for the Gardai. Similarly, other reports relate to nuisance issues are not in fact abandoned, such as:

* vehicles poorly parked
* vehicles causing an obstruction
* vehicles involved in residential parking disputes
* Broken down vehicles
* Untaxed and uninsured vehicles

The Litter Warden Service is not aligned to electoral areas, so it is not possible to provide a figure for the number of burnt out/abandoned cars on electrical area basis.

The table below outlines the number of vehicles reported/and outcomes of how abandoned/burnt out vehicles have been dealt with for the period January - July 2019

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| January - July 2019 |  Abandoned Vehicles | Burnt out Vehicles  |
| Total Reported |  436 |  73 |
| Outcome |   |   |
| Removed by SDCC Contractor |  21 |  54 |
| Removed by owner/unknown |  215\* |  19 |
| Parking issues |  66 |   |
| Car in use/Not Abandoned |  78 |   |
| Garda Matter |  9 |   |
| Open cases |  47 |   |

\*It is possible that some burnt out or abandoned cars were removed by An Garda Síochaná.

### **Q11/0919 SOCIAL HOUSING BUILD 2018**

### **QUESTION: Councillor Yvonne Collins**

To ask the Chief Executive how many social houses were built in 2018, by area, in tabular form, setting out how many of these were direct build and how many were provided via housing associations.

**REPLY:**

A total of 558 homes were delivered in South Dublin in 2018 through Build, Acquisition and Leasing in 2018, exceeding the delivery target for the Council of 539 homes, with 469 new homes completed in the build category through directly Council built homes, Part V, turn-key and Approved Housing Bodies as follows:

|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Area /Delivery Type | Tallaght South/Tallaght Central | Lucan | Clondalkin | Rathfarnham/ Templeogue/ Terenure | Total |
| Council Construction | 149  | 0  | 65  | 24  | 238  |
| Council Part V / Turn-key | 1 | 60 | 0 | 29 | 90 |
| AHB New Build |  0 | 0  | 65 | 0 |  65 |
| AHB Part V / Turn-key | 34 | 2 | 13 | 27 | 76 |
| Total |  184 | 62  | 143  | 80  | 469  |

A detailed Housing Supply Report is presented quarterly to Area Committees with the latest update due to be presented at the September Area Committee meetings.

### **Q12/0919 HOUSING LIST AREA BREAKDOWN**

### **QUESTION: Councillor Yvonne Collins**

To ask the Chief Executive how many people are on the Council housing list, by area.

**REPLY:**

The full breakdown of the current social housing list by local electoral areas based on the current address of the applicant is as follows:

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Area | Total |
| Tallaght Central | 1,160 |
| Clondalkin | 1,248 |
| Lucan/Palmerstown/Fonthill | 778 |
| Rathfarnham/Terenure/Templeogue/Firhouse/Bohernabreena | 479 |
| Tallaght South | 1,129 |
| Dublin City | 1,516 |
| Dun Laoghaire/Rathdown | 93 |
| Fingal | 273 |
| Outside Dublin | 203 |
|   | 6,879 |

### **Q13/0919 TREE STUMPS**

### **QUESTION: Councillor Yvonne Collins**

To ask the Chief Executive if the Council up to date on tree stump removal and, if not, when does it envisage it will achieve up to date status

**REPLY:**

When a tree is felled by the Council, it is not always possible to remove the stump at the same time. In these circumstances a short tree stump is left as a temporary measure.  The stump is usually left at around 1m high so that it does not constitute a trip hazard in the intervening period. As outlined in the Councils Tree Management Policy ‘Living with Trees’ tree stumps are placed on a stump removal list and sufficient time needs to elapse to allow breakdown of residual underground root material, the process from removal to replanting may take up to 3-5 years.

The tree stump removal programme will recommence in September this year.  There is a list of over 2,000 tree stumps throughout the County which are listed for removal. 683 tree stumps have been removed by the Council's contractor this year.

An update on the status of tree stump removal is provided to the Council on a monthly basis.

### **Q14/0919 DOG LITTER**

### **QUESTION: Councillor Yvonne Collins**

To ask the Chief Executive what plans are in place to provide more bins to deal with the situation in relation to dog waste.

**REPLY:**

South Dublin County Council does not provide a separate service for the disposal/collection of dog litter, such waste if properly bagged can be disposed of in a standard litter bin. The Council provides standard type litter bins in it's main parks and at the dog runs which have been provided in those parks. In total there are approximately 130 litter bins provided at parks locations in the County, this number has increased in recent years and will continue to increase as the need arises. In general litter bins are not provided on green spaces in housing estates except where the need arises due to it's proximity to schools or a shopping centre for example. Where such a need is identified the Council will provide a standard litter bin at the location in question. There are a further 650 litter bins provided on streets and in villages and urban centres.

A review of the litter bin service was carried out in 2016/17 by the Environment, Public Realm and Climate Change SPC and the issue of bins for dog waste was considered at that time. The view of the Strategic Policy Committee at the time was that there was no need to change from the position that dog waste could be disposed of in the standard bins provided around the County, and therefore there was no requirement to provide an additional service for this.

The Green Dog Walker (GDW) initiative is promoted by South Dublin County Council on an ongoing basis through, but not limited to, social media campaigns and promotional material at pop up stands in Council's public buildings. As the Green Dog Walker initiative is a community led initiative a GDW pop up stand has also been made available to community groups for use at community events, which several groups have already availed of.

Dog Litter Signage (3 different designs) is available and requests for signage are considered. Throughout the year dog litter signs are erected within the county by Council personnel and similarly, signage is provided directly to Councillors / Registered / Residents Groups for distribution and erection with the caveat that such signage erected must have due regard for public health and safety, and must not impede visibility or restrict traffic, cycling and pedestrian flow. Also, if it is proposed to co-use a pole, authorisation will be required.

### **Q15/0919 WHEELCHAIR ACCESSIBLE UNITS**

### **QUESTION: Councillor Teresa Costello**

To ask the Chief Executive how many 1 Bed wheelchair accessible social houses are in the county at the moment and are there plans to build more, if yes how many and when.

**REPLY:**

Part M of the Building Regulations 1997 (as amended) require all new housing stock to be constructed ensuring adequate accessibility for disabled persons.  All homes, including one bedroom homes, delivered since the introduction of the regulations meet this requirement.

A total of 115 one bedroom units within four housing developments (at Templeogue, Whitestown Way, Fernwood/Maplewood & St. Marks Ave/Rowlagh) in the Council's social housing construction programme which have Part 8 planning approval are due for delivery from 2020 onwards.

Separately, the Disabled Persons' grant scheme specifically requires the Council to use existing housing stock to meet needs identified and each application is examined in that context and, where appropriate, a transfer to alternative accommodation may be offered following consultation with the tenant/applicant and their medical advisors including occupational therapists.  Under this scheme 762 homes in the Council's housing stock have been modified to varying degrees to meet the needs of tenants.

### **Q16/0919 SOCIAL HOUSING PROJECTS**

### **QUESTION:**  **Councillor Teresa Costello**

To ask the Chief Executive how many social housing projects are in the pipeline or due for completion in 2019 / 2020 and how many tenants are proposed to be accommodated in these developments and to make a statement on the matter

**REPLY:**

This Council's 2019 target for new build social housing delivery as set by the Department of Housing, Planning and Local Government is 435 homes but it is currently anticipated that approximately 400 new homes will be delivered.  Three new Council construction projects at Killinarden, Ballyboden and St. Cuthberts in Clondalkin will deliver 112 new homes in 2019 with the balance being delivered through 24 new build Part V, Approved Housing Body or turn-key projects.  The Council's 2020 new build supply pipeline is currently projected to deliver approximately 420 new build homes across 17 different projects.

The Council continues to work with developers and Approved Housing Bodies in examining opportunities to increase the delivery of the new build programme.

All of the anticipated new social homes will be allocated in accordance with the Council's Allocations Scheme.

A detailed Housing Supply Report is presented quarterly to Area Committees and the latest report is due to be presented at the September Area Committee meetings.

### **Q17/0919 HALLOWEEN 2019**

### **QUESTION: Councillor Teresa Costello**

To ask the Chief Executive for details on how the Council proposed to deal with bonfires across the county this year, what plans have been made and what contacts have been made with Garda to co-ordinate services

**REPLY:**

The burning of waste is prohibited under legislation, bonfires waste valuable Council resources in the removal and disposal of material. The Council has always recognised the difficulties that Halloween causes for many communities through the illegal burning of waste on Halloween bonfires, the damage to local amenities, and the threat to property and local services.

As in previous years the Council will again in 2019 adopt a cross departmental approach, utilising the services of Public Realm, Waste Enforcement, Environmental Awareness, Library Service, Housing and Community Services Departments to prevent damage and promote the “Safe Halloween” message.

The Council's Halloween Safety and Environmental Awareness Campaign will be launched later in the year and will again include the publication of a colourful information leaflet providing facts and tips on how to stay safe at Halloween. The leaflet will also contain details of the various family events to be hosted by South Dublin County Council’s Libraries.

The “Bulbs Not Bonfires” initiative will run again this year. This is a reward available through the Council’s innovative Social Credits Scheme which provides communities with flowers in the spring in return for organising alternative Halloween activities that does not harm our environment.

A free pass to Ballymount Civic Amenity Centre will again be provided to every Social Credit applicant / group from around mid October to encourage recycling, one pass allows one entry for one car.  These passes will remain valid until mid November.

The awareness and prevention measures which have been taken in the past and will be again this year are as follows –

* a [colourful information leaflet](http://www.sdublincoco.ie/viewdocument.aspx?id=d0883cca-0c11-4235-ab04-a80701191e80) providing facts and tips on how to stay safe at Halloween will be produced again this year.   The leaflet will also contain details of the various family events hosted by South Dublin County Council’s Libraries.
* Door to door WEEE collection prior to Halloween by Recycle IT.
* A Halloween pack including information and activity sheets will be made available to all schools.
* Halloween Recycle workshops are being carried out in schools.
* Bulbs not Bonfires scheme is being provided through the Social Credits Scheme. This is a reward available and the initiative provides communities with flowers in the spring in return for organising alternative Halloween activities which will not harm our environment.
* Passes will be provided to social credits applicants for access to the Civic Amenity Site from mid October to mid November.
* The Council will examine how best to use social media to convey the importance of public safety and the protection of the environment during this Halloween season.
* Financial support is also made available to groups who arrange pro-environmental / non bonfire activities through a fund which is administered by the Council’s Community Services Department.

The operational response to Halloween in 2019 will include the following elements.

All available resources will be deployed to the preventative collections of bonfire materials prior to this Halloween, crews will be assigned to this task as necessary during normal working hours but also at weekends and on the run up to October 31st itself. Early contact will be made with the Gardai to ensure that information is exchanged between SDCC and AGS and that assistance is provided as necessary in the effort to locate and remove the threat associated with bonfires and the storage of bonfire materials.  Priority will again be given to the removal of material located beside or very close to houses, park facilities such as playgrounds and pavilions, under overhead services such as power lines, and on main traffic routes (roads/ verges) where a threat may arise to traffic and where the Council are requested to take action by the Gardaí.   Materials will not be removed from private property.

The exercise to survey and map bonfire sites in 2018 recorded a total of 280 bonfire sites in total across the County.  The mapping exercise will be repeated once again in 2019 and this will provide details of bonfire sites to be cleaned and these sites will also then need to be revisited for reinstatement in 2020 once ground conditions permit.

In 2018 the Council’s Waste Enforcement Section were in contact with over 150 businesses to advise them of their obligations regarding waste regulations, particularly relative to pallets and tyres.  Regrettably however, 1,100 pallets were still collected from stockpiled material in the days immediately before Halloween and tyres were also included in the stockpiling and movement of “waste” to fuel bonfires. Attention will again in 2019 be paid to commercial premises where waste is stored and may be targeted as bonfire materials. In 2018 for the first time unmanned aerial vehicles (UAVs / Drones) were used to detect the illegal stockpiling of bonfire material.   These drones are an important addition to the waste enforcement toolkit, and will provide evidence to officers on the ground of areas where visibility is sometimes difficult.

Over the weekend and days immediately prior to Halloween 2018, from Saturday October 27th to Wednesday October 31st, a total of 144.4 tonnes of bonfire materials was collected by this Council.  In total the Council collected 522.9 tonnes of waste during both the lead up to Halloween and from the clean ups which took place during the weeks after Halloween.  The total cost to the Council's Public Realm Section in 2018 was €138,940.

The Council's operational response to Halloween in 2019 will once again involve the following -

* Various awareness measures to highlight the dangers associated with bonfires and the harm done to the environment,
* Action by the Council's Environmental Licensing and Enforcement Section to deal with commercial premises and their obligations to properly store their waste including aerial surveys,
* The Public Realm response to remove stockpiles of bonfire materials will commence as soon as necessary most likely in September,
* Liaison with An Garda Siochana with regard to action being taken by them and by the Council in relation to this matter,
* Liaison with local residents groups who can help to identify the locations of material stockpiles,
* The Bulbs not Bonfires campaign will run again this year to encourage local residents not to allow bonfires to take place in their areas,
* The social credits scheme will once again facilitate groups who are registered on the scheme with the disposal of materials at the Council's civic amenity site in Ballymount, and this will help to reduce the amount of materials being handed over for bonfires.

### **Q18/0919 ILLEGAL DUMPING**

### **QUESTION: Councillor Teresa Costello**

To ask the Chief Executive how many people have been prosecuted for illegal dumping in the county year to date.

**REPLY:**

All incidents of 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. 279 Litter Fines have been issued up to the end of July.

To date in 2019 14 cases have been heard in Court; 12 of which were successful. Currently, there are an additional 36 cases listed for hearing.

As part of the Council's commitment to deliver on the objectives of the Corporate Plan and Litter Management Plan, there has been an increased targeted focus on known litter generator areas. Similarly, there has been a raised visibility of our Warden Service through branded vehicles, and a number of structured routes have been identified for continuous patrol, as well as ad hoc patrols and investigations as required.

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.

### **Q19/0919 VACANT COUNCIL HOMES**

### **QUESTION: Councillor Teresa Costello**

To ask the Chief Executive how many vacant council houses are there in the county and how long, on average, when a house is vacated does it remain vacant.

**REPLY:**

There are currently 70 vacant Council rented dwellings (out of a stock of over 9,300 homes) at various stages of the process for re-letting, with:

* 19 at works scheduling stage;
* 29 with refurbishment works in progress;
* 22 with refurbishment works completed and are ready for allocation.

The average turnaround time from when a home is surrendered to the Council to completion of refurbishment works and allocation & occupancy of the home by a new tenant is currently approximately 21 weeks.

### **Q20/0919 HELIUM BALLOONS**

### **QUESTION: Councillor Alan Edge**

In the light of concerns raised by environmental groups concerning the environmental impact of large scale helium balloon releases, can the Chief Executive set out what the policy of the Council is towards such events?

**REPLY:**

There is currently no policy in place in SDCC to address such balloon releases.

However, SDCC encourages the use of biodegradable materials at any type of event.

If the members agree, a policy in relation to this issue may be added to the agenda of the Environment, Public Realm and Climate Change SPC for consideration.

### **Q21/0919 HEDGEROWS**

### **QUESTION: Councillor Alan Edge**

Following reports of hedgerows in rural areas being extensively cut during the closed season, can the Chief Executive set out what criteria are applied in order to determine whether hedge-cutting is 'necessary' for the purposes of the Wildlife (Amendment) Act 2000 and what instructions are given to those carrying out exempted necessary work to ensure that cutting is kept to a bare minimum.

**REPLY:**

There was no extensive cutting of hedgerows during the closed season. Roads Department cut grass on the verges where necessary in the rural areas to ensure passage of traffic.

The only time hedges are cut back is where they are overgrown and cover STOP and YIELD signs. The Area Engineers are aware of these instructions and hedges are only cut when there is a danger to the public.

### **Q22/0919 SOLAR POWERED PUBLIC LIGHTING**

### **QUESTION: Councillor Sandra Fay**

To ask the Chief Executive if South Dublin County Council has looked investigated the cost and feasibility of switching to solar power street lights as a long term future solution, as opposed to continuing with LED replacement?

**REPLY:**

We have investigated this technology for use in public lighting applications for the county. There are still efficiency issues associated with this type of installation given the relatively high power requirements of each public lighting column and the amount of power that would be available via a solar array/battery electrical supply configuration. This would be a particular problem in the winter, given the shorter days and longer nights.

In the event of a resolution of the supply issues above, this technology would be seen as an addition to, rather than replacement of, our LED Upgrade Programme and evaluated on that basis.

### **Q23/0919 N81 LANDSCAPING IMPROVEMENT SCHEME**

### **QUESTION: Councillor B. Lawlor**

To ask the Chief Executive for an update on the N81 improvement scheme and if he will make a statement on the matter?

**REPLY:**

A report on the Part 8 public consultation process for the N81 Landscape Improvement Scheme was presented to the meeting of South Dublin County Council on March 13, 2017.  The project is spilt into a number of phases:

* Phase 1 is the section from M50 to Whitestown Way.
* Phase 2 commences at Whitestown Way and runs westwards
* Phase 3 is from the Templeogue area to M50.

At the detailed design and construction stage; each above phase is broken into a number of smaller phases for operational and traffic management purposes.

The initial works on Phase 1 of the N81 scheme have recently been completed and maintenance stage is now underway. The works completed were on the section from M50 to the just west of the roundabout at Avonbeg and include: a new footpath for a section of the route on the southern section of the roadway, land shaping and forming, new planting on the central median and roadsides and re-design of the roundabout at Avonbeg. The proposed landscape works in the Phase 1 section were also extended to include an upgrade of the public lighting along a section of the N81 west of the M50, this work has been funded by Transport Infrastructure Ireland. In the interim the detailed design of the next stage is underway and will be tendered shortly. As the majority of the works on the N81 scheme are landscape planting works careful timing of the construction phases is required to match the appropriate season.

### **Q24/0919 WATER LEAKAGE**

### **QUESTION: Councillor K. Mahon**

Can the Chief Executive please report on the current rate of leakage/retention of water in South Dublin County Council infrastructure?

**REPLY:**

The current leakage rate in South Dublin County Council is 36.6%.  This figure is based on figures from Irish Water of domestic consumption which is estimated from the available domestic meters that have been fitted since 2014, and commercial metered usage.

Irish Water have commenced the roll out of an automated Leakage Management System, which is currently being data inputted with network details including meter information from the 162 district metered areas in SDCC.  New meters are being installed and some replaced where needed.  When this work is further progressed it is expected the overall leakage figure will be able to be broken down more accurately, and will be able to account for leakage from the public mains, private side leakage, and unaccounted water which currently includes commercial properties with faulty meters or unmetered.  Hence the 36.6% figure given of current leakage should be taken as a maximum which includes leaks from the public network, private side leaks, and unaccounted for water.

South Dublin County Council is working with Irish Water and the other Dublin Local Authorities on the Dublin Regional Leakage Reduction Project.  This project, which commenced in SDCC in mid 2018, has several strands and is achieving notable leakage reductions in 2019 - Q2 details:

1 - Network repairs and maintenance - SDCC carries out leakage detection and repair work continuously throughout the network as part of an operational leakage management programme.  SDCC Water Section has carried out 156 network repairs this year to end July, which includes burst main repairs and repairs to leaking valves and hydrants.

2 - Find and Fix - 21ML reduction regionally.  Irish Water have provided extra resources including extra staff and contractor to increase and concentrate efforts on finding and fixing leaks in up to 5 of our district metered areas with the highest leakage in SDCC.

3 - First Fix private side repairs - Saved 2.5ML and carried out 676 repairs in Dublin.

4 - Mains renewal - Rehabilitated or renewed 11.77km of main in Dublin.

5 - Meters - Replaced or fitted 739 network or commercial meters in Dublin.

6 - Pressure Management - 10 optimized and 3 new pressure reducing valves.

7 - Lead services - 4,321 removed.

Irish Water have a water conservation campaign actively running on media channels during the summer.

### **Q25/0919 HAP PROCEDURES**

### **QUESTION: Councillor K. Mahon**

The Council conducts regular Housing Needs Assessments of those on the Local Authority housing list. Can the Chief Executive clarify the procedure for those on HAP who may, having taken up employment, have moved over the threshold to qualify for local authority housing?

**REPLY:**

Housing Assistance Payment (HAP) is a form of social housing support provided through a national shared service centre in Limerick for all local authorities. Under HAP, local authorities can provide housing assistance to households with a long-term housing need (including many long-term Rent Supplement recipients) while the system also allows tenants to retain their housing support even if their income changes.

When a housing applicant enters the HAP scheme, they can apply to be included on the HAP transfer list giving them access to CBL using their original date of approval for social housing.  When an offer of social housing is made to an applicant from the HAP transfer list, their income is not reassessed for eligibility but they are subject to other appropriate checks including rent, estate management, family composition etc. - similar to any tenant transferring from one Council rented dwelling to another.  Similarly, existing HAP tenants can also directly move from one HAP tenancy to another with approval.  However, if a HAP tenant leaves the HAP scheme and reapplies for HAP assistance after a length of time, their social housing need (including income) is reassessed.

### **Q26/0919 TIDY TOWNS**

### **QUESTION: Councillor Shane Moynihan**

To ask the Chief Executive to set out, in tabular form and by electoral area, the amount of money spent on developing Tidy Town Strategic Plans over the past 5 years and how progress in the implementation of these plans is monitored and if he will make a statement on the matter.

**REPLY:**

To ask the Chief Executive to set out, in tabular form and by electoral area, the amount of money spent on developing Tidy Town Strategic Plans over the past 5 years and how progress in the implementation of these plans is monitored and if he will make a statement on the matter.

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Tidy Towns Group | Electoral Area | Funding 2015 | Funding 2016 | Funding 2017 | Funding 2018 | Funding 2019 | Total Funding |
| Lucan | Lucan LEA | N/A | €7,650.00 | €5,000 | 3,500 | €2,000 | €18,150.00 |
| Griffeen  | Lucan LEA | €1,500 | €3,200 | N/a | N/A | N/A | €4,700 |
| Clondalkin Village | Clondalkin LEA | €15,500 | €17,218 | €16,275 | 10,000 | €8,000 | €66,993.00  |
| Clondalkin (N) | Palmerstown/ Fonthill | €1,500 | €2,000 | N/A | N/A | N/A | €3,500 |
| Palmerstown | Palmerstown/Fonthill LEA | €8,500 | €12,300 | €7,905 | 8,150 | €5,560 | €42,415 |
| Templeogue | Rathfarnham/Templeogue LEA | €5,500 | €9,000 | €8,358 | 8,058 | €2,400 | €33,316 |
| Newcastle | Clondalkin | €10,150 | €11,185 | €10,130 | €8,220 | €9,000 | €48,685 |
| Woodstown | Firhouse / Bohernabreena | €5,500 | €19,471.06 | €15,260 | €16,000 | €10,500 | €66,731 |
| Rathfarnham | Rathfarnham/Templeogue LEA | €1,500 | €0 | €2,118.80 | €0 | €0 | €3,619 |
| Firhouse | Firhouse/Bohernabreena LEA | €1,500 | €0 | €0 | €0 | €0 | €1,500 |
| Old Bawn | Tallaght Central | €1,500 | €1,655.28 | €0 | €0 | €0 | €3,155.28 |
| Ballyboden  | Rathfarnham / Templeogue | n/a | n/a | €8,000 | €16,000 | €2,000 | €26,000 |
| Brittas | Tallaght South | n/a | €4,000 | €2,000 | €18,350 | €4,644 | €28,994 |
| Rathcoole | Tallaght South | n/a | n/a | n/a | €7,600 | €10,206 | €17,806 |
| Tallaght | Tallaght Central | n/a | n/a | n/a | n/a | €0 | €0 |
|   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |

Funding:

Annually, Tidy Towns groups are invited to submit applications for funding and submit details of their annual works programmes. There are 3 Funding opportunities per annum.

February:            Seed funding:

Applications for Seed funding are processed at the start of each year to cover costs including insurance costs and committee running cost.

March:                  Annual Programme:

Applications for funding for annual works programmes must demonstrate how the group proposes to address recommendation of the Tidy Towns Adjudicator or other works that the group propose to undertake.

Round 3 Funding:

Round 3 funding is advertised in October, again linked to recommendations from the recently released Reports.

Examples of works funded in 2018 include:

Annually Tidy Towns Committees receive €2,000 Initial Seed funding Grants, this covers insurance, some planting and stationary costs. Round 2 Funding advertised in March, is our annual programme grant. Examples of funding during 2018 include Brittas Tree Carving Project, Planters and Equipment Hire in Newcastle, Village Barrels in Palmerstown and Clondalkin, purchase of equipment, planting and improvement projects throughout the villages. Applications for funding also tie in with the 3 Year Plans and the National Tidy Towns results reports.

Examples of works funded in 2019 include:

Continuation of the Roses Planting Project in Ballyboden, Wildflower Meadows in Newcastle and Woodstown, Horse Cart Planting Project and wildflower corridors and meadows in Newcastle, Barrels at the N4 Palmerstown Village Junction.

Committees also purchase and upgrade their equipment, hire equipment and machinery to complete their work programmes.

3/5 Year Strategic Plans:

South Dublin County Council have grant aided and funded 3 / 5 Year Plans. The majority of Tidy Towns Committees have 3 – 5 Year plans in place. Approx €10,000 has been funded for this purpose.

Committees throughout the County are at various stages of their 3 – 5 Year Plans.

Brittas, Ballyboden and Rathcoole worked with SDCC and Woodrow Solutions to develop their plans.

Palmerstown, Newcastle, Lucan, Clondalkin and Woodstown sourced and financed their plans through grant aid and through their own resources.

Progress on implementation is primarily based on the Annual Tidy Towns Adjudication Report. Reports for every entrant to the tidy town’s competition are available on [www.tidytowns.ie](http://www.tidytowns.ie/)

The table below show the increase in marks received by Tidy Towns Group in South Dublin since 2015 (note – only those groups who entered in 2019 are included).

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
|   | Lucan | Brittas | Clondalkin | Palmerstown | Ballyboden | Temple-ogue | Newcastle | Wood-stown |
| 2018 | 312 | 254 | 287 | 264 | 221 | 242 | 280 | 265 |
| 2017 | 305 | 250 | 281 | 256 | 213 | 235 | 267 | 253 |
| 2016 | 299 | n/a | 271 | 251 | n/a | 228 | 255 | 237 |
| 2015 | 294 | n/a | 260 | 240 | n/a | 223 | 235 | 229 |

Results for 2019 will be announced in September and the Tidy Towns Adjudication report will inform work programmes and strategic plans for 2020.

The Community Department are currently supporting new committees for Tallaght and Saggart. Both are progressing the development of their 3-year strategic plans.

### **Q27/0919 TALLAGHT STADIUM**

### **QUESTION: Councillor Shane Moynihan**

To ask the Chief Executive to set out, in tabular format, the total amout of money spent on Tallaght Stadium in the year to date under categorical headings and how this performs against projected spend and if he will make a statement on how the difference between the two is addressed.

**REPLY:**

Tallaght Stadium is the venue for Airtricity League of Ireland games involving Shamrock Rovers home games, as well as recent hosting of Dundalk FC European games. It has been the venue for seven EUFA games including the final of the EUFA U/17 European Championships, as well as FAI games for U21, U19 & U17 teams, in addition to the Senior FAI Women’s International Teams games. The capacity of the Stadium is now over 8,000 with the completion of the South Stand in 2018. The proposed North Stand will on completion bring the capacity to over 10,000.

As well as sporting events, the venue is the County Venue for Business, Conference and Community Events. The venue has hosted the opening of the National Special Olympics Games, American Football matches, Dublin GAA U14 Feile finals in both Hurling and Football. The venue recently held a launch of the most recent Dublin Economic Monitor, as well as other business events organised through the Local Enterprise Office. The recent Public Participation Network event was one of the many Community events held there as well. The venue is an active venue with events taking place through both day and evening, throughout the year. In recent years a Christmas Circus and an Ice-Skating Rink have been located at the Stadium.

Expenditure includes ongoing maintenance of the pitch to ensure it is kept in pristine condition for the many high-profile matches and events that take place in the stadium. Recent improvements that have taken place at the Stadium include;

* New medical room, for spectators, under the South Stand.
* Emergency Fire safety lighting upgraded in both the Main and East Stands.
* CCTV is being upgraded to ensure compliance with all current Garda and GDPR requirements
* New security gates installed to the rear of the East stand at the request of Gardai, due to the re-location of visiting supporters to the East Stand.
* New astro turf was installed at the tunnel entrance and around the team dugouts.
* Media internet access points replaced and upgraded in the Main Stand.
* Remedial work to pitch in advance of the UEFA tournament.

A list of the expenditure for 2019 under the main expenditure areas is set out in the table below;

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
|   |   |
| Contractor Payments |        55,936.02 |
| Maintenance (including pitch) |        37,075.42 |
| Hire of Machinery |        11,443.75 |
| Purchase of Materials |        33,693.10 |
| Catering Costs |          3,376.29 |
| Communication Expenses |          1,654.69 |
| Security - Property |            598.05 |
| Rates and Water Charges |        30,042.14 |
| Energy Cost |        33,298.34 |
|   |   |

The projected income for 2019 is €220,000 which is generated through both on field sporting activities as well as off field activities within the Stadium, including conference and business events, motor bike training, Saturday market and Parking facilities for local business. An annual budget for expenditure and income is set for the Stadium and monitored throughout the year to ensure costs are kept within budget.

The Council through its Economic, Enterprise and Tourism Development Department aims to increase the number of events, including Business and Conference activity in the Stadium. In addition, the Stadium currently has a Licence for up to 20,000 spectators for concerts, and the Stadium Manager is actively engaged in the process of trying to attract such an event to the Stadium. The proposed new improved Corporate facilities to be developed in the Main Stand, will greatly assist in increasing visitor numbers through an increased number of Business and Corporate events.

A Report on Digital Communication, Outdoor Advertising and Branding was brought to the May 2019 County Council Meeting. The report mentioned opportunities within the Stadium in relation to;

* Digital advertising within the Stadium, and on the exterior of the proposed Northern Stand
* Digital advertising within the corporate areas
* Stadium branding and naming rights

### **Q28/0919 TREE MAINTENANCE**

### **QUESTION: Councillor Shane Moynihan**

To ask the Chief Executive to set out, in tabular format and by electoral area, the overall progress in meeting the targets set for the Tree Maintenance Programme and how this progress compares against initial projections for the Tree Maintenance Programme and if he will make a statement on the matter.

**REPLY:**

**3 Year Tree Maintenance Programme 2017-2019**

South Dublin County Council operates a 3-year rolling programme of tree maintenance. In line with the Council's Tree Management Policy 2015-2020 "Living with Trees", the focus of the Tree Maintenance Programme is on entire roads or whole estates.

In addition to the planned whole estate and road programme, reactive and emergency works is carried out on individual trees as necessary in order to manage risks to the public. An emergency is defined as a tree that is in immediate and present danger of collapse or causing an obstruction requiring urgent attention. Emergency and reactive tree works will normally take priority over the planned programme of tree maintenance works.

In advance of commencing works within an estate or road, a full survey of all trees at the location is carried out to inform the programme and scheduling of tree maintenance. The survey involves an assessment of each tree’s health and condition and identifies the maintenance required, if any.

Whilst the productivity of tree maintenance has increased year on year, an analysis of the work completed indicates that a part of the current tree maintenance programme will have to be carried over into the new programme which will be presented to the Area Committees in October. Approximately one third of the Council’s street trees are now surveyed, the ongoing completion of the tree survey will provide a factual account of the condition of the tree stock and the ability to prioritise tree maintenance to areas of greatest need.

The following is a list of whole estates and roads proposed for tree maintenance in 2017, 2018 and 2019:

**Clondalkin / Rathcoole Area**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **2017 Tree Maintenance Programme** |  |
| **Estate /Road** | **Status – August 2019** |
| Beechwood Lawns, Rathcoole | Works complete |
| Coolamber, Rathcoole | Works complete |
| Castle Park, Castle Close, Castleview Road | Works complete |
| Cherrywood Grove | Works complete |
| Hazelwood Close | Works complete |
| Monastery Rise | Works complete |
| Newlands Road / Drive | Works complete   |
| Oakway | Works complete |
| Oldchurch | Works complete |
| St Anthonys Avenue | Works complete |
| Wheatfields Avenue | Works complete |
| Woodford Drive | Works complete |
| Oakwood Grove | Works complete |
| Wheatfields Court and Crescent - Open Space (Mature trees) | Tree survey complete. Works scheduled September 2019 |
| **2018 Tree Maintenance Programme** |
| Alpine Heights incl trees on O.S. overhanging   | Work complete |
| Ashwood (incl side of 19 and 30 on o.s) | Work in progress |
| Boot Road | Tree survey scheduled Autumn 2019 |
| Castle Grove, Avenue and Drive | Works complete |
| Castle Grange | Tree survey scheduled Autumn 2019 |
| Greenisle Road | Tree survey scheduled Autumn 2019 |
| Hazelwood Crescent, View, Lane, Bank | Tree survey scheduled Autumn 2019 |
| James Connolly Park | Tree survey complete |
| Kilcronan | Tree survey complete |
| Lealand | Tree survey scheduled Autumn 2019 |
| Monastery Rise and Monastery Road O.S. (Mature Trees) | Tree survey complete. Works scheduled September 2019 |
| Oakrise | Tree survey scheduled Autumn 2019 |
| Wheatfields |  Tree survey complete |
| **2019 Tree Maintenance Programme** |
| Glenfield | Partially complete, |
| Kilmahuddrick Close |  Tree survey complete |
| Lindisfarne |  Tree survey complete |
| Monksfield Heights & Grove |  Tree survey complete |

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Oakcourt |   |
| Palmerstown Drive |   |
| Roselawn |   |
| Weston |   |
| Whitethorn |   |

**Rathfarnham/Templeogue / Terenure Area**

|  |
| --- |
| **Carried over from 2016 for completion in 2017** |
| **Estate /Road** | **Status - August 2019** |
| Boden Wood | Works complete |
| Brookwood | Work on hedges partially completed |
| Delaford Park | Works complete |
| Dodder Road Lower | Works complete |
| Fonthill Park | Works complete |
| Hillside Park | Works complete |
| Idrone | Works complete |
| Knocklyon Avenue | Works complete |
| Muckross estate | Works complete |
| Rathfarnham Wood | Works complete |
| Rossmore Road | Works complete |
| The Glen, Boden estate | Works complete |
| Willbrook Lawn | Works complete |
| Willbrook estate | Works complete |
| **2017 Tree Maintenance Programme** |
| Aranleigh Mount & Gardens | Works complete |
| Ballycullen Avenue | Works complete |
| Ballytore Road | Works complete |
| Beechfield Road | Works complete |
| Castlefield Orchard | Works complete |
| Cherryfield Road | Works complete |
| Dangan Park | Works complete |
| Dargle Wood | Works complete |
| Glendown Avenue | Work complete |
| Greenfield Park | Tree survey scheduled Autumn 2019 |
| Monalea Grove & Wood | Works complete |
| Orlagh Grove | Tree survey complete |
| St Annes | Works complete |
| St Endas Park & Drive | Works complete |
| Templeville Drive | Works complete |
| Wainsfort Manor Drive | Works complete |
| Whitechurch Way | Works complete |
| Woodlawn Park Grove | Works complete |
| **2018 Tree Maintenance Programme** |
| Aranleigh Court, Vale, Dell | Aranleigh Court works complete. |
| Ballycullen Road | Tree survey complete |
| Crannagh | Works complete |
| Cremorne estate | Tree survey complete |
| Cypress Downs | Tree survey complete |
| Dangan Drive & Avenue | Works complete |
| Fairways | Works complete |
| Glenbrook Park | Works complete |
| Glendoo Close | Tree survey scheduled Autumn 2019 |
| Glenmore Park | Tree survey complete |
| Glenmurry Park | Tree survey complete |
| Hillsbrook estate | Works complete |
| Killakee Way & Lawns | Tree survey scheduled Autumn 2019 |
| Knockaire |  Tree survey complete |
| Knocklyon Park | Tree survey scheduled Autumn 2019 |
| Limekiln Avenue | Tree survey complete |
| Marian Crescent |  Tree survey complete |
| Moyville | Tree survey scheduled Autumn 2019 |
| Orchardstown Drive | Work complete |
| Orlagh Grange | Tree survey complete |
| Pinewood Park | Tree survey complete |
| Sally Park |  Tree survey complete |
| Shelton Park |  Work complete |
| The Priory, Grange Road | Tree survey scheduled Autumn 2019 |
| Woodlawn Park Avenue & Drive |  Avenue surveyed |
| **2019 Tree Maintenance Programme** |
| Anne Devlin Road | Tree survey complete |
| Ballycullen Drive |  Works complete |
| Ballyroan Road | Works complete |
| Ballyroan Crescent |  Tree survey complete |
| Beverly Grove |  Tree survey complete |
| Carrigwood |   |
| Coolamber Park |   |
| Fortrose Park |   |
| Grange Downs |   |
| Grange Manor estate |   |
| Greentrees Road & Park |   |
| Hermitage Lawn |   |
| Hyde Park |   |
| Lansdowne Park |   |
| Longwood |   |
| Monalea Park |   |
| Orlagh estate |  Tree survey complete |
| Priory Way |   |
| Rockfield Avenue |   |
| Rossmore Lawns |  Tree survey complete |
| Shelton Gardens, Grove & Drive |   |
| St Joseph’s Road |  Tree survey complete |
| St Peter's Crescent |  Tree survey complete |
| Stonepark Abbey |   |
| Templeville Road |   |
| The Park, Cypress Downs |  Tree survey complete |
| Three Rock Close |  Tree survey complete |
| Wood Dale Oak |   |
| Woodfield |   |
|   |   |   |

**Tallaght Area**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Carried over from 2016 for completion in 2017** |   |
| **Estate /Road** | **Status - August 2019** |   |
| Belgard Heights – The Dale; Meadows East & West | Works complete |   |
| Heatherview Road | Works complete |   |
| Glenview Park | Works complete |   |
| Redwood Avenue, Drive &Lawn | Works complete |   |
| Kingswood Drive | Works complete |   |
| Sylvan Avenue | Works complete |   |
| Walnut Close | Works complete |   |
| **2017 Tree Maintenance Programme** |   |
| Alderwood Drive & Grove | Tree survey complete |   |
| Alpine Rise | Work complete |   |
| Ashfield, Kingswood Heights | Works complete |   |
| Balrothery estate | Works complete |   |
| Bancroft Park estate\* | Works complete |   |
| Bawnville | Works complete |   |
| Belgard Heights – The Glade |  Works complete |   |
| Belgard Heights – The Heath |  Works complete |   |
| Belgard Heights – The View |  Works complete |   |
| Cúl na Gréine |  Tree survey complete |   |
| Drumcairn |  Tree survey commenced |   |
| Dunmore Lawn | Tree survey scheduled Autumn 2019 |   |
| Forest estate | Work complete |   |
| Gleann Treasna | Tree survey scheduled Autumn 2019 |   |
| Kingswood Heights -The Close & The Dale | Work complete |   |
| Maplewood Avenue, Close, Crescent, Drive & Way |  Tree survey complete |   |
| Millbrook Lawns – The Close & The Crescent |  Tree survey complete |   |
| Parkwood estate | Work complete |   |
| Raheen Road, Green, Drive & Court | Work in progress |   |
| Sycamore Close | Work complete |   |
| Watergate estate | Tree survey scheduled Autumn 2019 |   |
| **2018 Tree Maintenance Programme** |
| Alderwood Avenue, Park & Way |  Tree survey complete |
| Bancroft Close\* |  Work complete |
| Bancroft Grove |  Work complete |
| Belgard Heights – The Oaks |  Work complete |
| Belgard Heights – The Rise |  Work complete |
| Birchwood Close, Drive & Heights |  Tree survey complete |
| Castle Park | Tree survey scheduled Autumn 2019 |
| Church Grove | Tree survey scheduled Autumn 2019 |
| Cill Cais | Tree survey scheduled Autumn 2019 |
| Dodder Lawn | Tree survey scheduled Autumn 2019 |
| Fernwood Park |  Tree survey complete |
| Firhouse Road West | Tree survey scheduled Autumn 2019 |
| Homelawn Road |  Tree survey complete |
| Kiltipper Avenue & Drive |  Tree survey complete |
| Old Bawn Avenue | Tree survey scheduled Autumn 2019 |
| Old Court Avenue | Tree survey scheduled Autumn 2019 |
| Pineview Drive, Grove, Lawn & Rise |  Tree survey complete |
| Redwood Close & Way |  Work complete |
| Seskin View | Tree survey scheduled Autumn 2019 |
| Turnpike Road |  Work complete |
| Tymon North | Tree survey scheduled Autumn 2019 |
| **2019 Tree Maintenance Programme** |   |
| Allenton Drive, Gardens & Way |   |   |
| Ard Macha |   |   |
| Avonbeg |   |   |
| Carrigmore Park |   |   |
| Castle Lawns |   |   |
| Forest Avenue & Drive |  Work complete |   |
| Kiltalown Crescent, Drive, Green, Heights, Hill & View |   |   |
| Mayberry Road |   |   |
| New Bawn Drive & Park |   |   |
| Saggart village |   |   |
| Seskin View Avenue, Drive & Park | Tree survey scheduled Autumn 2019 |   |
| Sycamore Close |  Work complete |   |
| Treepark Road, Avenue, Close & Drive |   |   |
| Tymon Close, Crescent, Grove & Lawn |   |   |
| Virginia Heights |  Tree survey complete |   |
| Watermill Close, Grove & Lawn |   |   |
| Westpark |   |   |
|   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |

 **Tree Maintenance Programme Statistics 2017 to end July 2019**

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
|   | 2017 | 2018 | 2019 end July |
| Trees Pruned | 1,766 | 1,997 | 1,573 |
| Tree Removal | 1,032 | 1,189 | 572 |
| Tree Planting | 606 | 1,713 | 1,634 |
| Tree Inspections | 4,056 | 3,147 | 7,910 |

### **Q29/0919 HERITAGE APP**

### **QUESTION: Councillor Shane Moynihan**

To ask the Chief Executive to set out whether or not versions of the Heritage App developed for Clondalkin village will be deployed for other urban villages in the county and if so, what the timeline for this would be and if he will make a statement on the matter.

**REPLY:**

As part of the National Tender for the Heritage App for Clondalkin village, which was funded by the 2018 Participatory Budgeting Initiative, tenderers were required to make the App expandable to include additional villages, languages, and new features to enhance the application with all the costing related to the expansion provided for Clondalkin. Accordingly, there is the potential to develop a Heritage Trail App for other villages within South Dublin County, should the Clondalkin Heritage Trail be successful, and subject to funding approval.

### **Q30/0919 BIODIVERSITY**

### **QUESTION: Councillor Shane Moynihan**

To ask the Chief Executive to outline what steps, if any, have been taken to involve and consult with community groups and residents associations in the County's approach to protecting biodiversity in order to maximise public support for this initiative and if he will make a statement on the matter.

**REPLY:**

Many objectives for biodiversity protection in South Dublin County are listed in the County Development Plan 2016-2022 and in the County Heritage Plan.  The County Heritage Officer regularly engages with individuals, community groups and Local Tidy Towns Groups in relation to biodiversty issues while also advising across Council departments on biodiversity matters in Council's own plans and projects.

A specific South Dublin County Biodiversity Action Plan is also currently in preparation. At the outset of this process, a period of public consultation occurred and a County Biodiversity Forum was established to assist the Heritage Officer with the preparation of the draft Plan.

At its establishment, the County Biodiversity Forum included a community representative elected from the Public Participation Network, as well as three other community-based individuals, three Elected Members, five Council staff members, and one government agency representative.  Currently, due to changes in these appointed representatives, a revised Forum is being established which will continue to reflect the input of community representation.

In conjunction with the revised Forum, it is planned to have the draft ready for public consultation by November, at which time further community participation in the process will be encouraged and welcomed.

### **Q31/0919 COMMUNITY CCTV**

### **QUESTION: Councillor Shane Moynihan**

To ask the Chief Executive to outline whether or not the County has drawn down funds from the Community CCTV schemes, and if not, to outline the reasons why.

**REPLY:**

The Council is not currently in receipt of an allocation of funding under the current scheme for Community CCTV.  Limited funding (60% of €40,000 allowable expenditure) is available to install and maintain new CCTV security systems under the Department of Justice Community Based CCTV Scheme . No applications have been made under this scheme by the Council.

Any proposal to extend the CCTV network in the County requires the approval of the Council’s Joint Policing Committee (JPC). A recent report considered by the JPC on this issue noted the complexities of installing community CCTV systems as well as the substantial costs involved in installation, maintenance and monitoring.  It is the Council's current position that any extension of the Community Based CCTV scheme would be cost prohibitive without an additional source of funding being identified.

There is already an extensive network of Community CCTV cameras in the County with 30 CCTV cameras that received grant funding when installed and which is supported by an annual revenue budget allocation of €95,000 for maintenance and running costs.  Necessary upgrade works to this network are also currently being planned at significant additional cost.

### **Q32/0919 SOLAR POWERED LITTER BINS**

### **QUESTION: Councillor E. Murphy**

Can the Chief Executive please provide detail on the Big Belly Solar Bin Pilot project? Can SDCC please confirm if the pilot project has commenced and outline plans for roll out and implementation throughout the County?

**REPLY:**

The tender process for supply of big belly bins was carried out at the end of 2018/start of 2019.  The tender evaluation has only recently been concluded however, with an order for the supply of 8 units for trial purposes just recently placed.  The trial therefore will commence in the last quarter of 2019 and will run for a 6 month period.  Following completion of the trial and consideration of issues that arise a decision will then be made with regard to the further roll out of this type of street litter bin system.  An update will be brought to the Environment SPC and the elected members will be kept informed in this regard.

### **Q33/0919 PLAYSPACES**

### **QUESTION: Councillor E. Murphy**

Can the Chief Executive please provide a report on the playspaces that have been implemented in 2018 and 2019? Can the report provide details on any instances of antisocial behaviour being reported and any remedial works that needed to be carried out to any of the play spaces?

**REPLY:**

The Playspace programme in South Dublin County Council is a 5 Year Programme that commenced in 2014. The playspace programme aims to provide opportunities to play. This type of play allows children to develop their imagination, challenge their abilities, deal with risk and, critically, adapt their own environment.

The Play Space programme was established following the identification of a deficit of play areas for children in this county. This was documented in the policy document ‘Developing play in South Dublin County’ adopted by the Council in June 2006. However the development of play areas / playgrounds did not result in the immediate aftermath, due to the economic downturn and lack of development generally.

In recent years there has been an emphasis on the physical and mental well-being of children. Over the past 20 years there has been a significant rise in levels of obesity, childhood diabetes, high levels of stress and increasing sedentary lifestyles. A report the National Taskforce on Obesity estimates that 300,000 children in Ireland are now obese.

Delivery of Playspace Programme

The Play Space Programme is in the final stages of completion with a total of 43 plagrounds and playspaces now provided by the council across the county; a number of playspaces are underway in 2019, which will see the completion of the programme.The programme has been very successful to date and has progressed through the significant active involvement from elected members and local communities, and direct engagement with children; this Council is now recognised favourably for creating new play opportunities close to where children live. A new type of play space delivery has been achieved – using the concepts of Natural Play and where children can create their own play opportunities. Design and build construction tenders are underway for a number of sites throughout the county. The following playgrounds were completed in 2018 / 2019 or are currently in the final stages of being completed as part of the playspace programme.

Completed 2018/2019

Bancroft Park

Tymon Limekiln

Willsbrook Park

Whitechurch

Glendown

Lucan Demesne

Ballymount Park

Perrystown

Underway:

Jobstown Park (large:) tender underway

Greenhills: completed but requires more grass growth before opening. Estimated opening in 2 weeks

Newcastle: Currently at Part 8 Stage

Collinstown Park (large): Currently at tender stage

Delaford: (on hold due to adjacent  construction works)

Old Bawn: Currently at Part 8 Stage

Firhouse: at design stage

Public Realm receive no complaints about the vast majority of playspaces and vandalism is thankfully relatively rare. We occasionally get reports of people using swings at night and being loud and we also have damage to fencing and gates from kids swinging on them. The issue of vandalism is taken very seriously and continuously the council works to prevent it. When designing play facilities we concentrate primarily on using suitable materials rather than on fencing to restrict entry. There is also an emphasis on restricting potential for anti-social activity through choosing locations carefully, ensuring openness, visibility and selecting appropriate and very robust equipment.

Over the past 2 years incidents have taken place at our playgrounds on occasions; incidences of vandalised and broken equipment are low as increasingly more robust equipment is used. The Council have moved away from using predominantly rubber safety surfacing to natural materials which are less flammable and as a result our playgrounds are much less susceptible to vandalism.

In 2018, expenditure of approx. €86,000 is recorded as spent on repairs. To date in 2019, approx. €72,000 is recorded as spent on repairs. The expenditure on repairs to playgrounds shown includes costs for on-going maintenance, normal wear and tear as well as repair following incidents of vandalism; in some cases the repairs also incorporate design changes to prevent damage going forward or make an item more robust. The recent increase in the amount of playspaces the Council have in charge would lead one to expect an increase in repair costs due to the extra quantity of facilities but, to date, annual costs remain reasonably constant.

With regard to preventing future attacks on our public facilities, the Council urges people to report any vandalism that they are aware of to the Council and the Gardai.

There has been significant investment in providing high quality play, recreational and sporting facilities across the county in recent years and the council is committed to keeping them open and operational. The Council will continue to work closely An Garda Siochana and the public at large in the management of anti-social behaviour.

### **Q34/0919 TAKEN IN CHARGE**

### **QUESTION: Councillor E. Murphy**

Can the Chief Executive please provide details of any housing estates in the County which are waiting to be Taken in Charge by SDCC and for how long each estate has been waiting for TIC?

**REPLY:**

There are currently no estates in the county waiting to be Taken In Charge (TIC).   However, there are c 10 estates where developers are working towards TIC and Council officials are engaging with these developers.

While there are a large number of estates which are complete developers have not as yet engaged in the TIC process.

### **Q35/0919 HALLOWEEN 2019**

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

To ask the Chief Executive to report on his proposed actions to deal effectively with the annual challenges presented by the Halloween season and will he confirm plans to protect our Open Spaces throughout the County and will he also undertake a publicity and education programme in respect of the matter and will he make a statement.

**REPLY:**

The burning of waste is prohibited under legislation, bonfires waste valuable Council resources in the removal and disposal of material. The Council has always recognised the difficulties that Halloween causes for many communities through the illegal burning of waste on Halloween bonfires, the damage to local amenities, and the threat to property and local services.

As in previous years the Council will again in 2019 adopt a cross departmental approach, utilising the services of Public Realm, Waste Enforcement, Environmental Awareness, Library Service, Housing and Community Services Departments to prevent damage and promote the “Safe Halloween” message.

The Council's Halloween Safety and Environmental Awareness Campaign will be launched later in the year and will again include the publication of a colourful information leaflet providing facts and tips on how to stay safe at Halloween. The leaflet will also contain details of the various family events to be hosted by South Dublin County Council’s Libraries.

The “Bulbs Not Bonfires” initiative will run again this year. This is a reward available through the Council’s innovative Social Credits Scheme which provides communities with flowers in the spring in return for organising alternative Halloween activities that does not harm our environment.

A free pass to Ballymount Civic Amenity Centre will again be provided to every Social Credit applicant / group from around mid October to encourage recycling, one pass allows one entry for one car.  These passes will remain valid until mid November.

The awareness and prevention measures which have been taken in the past and will be again this year are as follows –

* a [colourful information leaflet](http://www.sdublincoco.ie/viewdocument.aspx?id=d0883cca-0c11-4235-ab04-a80701191e80) providing facts and tips on how to stay safe at Halloween will be produced again this year.   The leaflet will also contain details of the various family events hosted by South Dublin County Council’s Libraries.
* Door to door WEEE collection prior to Halloween by RecycleIT.
* A Halloween pack including information and activity sheets will be made available to all schools.
* Halloween Recycle workshops are being carried out in schools.
* Bulbs not Bonfires scheme is being provided through the Social Credits Scheme. This is a reward available and the initiative provides communities with flowers in the spring in return for organising alternative Halloween activities which will not harm our environment.
* Passes will be provided to social credits applicants for access to the Civic Amenity Site from mid October to mid November.
* The Council will examine how best to use social media to convey the importance of public safety and the protection of the environment during this Halloween season.
* Financial support is also made available to groups who arrange pro-environmental / non bonfire activities through a fund which is administered by the Council’s Community Services Department.

The operational response to Halloween in 2019 will include the following elements.

All available resources will be deployed to the preventative collections of bonfire materials prior to this Halloween, crews will be assigned to this task as necessary during normal working hours but also at weekends and on the run up to October 31st itself. Early contact will be made with the Gardai to ensure that information is exchanged between SDCC and AGS and that assistance is provided as necessary in the effort to locate and remove the threat associated with bonfires and the storage of bonfire materials.  Priority will again be given to the removal of material located beside or very close to houses, park facilities such as playgrounds and pavilions, under overhead services such as power lines, and on main traffic routes (roads/ verges) where a threat may arise to traffic and where the Council are requested to take action by the Gardaí.   Materials will not be removed from private property.

The exercise to survey and map bonfire sites in 2018 recorded a total of 280 bonfire sites in total across the County.  The mapping exercise will be repeated once again in 2019 and this will provide details of bonfire sites to be cleaned and these sites will also then need to be revisited for reinstatement in 2020 once ground conditions permit.

In 2018 the Council’s Waste Enforcement Section were in contact with over 150 businesses to advise them of their obligations regarding waste regulations, particularly relative to pallets and tyres.  Regrettably however, 1,100 pallets were still collected from stockpiled material in the days immediately before Halloween and tyres were also included in the stockpiling and movement of “waste” to fuel bonfires. Attention will again in 2019 be paid to commercial premises where waste is stored and may be targeted as bonfire materials. In 2018 for the first time unmanned aerial vehicles (UAVs / Drones) were used to detect the illegal stockpiling of bonfire material.   These drones are an important addition to the waste enforcement toolkit, and will provide evidence to officers on the ground of areas where visibility is sometimes difficult.

Over the weekend and days immediately prior to Halloween 2018, from Saturday October 27th to Wednesday October 31st, a total of 144.4 tonnes of bonfire materials was collected by this Council.  In total the Council collected 522.9 tonnes of waste during both the lead up to Halloween and from the clean ups which took place during the weeks after Halloween.  The total cost to the Council's Public Realm Section in 2018 was €138,940.

The Council's operational response to Halloween in 2019 will once again involve the following -

* Various awareness measures to highlight the dangers associated with bonfires and the harm done to the environment,
* Action by the Council's Environmental Licensing and Enforcement Section to deal with commercial premises and their obligations to properly store their waste including aerial surveys,
* The Public Realm response to remove stockpiles of bonfire materials will commence as soon as necessary most likely in September,
* Liaison with An Garda Siochana with regard to action being taken by them and by the Council in relation to this matter,
* Liaison with local residents groups who can help to identify the locations of material stockpiles,
* The Bulbs not Bonfires campaign will run again this year to encourage local residents not to allow bonfires to take place in their areas,
* The social credits scheme will once again facilitate groups who are registered on the scheme with the disposal of materials at the Council's civic amenity site in Ballymount, and this will help to reduce the amount of materials being handed over for bonfires.

### **Q36/0919 BREXIT**

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

To ask the Chief Executive to update members on plans to deal with issues relating to Brexit including supports available to businesses in respect of the matter and will he make a statement.

**REPLY:**

Activities and interactions with the local businesses of South Dublin have been greatly increased given the continued and growing uncertainty of Brexit by South Dublin Local Enterprise Office (LEO).

There has and continues to be an extensive promotional campaign on the full range of Brexit related supports available to all businesses nationally regionally and locally from all of the agencies and departments. A summary of all of the supports for all agencies and departments can be found at the following website link; [**https://www.dfa.ie/brexit/getting-ireland-brexit-ready/brexit-and-business/financial-supports-for-business/**](https://www.dfa.ie/brexit/getting-ireland-brexit-ready/brexit-and-business/financial-supports-for-business/)

All companies in the county have been regularly circulated with Brexit information, Brexit checklists and there is a particular focus for businesses to at a minimum complete the on-line Brexit SME Scorecard ([**https://prepareforbrexit.virtual-adviser.com/**](https://prepareforbrexit.virtual-adviser.com/) ) . All completed Brexit Scorecards are being reviewed and there is direct follow up telephone call to the business owner to arrange for free one to one Brexit Mentoring to further support their efforts to meet its specific needs for Brexit Preparedness.

Links are also available on South Dublin Local Enterprise Office website <https://www.localenterprise.ie/SouthDublin/Enterprise-Development/Brexit-Supports/>

LEO South Dublin is also working in collaboration with South Dublin Chamber of Commerce to maximise the outreach to businesses in the county in the provision of direct Brexit supports.

There is a monthly programme of Dublin Regional Brexit Customs Seminars in place since March 2019 to year end (two events have taken place in South Dublin) together with Brexit Open Days scheduled from September to December. In addition, South Dublin Local Enterprise Office will hold an additional Brexit Seminar for local businesses early October next.

Enterprise Ireland launched a national programme of half-day Masterclasses on ‘Essentials of Exporting’ for LEO businesses and this will take place in Dublin 24th October next and a local ‘Exploring Export’ event planned by South Dublin LEO for November next to support businesses with a dependency on the UK market to explore other market opportunities. The LEO offers supports to businesses within the county including; Technical Assistance to Micro Enterprise (TAME), Trading Online Vouchers (TOV's) and Lean for Micro and LEO businesses.

### **Q37/0919 ILLEGAL DUMPING/LITTER/GRAFFITI**

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

To ask the Chief Executive to report on his continued efforts to deal with the dumping/litter/graffiti challenge throughout this County and will he confirm the costs to this Council this year in respect of the matter and also state the number of successful prosecutions and may we have a statement.

**REPLY:**

Dumping, Litter and Graffiti is managed in accordance with the provisions of the Litter Pollution Act 1997 as amended, Annual Action Plans developed as part of the Litter Management Plan (LMP) 2014-2019.

A review of the Litter Management Plan 2015-2019 is underway for the purposes of drafting a revised statutory plan for the period 2020-2024 for consideration.

There is a three strand approach to managing these issues under the existing plan as follows:

1. Enforcement & Licensing
2. Management and maintenance of the public realm
3. Communication, education and awareness

 Initiatives ongoing in 2019 include but are not limited to the following:

* Planned / Scheduled public realm works including scheduled and reactive clean-ups
* Village cleansing
* Road sweeping
* Litter Bin provision and replacement
* Anti-Dumping Grant applications to DCCAE via WERLA
* Education and awareness programmes
* Dog Foul campaigns - cinema and radio advertisements / dog foul bags / green dog walker promo
* Social Credits Scheme - Landscaping projects / community clean-ups supports / Small Paint Schemes
* Dublin Canvas
* Graffiti removal
* Litter Warden Patrols - Fixed Penalty Notices
* Use of CCTV/ emerging technologies

All these measures are aimed at improving the aesthetic appearance of our county in the interest of improving quality of life and our economic development potential.

Significant improvements have been achieved in this area which have been reflected in IBAL and Tidy Towns reports, and once again the Council is very appreciative of the community and voluntary efforts that are made alongside the Council’s work to bring about these positive changes.

The cost of removing and disposing of illegally dumped material throughout the county to date in 2019 is approximately €810,000

All incidents of 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. 279 Litter Fines were issued up to the end of July.

To date in 2019 14 cases have been heard in Court; 12 of which were successful. Currently, there are an additional 36 cases listed for hearing.

As part of the Council's commitment to deliver on the objectives of the Corporate Plan and Litter Management Plan, there has been an increased targeted focus on known litter generator areas. Similarly, there has been a raised visibility of our Warden Service through branded vehicles, and a number of structured routes have been identified for continuous patrol, as well as ad hoc patrols and investigations as required.

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.

### **Q38/0919 TREE MAINTENANCE**

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

To ask the Chief Executive to confirm his plans to deal with the many calls received regarding Trees which require immediate attention and cannot wait for the Maintenance Programme to catch up and will he appreciate the frustration in many communities at the situation and give assurances.

**REPLY:**

The Council's Tree Management Policy 2015-2020 "Living With Trees", states that the focus of the Tree Maintenance Programme is on entire roads or whole estates. This represents a move away from reactive pruning of individual trees on a one off basis to a planned programme of maintenance. The objective of this approach is to increase the efficiency and productivity of the tree maintenance crews and to advance a proactive programme of cyclical pruning that is targeted at priority locations where intervention is most needed to yield wider community benefit.

The Council receives a large number of queries regarding trees, requesting inspections, planting, removal, pruning and tree stump removals. In 2018, 4,728 queries were received and  up to 27th August 2019, 3011 queries were received.

Each of the trees relating to the queries are inspected, in addition to the trees on the planned tree maintenance programme. If the trees require immediate attention, this is arranged. However in 95% of cases, no immediate work is required. Residents may not always accept this as they have individual concerns regarding the trees.

The Council will continue to carry out the planned tree maintenance programme and also carry out maintenance on trees in other locations which require immediate action.

In addition to the Council's tree crews, contractors carry out work on trees close to elctricity wires and on dangerous trees.

Where trees which have been identified as requring immediate or specialised attention, this work has been arranged -  examples at the following locations

* Glenview Park
* Bancroft Park
* rear of Loreto Avenue
* rear of Rathfarnham Shopping Centre
* Taobh na Coille
* Riversdale

### **Q39/0919 LIBRARY SUPPORTS FOR DISADVANTAGED AREAS**

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

To ask the Chief Executive to confirm his plans for the spending of the recently announced Government Grant for the provision of Library supports in disadvantaged areas and will he give details.

**REPLY:**

**"Library Supports for Marginalised, Socially Excluded and Disadvantaged Communities”**

South Dublin Libraries were successful in their application for funding from the Dormant Account Fund of €66,934 through the Department of Rural and Community Development for the following projects:

Balgaddy Women’s Writing Group

In this writing project a group of women, together with a facilitator, will explore the importance of their locality and the significance it plays in their lives and those of their families. At the end of the project their stories will be recorded in poetry, prose or narrative.

New Irish

An inter-cultural programme designed to promote and stimulate mutual understanding between Lucan’s Irish and non-Irish residents, with the library at the centre of the community. The programme’s partnership model will better inform equity of access for migrant communities in Lucan.

Toys, Training, Technology

This programme is designed to offer support to children and adults with learning difficulties, disability or special needs. It is a specialised collection of toys and other resources that can be accessed free of charge with a South Dublin Library card.

 Local Studies

This six-week programme will provide access to existing library services in terms of educational, digital literacy and research supports. Children will be supported in putting together a local history exhibition and will learn aspects of archaeology and living history. An intergenerational element will see grandparents and grandchildren working together to share family histories.

Young Entrepreneurs

5th and 6th class schoolchildren will work in small groups to develop, create and market a product for sale at the local Christmas craft market at Lucan Library, using 3D printing and Makerspace resources.

Creative Campus

This programme is designed to help secondary school students within South Dublin County attain their educational and personal outcomes by offering them free access to a range of educational supports on school subjects through a series of specific, tailored talks and workshops.

Transport

A transport bursary will be established so that communities can apply for free, safe and reliable transport to our libraries and other related venues for particular events, such as Red Line Book Festival, opening the festival to new audiences who may previously have felt excluded.

### **Q40/0919 EV CHARGING POINTS**

### **QUESTION: Councillor L. O'Toole**

To ask the Chief Executive how many electric ecar charging points are currently in the county and how many new ones are planned. Could a map of these charging points be supplied. To also ask the Chief Executive how are ecar charging points designed into new developments as newer developments have common shared areas and other layouts have off street car parking making it challenging for residents to use private charging points

**REPLY:**

Currently we are aware of 24 No. charging points that are available to the public on ESB’s e-Cars network on a 24hr/day basis. This figure includes 3 No. fast charger Combi 50KWh charging points that are located on private/commercial property.  The remaining points typically can provide up to 22KWh depending on the make and model of the vehicle being charged. The following web site is available to view the map and to check the status of EV charge points: <https://www.esb.ie/our-businesses/ecars/charge-point-map>

In addition to the 24 locations described above, SDCC are also aware of several privately-operated charging stations that are available to customers using the provider’s facilities.

SDCC do not currently hold information on privately managed EV charging facilities located at places of employment for the exclusive use of employees.

SDCC has introduced five EV’s into its operational fleet and look forward to replacing further fossil fuelled items of plant and equipment with their rechargeable electric equivalents.

SDCC is currently assessing location in the County at council owned facilities for the provision of EV charging facilities.

SDCC is collaborating with the 3 other Dublin Local Authorities to introduce a standardised system of public EV charging stations at our town centres and municipal facilities.

Discussions have also taking place regionally with third party providers to establish a suitable mechanism for the roll out of EV charging points at strategic locations across the county and the Council is now progressing work on a County Mobility Study which is also expected to incorporate objectives in this regard.

Similarly the Council is committed to ensuring that best practice urban design principles are applied to all new developments.

The Development Plan includes policy on charging for electric vehicles and states in Section 11.4.3 that

‘To facilitate the use of electrically operated cars and bicycles in line with National Policy, all developments shall provide facilities for the charging of battery operated cars at a rate of up to 10% of the total car parking spaces. The remainder of the parking spaces should be constructed to be capable of accommodating future charging points, as required.’

This policy is being actively implemented in planning conditions attached to permissions.

SDCC welcomes the recent announcement  by the Minister in relation to Government support for the installation of 1000 EV charge points over the next five years. <https://www.dccae.gov.ie/en-ie/news-and-media/press-releases/Pages/-Minister-Bruton-Launches-New-Scheme-for-On--Street-Charge-Points-for-Electric-Vehicles.aspx>

### **Q41/0919 SPECIALLY ADAPTED UNITS**

### **QUESTION: Councillor L. O'Toole**

To ask the Chief Executive to report on the total number of people on the housing waiting list which require specially adapted houses for disability and a breakdown between independent residents and families.

**REPLY:**

There are currently 439 housing list or transfer list applicants who have been awarded medical priority (of which 107 applications represent single individuals) with a further 277 single individual applicants who are deemed to require supported living accommodation.   (Supported living is defined as an arrangement whereby someone who already has, or who requires their own tenancy, also has support from a “care and support” provider to help them live as independently and safely as possible, they may not be capable of sustaining a tenancy/living on their own.)

The breakdown of applications on the housing list with medical priority and/or requiring adapted dwellings is as follows:

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
|   | Ground Floor Specific | Wheelchair Access Accessible | 1 Bed Need (medical) | Total |
| Housing List | 86 | 47 | 99 | 311 |
| Transfer List | 56 | 25 | 21 | 128 |
| Supported List |   |   |   | 277 |

### **Q42/0919 SPEED LIMIT BYE LAWS**

### **QUESTION: Councillor L. O'Toole**

To ask the Chief Executive when the next review of speed signs are planned for the county.

**REPLY:**

The current South Dublin County Council Speed Limit Bye Laws came into effect in 2017.  The next review will commence in 2020.

### **Q43/0919 POLLINATORS**

### **QUESTION: Councillor William Priestley**

Is SDCC signed up to the national pollinators plan ([www.pollinators.ie](https://eur04.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=http%3A%2F%2Fwww.pollinators.ie&amp;data=02%7C01%7Cdanielmurphy%40SDUBLINCOCO.ie%7Cee190560fc404afdb89308d72a54632e%7C6a3c00c019d0492da8de95fad8fda1d4%7C0%7C0%7C637024414254685527&amp;sdata=6tPMndJYYcLuso3qXpJHII2P65BqNv10Tkh6950PJ40%3D&amp;reserved=0)) and, if not, how might this be best explored?

**REPLY:**

The following sets out a brief update on the Council’s initiatives in relation to the All Ireland Pollinator Plan and to actions and programmes that are being implemented as part of the Nature Based Solutions element of our recently adopted Climate Change Action Plan.

The Council is undertaking numerous projects, programmes and actions that benefit and support pollinators. These projects are supported by South Dublin County Councils Policies and Plans that incorporate biodiversity and pollinator supporting criteria. SDCC's County Development Plan has numerous policies and objectives which outline the Council’s commitment to biodiversity; in particular Chapter 8, Green Infrastructure, and Chapter 9, Heritage, Conservation, and Landscapes are particularly relevant. The Council also included actions from the National Pollinator Plan within our recently adopted Climate Change Action Plan (Please see actions listed under 'nature based solutions'). The Councils Heritage Plan also supports biodiversity and the Councils Tree Management Policy 'Living with Trees' puts the management of trees within a structure that supports the retention and expansion of the Councils tree canopy as well as encouraging the planting of native tree species.

It is intended to formally sign up for the All Ireland Pollinator Plan in October 2019 (after presentation to the EWCC SPC). South Dublin County Council has been to the forefront in implementing projects and initiatives that support biodiversity and pollinators and a number are outlined below; these are of varying scales which outlines the myriad of levels at which the council is taking action; many of these actions are in partnership with community groups, local resident associations and Tidy Towns Groups, as well as with the support and encouragement of elected members and Council Staff.

The main action undertaken by the Council that benefits pollinators involves a restructuring of mowing patterns and timings. South Dublin County Council have audited some of our wildflower meadows with insect surveys and these display a wide variety of insect life, in some cases quite rare species have been discovered (reference Tymon Park). In order to create the wildflower meadows, altered mowing regimes have been in place in a number of the Council’s larger parks for the benefit of pollinators and biodiversity for a number of years; commencing with 13 separate areas in Tymon Park totalling 18 ha and 3 areas along the Dodder Valley Park totalling 5 ha. These areas were chosen for their particular soil types, the nature of their botanical composition, and their contribution to the amenity enjoyment of these parks. In 2019 these areas of wild flower meadowland have been increased to 90 hectares; at various locations within our parks across the county. This has proven to be a popular and highly successful action; with orchids in the thousands being counted and much positive comment and feedback being received from members of the public. It is intended to carry out ecological surveys in 2020 in these meadows and evaluate our success to date in terms of supporting insects and wildlife. This will allow us to also evaluate other locations for this reduced mowing approach. These wildflower meadows are highly important for pollinators as a lot of the meadowland species are native or naturalised and support local pollinators. For instance; over many years the mowing regime in Tymon Park has supported an annual flowering of cowslips which is an early food source for insects.

South Dublin County Council has also implemented a maintenance regime to control Invasive Alien Species for the past 3 years; this innovative and proactive approach puts SDCC at the forefront of control of Invasive Alien Species. While this action is not within the pollinator plan it does support nature based actions to address Climate Change and is an important measure in supporting Ireland's' native ecology (which in turn supports pollinators).

### **Q44/0919 TREE CLAIMS**

### **QUESTION: Councillor Mary Seery-Kearney**

To ask the Chief Executive if he would confirm if the Council has been in receipt of any claims for damage caused to private property by Council owned trees, and if so, can he quantify the number of claims, the attendant costs, and if he would make a statement on the matter.

**REPLY:**

The Council’s insurers have carried out a review of claims since 2015 and have reported on the matter.  Where property damage only is claimed and where a tree is mentioned in the circumstances there are 8 relevant claims and €21,500 has been expended in resolving these. These figures do not include accidents involving trees which have occurred in storm conditions.

The Council’s Tree management Policy ‘Living with Trees’ states ‘Trees in an urban environment will inevitably conflict with people and infrastructure which creates pressures for trees to be pruned or felled. The perceived threat of damage by tree roots is sometimes a worry people have about trees near to buildings or built structures. Much of this concern is unwarranted as most trees growing near buildings cause no damage. Tree roots are unlikely to directly penetrate sound footings. Lightly loaded structures, if they have inadequate foundations, may be affected by pressure exerted by tree roots or trunks but in such cases trees are not the primary cause of damage.

The Council recognises that trees under its ownership/management may be implicated in damage to nearby built structures but is also aware that trees are not always the causative agent and that nearby trees often get blamed for damage before a thorough investigation is carried out. Some other reasons for structural failure are inadequate foundation design, general structural failure, poor quality construction, nearby excavations or major works to adjacent properties.

### **Q45/0919 TREES OVERHANGING**

### **QUESTION: Councillor Mary Seery-Kearney**

To ask the Chief Executive if the Council has been in receipt of claims for reimbursement of tree surgery/maintenance where residents have been obliged to take action on Council owned trees overhanging the resident's properties, and if he would make a statement on the matter.

**REPLY:**

The Council is not aware of any claims for reimbursement of tree surgery/maintenance where residents have been obliged to take action on Council owned trees overhanging the resident's properties.

The Council's Tree Management Policy 'Living with Trees' states 'The Council has no legal obligation to prune overhanging trees unless they are causing direct damage to an adjacent property or are imminently dangerous. This reflects the Council’s position as an owner of thousands of trees and the resources available. Given that many thousands of Council trees overhang boundaries, it is not an effective use of resources to prune every overhanging limb. Tree roots in gardens are a natural occurrence and root presence is unlikely to be affected by tree pruning. However, situations where a tree is genuinely generating root encroachment to an exceptional, severe and unreasonable degree are dealt with on a case-by-case basis. Adjacent landowners are entitled to prune encroaching tree branches or roots back to the boundary of their property.

### **Q46/0919 ENFORCEMENT ACTIONS**

### **QUESTION: Councillor Mary Seery-Kearney**

To ask the Chief Executive to provide a report in relation to the number of enforcement actions taken in relation to planning violations over the lifetime of the last Council term and if he would care to make a statement on the matter.

**REPLY:**

A total of 780 Planning Enforcement files were opened over the lifetime of the last Council term.

06/06/2014 - 31/12/2014 - 89

2015 - 168

2016 - 92

2017 - 97

2018 - 233

01/01/2019 - 06/06/2019 - 101

### **Q47/0919 ENFORCEMENT OF TENANCY AGREEMENT**

### **QUESTION: Councillor Mary Seery-Kearney**

To ask the Chief Executive to provide a report in relation to actions taken by the Council against Council tenants to enforce the clauses of tenancy agreements, the number arising in an annual period, time taken from complaint to execution of the action to enforce the clause, and if he would care to make a statement in relation to the matter.

**REPLY:**

Complaints received in respect of breaches of tenancy are categorised and assigned to an allocation support officer for investigation within 5 working days.

Complaints are investigated (without endangering the complainant) and where sufficient evidence exists, the alleged offending tenant will be requested to attend for interview.  At the interview the will be reminded of their obligations under the Tenancy Agreement and the consequences of breaching their tenancy agreement will be outlined.  Following the interview, where appropriate, a written Tenancy Warning may issue under section 7 (in relation to anti-social behaviour) and/or Section 9 (other breaches of tenancy) of the Housing (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 2014.  The Act requires the Council to specify the following when serving the Tenancy Warning: the specific tenancy agreement clause breached; what actions the tenant is required to take to ensure that the breach does not continue; the tenant's right to apply for a Review under Section 10 of the Act; and to notify the tenant that if the breach continues or is repeated within 12 months the Council may apply for a Possession Order without issuing a further Tenancy Warning.

Under Section 7 of the Act, the Council are required to also specify the following in relation to the anti-social behaviour: who breached the Clause, (tenant, member of tenant’s household, visitor to tenant’s household); date and time of breach and details of breach, (specifics of the anti-social behaviour, nuisance and/or annoyance).

A tenant who has been served with a Tenancy Warning Notice has the right to appeal this notice internally within the Council in the first instance and can seek to give oral evidence in the appeal.  It should be noted that if the breach of tenancy is in relation to matters under the remit of An Garda Siochana, they should in the first instance be reported to An Garda Síochána and then to the Council.

Any action open to the Council requires us to be fair in its investigation and any actions taken to be proportionate to the breach of tenancy.  Where both parties are willing, the Council can also refer tenants and their neighbours to South Dublin Mediation Services, an independent body, in a bid to resolve issues.

From January 2019 to the end of July, 2019 384 incidents of breaches of tenancy have been reported to the Council for investigation resulting in 3 warnings being issued under Section 7, 11 warnings under Section 9 and a further 80 initial written warnings being issued.

### **Q48/0919 EMPLOYMENT OF PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES**

### **QUESTION: Councillor Mary Seery-Kearney**

To ask the Chief Executive if the Council have a policy for the employment of persons with disabilities, particularly those with autism and dyspraxia, and whether the Council have engaged with the Department of Social Protection Employability Service Programme and if he would like to make a statement on the matter.

**REPLY:**

South Dublin County Council are committed to implementing a policy of equal opportunity for disabled people and, in particular, to making sure that disabled people have access to the full range of recruitment and career development opportunities available in South Dublin County Council, and have an equal opportunity to be selected, trained and promoted within the County Council. Disabled people are entitled, as a right, to apply for any post in the local authority service for which they are qualified and to have their applications considered on the basis of their abilities, qualifications and suitability for the work in question. Furthermore, it is recognised that disabled people which, in the past, would have been regarded as unsuitable for any or most types of employment are now in a position, through personal assistance and the use of advanced technology, and other means, to overcome the restrictions resulting from their impairments and the environment in which they live and work and to engage in a far wider range of employments. This is outlined in the Council’s Policy for the Employment of Disabled People in South Dublin County Council and the Council’s Equal Opportunity Policy. The Policies explain that the term disabled people should be understood to include all disabled people

To support our implementation of these policies, South Dublin County Council maintain contact with local organisations of and for disabled people (for example Employability and Menni Saint John of God  and Cheeverstown) to make sure that a high level of awareness of job opportunities is available in the local authority service. Through contacts with organisations of and for disabled people, South Dublin County Council actively encourages disabled people to consider the local authority service as a career choice. Currently we are providing three supported work placements for people with learning / intellectual disabilities in the organisation.

### **Q49/0919 FUTURE PART 8S (HOUSING)**

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

To ask the Chief Executive for a report into what Part 8s are proposed to be raised for the lifetime of the council?  How many houses will this provide for?

**REPLY:**

Sites under consideration for the Council's social housing construction programme were outlined at a [Special Council Meeting in October 2018.](http://intranet/Cmas/documentsbyitem.aspx?itemid=60044)  Of those sites the only remaining sites to progress to part 8 are as follows:

"Eircom Site"/Nangor Road - public consultation period has finished for proposal for 93 social homes at this site.  Part 8 report to go to Council.

Stocking Lane - initial proposals presented to ACM in January with potential for approximately 50 social homes and proposal to being considered to proceed to Part 8.

Old Lucan Road, Palmerstown - proposals for 4 social homes in partnership with an Approved Housing Body to go to Part 8.

Site at Lindisfarne - final proposals for integrated development comprising social housing to be brought to Area Committee & Part 8.

Rossfield Avenue - proposals for refurbishment of vacant property to provide two social homes to be brought to Area Committee & Part 8.

The potential for the Council's larger capacity sites at Clonburris SDZ, Killinarden, Belgard Square North and Rathcoole were outlined to the Elected Members at the [July Council Meeting](http://intranet/Cmas/documents/County%20Council/2019/July/July2019CountyCouncilMeeting/6c5bf0e8-929d-438e-8112-55b892d63602.pdf) - the proposed planning and procurement routes for these sites are currently being considered and will be presented to Members in the near future.

In addition, some possible infill sites being examined for their potential to provide older persons' accommodation to facilitate right-sizing and addressing under-occupancy in existing Council stock - proposals will be brought to area committees where sites are considered feasible for such development.

As ever, members are welcome to suggest sites across the County with potential for social housing development for assessment by staff in the Housing Deparetment.

### **Q50/0919 SWIFT BIRD PROJECT**

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

To ask the Chief Executive for a report into ''Swifts'' birds in our county? What is being done to preserve there nesting areas, how many are know to be in SDCC area and in what locations?

**REPLY:**

Swifts are small migratory birds which are larger than Swallows and which arrive in Ireland to breed every May. Adult Swifts mate for life and are frequently seen in urban areas, constructing their nests in crevices in buildings and eaves of houses. They are site-faithful, returning to the same nesting site for many years.

To date, two locations in Clondalkin have been confirmed as Swift nesting sites – the Council’s outdoor Depot in Deansrath and the Convent of the Immaculate Conception.

Swifts are currently showing worrying declines in population size and distribution, with data indicating that a 40% decline has occurred in the last 10 years alone. For this reason they are on the ‘Amber’ list of Birds of Conservation Concern. Reasons for their decline include loss of nesting sites during renovation and construction of new buildings without suitable nesting opportunities.

Under the Heritage Plan, the County Heritage Officer has participated in a joint Heritage Officer project which worked with BirdWatch Ireland to produce guidelines for the protection and conservation of Swifts. This document ‘Saving Swifts’ is now available from the Heritage Officer and outlines measures that can assist Swifts to breed successfully in this County.

The Heritage Officer is also currently in discussion with BirdWatch Ireland in relation to the development of a ‘Saving Swifts’ project in South Dublin County for 2020. This project will include an assessment of the current distribution of Swift nesting sites across the County and advising Council and communities on how nesting sites can be protected, enhanced, or created into the future.

### **Q51/0919 RODENT CONTROL**

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

To ask the Chief Executive for a report into the issue of rats. As there is so much work planned in SDCC who should residents contact and how many are employed to deal with this issue?

**REPLY:**

While all construction projects undertaken by the Council establish appropriate rodent control and disinfectant measures, rodent issues should in the first instance be referred to the HSE's Pest Control team.

### **Q52/0919 COMMUNITY CENTRES**

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

To ask the Chief Executive for a report into community centres in SDCC? How many are in the SDCC area, how many are planned and in what locations? to ask that SDCC look at how they are funded and run ? also To ask the manager to look at how other local authorities fund these vital community services.

**REPLY:**

There are 37 facilities located within South Dublin County that are classified as multi-purpose community centres with most but not all on Council owned land. There are a further 9 neighbourhood community facilities as well as a range of other facilities including school halls, parish centres, sports club facilities, scouts' dens etc. that also offer the opportunity for local communities to utilise their facilities at certain times for a wide range of community uses.  In addition to these, work is ongoing by the Council to provide three additional community facilities in Saggart Village; Orchard Road, Clondalkin; and, in the new housing development at Balgaddy.

Council owned facilities are managed by local management companies - these companies limited by guarantee and comprise representation from local communities and along with officials assigned from the Council's local community devlopment teams.  The management companies utilise a wide range of funding opportunities and supports on offer from a broad range of sources including from the Council and some central government departments to supplement locally generated funds in order to meet the running costs of the facilities.   This approach is generally in line with the manner in which community facilities are operated in other local authority areas.  However, if there are alternative funding methods proposed, the Social & Community SPC can explore the appropriateness of the current support and funding model for community centres.

### **Q53/0919 PART V DELIVERY**

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

To ask the Chief Executive for a report into how many council houses have been provided by Part 5s for the years 2017, 2018 , 2019 and how many are envisaged for the next 5 years?  To also ask how these houses are allocated and is there any situation where a new development would not have to provide council housing of 10%?

**REPLY:**

The number of Part V units delivered for 2017, 2018, 2019 (year to date & projected) and 2020 (projected) is as follows:

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
|  Year | No. of Part V Homes Delivered |
|  2017 |  51 |
| 2018 | 145 |
| 2019 - to end August 2019 | 25 |
| 2019 - projected to end of year | 95 |
| 2020 - projected | 68 |

The Housing Department works closely with the Planning Department to track active planning permissions but we do not have a specific, projected delivery figure for Part V units beyond 2020 at this stage.

Our Part V team work with developers to negotiate and agree suitable housing which meets the needs of clients on the Council's housing waiting list while also striving to ensure good value for money.

Under the current legislation, the developer must provide 10% of social housing within all private housing developments.  The Council and the developer may agree to provide the 10% at a different location where value for money or other considerations make it the most appropriate solution but this is generally the least preferable option will only be used where absolutely necessary.

### **H6/0919 DECLARATION OF ROADS TO BE MADE PUBLIC ROADS**

It was **NOTED** that there were no reports under this Heading

### **H7a/0919 PROPOSED DISPOSAL OF PROPERTIES/SITES**

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

***Re: Small Builders Scheme - Proposed Disposal of Fee Simple Interest in 99, Balrothery Estate, Tallaght, Dublin, 24***

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 interest in the site listed hereunder to Patricia Gilligan to whom the site has been leased under the terms of the Council's Small Builders Scheme. Patricia Gilligan has applied in accordance with the provisions of the Landlord and Tenant (Ground Rents) (No. 2) Act, 1978 to acquire the fee simple interest in the property. The Ground Rent payable is €19.04 per annum.

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Site No.** | **Lessee** | **Date of Lease** | **Land Acquired From** | **Purchase Price** |
| *99, Balrothery Estate, Tallaght, Dublin, 24* | *Patricia Gilligan* | *28th October 1974* | *Siobhan O’Shea* | *€990.08* |

D. McLoughlin

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Chief Executive

The reports were **NOTED** and it was proposed byCouncillor M. Duff, seconded by Councillor C. King and **RESOLVED:**

“That the proposed Disposals of properties/sites, be **ADOPTED** and **APPROVED.”**

### **H7b/0919 PROPOSED DISPOSAL OF PROPERTIES/SITES**

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

***Re: Small Builders Scheme - Proposed Disposal of Fee Simple Interest in 184 Alpine Heights, Clondalkin, Dublin, 22***

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 interest in the site listed hereunder to Ann Tracy to whom the site has been leased under the terms of the Council's Small Builders Scheme. Ann Tracy has applied in accordance with the provisions of the Landlord and Tenant (Ground Rents) (No. 2) Act, 1978 to acquire the fee simple interest in the property. The Ground Rent payable is €19.04 per annum.

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Site No. | Lessee | Date of Lease | Land Acquired From | Purchase Price |
| *184 Alpine Heights,**Clondalkin, Dublin, 22* | *Ann Tracy* | *14th October 1976* | *Edward O’Dowd* | €1009.00 |

D. McLoughlin

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Chief Executive

The reports were **NOTED** and it was proposed byCouncillor M. Duff, seconded by Councillor C. King and **RESOLVED:**

“That the proposed Disposals of properties/sites, be **ADOPTED** and **APPROVED.”**

### **H7c/0919 PROPOSED DISPOSAL OF PROPERTIES/SITES**

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

**LD 386F Disposal of freehold interest in plot of land to rear**

 **83 Hillcrest Drive, Lucan, Co. Dublin**

The houseowners of 83 Hillcrest Drive, Lucan, Co. Dublin, Liam and Nuala Reidy, have applied to purchase a plot of Council owned land to the rear of their property.

The matter was referred to the Council’s Valuer for examination and he has recommended the following terms which he considers to be fair and reasonable and which have been accepted by the Applicants.

Accordingly, I now recommend that the Council dispose of the plot of land measuring 0.016 hectares (160 square metres) or thereabouts to the rear of 83 Hillcrest Drive, Lucan, Co. Dublin as shown outlined in red on attached Drawing No. LA/10/19 to the respective houseowners, Liam and Nuala Reidy , in accordance with Section 211 of the Planning and Development Act, 2000 and subject to the provisions of Section 183 of the Local Government Act, 2001 subject to the following terms and conditions as recommended by the Council’s Valuer:-

1. That the overall plot comprises an area of 0.016 hectares (160 square metres) or thereabouts as outlined in red on Drawing No. LA/10/19.
2. That the Council shall dispose of the subject plot for the consideration of €1,500 (one thousand five hundred euro) plus VAT (if applicable).
3. That the land is disposed of with full freehold title and vacant possession.
4. That the Applicants shall provide evidence of their legal interest in the property satisfactory to the Law Agent.
5. That the Applicants shall enter into a covenant restricting the use of the land for gardening purposes only and that no building shall be erected thereon.
6. That the Applicants shall incorporate the area and the boundary feature constructed be in accordance with the Planning & Development and the Building Control legislation.
7. That the Applicants shall pay the Council’s legal fees plus VAT and outlay.
8. That the Applicants shall pay the Council Valuer’s fees of €800 (eight hundred euro) plus VAT.
9. That in the event of any name change to Applicants prior to formal completion of the legal transfer, the Applicants must provide documentary evidence to the Council proving that the new named party is one and the same as the named Applicants heretofore to enable the transfer to complete.
10. That the Law Agent shall draft the necessary documents and include any further terms deemed appropriate in Agreements of this nature.
11. That no agreement enforceable at law is created or intended to be created until such time as contracts have been exchanged.
12. That the disposal is subject to the necessary approvals and consents being obtained.

The lands to be disposed of form part of lands acquired under the Dublin County Council Compulsory Purchase (Lucan By-Pass) Order 1983 for roads purposes.

**Daniel McLoughlin**

**Chief Executive**

The reports were **NOTED** and it was proposed byCouncillor M. Duff, seconded by Councillor C. King and **RESOLVED:**

“That the proposed Disposals of properties/sites, be **ADOPTED** and **APPROVED.”**

### **H7d/0919 PROPOSED DISPOSAL OF PROPERTIES/SITES**

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

**LD 1499 Disposal of substation site to ESB at Esker, Lucan adjacent Lucan Swimming Pool site**

The Council is developing a new Swimming pool complex at Esker, Lucan on lands which form part of the Scheme of Transfer of lands from Dublin City Council approved by Minister for the Environment by order dated 22nd April 1996 under the provisions of the Local Government (Dublin) Act 1993.

The Electricity Supply Board (ESB) have made an application to acquire the freehold interest in an area adjacent to the swimming pool site as indicated outlined in red on Indicative Drawing No. ESBLSP-1 for the erection of a substation which will provide essential service to the new swimming pool complex.

I recommend that the Council dispose of its freehold interest in the plot of land contained therein as outlined in red on Indicative Drawing No. ESBLSP-1, in accordance with Section 211 of the Planning and Development Act, 2000 and subject to the provisions of Section 183 of the Local Government Act, 2001 subject to the following terms and conditions:-

1. That the Council dispose of its interest in the plot of land outlined in red on Indicative Drawing No. ESBLSP-1.

1. That the ESB shall pay a contribution in respect of the Council’s legal fees.
2. That in the event of any name change to applicant prior to formal completion of the legal transfer, the applicant must provide documentary evidence to the Council proving that the new named party is one and the same as the named applicant heretofore to enable the transfer to complete.
3. That each party shall use their best endeavours to complete the transaction within a reasonable timeframe following adoption of the disposal resolution.
4. That the Law Agent shall draft the necessary documents and include any further terms deemed appropriate in Agreements of this nature.
5. That no contract enforceable at law is created or intended to be created until such time as contracts have been exchanged.
6. That the disposal is subject to the necessary approvals and consents being obtained.

The lands being disposed of form part of the lands acquired from Dublin City Council (formerly Dublin Corporation) in 1997 under the Scheme of Transfer of Lands pursuant to the Local Government (Dublin) Act, 1993.

**Daniel McLoughlin**

**Chief Executive**

The reports were **NOTED** and it was proposed byCouncillor M. Duff, seconded by Councillor C. King and **RESOLVED:**

“That the proposed Disposals of properties/sites, be **ADOPTED** and **APPROVED.”**

### **H7e/0919 PROPOSED DISPOSAL OF PROPERTIES/SITES**

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

**LD 1501 Leasehold disposal of indoor substation site to the ESB –**

 **HSE Community Nursing Unit, Tymon North Rd., Tallaght**

The Council at its meeting on 14 July 2014 approved the disposal of a site at Tymon North Road, Tallaght, Dublin 24 to the Health Service Executive (HSE) to facilitate the provision of a Community Nursing Unit (CNU). Chief Executive’s Order Dev/16A/14 and Minute No. H7b/0714 refer.

Due to constraints of the site regarding access to services, the Council at its meeting on 11 May 2015, approved the disposal of a further adjoining plot of land to the HSE. Chief Executive’s Order Dev/27/15 and Minute No. H7a/0515 refer.

The combined disposal by Agreement to Lease is nearing completion and work is well underway on the Community Nursing Unit development.

The Electricity Supply Board (ESB) have made an application to acquire the leasehold interest in an area of the Community Nursing Unit for the erection of an indoor substation which will provide essential service to the Unit. The application also includes a request for a Right-of-Way to provide access to the substation. The HSE has agreed to these requests.

I recommend that the Council dispose of its leasehold interest in the site outlined in red and identified as ‘ESB Substation Site’, and grant a Right-of Way for area of land shaded yellow on Drawing No. LA/37/18, in accordance with Section 211 of the Planning and Development Act, 2000 and subject to the provisions of Section 183 of the Local Government Act, 2001 subject to the following terms and conditions:-

1. That the Council dispose of its leasehold interest in the site outlined in red and identified ‘ESB Substation Site’ on Drawing No. LA/37/18 comprising 0.81 hectares or thereabouts for the consideration of €10 (ten euro).
2. That the Council grant a Right-of-Way over land shaded yellow on Drawing No. LA/37/18.
3. That the ESB shall pay a contribution in respect of the Council’s legal fees.
4. That in the event of any name change to Applicant prior to formal completion of the legal transfer, the Applicant must provide documentary evidence to the Council proving that the new named party is one and the same as the named Applicant heretofore to enable the transfer to complete.
5. That each party shall use their best endeavours to complete the transaction within a reasonable timeframe following adoption of the disposal resolution.
6. That the Law Agent shall draft the necessary documents and shall include any further terms deemed appropriate in Agreements of this nature.
7. That no contract enforceable at law is created or intended to be created until such time as contracts have been exchanged.
8. That the disposal is subject to the necessary approvals and consents being obtained.

The site disposed of is part of lands acquired from M. Waterman in 1975 for housing and open space purposes.

**Daniel McLoughlin**

**Chief Executive**

The reports were **NOTED** and it was proposed byCouncillor M. Duff, seconded by Councillor C. King and **RESOLVED:**

“That the proposed Disposals of properties/sites, be **ADOPTED** and **APPROVED.”**

### **H7f/0919 PROPOSED DISPOSAL OF PROPERTIES/SITES**

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

**LD 1502 Disposal of freehold interest in substation site to ESB –**

 **Corkagh Grange, Old Nangor Road, Dublin 22**

Under the National Treasury Management Agency’s Public Private Partnership agreement with South Dublin County Council and the Comhar consortium (Developer/Operator), construction of 109 social housing units are to be delivered on Council owned land at Corkagh Grange, Old Nangor Road, Dublin 22.

The Electricity Supply Board (ESB) have made an application to acquire the freehold interest of site outlined in red on Drawing No. LD 1502 for the erection of a substation which will provide essential service to the proposed development above.

I recommend that South Dublin County Council disposes of its freehold interest in the plot of land outlined in red on Drawing No. LD 1502 in accordance with Section 211 of the Planning and Development Act, 2000 and subject to the provisions of Section 183 of the Local Government Act, 2001 subject to the following terms and conditions:-

1. That the Council dispose of its freehold interest in the plot of land outlined in red on Drawing No. LD 1502.
2. That the ESB shall pay a contribution in respect of the Council’s legal fees.
3. That in the event of any name change to Applicant prior to formal completion of the legal transfer, the Applicant must provide documentary evidence to the Council proving that the new named party is one and the same as the named Applicant heretofore to enable the transfer to complete.
4. That each party shall use their best endeavours to complete the transaction within a reasonable timeframe following adoption of the disposal resolution.
5. That the Law Agent shall draft the necessary documents and include any further terms deemed appropriate in Agreements of this nature.
6. That no contract enforceable at law is created or intended to be created until such time as contracts have been exchanged.
7. That the disposal is subject to the necessary approvals and consents being obtained.

The lands were acquired from Kilcarberry Limited in 1983 for housing, open space and roads purposes.

**Daniel McLoughlin**

**Chief Executive**

The reports were **NOTED** and it was proposed byCouncillor M. Duff, seconded by Councillor C. King and **RESOLVED:**

“That the proposed Disposals of properties/sites, be **ADOPTED** and **APPROVED.”**

### **H8/0919 MANAGERS REPORT**

 The following reports by the Chief Executive, which had been circulated, were presented by Mr. D. Mc Loughlin, Chief Executive and were **CONSIDERED:**

**Billing and Collection Statement**





**Use of overdraft facility**

Department approved overdraft facility = €25,000,000

No of days in Overdraft from 1st January to 23rd August 2019 = 0

[HI 8 b) June Stats Report](http://www.sdublincoco.ie/sdcc/departments/corporate/apps/cmas/documentsview.aspx?id=63971)
[Hi 8 c) July Stats Report](http://www.sdublincoco.ie/sdcc/departments/corporate/apps/cmas/documentsview.aspx?id=63972)

The Reports were **NOTED.**

### **H9/0919 CONSIDERATION OF LOCAL PROPERTY TAX – LOCAL ADJUSTMENT FACTOR (LPT VARIATION)**

The following reports by the Chief Executive, which had been circulated, were presented by Mr. R. FitzGerald, Head of Finance and were **CONSIDERED:**

[a) LPT Variation Budget 2020 Strategy Presentation](http://www.sdublincoco.ie/sdcc/departments/corporate/apps/cmas/documentsview.aspx?id=63995)
[b) LPT Local Adjustment Factor report to Council](http://www.sdublincoco.ie/sdcc/departments/corporate/apps/cmas/documentsview.aspx?id=63996)
[c) Circular Fin 05/2019](http://www.sdublincoco.ie/sdcc/departments/corporate/apps/cmas/documentsview.aspx?id=63997)

A discussion followed with contributions from Councillors E. O’Brien, C. King, F. Duffy, F. Timmons, L. O’Toole, K. Mahon, P. Kearns, G. O’Connell, M. Duff, P. Kavanagh and P. Gogarty.

Mr. R. FitzGerald, Head of Finance, responded to the Members queries.

Councillor E. O’Brien **proposed** and Councillor C. King **seconded** a reduction of 15% in the rate of property tax.

Councillor F. Duffy **proposed** and Councillor P. Kearns **seconded** a reduction of 10% in the rate of property tax.

**A roll call vote on the reduction of the LPT by 10% was taken and the result was as follows:**

**FOR: NINE (9)**

**Cllrs C. Bailey, F. Duffy, A. Edge, P. Gogarty, P. Kavanagh, P. Kearns, E. Ó’Broin W. Priestley, L. Sinclair**

**AGAINST: TWENTY FIVE (25)**

**Cllrs. W. Carey, V. Casserly, Y. Collins, T. Costello, M. Duff, L. Dunne, K. Egan, S. Fay, T. Gilligan, A. Hayes, E. Higgins, P. Holohan, C. King, B. Lawlor, K. Mahon, D. McManus, S. Moynihan, E. O’Brien, G. O’Connell, D. O’Donovan, L. O’Toole, B. Pereppadan, M. Seery Kearney, F. Timmons, M. Ward**

**ABSTAIN: ZERO (0)**

The Local Property Tax Variation OF 10% **FELL.**

**A roll call vote on the reduction of the LPT by 15% was taken and the result was as follows:**

**FOR: TWENTY EIGHT (28)**

**Cllrs. W. Carey, V. Casserly, Y. Collins, T. Costello, M. Duff, F. Duffy, L. Dunne, A. Edge, K. Egan, S. Fay, T. Gilligan, P. Gogarty, A. Hayes, E. Higgins, P. Holohan, C. King, B. Lawlor, K. Mahon, D. McManus, S. Moynihan, E. O’Brien, G. O’Connell, D. O’Donovan, L. O’Toole, B. Pereppadan, M. Seery Kearney, F. Timmons, M. Ward**

**AGAINST: ONE (1)**

**Cllr. C. Bailey**

**ABSTAIN: FIVE (5)**

**Cllrs. P. Kavanagh, P. Kearns, E. Ó’Broin,W. Priestley, L. Sinclair**

The Local Property Tax Variation OF 15% was **APPROVED.**

### **H10/0919 AUDIT REPORT**

The following report by the Chief Executive, which had been circulated, was presented by Mr. R. FitzGerald, Head of Finance and was **CONSIDERED:**

[HI 10 2018 Audit Report](http://www.sdublincoco.ie/sdcc/departments/corporate/apps/cmas/documentsview.aspx?id=63980)

A discussion followed with contributions from Councillor L. O’Toole

Mr. R. FitzGerald responded to the Members queries.

###  The Report was **NOTED.**

**H11/0919 SPC SCHEME 2019 -2024**

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

A discussion followed with contributions from Councillors K. Mahon, E. Ó’Broin, G. O’Connell, M. Ward, M. Duff, L. Dunne, C. Bailey, A. Edge, E. O’Brien, K. Mahon, P. Kavanagh, P. Gogarty, P. Kearns, C. King and V. Casserly

It was proposed by Councillor V. Casserly and seconded by Councillor T. Gilligan and **AGREED** that the SPC Scheme 2019 – 2024 be deferred.

### **H12/0919 IRISH LANGUAGE SCHEME 2019-2022**

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

**Report on the preparation of the Fourth Irish Language Scheme 2019 – 2022.**

## **This report outlines the consultation process and the structure of the draft Fourth Irish Language Scheme. Copies of the submissions received are provided at the end and have been translated from Irish to English and from English to Irish.**

In accordance with section 14(3) of the Act, language schemes remain in force for a period of 3 years or until such time as a new scheme is confirmed by the Minister for Culture, Heritage and the Gaeltacht, whichever is the later.

South Dublin County Council is eager to continue to implement an Irish Language Scheme that offers quality services for our Irish speaking citizens and visitors to our County. Since the introduction of the first scheme in 2009, the council has made significant progress in the provision of services in Irish. The current scheme (2015 - 2019) expires on 16 October 2019.

**Note re Draft Scheme: The English Version is the original version of the Scheme but once noted the scheme will be translated and available bilingually**.

## PREPARATION AND CONTENT OF THE SCHEME

South Dublin County Council published a notice of intention to prepare a draft scheme in local newspapers, on [www.sdcc.ie](http://www.sdcc.ie) and [www.athcliaththeas.ie](http://www.athcliaththeas.ie) and social media on 19 June 2019. Further posts were issued on social media during the months of June and July, whilst elected members of the council were also notified of the Consultation by email in July. There was a five-week consultation period ending 26 July 2019. Five submissions were received during the consultation period from 20 June to 26 July 2019.

South Dublin County Councilis guided by the principles that the provision of Irish language services should be based on:

* the underlying level of demand for specific services in the Irish language,
* the importance of a proactive approach to the provision of such services, and
* the resources, including human and financial resources, and the capacity of South Dublin County Council to develop or access the necessary language capability.

This scheme complements the principles of Quality Customer Service and our Customer Charter. It has been formulated with the intention of ensuring that all relevant obligations under the Official Languages Act by South Dublin County Council will be fully addressed on an incremental basis.

Five written submissions / observations were received.

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Submitter** | **Issues Raised** | **Response** |
| Mr John Conroy | Too many resources used on promoting the Irish language. | The Council endeavours to allocate the appropriate resources to demand for services in the Irish language. |
|  | Implementation of the Irish language scheme isolates those unable to speak the language. | Whilst the Council is proactive in promoting the Irish language, it also ensures those unable to speak the language are catered for. |
| Sensory Fun with Friends | The need for Irish sign language to have a standalone scheme or to be included in the Irish language scheme. | Whilst not included in the scheme, the Council has contracted Irish sign language experts for relevant internal and external events in the past and will continue to do so. |
| Conradh na Gaeilge | First greeting with and conversation with a customer to be carried out in Irish to encourage the language’s use. | Addressed in scheme. |
|  | Irish only or bilingual signage to be erected on Council buildings | Addressed in scheme. |
|  | Sign displaying at customer desks or employee badge stating that the Council offer services in Irish. | Addressed in scheme. |
|  | Forms and other publications should be available bilingually or automatically in Irish. | Addressed in scheme. |
|  | Stands, leaflets and posters should be bilingual. | Addressed in scheme. |
|   | A spokesperson should be made available who can carry out an interview with the media through Irish. | Addressed in scheme. |
|  | Advertising made by the Council should be bilingual, whether online, in the traditional media, on television or radio etc. | Addressed in scheme. |
|  | Irish to be used at events and in speeches. | Addressed in scheme. |
|  | A language choice featuring Irish should be available on the Council’s website and prominently displayed. | Addressed in scheme. |
|  | All online content should be available in Irish. | Addressed in scheme. |
|  | Translated forms should be available online in the same place as the English version and the Council should ensure the síneadh fada is accepted by them. | Addressed in scheme. |
|  | The same font styles and sizes should be used for both languages on the Council’s website as much as possible. | This will continue to be carried out by the Council. |
|  | A user changing their language choice while they are on the Council’s site should not be redirected to the home page of the site or to a site that deals only with Irish. | This will continue to be carried out by the Council. |
|  | An Irish version of the domain name should be available | The Council’s website address is the abbreviated www.sdcc.ie. |
|  | All information which is to be published on social media should be at least bilingual. | Addressed in scheme. |
|  | All apps developed by the Council should be at least bilingual or in Irish only. | Addressed in scheme. |
|  | Reports from customers on deisighdoshraid.ie (the Irish language version of fixyourstreet.ie) should be translated to Irish. | Resources required means this has not been included in the scheme. |
|  | All publications and forms should be made available bilingually or in Irish only, including: information leaflets, pamphlets, forms, annual reports, accounts, signs, public announcements and all other information made available | Addressed in scheme. |
|  | Irish and English should be available in one bilingual document or form side by side with the other language under the same cover | Addressed in scheme. |
|  | Information on current services, plans and all other kinds of information should be available bilingually. | Addressed in scheme. |
|  | Awareness campaigns should be held with staff on the duties and importance of the public body in respect of the Irish language | Whilst not included in the scheme, the Council notes this suggestion for future campaigns. |
|  | A system be put in place for contacting staff members able to carry out business through Irish. | Addressed in scheme. |
|  | Competence in Irish to be included during the recruitment process for the Council. | Addressed in scheme. |
|  | Employment opportunities be available to staff members who cannot provide services through the medium of Irish to support them to do this in the future. | Addressed in scheme. |
|  | Private places for Irish speaking employees be provided by the Council. | The resources required means this has not been included in the scheme. |
|  | Staff members should be able to carry out internal processes, such as promotion opportunities, staff evaluation and internal correspondence | Addressed in scheme. |
|  | Citizens should be able to access an Irish language option in each section of the Council. | Addressed in scheme. |
|  | The Council outline posts where Irish language should be a requirement and level B2 be the minimum standard for any person holding such a post. | Addressed in scheme. |
|  | Extra staff should be hired to support the Irish Language Network in Clondalkin. | Addressed in scheme. |
|  | The Council’s requirement policy should reflect any new or future recruitment legislation on Irish language competency. | Addressed in scheme. |
|  | If a citizen contacts the Council in Irish, they will be responded to in Irish. | Addressed in scheme. |
|  | Anyone contacting the Council in Irish should not experience delays in receiving a response because of choosing to do so in Irish. | Addressed through the Council’s Customer Service Action Plan. |
|  | Corporate email signatures should be bilingual. | Addressed in scheme. |
|  | Out of office or automatic messages should be written bilingually. | Whilst not included in the scheme, the Council notes this suggestion for future promotion to staff. |
|  | Council staff members who are able to speak Irish should include a line in their email signature stating that they can do so and that Irish correspondence is welcome. | Whilst not included in the scheme, the Council notes this suggestion for future promotion to staff. |
|  | Email addresses should be available bilingually. | Addressed in scheme. |
|  | Choices in Irish should be included first when customers are sent to a telephone switchboard. | Addressed in scheme. |
|  | An Irish language form of the name of the organisation should be given when phone calls are answered. | Addressed in scheme. |
|  | The receptionist in each office should be recognised as a post for which Irish is necessary. | Addressed in scheme. |
|  | The council should carry out a sociolinguistic audit before any act that may exert a negative impact on the Irish language community (such as new legislation), taking into account Article 8 in the Constitution of Ireland; the Official Languages Act 2003; the 20 Year Strategy for Irish; the Gaeltacht Act 2012; The Government Action Plan for Irish 2018 – 2022. | The Council’s Irish language scheme is in accordance with the Official Languages Act 2003 and further legislation. |
|  | The Council should apologise in writing to any customer who does not receive a service in Irish when they request it. | Addressed through the Council’s Customer Service Action Plan. |
|  | A Senior Manager should carry out monitoring on a monthly basis of the scheme, with records kept on how many times the Council is contacted in Irish and what services are asked for. | Addressed in scheme. |
|  | Recognition be given of a person’s human rights by providing services in Irish when requested. | The Council recognises this right through the Irish Language Scheme. |
|  | An audit should be carried out on signage in the Council and it should be ensured that the signage complies with Statutory Instrument No. 391 of 2008. | Addressed in scheme. |
|  | It must be ensured that there is an interpreting system available without question for the councillors for the room and for each committee in connection with them. | Addressed in scheme. |
|  | That the Council provide support to Muintir Chrónáin Teo as an Irish Language Network. | Whilst not included in the scheme, the Council will continue to provide support for Muintir Chrónáin Teo as an Irish Language Network. |
|  | The Council support the school community to strengthen Irish outside of school by supporting youth clubs through Irish. | Whilst not included in the scheme, the Council will continue to support youth groups in the area. |
|  | The Council should give regular support to the Irish Language Centre in Tallaght. | Whilst not included in the scheme, the Council will continue to support Gaelphobal Thamlachta in Tallaght. |
|  | An Irish language place names committee be formed. | Addressed in scheme. |
|  | The Council give support to a community-led Irish language plan. | Whilst not included in the scheme, the Council will continue to support community groups in raising awareness of the Irish language. |
| Mr Brian Ó Gáibhín | A Full Time Irish Language Officer be hired. | Addressed in scheme. |
|  | Public Services to be available in Irish in the county with staff available in all libraries and civic buildings. | Addressed in scheme. |
|  | Promotion of the Irish language through Irish language events, language support, signage and other areas. | Addressed in scheme. |
|  | Co-operate with community groups to raise awareness of the Irish language. | Whilst not included in the scheme, the Council will continue to support community groups in raising awareness of the Irish language. |
|  | Co-operate with local businesses/services on use and awareness of the Irish language in business. | Whilst not included in the scheme, the Council will continue to support business in the use of the Irish language. |
|  | Develop Irish as a language of communication in the operation of local community groups. | Whilst not included in the scheme, the Council will continue to support community groups in raising awareness of the Irish language. |
|  | Support physical development in the county to normalise Irish through areas such as early education services, youth and family services. | Not included in the scheme as this doesn’t fall under the remit of the Council. |
|  | Support the work of the Irish medium schools and provide opportunities to the current pupils and to the past pupils to use their Irish. | Not included in the scheme as this does not fall under the remit of the Council. |
|  | Facilities available to Irish speaking families be increased to help provide a life through Irish for their children. | The resources required means this has not been included in the scheme. |
|  | Develop the annual festival of South Dublin Irish Language Week. | Addressed in scheme. |
|  | Run a programme of activities through Irish including music, dance, drama, cards, singing, bingo, films, in various venues in the county for example in Áras Chrónáin, the Library and Brú Chrónáin. | The Council will continue to support community groups in promoting the Irish language. However, the resources required means this has not been included in the scheme. |
|  | Develop an annual Irish Language and Cultural Festival in the county. | The resources required means this has not been included in the scheme. |
|  | Support and cooperate with national Irish language and cultural festivals whilst trying to attract national festivals to the county. | Whilst not included in the scheme, the Council has noted the suggestion on attempting to attract national festivals to the County. |
|  | Establish an awareness campaign/call to action around the concept of ‘Irish together’. | Whilst not included in the scheme, the Council notes this suggestion for future campaigns. |
|  | Provide classes and courses in spoken Irish to the general public. | Addressed in scheme. |
|  | Provide support services to and organise special events for Irish language families. | The resources required means this has not been included in the scheme. |
|  | Irish to be used on local and social media by the Council. | Addressed in scheme. |
|  | Develop Cultural Tourism and recognise economic advantages of the Irish language and present this to the public. | Whilst not included in the scheme, this suggestion has been noted. |
|  | Support community groups engaged in trying to achieve Irish Language Network status and establish a structure to implement the Language Plan effectively in the county. | Whilst not included in the scheme, the Council will continue to support community groups in raising awareness of the Irish language. |
| Cllr Peter Kavanagh | Hire a Full Time Irish Language Officer. | Addressed in scheme. |
|  | The Council provides assistants with Irish in all civic offices and libraries throughout the County. | Addressed in scheme. |
|  | Increase the conspicuousness and presence of Irish in the local Council services and state services throughout the county through such things as Irish language events, signage, language supports, phrase lists and more. | Addressed in scheme. |
|  | Co-operate with community groups to develop high status for the language among the public. | Whilst not included in the scheme, the Council will continue to support community groups in raising awareness of the Irish language. |
|  | Cooperate with the local businesses/services so that more Irish to be seen and heard in them whilst supporting the development of Irish as a language of business in areas like marketing and service provision. | Whilst not included in the scheme, the Council will continue to support business in the use of the Irish language. |
|  | Develop Irish language and bilingual advertising in business venues. | Not included in the scheme as this doesn’t fall under the remit of the Council. |
|  | Develop Irish as a language of communication in the operation of local community groups and provide support to those groups. | Whilst not included in the scheme, the Council will continue to support community groups in raising awareness of the Irish language. |
|  | Support physical development in the county to normalise Irish, to empower and in raising awareness. | The resources required means this has not been included in the scheme. |
|  | That the facilities available to Irish speaking families be increased to help provide a life through Irish for their children.  | The resources required means this has not been included in the scheme. |
|  | Support the work of Irish medium schools and provide opportunities for the current pupils and past pupils to use their Irish. Support Scoil Chrónáin in moving to a more suitable education campus.  | Not included in the scheme as this does not fall under the remit of the Council. |
|  | Organise a programme of activities through Irish including music, dance, drama, cards, singing, bingo, films, in various venues in the county. | The Council will continue to support community groups in promoting the Irish language. However, the resources required means this has not been included in the scheme. |
|  | Raise [the status of the language among the young community](https://consult.sdublincoco.ie/en/submission/sd-c105-i2022-2#obs-1495). | Whilst not included in the scheme, the Council notes this suggestion for future campaigns |
|  | Develop the annual festival of South Dublin Irish Language Week. | Addressed in scheme. |
|  | Develop an annual Irish Language and Cultural Festival in the county outside of the Irish Language Week.  | The resources required means this has not been included in the scheme |
|  | Establish an awareness campaign/call to action around the concept of ‘Irish together’. | Whilst not included in the scheme, the Council notes this suggestion for future campaigns. |
|  | Support and cooperate with national Irish language and cultural festivals and try to attract national festivals to the county. | Whilst not included in the scheme, the Council has noted the suggestion on attempting to attract national festivals to the County. |
|  | Provide classes and courses in spoken Irish to the general public, develop and use facilities and resources of the Library and Áras Chrónáin Cultural Centre. | Addressed in scheme. |
|  | Provide support services to families, by organising special activities for them, workshops with experts from time to time to advise them, them to be in contact with each other as a self-support group.  | The resources required means this has not been included in the scheme |
|  | Irish to be visible and audible when the Council is in the local media and social media. | Addressed in scheme. |
|  | Demonstrate and develop among the community the advantages of raising a family through Irish. | The resources required means this has not been included in the scheme |

### A discussion followed with contributions from Councillors P. Kavanagh, S. Moynihan

### Ms. Lorna Maxwell, Director of Corporate Performance and Change Management responded to the Members query.

### The Irish Language Scheme 2019 – 2022 was **AGREED**.

###

### **H13/0919 PART 8 - HOUSING DEVELOPMENT ON THE EIRCOM SITE AT NANGOR ROAD**

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

**Chief Executive’s Report on Public Consultation in relation to the proposed Social Housing Development comprising of 93 homes on undeveloped lands at the junction of New Nangor Road and Fonthill Road South to the east, Old Nangor Road to the south and Cherrywood Crescent to the west, in Clondalkin, Dublin 22.**

**1. Introduction**

In accordance with the requirements of Part XI Planning and Development Act, 2000 (as amended) (the Act) and Part 8 of the Planning and Development Regulations, 2001 (as amended) (the Regulations), South Dublin County Council is seeking planning consent to construct a social housing development consisting of 93 homes on undeveloped lands at the junction of New Nangor Road and Fonthill Road South to the east, Old Nangor Road to the south and Cherrywood Crescent to the west, in Clondalkin, Dublin 22.

The purpose of this Chief Executive’s Report is to present the outcome of the consultation, to respond to submissions made during the consultation period and to make recommendations in relation to the proposed development where appropriate.

**2. Site Description**

The combined area of both parts of the site is approximately 2.16 hectares, or 5.33 acres, or 21,588 square metres. Both parts of the site share boundaries with New Nangor Road to the North. The east end of the site also has boundaries with Fonthill Road South, Old Nangor Road, the existing “Eircom” facility and the rear boundaries of the existing properties on Nangor Crescent. The west end of the site has a boundary to the West with the link road from New Nangor Road to Cherrywood Crescent to the South and with the existing Health Clinic and the rear gardens of Nangor Place and Bawnogue Cottages.

The centre of the site lies approximately 1 kilometre to the west of Clondalkin Village and is close to the long-term high capacity public transport route (RPA preferred route).

The east end of the site fronts onto the roundabout at the junction of New Nangor Road and Fonthill Road South.

This end of the site is characterised by the exposure of the site to the roundabout at the junction of New Nangor Road and Fonthill Road South, an existing large cluster of trees and the existing Eircom facility. It is proposed to form a pedestrian and vehicular access to the development from Old Nangor Road parallel to the East end of the Eircom facility.

**3. Scheme Description**

The proposal is for a social housing development comprising of units on undeveloped lands at the junction of New Nangor Road and Fonthill Road South to the east, Old Nangor Road to the south and Cherrywood Crescent to the west, in Clondalkin, Dublin 22. The proposed development shall consist of:

• 15 no. 3-bedroom houses, 5-person, 2-storey

• 18 no. own-door duplex units comprising 9 no. 2-bed, 3-person ground floor units and 9 no. 3-bed, 4-person, 2-storey upper units

• 60 no. apartments in 2 x 30-unit blocks, each block comprising;

➢ 6 no. 1-bedroom units

➢ 10 no. 2-bedroom units

➢ 4 no. 3-bedroom units

➢ 10 no. 3-bedroom units

All units will be provided with private open space in compliance with the current South Dublin County Council Development Plan. Car-parking will be provided as required by Development Plan standards comprising 135 no. car-parking spaces in total. The development will also include 2 no. single-storey utility buildings including bin stores, sub-stations and a total of 16 no. internal long stay bicycle parking spaces and 8 no. external short stay bicycle spaces.

The associated works are to include: New access to the east of the site off Old Nangor Road, new access to the west of the site off Cherrywood Crescent, landscaping works to boundaries, new park/play areas, ancillary works to landscape housing areas, and all necessary associated ancillary works on the site and adjacent areas.

|  |
| --- |
| Plans and reports for proposed development are shown on the following links: Sheet 1 Site Location map Sheet 2 Existing Site Plan Sheet 3 Proposed Site Plan Sheet 4 Contiguous Elevations Sheet 5 Apartments Basement, GF, FF Plans and 3Ds Sheet 6 Apartments 2F,3F Plans, Section and 3Ds – Layouts & 3D Views (2) Sheet 7 Apartments 4F, Roof Plan Elevations Sheet 8 Apartments East West Elevations Sheet 9 Block C Plans 3Ds Sheet 10 Block C Elevations & section Sheet 11 Block D Plans, Section, Elevations & 3Ds Sheet 12 Block E Plans, Section, Elevations & 3Ds Sheet 13 Block F Plans, Section & 3Ds Sheet 14 Block F Elevations Sheet 15 Block G Plans, Section, Elevations & 3Ds Sheet 16 Block H GF, FF Plans and 3Ds Sheet 17 Block H 2F, Roof Plans, Section and 3Ds Sheet 18 Block H Elevations Sheet 19 Block J GF, FF Plans and 3Ds Sheet 20 Block J 2F, Roof Plan, Section and 3D Sheet 21 Block J Elevations Sheet 22 Drainage Layout - West Sheet 23 Drainage Layout - East Screening for Appropriate Assessment Screening for Environmental Impact Assessment Part 8 Architect’s Report  |

• Newspaper Notice in the Echo and the Gazette;

• Public consultation displays in South Dublin County Council Offices at County Hall in Tallaght and Civic Offices in Clondalkin;

• Briefings for Elected Members, and local residents and;

• Information on Social Media including Facebook and Twitter.

**4. Public Consultation**

Plans and particulars of the proposed development for Nangor Road were on public display for over six weeks from 11th July to 23rd August 2019 (inclusive). During the public consultation information on the proposed social housing development at Nangor Road was disseminated to the public and submissions were invited.

The public consultation on the proposed social housing development included the following statutory and non-statutory elements:

Submissions and observations on the Nangor Road social housing development could be made online and in writing for a period of over six (6) weeks between 11th of July to 23rd of August 2019 (inclusive).

**5. Legislative Background**

Section 179 (3) (a) of the Act, requires that the Chief Executive shall, after the end of the public consultation period, prepare a written report in relation to the proposed development and submit the report to the members.

Section 179 (3) (b) of the Act outlines that a report shall—

i. Describe the nature and extent of the proposed development and the principal features thereof, and shall include an appropriate plan of the development and appropriate map of the relevant area;

ii. Evaluate whether or not the proposed development would be consistent with the proper planning and sustainable development of the area to which the development relates, having regard to the provisions of the Development Plan and giving the reasons and the considerations for the evaluation;

iii. List the persons or bodies who made submissions or observations with respect to the proposed development;

iv. Summarise the issues, with respect to the proper planning and sustainable development of the area in which the proposed development would be situated, raised in any such submissions or observations, and give the response of the Chief Executive thereto; and,

v. Recommend whether or not the proposed development should be proceeded with as proposed, or as varied or modified as recommended in the report, or should not be proceeded with, as the case may be.

Under Section 179(4) of the Act, the elected members shall, as soon as practicable, consider the proposed development and the report of the Chief Executive. Following the consideration of the Chief Executive's report, the proposed development may be carried out as recommended in the Chief Executive's report, unless the local authority, by resolution, decides to vary or modify the development, otherwise than as recommended in the Chief Executive's report, or decides not to proceed with the development. A resolution must be passed not later than six (6) weeks after receipt of the Chief Executive's report.

**6. Environmental Impact Assessment and Appropriate Assessment**

The proposal has undergone an Appropriate Assessment Screening under the Habitats Directive (92/43/EEC). This Council has determined that the implementation of the proposed development would not be likely to have significant adverse effects on the integrity or conservation objectives of any Natura 2000 network of sites.

It has also undergone a preliminary examination for an Environmental Impact Assessment and the Council has concluded that there will be no real likelihood of significant effects on the environment arising from the proposed development and therefore an Environmental Impact Assessment is not required.

As a result of the above, in accordance with Part XI of the Act, the elected members of the Council can consider the proposed social housing development consisting of 93 homes on undeveloped lands at the junction of New Nangor Road and Fonthill Road South to the east, Old Nangor Road to the south and Cherrywood Crescent to the west, in Clondalkin, Dublin 22, under Part 8 of the Regulations.

**7. Outcome of Public Consultation Programme**

A total of 18 submissions/observations were received.

A list of all the persons, organisations and bodies that made submissions is provided in the table below together with a copy of the submission received. For reasons of data protection, these documents have the personal addresses of submitters redacted.

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Person/Prescribed Body  | Link to Submission Received  | No. of Submissions Received  |
| Consultation Portal Submissions  | Consultation Portal Submissions  | 14  |
| Cllr. Trevor Gilligan  | Cllr. Trevor Gilligan  | 1  |
| Transport Infrastructure Ireland  | Transport Infrastructure Ireland  | 1  |
| Inland Fisheries Ireland  | Inland Fisheries Ireland  | 1  |
| Department of Culture, Heritage and the Gaeltacht  | Department of Culture, Heritage and the Gaeltacht  | 1  |

A table breakdown of the issues raised in the submissions received for all categories is outlined here (summary and responses to issues raised is provided in Section 8 below):

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **No.**  | **Category of Submission**  | **Count**  |
| 1  | Traffic  | 14  |
| 2  | Environmental impact  | 6  |
| 3  | Project Programme and Construction Site Management  | 6  |
| 4  | Boundary Treatment and Green Space  | 5  |
| 5  | Anti-Social Concerns  | 5  |
| 6  | Overdevelopment / Alternative sites  | 4  |
| 7  | Apartments  | 4  |
| 8  | Drainage  | 3  |
| 9  | Existing Laneway at Nangor Crescent  | 3  |
| 10  | Public Transportation  | 1  |
| 11  | Allocation of New Housing  | 1  |
| 12  | Land ownership and Boundary of Bawnogue Cottages  | 1  |

**8. Summary of Issues Raised and Chief Executive’s Responses and Recommendations**

**Submission Category No. 1 – Traffic**

1. Existing local residents raised concerns regarding current levels of traffic in the area and difficulties accessing the Old Nangor Road and Fonthill Road.

2. Coláiste Chillian have a planning application currently with the Council (Planning Reference: SD17A/0035 and SD18A/0447) which includes proposed re-orientation of the entrance/exit to the secondary school and primary schools (Gaelscoil na Camóige and Gaelscoil Chluain Dolcáin) onto the Fonthill Road impacting traffic coming onto the Fonthill Road.

3. Proposal for construction traffic to access site directly off New Nangor Road.

4. Request for consideration of traffic calming measures (yellow box and/or new signalling) at junctions of Cherrywood Avenue and Fonthill Road.

5. Request that a second entrance / exit to be built on New Nangor Road.

6. Clarification sought as to when the traffic assessment was carried out in the area.

**Response:**

• The concerns and comments regarding traffic related matters on this proposed project are noted;

• A complete construction traffic management will form part of the contract should the development be approved;

• Appropriate traffic calming measures and traffic flow measures will be raised with the Council’s Road Design and Construction Department should Part 8 be approved. It is envisaged that these measures will include provision of yellow boxes at the new development access and exit points and also preventing right-turn exits from the new development at peak times.

• Pedestrian and vehicular access was considered at length by the Design Team as part of the design development process.

• The existing adjacent road layout is well established and is considered adequate to take the new development. The Council’s Road Design Department were consulted prior to Part 8 and have no objection to the proposal.

• As part of a traffic and transport assessment for the proposed Kilcarbery project that is planned to deliver approximately 1,000 homes in the wider area, morning and evening traffic surveys were carried out at the New Nangor Road/Fonthill Road and Old Nangor Road/Fonthill Road junctions. The potential increase in traffic from the Kilcarbery development at these junctions is estimated at between 3 – 4% which is well below the tolerance level of 10% and allows for the reasonable assumption that the 93 homes in this proposed social housing development will not materially impact on these findings.

• An additional access point off the New Nangor Road was assessed at design stage but was discounted because of the existing busy junction with Bawnogue Road that is adjacent to the proposed development. This was further examined and re-considered by the design team and the Council’s Road Engineer following receipt of submissions.

• With four lanes of traffic at the junction, a left-turn only access point into the proposed development travelling west on the New Nangor Road was the only possible access that could be considered. This limited value access was still viewed as making drivers inclined at less busy times to cross three lanes of traffic to make an illegal right turn to access the area when travelling east on the New Nangor Road, giving rise to high rise of serious collisions. Mitigation to this risk would materially impact on the current Bawnogue Road junction impacting the current traffic flow. Therefore, for road safety and traffic management reasons access to the new development from the New Nangor Road is not recommended. Consideration was also given to providing temporary access here for construction traffic, but this is also discounted for the same reasons.

• The existing road layout is well established and is considered adequate to take the new development.

**Submission Category No. 2 – Environmental impact**

1. Concerns regarding air and noise pollution impact on neighbouring residents during the construction phase, and as a result of the loss of mature trees.

2. Comments made in respect of the EIA and AA Screening Reports.

3. Submission provided by Inland Fisheries Ireland outlining the Council’s requirements to ensure adequate infrastructure capacity and instruction to complete statutory requirements in respect of review of capacity of foul and surface water infrastructure, surface water management measures, compliance with policies and recommendations made under the Greater Dublin Strategic Drainage Study (GDSDS), petrol/oil interception, and silt fencing of discharge streams during construction.

 **Response:**

* Potential impacts are considered and mitigated in all types of construction activity – principal effects that will be managed are on the entry road with site excavation / muck / dust over prolonged period and construction traffic. A liaison system between residents, contractor and the Council will be established for the duration of the contract.
* The comments made in respect of EIA and AA Screening reports are noted. The Council has engaged competent consultants in this regard and is satisfied with reliance on the findings of their reports.
* Application will be made to Irish Water for water supply and foul drainage connection and the quality of these will be under their remit.
* The Council note the comments made in the submission received from the Inland Fisheries. The Council confirm that all works will be in line with a project specific Construction Environmental Management Plan (CEMP), which will identify potential impacts and mitigating measures, and provide a mechanism for ensuring compliance with environmental legislation and statutory consents. The CEMP will detail and ensure best construction practices including measures to prevent and control the introduction of pollutants and deleterious matter to surface water and measures to minimise the generation of sediment and silt.
* A full Health and Safety analysis, and a safety plan will be a condition of contract, including traffic management, when the contractor is appointed.

**Submission Category No. 3 – Project programme and Construction Site Management**

1. Commentary regarding the estimated start of the project and consideration requested to limit construction traffic during busy travel times within the local area.

2. Request that all construction works are in line with a project specific Construction Environmental Management Plan (CEMP).

3. Where will the site access be?

4. How will rodent issues be managing during the construction period.

5. How will road cleaning during construction be managed.

6. Concern regarding the levels and volume of noise, dust and dirt across the estate and how that would impact external walls, windows and gardens.

7. Request that local residents are provided with contact details to report any issues during construction.

8. Request that archaeological monitoring is carried out and included as a condition in any grant of planning permission that may issue.

**Response:**

• It is envisaged that construction would start on site in mid-2020 subject to Part 8 planning approval and budget approval from the Department of Housing, Planning and Local Government (DHPLG).

• The construction contract will include restrictions on construction traffic during peak times and a Council liaison person will be nominated prior to the commencement of the project on site to communicate project updates and engage with local Councillors and local residents.

• As noted above in relation to Environmental Impacts, all works will be in line with a project specific Construction Environmental Management Plan (CEMP).

• A risk assessment will be carried out to assess suitable locations for site access

• The contractor will be responsible for managing nuisance such as rodents, noise, dust etc resulting from construction works.

• The construction timeframe will be agreed with the contractor prior to appointment and relayed to local residents and Councillors.

• A suitably qualified Archaeologist will be engaged, and Archaeological monitoring will be carried out as required.

**Submission Category No. 4 – Boundary Treatment and Green Space**

1. What type of materials will be used for the boundary wall and what height will the wall be surrounding the apartments?

2. Proposal to include planting on the boundary of Tus Nua with the housing of the new development.

3. Query as to who will be responsible for the alley way for back entrances and whether it can be gated with keys.

4. Concerns regarding the loss of trees located at the main access point to the proposed development.

5. Will evergreen trees be planted?

6. Concerns regarding the loss of green space on development of this site.

**Response:**

• The proposed boundary will consist of low solid stone/brick wall with railing, total height 1200-1500mm.

• Planting as appropriate will be incorporated into the scheme in accordance with the requirements of the Council’s Public Realm Taking in Charge standard.

• The laneway will be retained, and access will be by way of a gate with a key.

• An Arborist report has been completed on the impact of the proposal on the existing mature trees. A management plan will be implemented to safeguard the remaining wooded area and replacement trees will be planted as part of the proposal.

• The Council do not plant evergreen trees as they are not suitable for urban settings given that they are fast growing and become unstable over time.

• The existing green space lacks definition, mainly serving to facilitate pedestrian links with the New Nangor Road and Fonthill Road South. The proposal provides high quality green and play spaces with clear definition while maintaining the existing pedestrian permeability.

**Submission Category No. 5 – Anti-Social Concerns**

1. Concern regarding proposed play space to the rear of the Spar shop will generate additional anti-social behaviour.

2. Request to note and acknowledge concerns of older residents living in Nangor Crescent and the possible impact on them with the new development.

3. Concerns that large scale developments, as the proposed, may contribute to anti-social behaviour in the area.

4. Concerns expressed regarding the current impact of anti-social behaviour on bus routes serving the area

5. Consideration requested to upgrade public lighting to make the area safe.

**Response:**

• The Housing Department will work closely with all tenants to ensure that they meet their responsibilities as a tenant of the Council and that they actively contribute and respect the environment that they live in, including becoming part of the local community and integrating successfully with existing residents. Advance prejudice regarding new residents’ future behaviour is not a valid basis for objecting to the development of social housing.

• There is a proposed play space near the Spar Shop which will be overlooked by the houses providing strong passive surveillance.

• The open space/play space form part of the proposed development providing recreational facilities and amenities for local residents.

**Submission Category No. 6 – Overdevelopment / Alternative sites**

1. Comments refer to other housing developments in the area (St. Cuthbert’s Park) as well as s for the Clonburris SDZ and Kilcarbery and the impact this will have on local facilities and suggests proposal to use alternative sites.

**Response:**

• The site for the proposed development is one of many sites considered for suitability for the provision of housing in the Council’s current social housing building programme. Other sites will continue to be identified and pursued for housing across the County where possible and practicable. All such sites will be subject to the Part 8 consultation process.

• Other sites with development potential will be subject to planning requirements and it is not a case of substituting one development for another when there is significant housing need in the County. In addition, current and proposed facilities in the Clondalkin area are proximate and relatively accessible for residents of the proposed development.

**Submission Category No. 7 – Apartments**

1. Will the units be Council owned?

2. Concerns that the scale of the apartment buildings are too high and are going against low scale existing housing in the area.

3. Consideration requested to include bicycle storage within the building.

4. Clarification sought regarding the number of car parking spaces allowed for the apartments.

5. Consideration requested to include a dryer room within the building.

6. Clarification sought regarding the storage provided within the apartment units

7. Clarification sought as to whether the apartments will be “Near Zero” (NZ) energy like the proposed houses in this development.

8. Request that the Council consider the use of other building material other than red brick for the apartment façades.

**Response:**

• The units will be Council owned and consideration will be given to the possibility of an Approved Housing Body managing the units on behalf of the Council on completion of the scheme.

 • The scale of the apartment buildings addresses the busy road junction creating a suitable mixed density scheme, maximising potential of the site, having regard for sustainable design and the development plan standards meeting the requirements of DHPLG and the Council.

• Secure, enclosed long-term bicycle storage is provided within the scheme.

• A total of 135 parking spaces are provided in the scheme. Of these 79 are provided adjacent to the apartment buildings, 31 are provided adjacent to the houses and 25 are provided adjacent to the duplex units.

• Storage provided in the apartments is in line with DHPLG housing standards.

• The apartment buildings will be designed to Near Zero standards.

• External finishes will be chosen to be robust, durable, sustainable, good quality, easily maintained, vandal resistant and visually attractive.

**Submission Category No. 8 – Drainage**

1. Residents of Nangor Crescent and Bawnogue Cottages raised concerns regarding the issues experienced with the current drainage network servicing Nangor Crescent.

2. Concerns raised by residents of Bawnogue Cottages referencing an underground river which may impact services at the apartment section of the scheme.

**Response:**

• The proposed development will have a new drainage network which will not be linked with the existing system. The existing drainage system will be repaired and enhanced, where required, as part of the works.

• Extensive investigations were carried out on the site and in the location of the proposed development and no river was encountered.

**Submission Category No. 9 – Existing Laneway at Nangor Crescent**

1. Clarification sought if the laneway at Nangor Road Crescent will remain open;

2. Request by existing residents to retain the pedestrian access from Nangor Crescent to the Bawnogue traffic lights;

3. Proposal to install a kissing gate at this location.

• The opening from Nangor Crescent to Bawnogue is unaltered.

• The request for a kissing gate is noted. However alternative solutions to suit all user especially wheelchair users will be taken into consideration.

• The Council commits to consult with the residents with existing rear garden access to agree a suitable option to those affected.

**Submission Category No. 10 – Public Transportation**

1. Concern regarding the lack of adequate public transport to meet the needs of existing and future residents particularly given the size of the proposed development. Request that the Council engage with the National Transport Authority and Dublin Bus regarding services.

* + - * 1. **Response:**

• The Council engaged with the National Transport Authority (NTA) as one of the prescribed bodies who received the proposed Part 8 scheme details. The NTA did not make a submission.

• Existing pedestrian permeability which links Nangor Crescent and Cherrywood Villas with the New Nangor Road and Fonthill Road South will be enhanced.

**Submission Category No. 11 – Allocation of New Housing**

1. How will the new housing be allocated?

2. Will people from the local area be allocated these homes?

* + - * 1. **Response:**
				2. • Allocation of these units will be made in accordance with the Council's Allocation Scheme.

**Submission Category No. 12 – Land Ownership and Boundary at Bawnogue Cottages**

1. Query over triangle of land to the rear of Bawnogue Cottages.

2. Concerns over the boundary treatment to the rear of Bawnogue Cottages and a request that a boundary wall be built to the rear of 5-12 Bawnogue Cottages.

3. Comments regarding previous assurances that land would be preserved as a green space for recreation purposes.

**Response:**

• The Council note the submission, and all issued raised in respect of the lands to the rear of Bawnogue Cottages. The Council confirm that this section of land is not in Council ownership and the proposed development which is subject to this Part 8 consultation does not occur on these identified lands.

• There are no plans to build a boundary wall to the rear of 5 -12 Bawogue Cottages. The private open space does not impact on the proposed development as there are no plans to build on this section of the site which is privately owned.

• The open space is being preserved as an open space, from the 3D Artist’s impressions it looks as if the proposed development impacts on the open space, however it doesn’t it was the impressions were for illustrative purposes only.

**9. Part 8 Approval-Conditions and modifications to be incorporated in approved project**

• Provision to be made in the tender for Health and Safety requirements to ensure safety measures are put in place for construction traffic and site management.

• The retention of any existing planting following assessment by a qualified specialist and the incorporation of same into the landscape proposals as indicated on the plans and documentation.

• The incorporation of the recommendations as set out in the Screening / Habitats Directive Assessment.

• A suitably qualified Archaeologist will be engaged, and Archaeological monitoring will be carried out as required by the Dept of Culture Heritage and the Gaeltacht.

• The general layout to be revised as required to effect the above conditions.

• Upgrading or alteration to units to meet any legislative enactment or requirement is deemed approved.

• Localised alterations as required to meet Housing department / allocation / medical conditions, or to address specific issues raised, are deemed approved.

• The proposals to include for all works required for Taking in Charge of the completed project, and compliance with the standards and conditions of Taking in Charge as issued and updated by the Council’s Roads, Public Lighting and Public Realm Departments.

**10. Recommendation**

Following consideration of the submissions, it is considered that the issues raised in submissions will be satisfactorily addressed as outlined in the foregoing report.

Accordingly, it is considered that the proposed development is in accordance with the proper planning and sustainable development of the area and therefore it is recommended that the Council adopt the following Motion:

* + 1. *“As the proposed development is in accordance with the proper planning and sustainable development of the area, the Council approves the development of social housing of 93 homes on undeveloped lands at the junction of New Nangor Road and Fonthill Road South to the east, Old Nangor Road to the south and Cherrywood Crescent to the west, in Clondalkin, Dublin 22.”*

### A discussion followed with contributions from Councillors F. Timmons, W. Carey, P. Kavanagh, M. Ward, P. Gogarty, L. Dunne, E. Ó’Broin, C. King and P. Kearns.

### Mr. C. Ward, Director of Housing Social and Community Development and Mr. D. McLoughlin Chief Executive responded to the Members queries.

### The Mayor Councillor V. Casserly called for a show of hands on the proposal that the Members choose not to consider the Part 8 this month and move to next months Council Meeting the result of which was as follows:

### **FOR: 25 (TWENTY FIVE)**

### **AGAINST: 14 (FOURTEEN)**

### **ABSTAIN: 1 (ONE)**

### **H14/0919 PART 8 - NEWCASTLE PLAYSPACES**

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

South Dublin County Council gave public notice of the proposal to construct 2 No. play spaces: 1 No. play space at Burgage Green, Newcastle South and 1 No. play space at Newcastle Boulevard, Ballynakelly, all at Newcastle, Co. Dublin. The outline details of the proposal are:

* 1 no. playspace at Burgage Green, Newcastle South to incorporate play equipment, surfacing, seating areas, planting, paving.
* 1 No. play space at Newcastle Boulevard, Ballynakelly to incorporate play equipment, surfacing, seating areas, planting, paving.
* All ancillary works

The proposal has undergone Appropriate Assessment Screening under the Habitats Directive (92/43/EEC) and screening for Environmental Impact Assessment.

Plans and particulars of the proposed scheme were available for inspection or purchase at a fee not exceeding the reasonable cost of making a copy from **the 13th of June 2019 to the 12th of July 2019** at the following locations:

* South Dublin County Council Offices, County Hall, Tallaght, Dublin 24 between the hours of 9:00 am – 5.00pm Monday to Thursday and 9.00am - 4.30pm on Friday **(Inspection and purchase)**
* Civic Offices Clondalkin, 22 between the hours of 9:00 am – 5.00pm Monday to Thursday and 9.00am - 4.30pm on Friday (4.30pm on Fridays). **(Inspection only)**
* Clondalkin Library, Clondalkin Library, Monastery Road, Clondalkin, Dublin D22 between the hours of 9:45 am – 8.00pm Monday to Thursday and 9.45am - 4.30pm on Friday & Saturday. **(Inspection only)**
* The plans and particulars could be viewed on the Council’s Public Consultation Portal website **http://consult.sdublincoco.ie**

34 submissions were received during the specified period of the public consultation.

The Chief Executives Report contains a list of issues raised during the consultation process. A summary of the various issues within each heading is given, followed by the response and recommendations of the Chief Executive.

Following consideration of the submissions the Chief Executive is of the view that the issues raised by way of the submissions can be satisfactorily addressed during the detailed design stage, the operational and management stage and as outlined in the attached Chief Executive's report.

**It is recommended that, as the proposal is in conformity with proper planning and sustainable development, that the Council proceed with the Part 8 proposal to construct 2 playspaces in the Newcastle area in accordance with the recommendations of this report.**

[CE Report on Part 8 process](http://www.sdublincoco.ie/sdcc/departments/corporate/apps/cmas/documentsview.aspx?id=63966)
[Drawing Burgage Green](http://www.sdublincoco.ie/sdcc/departments/corporate/apps/cmas/documentsview.aspx?id=63963)
[Drawing Newcastle Boulevarde](http://www.sdublincoco.ie/sdcc/departments/corporate/apps/cmas/documentsview.aspx?id=63964)
[Drawing Site Locations](http://www.sdublincoco.ie/sdcc/departments/corporate/apps/cmas/documentsview.aspx?id=63962)

[Part 8 Public Notice](http://www.sdublincoco.ie/sdcc/departments/corporate/apps/cmas/documentsview.aspx?id=63961)
[Screening Determination AA](http://www.sdublincoco.ie/sdcc/departments/corporate/apps/cmas/documentsview.aspx?id=63957)
[Screening Determination EIA](http://www.sdublincoco.ie/sdcc/departments/corporate/apps/cmas/documentsview.aspx?id=63958)
[Screening Report AA](http://www.sdublincoco.ie/sdcc/departments/corporate/apps/cmas/documentsview.aspx?id=63959)
[Screening Report EIA](http://www.sdublincoco.ie/sdcc/departments/corporate/apps/cmas/documentsview.aspx?id=63960)

### A discussion followed with contributions from Councillors F. Timmons, E. Higgins, P. Kavanagh, P. Gogarty, T. Gilligan. E. O’Brien, P. Kearns, W. Carey, and V. Casserly.

The report was **NOTED** and it was proposed byCouncillor V. Casserly, seconded by Councillor P. Kearns and **RESOLVED:**

“That the Newcastle Playspaces **Part 8** was **ADOPTED** and **APPROVED.**”

### **H15/0919 PART 8 - DODDER VALLEY PLAYGROUND**

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

**Part 8 Report on the proposal to construct 3 No. playspaces and a play trail route in Dodder Valley Park in the townlands of Oldbawn, Tallaght, Knocklyon and Templeogue**

Pursuant to the requirements of the Planning and Development Act (as amended) and Planning and Development Regulations- Part 8 South Dublin County Council gave notice of the proposal to construct 3 No. playspaces and a play trail route in Dodder Valley Park in the townlands of Oldbawn, Tallaght, Knocklyon and Templeogue:

The outline details of the proposal were as follows:

* 3 No. playspaces located within Dodder Valley Park to incorporate play equipment, surfacing, boundary treatments, seating areas, planting, paving.
* 1 No. play trail route to incorporate play equipment, surfacing, boundary treatments, seating areas, planting, paving along the existing footpath within Dodder Valley Park
* All ancillary works

The proposal undergone Appropriate Assessment Screening under the Habitats Directive (92/43/EEC) and screening for Environmental Impact Assessment. Any person could, within 4 weeks from the date of publication of the notice, apply to An Bord Pleanála for a screening determination as to whether the development would be likely to have significant effects on the environment. Plans and particulars of the proposed scheme were available for inspection or purchase at a fee not exceeding the reasonable cost of making a copy from **the 18th of July 2019 to the 16th of August 2019** at the following location:

The plans and particulars could be viewed on the Council’s Public Consultation Portal website [**http://consult.sdublincoco.ie**](http://consult.sdublincoco.ie/) Submissions or observations with respect to the proposed development dealing with the proper planning and sustainable development of the area in which the proposed development will be situated could be made in writing up to **5pm on the 30th of August 2019** and could be submitted either via: **Online Submissions**: [**http://consult.sdublincoco.ie**](http://consult.sdublincoco.ie/) or **Post to:** Senior Executive Officer, Environment Water and Climate Change Department, South Dublin County Council, County Hall, Tallaght, Dublin 24 YNN5. It should be noted that the Freedom of Information Act, 1997-2006 (as amended) applies to all records held by South Dublin County Council.

Copies of the plans and particulars of the proposed scheme were available for inspection or purchase at a fee not exceeding the reasonable cost of making a copy from 18th July 2019 to 16th August 2019 at the following locations:

* South Dublin County Council Offices, County Hall, Tallaght, Dublin 24 between the hours of 9:00am – 5.00pm Monday to Thursday and 9.00am - 4.30pm on Friday. Closed at weekends and bank holidays. **(Inspection and purchase)**
* The plans and particulars can be viewed on the Council’s Public Consultation Portal website [**http://consult.sdublincoco.ie**](http://consult.sdublincoco.ie/)

Submissions or observations with respect to the proposed development dealing with the proper planning and sustainable development of the area in which the proposed development will be situated could be made in writing up to 5pm on the 30th of August 2019.

A total of 176 submissions were received by 5pm on the 30th August 2019.

The CE Report and related documents attached outlined public consultation process and submissions and makes the following recommendation:

**It is recommended that, as the proposal is in conformity with proper planning and sustainable development, that the Council proceed with the Part 8 proposal to construct 3 playspaces and a play trail in the Dodder Valley Park area.**

[Dodder Valley Park Part 8 CE Report](http://www.sdublincoco.ie/sdcc/departments/corporate/apps/cmas/documentsview.aspx?id=63990)
[Dodder Valley Park Part 8 presentation](http://www.sdublincoco.ie/sdcc/departments/corporate/apps/cmas/documentsview.aspx?id=63988)
[Drawing Sheet 1](http://www.sdublincoco.ie/sdcc/departments/corporate/apps/cmas/documentsview.aspx?id=63976)
[Drawing Sheet 2](http://www.sdublincoco.ie/sdcc/departments/corporate/apps/cmas/documentsview.aspx?id=63977)
[Drawing Sheet 3](http://www.sdublincoco.ie/sdcc/departments/corporate/apps/cmas/documentsview.aspx?id=63978)
[Drawing Sheet 4](http://www.sdublincoco.ie/sdcc/departments/corporate/apps/cmas/documentsview.aspx?id=63979)

[Information on Natural Play in SDCC](http://www.sdublincoco.ie/sdcc/departments/corporate/apps/cmas/documentsview.aspx?id=63981)
[Part 8 Public Notice](http://www.sdublincoco.ie/sdcc/departments/corporate/apps/cmas/documentsview.aspx?id=63974)
[Report EcIA](http://www.sdublincoco.ie/sdcc/departments/corporate/apps/cmas/documentsview.aspx?id=63982)
[Screening Determination AA](http://www.sdublincoco.ie/sdcc/departments/corporate/apps/cmas/documentsview.aspx?id=63967)
[Screening Determination EIA](http://www.sdublincoco.ie/sdcc/departments/corporate/apps/cmas/documentsview.aspx?id=63968)
[Screening Report AA](http://www.sdublincoco.ie/sdcc/departments/corporate/apps/cmas/documentsview.aspx?id=63970)
[Screening Report EIA](http://www.sdublincoco.ie/sdcc/departments/corporate/apps/cmas/documentsview.aspx?id=63973)

A discussion followed with contributions from Councillors P. Kearns, A. Edge. C. King, R. McMahon, C. Bailey, E. Higgins, K. Mahon, E. Murphy, C. O’Connor, L. Sinclair, T. Costello, M. Seery Kearney, Y. Collins, P. Holohan, M. Duff, W. Priestley, D. O’Donovan and M. Ward.

Ms. T. Walsh, Director of Environment, Water and Climate Change and Ms. S. Furlong Senior Parks Superintendent responded to the Members queries.

Councillor A. Edge proposed an amendment to the Part 8 and was seconded by Councillor M. Duff:

“That the Council will not begin work on the portion of the play-trail between playspace B and playspace C unless and until Irish Water has implemented a permanent solution to the ongoing sewage spillage issue between Mount Carmel and Cherryfield”

The Amended Part 8 Dodder Valley Playground was **PASSED.**

The report was **NOTED** and it was proposed byCouncillor P. Kearns, seconded by Councillor C. King and **RESOLVED:**

“That the Amended **Part 8** was **ADOPTED** and **APPROVED.”**

### **H16/0919 CLIMATE CHANGE ACTION PLAN UPDATE**

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

[(a) Climate Action Presentation](http://www.sdublincoco.ie/sdcc/departments/corporate/apps/cmas/documentsview.aspx?id=64024)
[(b) Climate Action Implementation Plan](http://www.sdublincoco.ie/sdcc/departments/corporate/apps/cmas/documentsview.aspx?id=64027)

### The Report was **NOTED.**

### **H17/0919 VARIATIONS TO COUNTY DEVELOPMENT PLAN NO. 4 & 5**

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

[H17 CDP Variation No4 RSES](http://www.sdublincoco.ie/sdcc/departments/corporate/apps/cmas/documentsview.aspx?id=63946)
[H17 CDP Variation No5 Outdoor Advertising](http://www.sdublincoco.ie/sdcc/departments/corporate/apps/cmas/documentsview.aspx?id=63878)

### A discussion followed on Variation no. 4 & 5 with contributions from Councillor L. O’Toole and C. King

### Mr. M. Mulhern, Director of Land Use, Planning and Transportation responded to the Members queries.

### The Reports were **NOTED**.

### **H18/0919 SOUTH DUBLIN DISTRICT HEATING COMPANY (NOTIFICATION OF ESTABLISHMENT)**

The following reports by the Chief Executive, which had been circulated, were presented by Mr. E Conroy, County Architect and were **CONSIDERED:**

[H18 South Dublin District Heating Company](http://www.sdublincoco.ie/sdcc/departments/corporate/apps/cmas/documentsview.aspx?id=63890)

### A discussion followed with contributions from Councillors R. McMahon, K. Mahon, S. Fay and C. King

### Mr. D. McLoughlin Chief Executive and Mr. E. Conroy, County Architect responded to the Members queries.

### The Report was **NOTED**.

### **H19/0919 NOMINATION OF CANDIDATE TO BE CONSIDERED FOR THE DCU GOVERNING AUTHORITY**

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 was **CONSIDERED:**

**REPLY:**

[S 16 (5)  of the 1997 Universities Act](http://www.irishstatutebook.ie/1997/en/act/pub/0024/sec0016.html) provides for Local Authority representation on the Governing Authority of DCU in the following terms:

“in the case of Dublin City University”

(i) one person chosen by a committee of the governing authority comprising the chief officer and two other members, from among persons nominated for that purpose by the councils of the administrative counties of Fingal, South Dublin and Dun Laoghaire- Rathdown and the Corporation of Dublin county borough,

and

(ii) at least one but not more than three persons chosen by a committee of the governing authority comprising the chief officer and two other members, from among persons nominated for that purpose by the Dublin City University Educational Trust or its successor body,

**The functions of the governing authority are outlined in Section 18 of the Act and include:**

 ( *a* ) to control and administer the land and other property of the university

 ( *b* ) to appoint the chief officer and such other employees as it thinks necessary for the purposes of the university,

 ( *c* ) subject to this Act and its charter, if any, statutes and regulations, to determine the membership from time to time of the governing authority, and

 ( *d* ) to perform such other functions as are imposed on it by or under this or any other Act or by its charter, if any, statutes and regulations.

 A nominee is now required from South Dublin County Council.  The collective nominations from the 4 Dublin Local Authorities named in the Act will be considered by the Governing Body who shall choose **one member from among the 4 Authorities.**

In accordance with **Standing Order No. 74** the Mayor, Councillor V. Casserly proposed and the Members unanimously **AGREED** to suspend standing orders to allow the meeting continue past its prescribed time.

It was proposed by Councillor B. Lawlor and seconded by Councillor R. McMahon and **AGREED** that Councillor **W. Priestley** be nominated as a candidate on behalf of South Dublin County Council to The Dublin City University Governing Authority.

### **C1/0919 Ministerial**

### Letter dated 29th April 2019 from Minster Katherine Zappone replying to Motion 5 from the April 2019 Council meeting regarding Adoptee Identity Rights.

### **C2/0919 Departmental**

### Letter dated 22nd May 2019 from the Department of Housing, Planning & Local Government in reply to Motion 2 from the November 2018 Council meeting regarding the changes made to part V by the Urban Regeneration and Housing Act 2015

**Motions for discussion**

### **M1/0919 MAYORS BUSINESS -** [**SIGNAGE FOR LIBRARIES**](http://intranet/cmas/documentsview.aspx?noinc=true&id=63827)

### It was proposed by Councillor V. Casserly and seconded by Councillor F. Timmons and **MOVED** without debate:

###

To call on the Chief Executive to replicate and produce appropriate signage for our Libraries in support of Autism Friendly Initiatives.

(Please see an example attached as used in libraries in the UK)

[Autism Friendly Library](http://www.sdublincoco.ie/sdcc/departments/corporate/apps/cmas/documentsview.aspx?id=63828)

**REPORT:**

"South Dublin Council Libraries strives to meet the needs of a diverse range of individuals and communities, facilitating inclusion and participation by all. Initiatives in our branch libraries have included motivaltional talks by 'AsIAm' founder and CEO Adam Harris; a social story collage of the library to introduce reluctant users to our library services; sensory hours in the library, where lights are dimmed, RFID machines turned off and computers used in silent mode, so that people with sensory difficulties can enjoy the library experience more. We have introduced Toys, Technology and Training on a pilot basis in the County Library and we hope to expand this service to the branch network. The project consists of a selection of specialised toys and other resources, designed to support adults and children with learning disabilities and other significant needs.

The experience and training underlying the UK example will be researched. However, it should be noted that signage related to specific needs can potentially impact on the core message that we offer library services to a diverse range of individuals and communities, such as immigrants, older people, brain acquired injuries, dementia and more. The focus of our service is that the library is open, inclusive and free to all to participate in its services and programmes".

The Motion was **AGREED.**

### **M5/0919 CLIMATE EMERGENCY**

### It was proposed by Councillor G. O’Connell and seconded by Councillor F. Timmons and **MOVED** without debate:

This Council, building on the joint Climate Action Plan of the Four Dublin Local Authorities, as a show of support for the leadership and commitment demonstrated by the Young People of this County, in recognition of how precious the Dublin Mountains, Liffey Valley and Dodder Valley are, and to give a practical expression to our moto “Ag Seo Ar gCuram” hereby declare a climate and ecological emergency across the entire county and will endeavour over the lifetime of this Council to use ever opportunity to reverse biodiversity loss and reduce greenhouse gas emissions.

**REPORT:**

Following recommendation from the Environment, Public Realm & Climate Change SPC and a Public Consultation Process the draft South Dublin County Council Climate Change Action Plan 2019-2024 was approved by Council on the 7th May 2019.

**Background.**

In 2013 the EU published the EU Adaptation Strategy which sets out a framework and mechanism for enhancing the preparedness of the EU for the current and future impacts of climate change, and in 2014 the EU published the EU Climate & Energy Framework, setting out policy objectives in the 2020-2030 period and EU wide targets. The Paris Agreement (COP 21), December 2015, Ireland, as a party to this agreement, recognises both the right and responsibility of all parties to pursue low carbon, climate resilient development and its supporting initiatives.

Ireland responded with the publication of the National Climate Action and Low Carbon Development Act 2015 (commonly known as the Climate Act 2015) which provides the required policy context for a strategic national adaptation response to climate change which aims, as a fundamental national objective, to achieve a transition to a competitive, low carbon, climate resilient and environmentally sustainable economy by 2050.

As part of the Climate Act 2015 reductions in greenhouse gas emissions and adaptation to the impacts of climate change is being addressed through national plans, the National Low Carbon Roadmap, the National Mitigation Plan (NMP), 2017 and National Adaptation Framework (NAF), 2018.

Ireland’s NAF and NMP were published by the DCCAE and provide for an all of government approach to adaptation and mitigation and requires the development of local and sectoral plans.

**Implementing the Plan**

The South Dublin County Council Climate Change Action Plan 2019-2024 was finalised in July and will be submitted to the Minister for Communications, Climate Action and Environment. This is in accordance with the requirements of the NAF, as local adaptation strategies are required to be submitted by 30th September 2019.

The Climate Change Action Plan sets out how the Council will improve energy efficiency and reduce greenhouse gas emissions in its own buildings and operations, while making its functional area more adaptive to the impacts of climate change.

The plan concentrates on the two approaches required to tackle climate change.

* The first, mitigation, consists of actions that will reduce current and future GHG emissions; examples of these include reductions in energy use, switching to renewable energy sources and carbon sinks.
* The second approach, adaptation, consists of action that will reduce the impacts that are already happening now from our changing climate and those that are projected to happen in the future. These include flood protection, increased resilience of infrastructure and emergency response planning. The approaches are interconnected and should be planned together.

There are four key targets in the CCAP;

1. 33% improvement in the Councils energy efficiency by 2020
2. 40% reduction in the Councils GHG emissions by 2030
3. To make Dublin a climate resilient region by reducing the impacts of future climate change related events
4. To actively engage and inform our citizens on climate change

The Plan includes a range of actions, organised across six key action areas, each to be delivered by an interdepartmental Action Team;

1. Energy & Buildings
2. Transport
3. Flood Resilience
4. Nature Based Solutions and
5. Resource Management
6. Citizen Engagement

A Steering Group made up of senior management and the chairs of the Action Teams will oversee the delivery of the plan. Regular updates and reviews will be presented to the Elected Members during the lifetime of the plan.

There are 130 actions across the five action areas.

Climate Action related projects currently being worked on include:

* Tallaght HeatNet Project
* PV Panels on roof of County Hall
* Public Lighting LED Replacement
* LED Lighting Replacement in Council Buildings
* Retrofitting of Council Housing Stock
* Decarbonising the Council’s Fleet & Plant
* Cycle Network Strategy
* Expand the number of electric charge points
* Home Energy Savings Kit Scheme operated through Library Service
* Annual Energy Review of SDCC
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* Upgrading and retrofitting of Council owned Buildings
* Installation of Solar Big Belly Bins
* Drinking Fountains Pilot Scheme
* Gardening Workshops
* Biodiversity Educational Programme
* Belgard Walkway
* Cyc-Loc Bicycle Lockers
* Flood Alleviation Schemes
* Green Infrastructure, Integrated Constructed Wetlands, and SuDS programmes
* Public Awareness Programmes – ECO Week, Eco Merit, REUSE Month, Conscious Cup,
* Collaboration with the Business Community

Tree Planting Programme – over 2,500 trees planted

There are a number of designation/ award schemes that require a demonstration of climate actions and these include the An Taisce Green Flag; 129 flags up to end of 2018 exist and 24 were awarded so far this year, five Proposed Natural Heritage Areas (PNHA), two Special Areas of Conservation (ASC), and one Special Protected Area (SPA).

100% of the Councils buildings possess and display Energy Certificates in accordance with the Energy Efficiency Directive SI 426/2014.

25% of SOX lamps in our public lighting system have been replaced with LED’s, this is an ongoing project.

1.4% of the fleet has become electric with the introduction of 5 Electric Vehicles, this will continue to rise.

12 Pedestrian Prioritisation schemes are in place.

51 council installed bike parking facilities were in place by end of 2018, this has been increased with the introduction of 3 locations fitted with Cyc-Locs.

Approximately 300 KM of cycle track exists.

The Council is involved with transport initiatives such as; Smarter Travel Programmes, Car Free Day, Cycle2Work Day, to encourage a modal shift from cars.

100% of the Councils 74 Civic and Bring Centres have a waste reuse facility.

7 Master Composter Courses, 4 Workshops and 1 social media campaign was run in 2018 on the Stop Food Waste Campaign.

In 2017, 13 anti-dumping initiatives/ anti-litter campaigns were initiated, a total of 12 took place in 2018, these included Conscious Cup, Gum Litter, Cigarette Disposal and Don’t be Dick campaigns.

Over 2000 citizen engagements events, over 200 social housing residents and 3 in house events were hosted by SDCC relating to waste management and recycling practices in the last two years (2017-2018).

3 major flood alleviation schemes are underway at the Rivers Poddle, Whitechurch and the Camac. The Ballycullen Stream Flood Alleviation Scheme is complete. Trash screens have been upgraded throughout the county. With a total of €1.9M spent on major and minor flood mitigation works and projects to end of 2018.

10 community gardens are provided for community use, and 99% of the 424 allotments provided by the council are being enjoyed by our citizens to grow their own fruit, vegetables and flowers.

Since 2017, 10 Tidy Towns Groups participated in the Tidy Towns Heritage Award, this year a new Tidy Towns group is being set up in Tallaght.

The Motion was **AGREED**.

### **M7/0919 ADDRESSING THE SUSTAINABLE TRANSPORT DEFICIT IN OUR COUNTY**

### It was proposed by Councillor P. Gogarty and seconded by Councillor F. Timmons and **MOVED** without debate:

That this Council requests Senior staff from TII and the NTA, along with senior officials from the Department of transport to attend a special day-long meeting arranged by SDCC on an agreed date in early September to discuss and draw up detailed and imminent solutions for the gridlock problem and sustainable transport deficit in our County, including:

- The Climate Crisis and the implementation of measures under the National Climate Change Strategy;

- The imminent construction of the Children's Hospital and its impact on national routes such as the M7/N7, the M50 and M4./N4 and especially the R148;

- The lack of detail to date on tangible transport options as part of the Clonburris SDZ which will see 8,000 to 11,000 new homes built in the County;

- Gridlock and rat running in many of the urban villages in our County;

- Biodiversity and pollinator plans;

and if a statement can be made on the matter.

**REPORT:**

Developing and delivering a sustainable transport network is an important priority for the Council and will help us address some of the climate changes issues and congestion challenges we face as County. The Council is now progressing work on a County Mobility Study and are working in conjunction with the NTA, TII and Irish Rail and DTTAS on this. The study will inform our County Development Plan and support delivery of the Climate Action Plan. As we prepare the plan  we will seek the views and input of the Land Use Planning and Transport SPC.

The Motion was **AGREED**.

### **M8/0919 CLIMATE CHANGE**

### It was proposed by Councillor P. Kavanagh and seconded by Councillor F. Timmons and **MOVED** without debate:

That South Dublin County Council acknowledge and support the recent declaration of a Climate and Biodiversity Emergency by Dáil Éireann, and further support the recent Climate Strikes by young people in the county and beyond.

That SDCC have listened and have understood the grave urgency felt by these young people and their families and have accepted their demand that elected representatives act immediately to ensure a liveable future for all residents of South Dublin County, Ireland and the planet.

That SDCC agree that the evidence of climate crisis is overwhelming, particularly in light of the IPCC report of 2019.

That SDCC agree that, while relatively small in global terms, each local authority can be a leader on climate action by acting decisively.

That SDCC will implement the following steps:

* Declare a Climate Emergency for South Dublin County
* Expedite the implementation of the Climate Change Action Plan 2019-2024
* Declare a Biodiversity Emergency for South Dublin County
* Update and publish a new Biodiversity Action Plan
* Ensure the Environment, Public Realm and Climate Change SPC also include biodiversity in its title and remit
* Report regularly on the progress of these plans and actions

**REPORT:**

Following recommendation from the Environment, Public Realm & Climate Change SPC and a Public Consultation Process the draft South Dublin County Council Climate Change Action Plan 2019-2024 was approved by Council on the 7th May 2019.

**Background.**

In 2013 the EU published the EU Adaptation Strategy which sets out a framework and mechanism for enhancing the preparedness of the EU for the current and future impacts of climate change, and in 2014 the EU published the EU Climate & Energy Framework, setting out policy objectives in the 2020-2030 period and EU wide targets. The Paris Agreement (COP 21), December 2015, Ireland, as a party to this agreement, recognises both the right and responsibility of all parties to pursue low carbon, climate resilient development and its supporting initiatives.

Ireland responded with the publication of the National Climate Action and Low Carbon Development Act 2015 (commonly known as the Climate Act 2015) which provides the required policy context for a strategic national adaptation response to climate change which aims, as a fundamental national objective, to achieve a transition to a competitive, low carbon, climate resilient and environmentally sustainable economy by 2050.

As part of the Climate Act 2015 reductions in greenhouse gas emissions and adaptation to the impacts of climate change is being addressed through national plans, the National Low Carbon Roadmap, the National Mitigation Plan (NMP), 2017 and National Adaptation Framework (NAF), 2018.

Ireland’s NAF and NMP were published by the DCCAE and provide for an all of government approach to adaptation and mitigation and requires the development of local and sectoral plans.

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Tree Planting Programme – over 2,500 trees planted

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10 community gardens are provided for community use, and 99% of the 424 allotments provided by the council are being enjoyed by our citizens to grow their own fruit, vegetables and flowers.

Since 2017, 10 Tidy Towns Groups participated in the Tidy Towns Heritage Award, this year a new Tidy Towns group is being set up in Tallaght.

The Motion was **AGREED**.

### **M9/0919 CLIMATE CHANGE**

### It was proposed by Councillor C. O’Connor and seconded by Councillor F. Timmons and **MOVED** without debate:

That this Council calls on the Chief Executive to give guarantees that he is doing everything possible to deal with the challenge presented by the Climate Change crises and in reporting will he confirm how he intends to communicate details of his actions to the wider community and will he make a statement.

**REPORT:**

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51 council installed bike parking facilities were in place by end of 2018, this has been increased with the introduction of 3 locations fitted with Cyc-Locs.

Approximately 300 KM of cycle track exists.

The Council is involved with transport initiatives such as; Smarter Travel Programmes, Car Free Day, Cycle2Work Day, to encourage a modal shift from cars.

100% of the Councils 74 Civic and Bring Centres have a waste reuse facility.

7 Master Composter Courses, 4 Workshops and 1 social media campaign was run in 2018 on the Stop Food Waste Campaign.

In 2017, 13 anti-dumping initiatives/ anti-litter campaigns were initiated, a total of 12 took place in 2018, these included Conscious Cup, Gum Litter, Cigarette Disposal and Don’t be Dick campaigns.

Over 2000 citizen engagements events, over 200 social housing residents and 3 in house events were hosted by SDCC relating to waste management and recycling practices in the last two years (2017-2018).

3 major flood alleviation schemes are underway at the Rivers Poddle, Whitechurch and the Camac. The Ballycullen Stream Flood Alleviation Scheme is complete. Trash screens have been upgraded throughout the county. With a total of €1.9M spent on major and minor flood mitigation works and projects to end of 2018.

10 community gardens are provided for community use, and 99% of the 424 allotments provided by the council are being enjoyed by our citizens to grow their own fruit, vegetables and flowers.

Since 2017, 10 Tidy Towns Groups participated in the Tidy Towns Heritage Award, this year a new Tidy Towns group is being set up in Tallaght.

The Motion was **AGREED**.

### **M11/0919 CONTROL OF HORSES**

### It was proposed by Councillor E Higgins and seconded by Councillor F. Timmons and **MOVED** without debate:

To ask the Chief Executive for a review of the Control of Horses Act and its Bye Laws with a view to giving Councils direct mechanisms for on the spot sanctions for 'owners, keepers or persons in control of an equine' who do not comply with equine ID/microchipping requirements, in order to change attitudes to owning equines and thereby improve welfare.

**REPORT:**

Under the [Control of Horses Act, 1996](http://www.irishstatutebook.ie/eli/1996/act/37/enacted/en/html?q=horses), all local authorities are responsible for the control of horses in their areas. In accordance with the provisions of this Act, South Dublin County Council's [Control of Horses Bye-Laws, 2014](https://www.sdcc.ie/en/services/environment/animal-welfare/horses/seized-horses/2014-control-of-horses-bye-laws.pdf) were made on 10th February 2014 and implemented with effect from 12th March 2014. These Byelaws are actively enforced and provide the Council with tools to deal with issues which impact negatively on communities and animals alike.

The legislation associated with the Control of Horses Act 1996 is currently under review at Central Government level, following this review and any subsequent amendments to this legislation which ensue, a review of the Council's Control of Horse Bye laws will be then carried out.

Problems associated with keeping horses in an urban area may include neglect and cruelty to the animals, damage to public property including parks, sports pitches and grass verges, danger posed to public safety and general nuisance posed by presence of horses in public places.

South Dublin County Council has a proven track record in the effective management of this service, and also works closely with the DSPCA in monitoring horses from an animal welfare perspective within South Dublin County.

All reports of loose/stray horses which are received from elected representatives, members of the public and Council staff are considered in a timely manner and, as appropriate, are referred to the contractor engaged by the Council for the provision and operation of the horse seizure service and horse pound facility.

Statistics in relation to horse seizures nationally are available from the Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine through the following link: <https://www.agriculture.gov.ie/animalhealthwelfare/animalwelfare/controlofhorses/>

**The Dublin Region Horse Welfare Working Group** was established by South Dublin County Council in August 2017 in collaboration with the Department of Agriculture, Food & the Marine; Dublin City Council; Fingal County Council; Dun Laoghaire Rathdown County Council and An Garda Síochána. The group was established to develop a concerted collaborative programme aimed at promoting and facilitating responsible horse ownership across the Dublin region.

The membership of the group includes:

* Dublin Local Authorities: South Dublin County, Dublin City, Fingal County & Dun Laoghaire Rathdown County.
* Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine
* An Garda Síochána
* DSPCA
* Fettercairn Youth Horse Project
* Clondalkin Equine Club
* Traveller Development Groups
* Voluntary Groups/rescue centres e.g. My Lovely Horse and Irish Horse Welfare Trust
* UCD Veterinary Services

The group has met on eight occasions, with the most recent meeting held on 6th June 2019. The next meeting is scheduled for the 12th September.

Four dedicated working groups in the following areas are in place:

* Improving Animal Welfare through increased liaison with key stakeholders
* Increasing education and awareness through planned programmes delivered at equestrian centres
* Minimising indiscriminate breeding through regulated supervised castration programmes
* Current review of legislation with a view to making submission to DAFM on new draft legislation currently being considered by a higher level national working group

South Dublin County Council receives subvention from the Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine (DAFM) for its the delivery of the service under the Control of Horses Act 1996, specifically in relation to the cost of seizures. Expenditure in 2018 for the administration and management of the service in South Dublin County was approximately €212,000.

**Ballyowen Equine Centre:**

The facility was developed by South Dublin County Council in collaboration with Department of Agriculture Food and the Marine (DAFM) and Clondalkin Equine Club in order to address the keeping of horses in an unregulated and uncontrolled manner resulting in serious animal welfare and public safety issues which were a cause of concern for both the Council, Gardaí, central government and the communities of these areas. The facility, which opened in January 2017 gives young horse owners the opportunity to take responsibility and care for their animals in a safe environment.

South Dublin County Council continues to support the facility, which is currently occupied by Clondalkin Equine Club under licence.

The Motion was **AGREED**.

### **M16/0919 OUR LIVING BEREAVEMENT**

### It was proposed by Councillor F. Timmons and seconded by Councillor V. Casserly and **MOVED** without debate:

‘That South Dublin County Council supports the Exhibition of survivors of institutions called ''Our Living Bereavement'' that will be launched on the 7th October in Tallaght Library. We hope in raising awareness of this sad part of Irish history that all people affected by such trauma will finally be acknowledged. We commit to writing to the minister for Children to ask that all survivors are assisted to cope with there living bereavements by way of counselling supports , a museum with living stories , a remembrance garden , assistance with medical needs and any other supports they need‘.

**REPORT:**

If this motion is agreed a letter will issue to the relevant minister and the reply, when received, will be circulated.

The Motion was **AGREED**.

### **M18/0919 ECO FRIENDLY BUS SHELTERS**

### It was proposed by Councillor Mary Seery-Kearney and seconded by Councillor K. Mahon and **MOVED** without debate.

That this Council supports the promotion of eco friendly bus shelters to include their use as solar panels, rain harvesters, low maintenance plants and flowers for a bee friendly environment such as are utilised by the Dutch city Utreacht.

If the motion is agreed by the Members, it is proposed that the Council write to National Transport Authority to urge its implementation as soon as possible.

**REPORT:**

We have been in discussions with the National Transport Authority (NTA) in relation to such a proposal since July this year.

The NTA have indicated that they are positively disposed to the use of such bus shelters and that they are considering a pilot project in the SDCC area.

If this Motion is passed a letter will be issued to the NTA in line with the Motion.

The Motion was **AGREED**.

### **M2/0919** The following Motion which was proposed by Councillor V. Casserly and seconded by Councillor F. Timmons was **WITHDRAWN** at the request of Councillor V. Casserly, with the agreement of the Members, in accordance with Standing Order No 19.

That this Council gives its full support to the Dublin Civil Defence Services, including Emergency Medical Technicians (EMT's), paramedics and advanced paramedics

**REPORT:**

If this motion is agreed a letter will issue to the relevant Department/Authority and the reply when received will be circulated.

### **M3/0919 TREE PRESERVATION ORDERS**

### It was proposed by Councillor L. O'Toole and seconded by Councillor F. Timmons

That this Council calls on the Chief Executive to review Council policy regarding Tree Preservation Orders which are included in our County Development Plan, specifically the removal of a Tree Preservation Order.

**REPORT:**

The policy of South Dublin County Council relating to Tree Preservation Orders is set out in Section 9.5.0 of the County Development Plan. It states that The Planning and Development Act (2000, as amended) allows planning authorities to make provision for the preservation of any tree, trees, group of trees or woodlands by way of a Tree Preservation Order (TPO) where it is carried out in the interest of expediency, amenity or the environment. There are a total of four Tree Preservation Orders registered within the County, these are listed in Table 9.3 of the County Development Plan.

 (1) St. Brigid’s (now Newlands Garden Centre), New Road, Clondalkin

 (2) Beaufort Downs, Rathfarnham

 (3) Townland of Quarryvale and Brooklawn, Palmerstown

(4) (Coolamber Site) Newcastle Road, Lucan

Policy HCL sets out the overall policy of South Dublin County Council in relation to TPO’s

**HCL17 Objective 1:**

**To review the number of Tree Preservation Orders within the County and maintain the conservation value of trees and groups of trees that are the subject of any Tree Preservation Order**.

Comment:

The County Development Plan contains no specific policy in relation to the removal of TPO’s. It does as stated above provide for the review of TPO  orders which may lead to new orders being made and or existing orders amended or revoked depending on the outcome of any review. During the course of the Development Plan review, all TPO orders can be reviewed as part of this process.

Section 205 of the Planning Act 2000 as amended sets out the legislative process where a local authority decides to make, amend or revoke an order. This is a statutory process involving a public consultation process and is not at the discretion of the planning authority.

This section of the Act does make provision for the cutting down, topping or lopping of trees which are dying or dead or have become dangerous, or the cutting down, topping or lopping of any trees in compliance with any obligation imposed by or under any enactment or so far as may be necessary for the prevention or abatement of a nuisance or hazard.

A discussion followed with contributions from Councillor L. O’Toole, G. O’Connell and C. King.

Mr. M. Mulhern, Director of Land Use Planning and Transportation responded to the Members queries.

The report was **NOTED**.

### Meeting finished @ 19:12

### **Motions Not Reached**

### **(M4) UNITED IRELAND**

### **Councillor M. Ward**

That this Council calls on the Irish Government to immediately plan for a United Ireland and furthermore to ask the Minister to call on the British Secretary of State to set a date for a border poll on Irish Unification

### **(M6) ELECTION POSTERS**

### **Councillor A. Edge**

That this Council will commit to move towards a County-wide voluntary ban on election posters and, as a first step, will agree here and now to limit voluntarily the number of posters to one hundred per candidate per Local Electoral Area and to refrain from erecting posters in areas zoned rural, and that the Environmental SPC be asked to identify suitable designated postering areas with a view to limiting all future election postering to one such area per LEA.

### **(M10) HOUSING RENTS**

### **Councillor K. Mahon**

This Council commits to maintain the current Rent Differential Rate for Local Authority tenants at 10% and the continuation of the €10 per household discount for Local Authority tenants aged over 65, for the term of this Council.

### **(M12) CARBON TAX**

### **Councillor M. Johansson**

This Council agrees that carbon tax is not the answer to tackle climate change. Carbon tax is a regressive tax. It targets the wrong people and does not challenge the real cause of carbon emissions. This Council calls for a stoppage of any implementation of a new carbon tax and calls for immediate action on investment in renewable energy, public transport and a stop to licences issued to extract fossil fuels.

### **(M13) SINGLE USE PLASTICS**

### **Councillor E. O'Brien**

That this County Council confirms that it will endeavour to ensure that single use plastics are not used at all South Dublin County Council events and in particular large scale outdoor events and festivals with a view to banning single use plastics at any such event within the next 12 months

### **(M14) SCHOOL REGISTRATION**

### **Councillor M. Duff**

In view of the number of Post Primary schools in our County and the number of additional schools planned, and taking into account the amount of Section 29 Appeals for refusal to enrol that are going through the DDLEB and the DES, owing to the amount of parents or guardians that are missing application dates or acceptance dates, for Post Primary Schools, due to varying forms of notices of when this process starts and finishes, that this Council calls on the Minister of Education and Skills, to introduce a national registration period, applicable to every Post Primary School, in an effort to ensure that each potential pupil is given a fair and equal chance to enrol at the appropriate time, in the school of their choice.

### **M15/0919 JADOTVILLE**

### **Councillor T. Gilligan**

That we write to the Minister for defence also An Taoiseach asking that the long over due medals for gallantry and distinguished service specifically for the Irish soldiers of “A” Company who served at Jadotville in 1961 be awarded. These medals were promised by former Taoiseach Enda Kenny in his final days in Office and still they have not been received.

### **M17/0919 DIRECT PROVISION**

### **Councillor Alan Edge**

That this newly elected Council condemns the utterly inhumane system of Direct Provision and calls upon the Government to bring about its immediate end and to introduce a reception procedure for asylum seekers which is not-for-profit and which is in accordance with international human rights law.

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

Mayor

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