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

Tallaght Area Committee Meeting held on Monday 21 October 2019

### **PRESENT**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Costello, T  | Mahon, K |
| Duff, M  | O’Connor, C |
| Dunne, L | Pereppadan, B |
| Fay, S | Richardson, D - Apologies |
| Holohan, P | Sinclair, L |
| King. C  |  |

**OFFICIALS PRESENT**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Senior Executive Officer** | M. Staunton, N. Hanly |
| **A/ Senior Executive Officer** | B. Hora, M. McAdam |
| **County Librarian** | B. Fennell |
| **County Architect** | E. Conroy |
| **Senior Engineer** | L. Magee |
| **Senior Parks Superintendent** | S. Furlong |
| **Senior Executive Engineer** | D. Lakes |
| **Senior Parks Superintendent** | S. Furlong |
| **Administrative Officer** | D. Maguire, B. Shannon |
| **Staff Officer** | E. Leonard |
| **Clerical Officer** | R. Maxwell |

### **OFFICIALS PRESENT**

The Chair, Councillor C. O’Connor, presided.

Apologies were received from Councillor D. Richardson.

### **T/303/19 H1/1019 Item ID:63714**

### CONFIRMATION AND RE-AFFIRMATION OF MINUTES

Minutes of Tallaght Area Committee Meeting held on 23rd September 2019 which had been circulated, were submitted and **APPROVED** as a true record and signed.

 It was proposed by Councillor C. O’Connor, seconded by Councillor M. Duff and **RESOLVED:**

 "That the recommendations contained in the Minutes of the Tallaght Area Committee Meeting held on 23rd September 2019 be **ADOPTED** and **APPROVED**."

## **QUESTIONS**

##  It was proposed by Councillor C. O’Connor, seconded by Councillor L. Dunne and RESOLVED:

## "That pursuant to Standing Order No. 13, Question Nos. 1 to 30 be ADOPTED and APPROVED.”

## **Performance & Change Management**

### **T/304/19 H2/1019 Item ID:63697**

New Works (No Business)

### **T/305/19 C1/1019 Item ID:63709**

Correspondence (No Business)

## **Corporate Support**

### **T/306/19 Q1/1019 Item ID:63688**

Proposed by Councillor C. O'Connor

"To ask the CEO to write to Charlie Flanagan, Minister for Justice, asking him to discuss with the Garda authorities, the need for additional resources at Tallaght Garda Station?"

**REPLY:**

"Should the item be passed, a letter will issue to the Minister and Members will be notified of response."

### **T/307/19 H3/1019 Item ID:63692**

New Works (No Business)

### **T/308/19 C2/1019 Item ID:63704**

Correspondence (No Business)

## **Public Realm**

### **T/309/19 Q2/1019 Item ID:63735**

Proposed by Councillor Teresa Costello

"To ask the Chief Executive when will SDCC representatives meet with Kilnamanagh Neighbourhood Watch as requested to discuss plans to minimise disruption caused by Halloween Bonfire?

**REPLY:**

"A request was submitted by the Council's Public Realm Section to An Garda Siochana early in October for a meeting with the representatives of Kilnamanagh Neighbourhood Watch (KNW).  While an acknowledgement was issued by the Garda Superintendents Office no date has yet been proposed.  The Council have made contact with KNW to arrange a meeting for early in the week commencing Monday October 21st and it is still hoped that a representative from AGS will be available to attend that meeting when it takes place."

### **T/310/19 Q3/1019 Item ID:63734**

Proposed by Councillor Teresa Costello

"To ask the Chief Executive when will the amended statement regarding the Wetlands Disaster be released as promised at the last Tallaght Area Committee Meeting?"

**REPLY:**

"A statement regarding the works at Sean Walsh Park has issued to the Tallaght Area Committee Meeting.

The Council has engaged a consultant ecologist to assist in carrying out a detailed examination of the site in question and specifically to deal with the following issues –

* Advice and assessment in relation to rehabilitation of a habitat and potential to encourage re-colonisation of the area.
* An assessment of circa 2.5 acres of land at Sean Walsh Memorial Park including the area subject to the deposition of soil over several years.
* Collating existing available surveys for the area and assessment of the habitats in and adjacent to the site.
* Advice on any actions to be carried out to stabilise the area.
* Assessment of the area subject to deposition of soil and its hinterlands in relation to existing ecology, recent works carried out and remaining ecology in the area.
* Advice in relation to any further surveys required.
* Perform ecological surveys of the ponds, the hinterlands and wetlands and report on same.

These assessments and surveys are currently underway.

**Background:**

There are in total 5 No. ponds located in Sean Walsh Park just South of N81, West of Whitestown Way and East of Old Bawn Road. The Whitestown Stream flows through these ponds, with the exception of the most southerly pond. A tributary of the Jobstown Stream known as the Killinarden Stream feeds this second attenuation pond.  The second attenuation pond is currently being referred to in the media and by other commentators as a ‘wetland’ however it should be noted that it is not a constructed wetland. This pond and the pond to the north of it have been designated within the Draft Tallaght Local Area Plan as ‘indicative location for integrated constructed wetlands.’ Both ponds remain existing on site; and the recent maintenance works were carried out on the northern-most pond.

With regard to works carried out in the park recently, the condition of the main attenuation pond at Sean Walsh Park has been the source of many complaints from members of the public and elected representatives over the years with regard to litter and debris trapped at the bottom of it, and it has featured in a negative way in repeated IBAL survey reports on Tallaght town centre.   It had been the intention of the Council’s public realm section for some time to have the pond cleaned and the debris removed, and these works were arranged and commenced at the start of August 2019.

South Dublin County Council, in order to fulfil its obligations under the Local Government (Water Pollution) Acts 1977 & 1990 to maintain rivers, streams and lakes which are on public lands free from pollution; made arrangements to have the attenuation pond in Sean Walsh Park cleaned.  In advance of these cleaning works commencing the Council consulted with Inland Fisheries Ireland to ensure that any actions taken or work done would be in compliance with the requirements of the Inland Fisheries Act and that measures necessary to protect rivers and streams during the course of the works would be agreed and implemented in advance.  The Council’s Drainage Section also consulted with the Heritage Officer to ensure that works would be in compliance with the terms of the Wildlife Act and EU Habitats Directive with regard to the protection of habitats in the area of the works.  The Council also considered the nature of the work to be done and the material arising from the excavation works in the pond.  As the material excavated from the pond is uncontaminated soil and reused within the boundaries of the park area, SDCC deemed the material not to be a waste in accordance with European Communities (Waste Directive) Regulations 2011, as amended.

The Drainage Works Dept consulted with the Council’s Heritage Officer and the Inland Fisheries regarding the work to be done, they also consulted with the public realm supervisor responsible for the maintenance of Sean Walsh Park and they engaged a plant hire contractor to provide and operate the machinery necessary for the pond cleaning works.

The work undertaken consisted of excavation of the soil from the bottom of the pond, placing of this material in mounds at an area to the south of the attenuation ponds and the sifting of these mounds to remove litter and debris from them with the litter to be ultimately removed off site.  Similar works were carried out and completed on the large lake in this park in July/August of 2018.  Material removed from that lake was deposited in mounds at the same location in the park.  The ornamental lake close to the Old Bawn Road entrance to the park was also cleaned in recent years.  On each occasion the soils arising from the cleaning works was deposited in mounds in the same part of the park, to the south of the attenuation ponds, in an area which has not been fully developed or landscaped to date.  On occasions the soil mounds have been levelled and spread and on other occasions the material was left in mounds.  The placing of these soils on site in this manner has been considered in detail on every occasion that such cleaning works have been carried out in recent years.  While other options have been considered, such as the removal of the material off site, it is considered to be best practice to keep the material within the site on which it has arisen and this has been the option chosen on each occasion.  It appears to be the case that keeping this material on site has helped the area to develop in the manner in which it has over recent years.

The cleaning works commenced on site on Monday July 29th and on Thursday August 1st a meeting took place on site involving SDCC Heritage Officer as well a representative from the Inland Fisheries to discuss the work in progress, including a discussion regarding where the soil would be placed.  It was agreed that the excavated soil would be placed in an area to the south of the attenuation ponds which has been used for the same purpose in previous years.  It was agreed that the soil would be placed in two long and narrow piles or mounds and that these long mounds would be turned to assist drying of the soil as well as the return of invertebrates to the surrounding area.

It was not the Council’s intention to spread the excavated material. Regrettably there was miscommunication with the operator in relation to the mounding of the soil. The soil excavated from the attenuation pond was extremely wet and when tipped on site it did not stay in upright mounds but instead it spread out to a large extent under its own weight.  Sifting through the soil mounds led to it being further spread over a larger area than had been identified as acceptable.

The requirement for Environmental Impact Assessment is set out in legislation and the council comply with all requirements regarding same. The requirements of Environmental Impact Assessment Reports  are incorporated into the project plans and specifications and included in tender documents. The contractor on site is contractually obliged to carry out the works in accordance with the tender documents and the project management team oversee the delivery of the project. Typically an on-site ecologist is part of the project management team or would closely advise the project management or design team in relation to the compliance with ecological recommendations and other matters relating to the ecology of the site. Where a full environmental impact is not required; the council frequently undertake ecological surveys and ecological reports to ensure impacts to flora and fauna are avoided where possible and inadvertent impacts do not occur.

Communication with statutory and non-statutory groups as part of formal consultation processes is set out in legislation (as part of Part 8, Part 10 planning processes etc.). Where those do not apply the project manager manages each project on a case by case basis, as projects vary greatly from site to site. Communication and / or consultation with varying stakeholders, including local communities and interested groups is an integral part of public work; the extent varying depending on the type of work being undertaken and the public interest involved. In the case of the maintenance works at Sean Walsh Park, consultation was carried out with the Heritage Officer and Inland Fisheries.

Ireland aims to conserve habitats and species, through designation of conservation areas. This is required of Ireland under European and national legislation. The National Parks & Wildlife Service (NPWS) is responsible for the designation of conservation sites in Ireland. The NPWS works with farmers, other landowners and users, and national and local authorities, trying to achieve the best balance possible between farming and land-use on the one hand, and requirements for conserving nature in these selected areas, on the other.

The designation of protected areas subject to environmental protection is managed by The National Parks and Wildlife Service under the following protocol: [**Designation Process.**](https://eur04.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.npws.ie%2Fsites%2Fdefault%2Ffiles%2Fpublications%2Fpdf%2FSite%2520Designation%2520Process%2520%2528October%25202017%2529.pdf&amp;data=02%7C01%7Csuzannefurlong%40SDUBLINCOCO.ie%7Cb4a79b1fba404c603eb008d753014b1e%7C6a3c00c019d0492da8de95fad8fda1d4%7C0%7C0%7C637069137330882089&amp;sdata=qGdyCIEy7WCzozRcICDBZbee%2BgbZqqGf5PnXFM55C5c%3D&amp;reserved=0)

The mapping of these areas are available on the NPWS website at this location: [**Protected Sites.**](https://eur04.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.npws.ie%2Fprotected-sites&amp;data=02%7C01%7Csuzannefurlong%40SDUBLINCOCO.ie%7Cb4a79b1fba404c603eb008d753014b1e%7C6a3c00c019d0492da8de95fad8fda1d4%7C0%7C0%7C637069137330882089&amp;sdata=X1ts5DZ9S1w%2FsGN6WYbRw6jzHUgSg7tbVh307h3jJ7c%3D&amp;reserved=0)

With regard to Sean Walsh Park: The Council is currently reviewing the practice of the disposal of silt drained from lakes. The outcome of this review will include recommendations with regard to procedures going forward.

South Dublin County Council have no records of any ecological surveys carried out in this area.  The report from the Council’s consultant ecologist will include surveys of the area and will inform our next steps including developing a habitat management plan for this area of the park. Preliminary reporting indicates that the disturbance of the area through the spreading of material recovered during the desilting of ponds adjacent is a short-term event. Given the degree of recolonization currently underway within a month of the event, it is estimated the entire area will be revegetated within a year. The report will make further recommendations on how best to support rehabilitation of this habitat."

### **T/311/19 Q4/1019 Item ID:63725**

Proposed by Councillor M. Duff

"Following on from previous discussions at this Committee, to ask the Chief Executive to make a report regarding the provision of public toilets, including an accessible toilet, in Tymon Park at the Tymon North side of the Park?"

**REPLY:**

"The Council’s Public Realm Section is aware of the need for toilets close to the new playground at the Castletymon side of Tymon Park and a commitment has been given in the past that such facilities will be provided in time, subject to approval under Part 8 of the planning regulations being obtained as well as the necessary budgetary provision being made. In the meantime the Council will examine options for the provision of temporary toilet facilities at this side of the park.  The Council will ensure that any such facilities to be provided, whether temporary or permanent, will be accessible to all."

### **T/312/19 Q5/1019 Item ID:63727**

Proposed by Councillor M. Duff

"To ask the Chief Executive to make a report to this Committee outlining what actions have been taken since the September meeting regarding the dumping of silt on the Wetlands in Watergate Park and will he explain to this Committee why the updated Public Statement, promised to this Committee, was not issued?"

**REPLY:**

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### **T/313/19 Q6/1019 Item ID:63768**

Proposed by Councillor L. Dunne

"To ask the Chief Executive when will work commence on the upgrade of the paths in Butler McGee Park?"

**REPLY:**

"Improvements to the existing footpaths across Butler McGee Park have been included in the public realm minor works programme for 2019.  Surfacing works to these footpaths have been included in a recent tender competition and a contract has now been awarded from this tender.  These works will be carried out before the end of the year."

### **T/314/19 Q7/1019 Item ID:63757**

Proposed by Councillor K. Mahon

"To ask the Chief Executive to please update on the allocation of pitches in Dodder Valley, Tallaght that will be serviced by the new pavilion.  Are arrangements in place to ensure Dodder Valley pitches and pavilion are fully utilised?"

**REPLY:**

"The Pavilion with associated car park at Old Bawn commenced on site early this year and is currently under construction. The pitches at Old Bawn have temporarily been left un-allocated in order to allow the Council to level, mark out and re-line the pitches. This also allows the Council to review the pitches in line with the Sports Pitch Strategy in the interests of maximising the utilisation of the pitches. The work on the pitches will commence shortly. Once completed and the pitch surfaces are established and playable these pitches will be allocated for match play in line with the Council’s Pitch Allocation Policies. In addition Public Realm are developing a system with IT to allow the pavilion be booked on line by groups utilising the pitches. This system has recently been tendered for."

### **T/315/19 Q8/1019 Item ID:63476**

Proposed by Councillor K. Mahon

"To ask the Chief Executive, with regard to the much publicised destruction of wet lands at Watergate Park, to please answer the following questions?

1. What steps, if any, can or will be taken to reduce the damage and increase the chances of the area recovering over time?
2. When will the significant amount of rubbish now dumped in Watergate Park be removed and dealt with in a suitable way?
3. Was this work carried out by Council staff or contracted staff, and what advice and instruction were they given regarding the work and the surrounding environment?
4. How will the Council ensure that all future work in the county is carried out with due respect to the local environment?
5. Was any consideration given to discussing work in the area with local experts who have effectively led the discovery, understanding and awareness of this ecologically significant area?
6. How will management now ensure that the work of the Herpetological Society of Ireland, who have brought out the significance of the Watergate Park wetlands, is built on and that we ensure other similar areas in the county are protected from potential destruction?"

**REPLY:**

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The Council has engaged a consultant ecologist to assist in carrying out a detailed examination of the site in question and specifically to deal with the following issues –

* Advice and assessment in relation to rehabilitation of a habitat and potential to encourage re-colonisation of the area.
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The Drainage Works Dept consulted with the Council’s Heritage Officer and the Inland Fisheries regarding the work to be done, they also consulted with the public realm supervisor responsible for the maintenance of Sean Walsh Park and they engaged a plant hire contractor to provide and operate the machinery necessary for the pond cleaning works.

The work undertaken consisted of excavation of the soil from the bottom of the pond, placing of this material in mounds at an area to the south of the attenuation ponds and the sifting of these mounds to remove litter and debris from them with the litter to be ultimately removed off site.  Similar works were carried out and completed on the large lake in this park in July/August of 2018.  Material removed from that lake was deposited in mounds at the same location in the park.  The ornamental lake close to the Old Bawn Road entrance to the park was also cleaned in recent years.  On each occasion the soils arising from the cleaning works was deposited in mounds in the same part of the park, to the south of the attenuation ponds, in an area which has not been fully developed or landscaped to date.  On occasions the soil mounds have been levelled and spread and on other occasions the material was left in mounds.  The placing of these soils on site in this manner has been considered in detail on every occasion that such cleaning works have been carried out in recent years.  While other options have been considered, such as the removal of the material off site, it is considered to be best practice to keep the material within the site on which it has arisen and this has been the option chosen on each occasion.  It appears to be the case that keeping this material on site has helped the area to develop in the manner in which it has over recent years.

The cleaning works commenced on site on Monday July 29th and on Thursday August 1st a meeting took place on site involving SDCC Heritage Officer as well a representative from the Inland Fisheries to discuss the work in progress, including a discussion regarding where the soil would be placed.  It was agreed that the excavated soil would be placed in an area to the south of the attenuation ponds which has been used for the same purpose in previous years.  It was agreed that the soil would be placed in two long and narrow piles or mounds and that these long mounds would be turned to assist drying of the soil as well as the return of invertebrates to the surrounding area.

It was not the Council’s intention to spread the excavated material. Regrettably there was miscommunication with the operator in relation to the mounding of the soil. The soil excavated from the attenuation pond was extremely wet and when tipped on site it did not stay in upright mounds but instead it spread out to a large extent under its own weight.  Sifting through the soil mounds led to it being further spread over a larger area than had been identified as acceptable.

The requirement for Environmental Impact Assessment is set out in legislation and the council comply with all requirements regarding same. The requirements of Environmental Impact Assessment Reports  are incorporated into the project plans and specifications and included in tender documents. The contractor on site is contractually obliged to carry out the works in accordance with the tender documents and the project management team oversee the delivery of the project. Typically an on-site ecologist is part of the project management team or would closely advise the project management or design team in relation to the compliance with ecological recommendations and other matters relating to the ecology of the site. Where a full environmental impact is not required; the council frequently undertake ecological surveys and ecological reports to ensure impacts to flora and fauna are avoided where possible and inadvertent impacts do not occur.

Communication with statutory and non-statutory groups as part of formal consultation processes is set out in legislation (as part of Part 8, Part 10 planning processes etc.). Where those do not apply the project manager manages each project on a case by case basis, as projects vary greatly from site to site. Communication and / or consultation with varying stakeholders, including local communities and interested groups is an integral part of public work; the extent varying depending on the type of work being undertaken and the public interest involved. In the case of the maintenance works at Sean Walsh Park, consultation was carried out with the Heritage Officer and Inland Fisheries.

Ireland aims to conserve habitats and species, through designation of conservation areas. This is required of Ireland under European and national legislation. The National Parks & Wildlife Service (NPWS) is responsible for the designation of conservation sites in Ireland. The NPWS works with farmers, other landowners and users, and national and local authorities, trying to achieve the best balance possible between farming and land-use on the one hand, and requirements for conserving nature in these selected areas, on the other.

The designation of protected areas subject to environmental protection is managed by The National Parks and Wildlife Service under the following protocol: [**Designation Process.**](https://eur04.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.npws.ie%2Fsites%2Fdefault%2Ffiles%2Fpublications%2Fpdf%2FSite%2520Designation%2520Process%2520%2528October%25202017%2529.pdf&amp;data=02%7C01%7Csuzannefurlong%40SDUBLINCOCO.ie%7Cb4a79b1fba404c603eb008d753014b1e%7C6a3c00c019d0492da8de95fad8fda1d4%7C0%7C0%7C637069137330882089&amp;sdata=qGdyCIEy7WCzozRcICDBZbee%2BgbZqqGf5PnXFM55C5c%3D&amp;reserved=0)

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With regard to Sean Walsh Park: The Council is currently reviewing the practice of the disposal of silt drained from lakes. The outcome of this review will include recommendations with regard to procedures going forward.

South Dublin County Council have no records of any ecological surveys carried out in this area.  The report from the Council’s consultant ecologist will include surveys of the area and will inform our next steps including developing a habitat management plan for this area of the park. Preliminary reporting indicates that the disturbance of the area through the spreading of material recovered during the desilting of ponds adjacent is a short-term event. Given the degree of recolonization currently underway within a month of the event, it is estimated the entire area will be revegetated within a year. The report will make further recommendations on how best to support rehabilitation of this habitat."

### **T/316/19 Q9/1019 Item ID:63718**

Proposed by Councillor C. O'Connor

"To ask the CEO to confirm actions planned to deal with the issues raised by St Mark's GAA Club Cookstown Road, at the September 2019 Deputations meeting and will he give details?"

**REPLY:**

"A deputations meeting took place with representatives of St Mark's GAA club on September 25th.  The following items were on the meeting agenda -

1. Broken bottles on Pitch at McGee Park.
2. Dog Fouling.
3. Completion of Drainage Works at McGee Park.
4. Proposed pathway across McGee Park from Fettercairn to swing gateway entrance beside St. Marks GAA Clubhouse.
5. Commitments given at Deputation meeting.

 Commitments given to the club were as follows -

1. The Council will be erecting a 1.2m high fence on top of the existing stub wall along the boundary of the park on Cookstown Road.  It is expected that this will help to resolve the problem where it occurs close to the apartment complex.  The district supervisor agreed to a meeting on site with representatives of the club to examine the problem.
2. The club requested the presence of a dog warden and litter warden in the area to examine the issues of dog licences and dog fouling in the area.  They also requested that the Council consider the development of an off-leash dog run area in Butler McGee.  It was agreed that these requests would be examined and considered.
3. Top dressing of the pitch was carried out recently and drainage works are now completed.
4. The Council has no plans at present to construct a pathway from Drumcairn to Cookstown road."

### **T/317/19 Q10/1019 Item ID:63747**

Proposed by Councillor D. Richardson

"To ask the Chief Executive to report on the wet lands at Sean Walsh park.  At the last area committee meeting we were told the statement would be amended and this has not happened."

**REPLY:**

"A statement regarding the works at Sean Walsh Park has issued to the Tallaght Area Committee Meeting.

The Council has engaged a consultant ecologist to assist in carrying out a detailed examination of the site in question and specifically to deal with the following issues –

* Advice and assessment in relation to rehabilitation of a habitat and potential to encourage re-colonisation of the area.
* An assessment of circa 2.5 acres of land at Sean Walsh Memorial Park including the area subject to the deposition of soil over several years.
* Collating existing available surveys for the area and assessment of the habitats in and adjacent to the site.
* Advice on any actions to be carried out to stabilise the area.
* Assessment of the area subject to deposition of soil and its hinterlands in relation to existing ecology, recent works carried out and remaining ecology in the area.
* Advice in relation to any further surveys required.
* Perform ecological surveys of the ponds, the hinterlands and wetlands and report on same.

These assessments and surveys are currently underway.

**Background:**

There are in total 5 No. ponds located in Sean Walsh Park just South of N81, West of Whitestown Way and East of Old Bawn Road. The Whitestown Stream flows through these ponds, with the exception of the most southerly pond. A tributary of the Jobstown Stream known as the Killinarden Stream feeds this second attenuation pond.  The second attenuation pond is currently being referred to in the media and by other commentators as a ‘wetland’ however it should be noted that it is not a constructed wetland. This pond and the pond to the north of it have been designated within the Draft Tallaght Local Area Plan as ‘indicative location for integrated constructed wetlands.’ Both ponds remain existing on site; and the recent maintenance works were carried out on the northern-most pond.

With regard to works carried out in the park recently, the condition of the main attenuation pond at Sean Walsh Park has been the source of many complaints from members of the public and elected representatives over the years with regard to litter and debris trapped at the bottom of it, and it has featured in a negative way in repeated IBAL survey reports on Tallaght town centre.   It had been the intention of the Council’s public realm section for some time to have the pond cleaned and the debris removed, and these works were arranged and commenced at the start of August 2019.

South Dublin County Council, in order to fulfil its obligations under the Local Government (Water Pollution) Acts 1977 & 1990 to maintain rivers, streams and lakes which are on public lands free from pollution; made arrangements to have the attenuation pond in Sean Walsh Park cleaned.  In advance of these cleaning works commencing the Council consulted with Inland Fisheries Ireland to ensure that any actions taken or work done would be in compliance with the requirements of the Inland Fisheries Act and that measures necessary to protect rivers and streams during the course of the works would be agreed and implemented in advance.  The Council’s Drainage Section also consulted with the Heritage Officer to ensure that works would be in compliance with the terms of the Wildlife Act and EU Habitats Directive with regard to the protection of habitats in the area of the works.  The Council also considered the nature of the work to be done and the material arising from the excavation works in the pond.  As the material excavated from the pond is uncontaminated soil and reused within the boundaries of the park area, SDCC deemed the material not to be a waste in accordance with European Communities (Waste Directive) Regulations 2011, as amended.

The Drainage Works Dept consulted with the Council’s Heritage Officer and the Inland Fisheries regarding the work to be done, they also consulted with the public realm supervisor responsible for the maintenance of Sean Walsh Park and they engaged a plant hire contractor to provide and operate the machinery necessary for the pond cleaning works.

The work undertaken consisted of excavation of the soil from the bottom of the pond, placing of this material in mounds at an area to the south of the attenuation ponds and the sifting of these mounds to remove litter and debris from them with the litter to be ultimately removed off site.  Similar works were carried out and completed on the large lake in this park in July/August of 2018.  Material removed from that lake was deposited in mounds at the same location in the park.  The ornamental lake close to the Old Bawn Road entrance to the park was also cleaned in recent years.  On each occasion the soils arising from the cleaning works was deposited in mounds in the same part of the park, to the south of the attenuation ponds, in an area which has not been fully developed or landscaped to date.  On occasions the soil mounds have been levelled and spread and on other occasions the material was left in mounds.  The placing of these soils on site in this manner has been considered in detail on every occasion that such cleaning works have been carried out in recent years.  While other options have been considered, such as the removal of the material off site, it is considered to be best practice to keep the material within the site on which it has arisen and this has been the option chosen on each occasion.  It appears to be the case that keeping this material on site has helped the area to develop in the manner in which it has over recent years.

The cleaning works commenced on site on Monday July 29th and on Thursday August 1st a meeting took place on site involving SDCC Heritage Officer as well a representative from the Inland Fisheries to discuss the work in progress, including a discussion regarding where the soil would be placed.  It was agreed that the excavated soil would be placed in an area to the south of the attenuation ponds which has been used for the same purpose in previous years.  It was agreed that the soil would be placed in two long and narrow piles or mounds and that these long mounds would be turned to assist drying of the soil as well as the return of invertebrates to the surrounding area.

It was not the Council’s intention to spread the excavated material. Regrettably there was miscommunication with the operator in relation to the mounding of the soil. The soil excavated from the attenuation pond was extremely wet and when tipped on site it did not stay in upright mounds but instead it spread out to a large extent under its own weight.  Sifting through the soil mounds led to it being further spread over a larger area than had been identified as acceptable.

The requirement for Environmental Impact Assessment is set out in legislation and the council comply with all requirements regarding same. The requirements of Environmental Impact Assessment Reports  are incorporated into the project plans and specifications and included in tender documents. The contractor on site is contractually obliged to carry out the works in accordance with the tender documents and the project management team oversee the delivery of the project. Typically an on-site ecologist is part of the project management team or would closely advise the project management or design team in relation to the compliance with ecological recommendations and other matters relating to the ecology of the site. Where a full environmental impact is not required; the council frequently undertake ecological surveys and ecological reports to ensure impacts to flora and fauna are avoided where possible and inadvertent impacts do not occur.

Communication with statutory and non-statutory groups as part of formal consultation processes is set out in legislation (as part of Part 8, Part 10 planning processes etc.). Where those do not apply the project manager manages each project on a case by case basis, as projects vary greatly from site to site. Communication and / or consultation with varying stakeholders, including local communities and interested groups is an integral part of public work; the extent varying depending on the type of work being undertaken and the public interest involved. In the case of the maintenance works at Sean Walsh Park, consultation was carried out with the Heritage Officer and Inland Fisheries.

Ireland aims to conserve habitats and species, through designation of conservation areas. This is required of Ireland under European and national legislation. The National Parks & Wildlife Service (NPWS) is responsible for the designation of conservation sites in Ireland. The NPWS works with farmers, other landowners and users, and national and local authorities, trying to achieve the best balance possible between farming and land-use on the one hand, and requirements for conserving nature in these selected areas, on the other.

The designation of protected areas subject to environmental protection is managed by The National Parks and Wildlife Service under the following protocol: [**Designation Process.**](https://eur04.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.npws.ie%2Fsites%2Fdefault%2Ffiles%2Fpublications%2Fpdf%2FSite%2520Designation%2520Process%2520%2528October%25202017%2529.pdf&amp;data=02%7C01%7Csuzannefurlong%40SDUBLINCOCO.ie%7Cb4a79b1fba404c603eb008d753014b1e%7C6a3c00c019d0492da8de95fad8fda1d4%7C0%7C0%7C637069137330882089&amp;sdata=qGdyCIEy7WCzozRcICDBZbee%2BgbZqqGf5PnXFM55C5c%3D&amp;reserved=0)

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With regard to Sean Walsh Park: The Council is currently reviewing the practice of the disposal of silt drained from lakes. The outcome of this review will include recommendations with regard to procedures going forward.

South Dublin County Council have no records of any ecological surveys carried out in this area.  The report from the Council’s consultant ecologist will include surveys of the area and will inform our next steps including developing a habitat management plan for this area of the park. Preliminary reporting indicates that the disturbance of the area through the spreading of material recovered during the desilting of ponds adjacent is a short-term event. Given the degree of recolonization currently underway within a month of the event, it is estimated the entire area will be revegetated within a year. The report will make further recommendations on how best to support rehabilitation of this habitat."

### **T/318/19 Q11/1019 Item ID:63558**

Proposed by Councillor Liam Sinclair

"To ask the Chief Executive, following the incident in the Tallaght Wetlands on 20/9 & 21/9 and the acknowledgement from Council management on 23/9 that this was a dreadful error, what procedures will be put in place to ensure there isn’t an incident like this in future? e.g.

-          Reviewing when Environmental Impact Assessments are done, how this is communicated to workers and the role of onsite ecologists with these teams.

-          Including responsibility for communicating with any professional or academic groups, in particular those licensed by National Parks and Wildlife or similar groups, that are carrying out survey or preservation work as a core part of an officer’s job description."

**REPLY:**

"A statement regarding the works at Sean Walsh Park has issued to the Tallaght Area Committee Meeting.

The Council has engaged a consultant ecologist to assist in carrying out a detailed examination of the site in question and specifically to deal with the following issues –

* Advice and assessment in relation to rehabilitation of a habitat and potential to encourage re-colonisation of the area.
* An assessment of circa 2.5 acres of land at Sean Walsh Memorial Park including the area subject to the deposition of soil over several years.
* Collating existing available surveys for the area and assessment of the habitats in and adjacent to the site.
* Advice on any actions to be carried out to stabilise the area.
* Assessment of the area subject to deposition of soil and its hinterlands in relation to existing ecology, recent works carried out and remaining ecology in the area.
* Advice in relation to any further surveys required.
* Perform ecological surveys of the ponds, the hinterlands and wetlands and report on same.

These assessments and surveys are currently underway.

**Background:**

There are in total 5 No. ponds located in Sean Walsh Park just South of N81, West of Whitestown Way and East of Old Bawn Road. The Whitestown Stream flows through these ponds, with the exception of the most southerly pond. A tributary of the Jobstown Stream known as the Killinarden Stream feeds this second attenuation pond.  The second attenuation pond is currently being referred to in the media and by other commentators as a ‘wetland’ however it should be noted that it is not a constructed wetland. This pond and the pond to the north of it have been designated within the Draft Tallaght Local Area Plan as ‘indicative location for integrated constructed wetlands.’ Both ponds remain existing on site; and the recent maintenance works were carried out on the northern-most pond.

With regard to works carried out in the park recently, the condition of the main attenuation pond at Sean Walsh Park has been the source of many complaints from members of the public and elected representatives over the years with regard to litter and debris trapped at the bottom of it, and it has featured in a negative way in repeated IBAL survey reports on Tallaght town centre.   It had been the intention of the Council’s public realm section for some time to have the pond cleaned and the debris removed, and these works were arranged and commenced at the start of August 2019.

South Dublin County Council, in order to fulfil its obligations under the Local Government (Water Pollution) Acts 1977 & 1990 to maintain rivers, streams and lakes which are on public lands free from pollution; made arrangements to have the attenuation pond in Sean Walsh Park cleaned.  In advance of these cleaning works commencing the Council consulted with Inland Fisheries Ireland to ensure that any actions taken or work done would be in compliance with the requirements of the Inland Fisheries Act and that measures necessary to protect rivers and streams during the course of the works would be agreed and implemented in advance.  The Council’s Drainage Section also consulted with the Heritage Officer to ensure that works would be in compliance with the terms of the Wildlife Act and EU Habitats Directive with regard to the protection of habitats in the area of the works.  The Council also considered the nature of the work to be done and the material arising from the excavation works in the pond.  As the material excavated from the pond is uncontaminated soil and reused within the boundaries of the park area, SDCC deemed the material not to be a waste in accordance with European Communities (Waste Directive) Regulations 2011, as amended.

The Drainage Works Dept consulted with the Council’s Heritage Officer and the Inland Fisheries regarding the work to be done, they also consulted with the public realm supervisor responsible for the maintenance of Sean Walsh Park and they engaged a plant hire contractor to provide and operate the machinery necessary for the pond cleaning works.

The work undertaken consisted of excavation of the soil from the bottom of the pond, placing of this material in mounds at an area to the south of the attenuation ponds and the sifting of these mounds to remove litter and debris from them with the litter to be ultimately removed off site.  Similar works were carried out and completed on the large lake in this park in July/August of 2018.  Material removed from that lake was deposited in mounds at the same location in the park.  The ornamental lake close to the Old Bawn Road entrance to the park was also cleaned in recent years.  On each occasion the soils arising from the cleaning works was deposited in mounds in the same part of the park, to the south of the attenuation ponds, in an area which has not been fully developed or landscaped to date.  On occasions the soil mounds have been levelled and spread and on other occasions the material was left in mounds.  The placing of these soils on site in this manner has been considered in detail on every occasion that such cleaning works have been carried out in recent years.  While other options have been considered, such as the removal of the material off site, it is considered to be best practice to keep the material within the site on which it has arisen and this has been the option chosen on each occasion.  It appears to be the case that keeping this material on site has helped the area to develop in the manner in which it has over recent years.

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With regard to Sean Walsh Park: The Council is currently reviewing the practice of the disposal of silt drained from lakes. The outcome of this review will include recommendations with regard to procedures going forward.

South Dublin County Council have no records of any ecological surveys carried out in this area.  The report from the Council’s consultant ecologist will include surveys of the area and will inform our next steps including developing a habitat management plan for this area of the park. Preliminary reporting indicates that the disturbance of the area through the spreading of material recovered during the desilting of ponds adjacent is a short-term event. Given the degree of recolonization currently underway within a month of the event, it is estimated the entire area will be revegetated within a year. The report will make further recommendations on how best to support rehabilitation of this habitat."

### **T/319/19 Q12/1019 Item ID:63557**

Proposed by Councillor Liam Sinclair

"To ask the Chief Executive, following the incident in the Tallaght Wetlands on 20/9 & 21/9 and the acknowledgement from Council management on 23/9 that this was a dreadful error, what plans are being put in place to;

-          Define more clearly that this full area will be preserved as wetlands as laid out in the Tallaght Local Area Plan?

-          Regenerate the area impacted by the dreadful error?"

**REPLY:**

"A statement regarding the works at Sean Walsh Park has issued to the Tallaght Area Committee Meeting.

The Council has engaged a consultant ecologist to assist in carrying out a detailed examination of the site in question and specifically to deal with the following issues –

* Advice and assessment in relation to rehabilitation of a habitat and potential to encourage re-colonisation of the area.
* An assessment of circa 2.5 acres of land at Sean Walsh Memorial Park including the area subject to the deposition of soil over several years.
* Collating existing available surveys for the area and assessment of the habitats in and adjacent to the site.
* Advice on any actions to be carried out to stabilise the area.
* Assessment of the area subject to deposition of soil and its hinterlands in relation to existing ecology, recent works carried out and remaining ecology in the area.
* Advice in relation to any further surveys required.
* Perform ecological surveys of the ponds, the hinterlands and wetlands and report on same.

These assessments and surveys are currently underway.

**Background:**

There are in total 5 No. ponds located in Sean Walsh Park just South of N81, West of Whitestown Way and East of Old Bawn Road. The Whitestown Stream flows through these ponds, with the exception of the most southerly pond. A tributary of the Jobstown Stream known as the Killinarden Stream feeds this second attenuation pond.  The second attenuation pond is currently being referred to in the media and by other commentators as a ‘wetland’ however it should be noted that it is not a constructed wetland. This pond and the pond to the north of it have been designated within the Draft Tallaght Local Area Plan as ‘indicative location for integrated constructed wetlands.’ Both ponds remain existing on site; and the recent maintenance works were carried out on the northern-most pond.

With regard to works carried out in the park recently, the condition of the main attenuation pond at Sean Walsh Park has been the source of many complaints from members of the public and elected representatives over the years with regard to litter and debris trapped at the bottom of it, and it has featured in a negative way in repeated IBAL survey reports on Tallaght town centre.   It had been the intention of the Council’s public realm section for some time to have the pond cleaned and the debris removed, and these works were arranged and commenced at the start of August 2019.

South Dublin County Council, in order to fulfil its obligations under the Local Government (Water Pollution) Acts 1977 & 1990 to maintain rivers, streams and lakes which are on public lands free from pollution; made arrangements to have the attenuation pond in Sean Walsh Park cleaned.  In advance of these cleaning works commencing the Council consulted with Inland Fisheries Ireland to ensure that any actions taken or work done would be in compliance with the requirements of the Inland Fisheries Act and that measures necessary to protect rivers and streams during the course of the works would be agreed and implemented in advance.  The Council’s Drainage Section also consulted with the Heritage Officer to ensure that works would be in compliance with the terms of the Wildlife Act and EU Habitats Directive with regard to the protection of habitats in the area of the works.  The Council also considered the nature of the work to be done and the material arising from the excavation works in the pond.  As the material excavated from the pond is uncontaminated soil and reused within the boundaries of the park area, SDCC deemed the material not to be a waste in accordance with European Communities (Waste Directive) Regulations 2011, as amended.

The Drainage Works Dept consulted with the Council’s Heritage Officer and the Inland Fisheries regarding the work to be done, they also consulted with the public realm supervisor responsible for the maintenance of Sean Walsh Park and they engaged a plant hire contractor to provide and operate the machinery necessary for the pond cleaning works.

The work undertaken consisted of excavation of the soil from the bottom of the pond, placing of this material in mounds at an area to the south of the attenuation ponds and the sifting of these mounds to remove litter and debris from them with the litter to be ultimately removed off site.  Similar works were carried out and completed on the large lake in this park in July/August of 2018.  Material removed from that lake was deposited in mounds at the same location in the park.  The ornamental lake close to the Old Bawn Road entrance to the park was also cleaned in recent years.  On each occasion the soils arising from the cleaning works was deposited in mounds in the same part of the park, to the south of the attenuation ponds, in an area which has not been fully developed or landscaped to date.  On occasions the soil mounds have been levelled and spread and on other occasions the material was left in mounds.  The placing of these soils on site in this manner has been considered in detail on every occasion that such cleaning works have been carried out in recent years.  While other options have been considered, such as the removal of the material off site, it is considered to be best practice to keep the material within the site on which it has arisen and this has been the option chosen on each occasion.  It appears to be the case that keeping this material on site has helped the area to develop in the manner in which it has over recent years.

The cleaning works commenced on site on Monday July 29th and on Thursday August 1st a meeting took place on site involving SDCC Heritage Officer as well a representative from the Inland Fisheries to discuss the work in progress, including a discussion regarding where the soil would be placed.  It was agreed that the excavated soil would be placed in an area to the south of the attenuation ponds which has been used for the same purpose in previous years.  It was agreed that the soil would be placed in two long and narrow piles or mounds and that these long mounds would be turned to assist drying of the soil as well as the return of invertebrates to the surrounding area.

It was not the Council’s intention to spread the excavated material. Regrettably there was miscommunication with the operator in relation to the mounding of the soil. The soil excavated from the attenuation pond was extremely wet and when tipped on site it did not stay in upright mounds but instead it spread out to a large extent under its own weight.  Sifting through the soil mounds led to it being further spread over a larger area than had been identified as acceptable.

The requirement for Environmental Impact Assessment is set out in legislation and the council comply with all requirements regarding same. The requirements of Environmental Impact Assessment Reports  are incorporated into the project plans and specifications and included in tender documents. The contractor on site is contractually obliged to carry out the works in accordance with the tender documents and the project management team oversee the delivery of the project. Typically an on-site ecologist is part of the project management team or would closely advise the project management or design team in relation to the compliance with ecological recommendations and other matters relating to the ecology of the site. Where a full environmental impact is not required; the council frequently undertake ecological surveys and ecological reports to ensure impacts to flora and fauna are avoided where possible and inadvertent impacts do not occur.

Communication with statutory and non-statutory groups as part of formal consultation processes is set out in legislation (as part of Part 8, Part 10 planning processes etc.). Where those do not apply the project manager manages each project on a case by case basis, as projects vary greatly from site to site. Communication and / or consultation with varying stakeholders, including local communities and interested groups is an integral part of public work; the extent varying depending on the type of work being undertaken and the public interest involved. In the case of the maintenance works at Sean Walsh Park, consultation was carried out with the Heritage Officer and Inland Fisheries.

Ireland aims to conserve habitats and species, through designation of conservation areas. This is required of Ireland under European and national legislation. The National Parks & Wildlife Service (NPWS) is responsible for the designation of conservation sites in Ireland. The NPWS works with farmers, other landowners and users, and national and local authorities, trying to achieve the best balance possible between farming and land-use on the one hand, and requirements for conserving nature in these selected areas, on the other.

The designation of protected areas subject to environmental protection is managed by The National Parks and Wildlife Service under the following protocol: [**Designation Process.**](https://eur04.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.npws.ie%2Fsites%2Fdefault%2Ffiles%2Fpublications%2Fpdf%2FSite%2520Designation%2520Process%2520%2528October%25202017%2529.pdf&amp;data=02%7C01%7Csuzannefurlong%40SDUBLINCOCO.ie%7Cb4a79b1fba404c603eb008d753014b1e%7C6a3c00c019d0492da8de95fad8fda1d4%7C0%7C0%7C637069137330882089&amp;sdata=qGdyCIEy7WCzozRcICDBZbee%2BgbZqqGf5PnXFM55C5c%3D&amp;reserved=0)

The mapping of these areas are available on the NPWS website at this location: [**Protected Sites.**](https://eur04.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.npws.ie%2Fprotected-sites&amp;data=02%7C01%7Csuzannefurlong%40SDUBLINCOCO.ie%7Cb4a79b1fba404c603eb008d753014b1e%7C6a3c00c019d0492da8de95fad8fda1d4%7C0%7C0%7C637069137330882089&amp;sdata=X1ts5DZ9S1w%2FsGN6WYbRw6jzHUgSg7tbVh307h3jJ7c%3D&amp;reserved=0)

With regard to Sean Walsh Park: The Council is currently reviewing the practice of the disposal of silt drained from lakes. The outcome of this review will include recommendations with regard to procedures going forward.

South Dublin County Council have no records of any ecological surveys carried out in this area.  The report from the Council’s consultant ecologist will include surveys of the area and will inform our next steps including developing a habitat management plan for this area of the park. Preliminary reporting indicates that the disturbance of the area through the spreading of material recovered during the desilting of ponds adjacent is a short-term event. Given the degree of recolonization currently underway within a month of the event, it is estimated the entire area will be revegetated within a year. The report will make further recommendations on how best to support rehabilitation of this habitat."

### **T/320/19 H4/1019 Item ID:63699**

New Works

**Statement on Sean Walsh Park**

[Statement](http://www.sdublincoco.ie/sdcc/departments/corporate/apps/cmas/documentsview.aspx?id=64556)

A discussion followed with contributions from Councillors T. Costello, P. Holohan, L. Sinclair, K. Mahon, C. King and S. Fay. S. Furlong responded to the Members’ queries.

The Report was **NOTED**.

### **T/321/19 C3/1019 Item ID:63711**

Correspondence(No Business)

### **T/322/19 M1/1019 Item ID:63720**

Proposed by Councillor C. O'Connor and Seconded by Councillor M. Duff

Chairman's Motion:

That this Tallaght Area Committee calls on the CEO to support in every way possible, the concerned communities in Aylesbury, Kilnamanagh and other Tallaght Estates, regarding the challenges of the Bonfire season; will he confirm plans now in place, give assurances and make a statement.

**REPORT:**

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

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

The “Bulbs Not Bonfires” initiative is running 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 taken 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 as in other years includes 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 was 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 is again in 2019 being 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.  This effort will be repeated again in 2019.

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 through September and October with clean up in November,
* 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.

In addition to the above the Kilnamanagh residents have requested a meeting with the Council in order to coordinate measures to be taken in the run up to Halloween.  This meeting request will be facilitated in the coming week, an invitation has been issued to the Kilnamanagh Neighbourhood watch group for a meeting during the week commencing Monday October 21st.  An Garda Siochana have been invited to attend this meeting also.

A discussion followed with contributions from Councillors C. O’Connor, M. Duff, L. Dunne, K. Mahon, C. King, S. Fay. L. Magee and M. McAdam responded to the Members’ queries.

The Report was NOTED.

### **T/323/19 M2/1019 Item ID:63726**

Proposed by Councillor M. Duff and Seconded by Councillor C. O’Connor

That this Area Committee, in view of the numerous complaints from school management, parents and local residents regarding Anti Social activities at the bridge and pathway at the rear of Scoil Aonghusa, Castle Park, including the daily selling and storing of illegal drugs, the bonfires of stolen household rubbish and recycling bins and the large gathering of gangs at this part of the Thirty Acres, calls on the Chief Executive to take immediate action to address the issue of security, including CCTV, access and public lighting at this location.

**REPORT:**

There are construction works on a new library building currently underway at the eastern section of Bancroft Park which has necessitated temporarily shutting the entrance at Castletymon Road and Tymon North Gardens.  The temporary closure of this entrance has decreased public access to that section of the park. Lack of legitimate activity and passive surveillance has had an impact in terms of an increase in anti-social activity at this location. Once the building of the library is completed this area will no longer be an effective cul de sac and usage will increase once more, in addition the library will bring an element of activity to this part of the park and is also designed to overlook and add passive surveillance at that eastern location.

The Council's Public Realm Section has had discussions with local residents regarding alterations and improvements to the park boundaries which the residents feel would improve the area by preventing access to the park for scrambler motorbikes.  A tender process has been completed for these fencing works, an order has been placed for the agreed works and a commencement date is awaited from the appointed contractor.

The Public Realm Section will consider further improvements which local residents and elected representatives have suggested such as the installation of some public lighting in this part of the park, such works could be considered for inclusion in the minor improvement works programme for 2020.  Bancroft Park was listed as a walking and cycling route as part of cycle network plan for the area, subject to funding being available if this project was to proceed it would incorporate public lighting along the route through the park.

A discussion followed with contributions from Councillors M. Duff, C. King, T. Costello. L. Magee responded to the Members’ queries.

The Report was **NOTED**.

### **T/324/19 M3/1019 Item ID:63770**

Proposed by Councillor L. Dunne and Seconded by C. O’Connor

This Area Committee calls on the Chief Executive to commit to upgrading the play space in Jobstown that is not only used by the community but Community Groups and Creches within the local area.

**REPORT:**

The existing playground in this area is connected to a Community Centre and is well used by the communites there. Regular inspections are carried out on the playground by public realm staff and maintenance carried out as required. A RoSPA report was recently carried out and the Public Realm team will implement its recommendations shortly.

Once the playspace programme is completed at the end of 2019 it is the intention to progress new playspaces or upgrade old playspaces on a case by case basis (subject to funding and resources being available). As part of the completion of the playspace programme there is a new, large-sized playspace planned for nearby Jobstown Park, close to the Leisure Centre. This will be a large, natural playspace and has recently being tendered. The tender assessment process is underway currently. Subject to succcessful completion of tender processs, construction will be subject to agreement of a programme with the successful tenderer.

A discussion followed with contributions from Councillor L. Dunne. S. Furlong responded to the Member’s queries.

The Report was **NOTED**.

## **Environment**

### **T/325/19 Q13/1019 Item ID:63760**

Proposed by Councillor Sandra Fay

"To ask the CEO to report on financial support that can be made available to St Kevin’s Killian’s GAA Club to fund changing rooms facilities.  The club is an amalgamation of two communities, St. Kevin’s of Kilnamanagh and St. Killian’s of Kingswood.  The clubs are 30 years servicing the community."

**REPLY:**

"Consultants were commissioned to prepare a Sports Pitch Strategy, to provide the Council with with a clear evidence base and set recommndations for future outdoor sports facility development across SDCC's administrative area, which will presented to Council shortly.  This strategy was commissioned to identify the needs and requirements of all sports clubs that avail of SDCC pitches i.e GAA, Soccer, Rugby, Hockey, Cricket, Athletics etc.

There is no funding currently available, however clubs can apply for sports capital funding.  The Council have met with St. Kevin's Killian's GAA club on a number of occassions and informed them that any decision made in regarding their requests for facilities will made in the context of the SDCC Sports Pitch Strategy."

### **T/326/19 Q14/1019 Item ID:63767**

Proposed by Councillor C. King

"To ask the CEO to consider the temporary installation of mobile CCTV in the vicinity of the public bin on St Dominic's Rd beside St Dominic's National school as according to a presentation I was given by school pupils with their teacher - large scale dumping is taking place at this location giving rise to concerns it may attract rats and it is giving a bad impression to the children of the school who have to pass the rubbish every day. I have also had complaints from two elderly residents on St Dominic's Rd regarding the same issue. This question and reply will be returned to the students who are actively involved in positive and successful Environmental activities within the school".

**REPLY:**

"South Dublin County Council is currently undergoing an extensive audit by the Data Protection Commissioner (DPC) with regard to the provision of and the monitoring of CCTV cameras by the local authority. On conclusion of the audit, the DPC will issue a report with findings and recommendations. We are not proposing to consider the installation of CCTV in any new locations until we have received the report from the DPC.

In the interim, SDCC will arrange for inspections of the location to be carried out on a regular basis by the Litter Wardens and Waste Enforcement Officers. Once inspected any materials will be removed by our Public Realm section.

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.

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."

### **T/327/19 Q15/1019 Item ID:63748**

Proposed by Councillor D. Richardson

"To ask the Chief Executive to report on the dumping in Knockmore Park; ongoing dumping from Donomore Green into park."

**REPLY:**

The Litter Warden patrols the area of Knockmore Park regularly and all incidents of illegal dumping are searched for evidence of polluter details. Appropriate enforcement action is taken where the information of the polluter is identified. The matter is then referred to the Public Realm for removal of dumped material. Increasingly, it is found that no personal information relating to polluters is contained within the dumped material, with personal information having been removed or shredded.

As 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.

SDCC are also advancing an online household waste collection register which will assist the Council in enforcing compliance with the Waste Manangement Act and Household Waste bye-laws.

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. Residents may also report illegal dumping to the Environmental Protection Agency's anti-dumping hotline on 1850 365121.

### **T/328/19 H5/1019 Item ID:63694**

New Works (No Business)

### **T/329/19 C4/1019 Item ID:63702**

Correspondence (No Business)

### **T/330/19 M4/1019 Item ID:63769**

Proposed by Councillor L. Dunne and Seconded by Councillor L. Sinclair

This Area Committee calls on the Chief Executive to replicate plastic pollution signage initiatives that are seen across the Country "Please take away 3 pieces of plastic every time you visit the Park/Woods/Mountains".  Initially, to start in our two main parks, Tymon & Watergate.

**REPORT:**

Under the Litter Pollution Act, it is a requirement for each local authority to review its Litter Management Plan at least once every three years, the current SDCC Litter Management plan covers the period up to the end of 2019.  A review of the plan has been initiated and it is anticipated that this will be brought to the Environment, Public Realm and Climate Change Strategic Policy Committee (SPC) for discussion in November.

It is proposed that this suggestion will be considered by the SPC as part of the 2020 - 2024 Litter Management Plan.

A discussion followed with contributions from Councillors L. Dunne, L. Sinclair, C. King, C. O’Connor, S. Fay. M. McAdam responded to the Members’ queries.

The Report was **NOTED**.

### **T/331/19 M5/1019 Item ID:63784**

Proposed by Councillor Patrick Pearse Holohan and Seconded by L. Dunne

This area committee calls on the Chief Executive to install CCTV cameras at the entrance to Montpelier View, Jobstown to deter the ongoing issue of illegal dumping.  Additonally for this to be monitored.

**REPORT:**

South Dublin County Council is currently undergoing an extensive audit by the Data Protection Commissioner (DPC) with regard to the provision of and the monitoring of CCTV cameras by the local authority.  On conclusion of the audit, the DPC will issue a report with findings and recommendations.  We are not proposing to consider the installation of CCTV in any new locations until we have received the report from the DPC.

A discussion followed with contributions from Councillors P. Holohan, L. Dunne, C. King, C. O’Connor, S. Fay. M. McAdam responded to the Members’ queries.

The Report was **NOTED**.

## **Water & Drainage**

### **T/332/19 H6/1019 Item ID:63701**

New Works (No Business)

### **T/333/19 C5/1019 Item ID:63713**

Correspondence (No Business)

## **Community**

### **T/334/19 Q16/1019 Item ID:63758**

Proposed by Councillor Sandra Fay

"To ask the CEO to present a further report on the operation of the Brookfield Youth & Community Centre given job advertisement closed on16th August.  Also can CEO comment on whether or not previous staff were made aware of job advertisements"

**REPLY:**

"The Board of Management for the Brookfield Youth and Community Centre have identified a staff structure to oversee the immediate day to day management and running of the Centre.  A recruitment campaign for the key posts of Duty Manager and Centre Manager closed on 16th August. A shortlisting process has been completed and interviews will be held shortly.  It is anticipated both posts will be filled in a matter of weeks.  Further administrative and/or other posts will be advertised in due course.

The Centre Manager will oversee the management of the centre, engagement of the community and activities as well as managing a team of staff. Initially, the Centre Manager, will be charged with developing and implementing a plan for the centre to reopen, which will include engagement with the local community, marketing and advertising.

The Duty Managers role will be to support the Manager, provide a positive focal point for the local community in an inclusive way through the provision of a space, which supports the promotion of community participation and engagement in educational, recreational and community activities, whilst maximising the use of the Centre."

The new company, which is a separate legal entity to the previous management company, does not have any records pertaining to staff previously employed in the Centre. Both posts were publicly advertised on Indeed and Activelink. Notification was to the trade union, which represented staff previously.

### **T/335/19 Q17/1019 Item ID:63751**

Proposed by Councillor D. Richardson

"To ask the Chief Executive to report on what plans the Council have for CCTV in the Deerpark area?"

**REPLY:**

"There are currently no proposals to install CCTV in Deerpark (or other areas) and 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.

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 Community Groups 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, and any require 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 of same."

### **T/336/19 H7/1019 Item ID:63691**

New Works (No Business)

### **T/337/19 C6/1019 Item ID:63703**

Correspondence (No Business)

### **~~M6/1019 Item ID:63730~~**

Proposed by Councillor M. Duff

That this Area Committee calls on the Chief Executive to set an additional Grants Scheme to assist Community Centres and premises held by licence on behalf of the Council in Tallaght, to enable such Centres to upgrade their windows, lighting and heating systems to help them to be more energy efficient and to upgrade fire doors to meet health and safety standards.

Motion to go to OP&F.

## **Housing**

### **T/338/19 Q18/1019 Item ID:63729**

Proposed by Councillor M. Duff

"To ask the Chief Executive to give a report to this Committee regarding the Window and Doors programme and would he inform the Committee how many Contractors are under tender, are employed for this work and how many requests from tenants for replacement windows and doors are as yet not completed?"

**REPLY:**

From January to September 2019, 81 units had full window and door replacements and 49 units had single window and door replacements.

Currently there is one contractor in place for the Windows and Doors Programme. The Council is currently finalising the tender process for the appointment of the successful contractors under the Accelerated Maintenance Programme.

There are currently 562 properties awaiting replacement on the current Window and Doors Replacement Programme and 121 properties awaiting inspection.

### **T/339/19 Q19/1019 Item ID:63783**

Proposed by Councillor Patrick Pearse Holohan

"To ask the Chief Executive how many houses are boarded up in the Tallaght area at present?  Additionally, what is the turnaround time for reallocation?"

**REPLY:**

"At present there are 44 secured Local Authority properties within the Tallaght area.

These are broken down as follows:

Number of units at works schedule stage: 14 units

Number of units with refurbishment works ongoing: 11 units

Number of units with refurbishment works complete and ready for allocation: 19 units

The average turnaround time is 14.46 weeks as at the end of September 2019.  The turnaround time is calculated from the time the property is surrendered back to the Local Authority until the property is reallocated to a tenant following refurbishment works."

### **T/340/19 Q20/1019 Item ID:63716**

Proposed by Councillor C. O'Connor

"To ask the CEO for an update on action being taken to deal with the ongoing concerns of Fettercairn Estate Management Committee following the most recent meeting with Council officials."

**REPLY:**

"The Council remains committed to Fettercairn Estate Management Committee and have been working with residents during the Summer months to enhance their estates. New flower beds were installed on Kilmartin Drive and Green.The Council and the Fettercairn Committee organised a day out for young people in August to recognise their contribution in keeping their area clean. The young people received certificates and were photographed by the Tallaght Echo.

At the most recent Fettercairn Estate Management meeting on 2nd October 2014, works were agreed for the further enhancement of the Fettercairn including the planting of over 20 trees in the area and a clean up of the wasteland at the rear of Kilmartin.

The Council continue to liaise with Tallaght Gardai and appropriate action has been taken in relation to Drug Activity in the Fettercairn area and issued Tenancy Warnings. Estate Management Clinics continue to be held in Fettercairn each Tuesday from 2.30-3:30 each week. The next meeting is due to be held on Tuesday 22nd October 2019 at 10:00am in County Hall."

### **T/341/19 Q21/1019 Item ID:63717**

Proposed by Councillor C. O'Connor

"To ask the CEO to confirm the schedule being followed in respect of new housing developments in Tallaght?"

**REPLY:**

"The Council Build programme has a total of three projects in The Tallaght Electoral Area which are Part 8 approved and progressing through the tender process. Details of the status of each project is set out below. A detailed Housing Supply Report is presented quarterly to Area Committees with the latest updates on the capital supply programme. The Council is committed to continued social housing delivery through our social housing construction programme and through the planned development of larger Council owned sites across the County.

**Build Programme Update within the Tallaght Electoral Area**

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
|   | **Local Electoral Area** | **Project Name** | **Total number of units** | **Current Status** |
|   | Tallaght South | St. Catherine’s, Knockmore Avenue, Tallaght | 13 | Designs being prepared for tender – target Q3 2019 |
|   | Tallaght Central | Fernwood & Maplewood, Springfield, Tallaght | 40 | Clúid Housing have completed tender evaluation and intend to appoint contractor in Q4 2019.   |
|   | Tallaght Central | Whitestown Way, Tallaght | 81 | Clúid Housing have gone to tender and have completed pre-qualification of submissions which will be shortlisted in the coming weeks.  |
|   |  |  | **134** |   |
|  |  |
|  | **Next tranche of Proposed Part 8’s** |
| **Local Electoral Area** | **Scheme Name** | **Indicative number of units** | **Status** |
| Tallaght South | Rossfield | 2 | Plans being designed for redevelopment of this site.  |
|   |   | **2** |   |
|   |   |   |   |   |   |

When the properties are nearing completion, the Allocations Section is notified to start the process of advertising on Choice Based Letting.  At this time, the Housing Contruction Section can only give an indicative timeframe as to the date of handover of the properties.  As soon as the date of handover of the properties are known, the prospective tenants are notified."

### **T/342/19 Q22/1019 Item ID:63749**

Proposed by Councillor D. Richardson

"To ask the Chief Executive to report on the current anti social reports to Council in the Tallaght area?"

**REPLY:**

"The Anti-Social Quarterly Statistics up to the 30th September 2019 will be presented as a headed item on the agenda for the October ACM."

### **T/343/19 H8/1019 Item ID:63689**

[ASB Strategy](http://www.sdublincoco.ie/sdcc/departments/corporate/apps/cmas/documentsview.aspx?id=64543)

Anti Social Quarterly Statistics for 2019

The following is a statistical analysis of anti-social behaviour reported to South Dublin County Council in respect of breaches of tenancy by Council tenants in the Tallaght Area Committee area.

|  |
| --- |
| **STATISITICAL ANALYSIS OF ANTI SOCIAL BEHAVIOUR REPORTED TO COUNCIL IN THE TALLAGHT ACM AREA** |
| **Incidents** | **1st Qtr 2019** | **2nd Qtr 2019** | **3rd Qtr 2019** | **4th Qtr 2019** | **2019 TOTAL**  |
| **CATEGORY A** |   |   |   |   |  |
| Drugs Activity reported to SDCC | 12 | 13 | 14 |   | **39** |
| Criminal Activity reported to SDCC | 2 | 3 | 6 |   | **11** |
| Joyriding reported to SDCC | 0 | 1 | 0 |   | **1** |
| Violence/intimidation/ harassment reported to SDCC | 8 | 11 | 20 |   | **39** |
|   |   |   |   |   |  |
| **CATEGORY B** |   |   |   |   |  |
| Squatters/illegal occupiers reported to SDCC | 5 | 5 | 4 |   | **14** |
| Vandalism reported to SDCC | 4 | 4 | 1 |   | **9** |
| Physical condition of property reported to SDCC | 3 | 4 | 4 |   | **11** |
| Physical condition of Garden reported to SDCC | 3 | 2 | 3 |   | **8** |
| Racism reported to SDCC | 1 | 1 | 0 |   | **2** |
| Vacant House reported to SDCC | 3 | 2 | 1 |   | **6** |
| Neighbour Dispute (including parking)reported to SDCC | 1 | 1 | 3 |   | **5** |
|   |   |   |   |   |  |
| **CATEGORY C** |   |   |   |   |  |
| Noise/disturbance reported to SDCC | 3 | 5 | 3 |   | **11** |
| Pets/animal nuisance reported to SDCC | 0 | 2 | 1 |   | **3** |
| Children Nuisance reported to SDCC | 1 | 0 | 2 |   | **3** |
| Selling alcohol | 0 | 0 | 0 |   | **0** |
|   |   |   |   |   |  |
| **Total Incidents reported to SDCC** | 46 | 54 | 62 | 0 | **162** |
|   |   |   |   |   |  |
| **Total Complaints reported to SDCC** | 39 | 63 | 64 |   | **166** |
|   |   |   |   |   |  |
| **Total Actions taken by Allocations Support Unit Staff -     Main actions listed below** | 688 | 740 | 797 |   | **2225** |
|   |   |   |   |  |
| Housecall / Inspection | 273 | 306 | 372 |   | **951** |
| Demand for Possesion Section 15 & 17 | 4 | 0 | 3 |   | **7** |
| Abandonment notice served | 0 | 1 | 1 |   | **2** |
| Surrenders Obtained (including Termination of Tenancy under Section 15) | 13 | 7 | 11 |   | **31** |
| Warnings issued | 20 | 13 | 17 |   | **50** |
| Interviews held (formal office and by phone) | 164 | 327 | 195 |   | **686** |
| Pre-Tenancies (includes following up Tenancy Checks )Group Tenancies were held in respect of new developments. | 71 | 57 | 24 |   | **152** |

A discussion followed with contributions from Councillors M. Duff, S. Fay, T. Costello, K. Mahon, C. O’Connor. N. Hanly responded to the Members’ queries.

The Report was **NOTED**.

### **T/344/19 H9/1019 Item ID:63824**

Housing Supply - Brady's Field, Old Bawn

[H-I (9)](http://www.sdublincoco.ie/sdcc/departments/corporate/apps/cmas/documentsview.aspx?id=64566)

A discussion followed with contributions from Councillors C. King, K. Mahon, S. Fay, L. Dunne, M. Duff, C. O’Connor. M. Staunton and E. Conroy responded to the Members’ queries.

The Report was **NOTED**.

### **T/345/19 H10/1019 Item ID:63695**

New Works (No Business)

### **T/346/19 C7/1019 Item ID:63706**

Correspondence (No Business)

### **T/347/19 M7/1019 Item ID:63762**

Proposed by Councillor C. King and Seconded by Councillor C. O’Connor

"That this Committee calls on the CEO to have the trees to the rear of the Council property (Details supplied) removed as a matter of urgency as they have outgrown the garden completely measuring much taller than the houses and causing structural damage to the adjoining property which includes structural cracks in the wall, capping's have fallen off and a third of the gardens grass does not grow as it gets no sunlight from the more than ten trees that cover the adjoining garden".

**REPORT:**

Generally, the Council's Housing Maintenance section state that the upkeep of trees, hedges, gardens (front and rear) and boundary treatments in Council owned housing is the responsibility of the tenant.

The garden of the property will be examined to determine the extent of works required and any damage done to the adjoining boundary.

A discussion followed with contributions from Councillors C. King, M. Duff, K. Mahon, S. Fay. D. Lakes responded to the Members’ queries.

The Report was **NOTED**.

### **T/348/19 M8/1019 Item ID:63763**

Proposed by Councillor C. King and Seconded by Councillor C. O’Connor

"That this Committee calls on the CEO to CPO the four empty and derelict homes at St Maelruains Park adjoining Mountain Park that have remained vacant and unkempt for many years now with rusty steel sheeting covering the doors and windows bringing the aesthetics of the area down, but more importantly in a time of enormous housing need these four homes lie idle rotting away while families await homes for up to 12 years with many living in terrible conditions in emergency accommodation throughout the area and across the City".

**REPORT:**

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

* Repair and Leasing Scheme
* Buy and Renew Scheme
* Long-Term Leasing
* RAS
* HAP

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

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

The Council's Enforcement and Licencing Section monitors these properties on a regular basis under the provisions of the Derelict Sites Act, 1990 and they are scheduled for re-inspection. The properties are in receivership and the receivers have indicated that they are not in position to sell at this time.

A discussion followed with contributions from Councillor C. King. D. Maguire responded to the Members’ queries.

The Report was **NOTED**.

## **Planning**

### **T/349/19 Q23/1019 Item ID:63759**

Proposed by Councillor K. Mahon

"To ask the Chief Executive to update on it's current view of the historic Tallaght landmark the Cuckoo's Nest Pub?  What is the official standing of this premises re planning law and what steps can be taken to ensure it's preservation and make sure that its heritage is recognised?

**REPLY:**

"The Cuckoo’s Nest pub is currently not listed on the Record of Protected Structures. The policies of the County Development Plan 2016-2022 set out to achieve the protection/preservation and retention of Older Buildings, where buildings of local importance are not included on the RPS. Therefore, the Planning Authority would encourage the applicants to retain the existing structure for adaptative reuse as part of continued proposed development of the site and that this would be the preferred approach in achieving the retention and reuse of the existing Cuckoo’s Nest Public House.

It is noted that a planning application was lodged on the 12th September 2019 which includes for the retention of the original front part of the building and to provide for a cafe (137sq.m) at ground floor level of the existing building & a 2 bed apartment overhead at first floor.

This application will be assessed on planning grounds including the policy on older buildings referred to above."

### **T/350/19 H11/1019 Item ID:63698**

New Works (No Business)

### **T/351/19 C8/1019 Item ID:63710**

Correspondence (No Business)

## **Transportation**

### **T/352/19 Q24/1019 Item ID:63764**

Proposed by Councillor C. King

"That this Committee calls on the CEO to arrange for the erection of "Slow Down, Children Crossing" school signs on either side of St Mary's National School on the Greenhills Rd as vehicles speed along this stretch of road putting the lives of children at risk. The Committee further calls on the CEO to arrange for a yellow box be installed at the entrance to the school and Westpark Gym to support the proper flow of traffic in and out of this joint entrance. It is acknowledged that there is a traffic warden some distance up the road at the traffic lights at St Basils but this does not slow the traffic down closer to the school".

**REPLY:**

"This item has been listed for discussion at the November Traffic Management Meeting."

### **T/353/19 Q25/1019 Item ID:63766**

Proposed by Councillor C. King

"To ask the CEO to arrange for the installation of bollards across the turning bay facing (details supplied) as this area is being used by drug users and drug dealers who park up to carry out their business but also to use drugs. This is causing much distress and intimidation to local residents, many of whom are elderly and who have to pass directly by these elements to get to the bus stop. Other forms of anti social and criminal activity are taking place at this location also and residents are pleading for this to be resolved by way of the erection of the proposed bollards. Residents have confirmed that the bin company's do not use the turning bay and have not done so for many years"

**REPLY:**

"This item has been listed for discussiona at the next Tallaght Traffic Management meeting."

### **T/354/19 Q26/1019 Item ID:63686**

Proposed by Councillor C. O'Connor

To ask the CEO to state what decisions have been taken in respect of the request for Double Yellow Lines raised at the last meeting of the Tallaght Traffic Management meet (ref Aug 67781); will he appreciate the strong case made by the Gardai and make a statement? Charlie O'Connor

**REPLY:**

"This location was inspected by Traffic Management Staff and the matter discussed at the September Traffic Management Meeting.  At that meeting it was advised that the Council consideres that the existing arrangements at this location are adequate as there is over 330 meters of double yellow lines already in place and with Garda presence on match days, parking may be restriced as they see fit.

However, Gardai present at the TMM agreed to seek clarification from local Gardai to ascertain if there is a particular issue, and will inspect the location on the next match day at the Stadium.

A report will be brought back to the November Traffic Management Meeting."

### **T/355/19 Q27/1019 Item ID:63687**

Proposed by Councillor C. O'Connor

To ask the CEO to confirm he is talking action regarding the Traffic Management issues of serious concern to the school community in Solas Chriost, Belgard and will he make a statement?

**REPLY:**

"Yes we are taking action in the form of the Road Safety Officer liaising with the School Principal regarding alternative proposals to reduce the demand for parking and change behaviour at this location.

SDCC understand that the main issue in play here is the parking of cars on the opposite side of Cookstown Road at drop off and pick up times.

With regard to the crossing points at the junction of Catherine Tynan Road and Cookstown Road, there are no safer alternatives to the use of the existing signals at present.  However, the Traffic Engineer will examine the light sequences to ascertain if any improvements can be made.

A warrant for a pedestrian crossing does not exist outside the school."

### **T/356/19 H12/1019 Item ID:63700**

New Works (No Business)

### **T/357/19 C9/1019 Item ID:63712**

Correspondence (No Business)

## **Libraries & Arts**

### **T/358/19 H13/1019 Item ID:63690**

Application for Arts Grants (No Business)

### **T/359/19 H14/1019 Item ID:63715**

Library News & Events – B. Fennell

[H-I (14)](http://www.sdublincoco.ie/sdcc/departments/corporate/apps/cmas/documentsview.aspx?id=64430)

### **T/360/19 H15/1019 Item ID:63696**

NEW WORKS (No Business)

### **T/361/19 C10/1019 Item ID:63707**

Correspondence (No Business)

## **Economic Development**

### **T/362/19 Q28/1019 Item ID:63684**

Proposed by Councillor C. O'Connor

"To ask the CEO to present an update on his ongoing efforts to attract tourists to Tallaght and will he detail his strategy in that regard?"

**REPLY:**

"The South Dublin County Tourism Strategy launched in 2015 envisaged the development of a Tallaght Sports and Activity Cluster. The proposal included a number of options for projects that would interpret and make accessible sporting facilities and activities in order to develop a tourism experience. These actions include:

* Enhance the capacity at Tallaght Stadium
* Expand heritage offering
* Providing tourism information point
* Support collaborative access projects with other agencies – e.g. Dodder Greenway.

The new South Stand at Tallaght Stadium was officially opened on 25 March 2019 bringing the capacity of the venue to 8,000 further enhancing its reputation as one of the premier sporting facilities in the country. The stadium provides the home ground for all Shamrock Rovers' games in the Airtricity League and the stadium has hosted many prestigious events, such as the Special Olympics’ Opening Ceremony in 2018, Cristiano Ronaldo’s Real Madrid debut, many memorable nights in Europe for Shamrock Rovers and international football matches. The venue is home to the FAI National Women’s team and the FAI U21 team. It was also chosen as a host venue for the UEFA European U/17 Championship, held in Ireland during May 2019 where seven games were played in Tallaght, including a quarter-final, semi-final and the Final.

The proposed development of the North Stand and remodelled corporate area of the Main Stand continues with the appointment of the Design Team Architects in September 2019. These enhancements will allow the venue to attract sporting and non-sporting events such as business and community events to Tallaght. It is anticipated that with the proposed development of the improved Corporate Area in the Main Stand, the venue will attract more business and corporate events as well as becoming a unique venue for hosting weddings. The Council will continue to encourage visitors to the venue from both within the County and outside the County, and in this vein Dublin’s Outdoors, South Dublin County Council’s tourism brand, has supported a number of family friendly, sporting and activity events at Tallaght Stadium in the past few years such as Gaelforce Dublin, South Dublin On Ice and the Circus.

The Council has recently engaged an operator to organise an outdoor food and beverage market to coincide with the now annual Christmas Craft Fair at County Library. Furthermore, events like the Red Line Book Festival, which uses venues in Tallaght and across the County, also contribute to developing the attraction of Tallaght and South Dublin County in the eye of the visitor.

The Council’s Tourism Events and Festivals Grant, which is advertised twice a year in local press, on the council’s website and through social media, encourages event organisers to consider South Dublin County as a location to host their events. Funding is contingent on the number of out of county and out of country visitors attracted to the event. Since 2018 the fund has supported events such as 5k road race, an international martial arts contest, and an international basketball competition, all of whom brought national and international visitors to Tallaght.

The Council recently sought 3 South Dublin Councillors nominees for the Dodder Greenway Steering Group The purpose of the Dodder Greenway Steering Group is as follows:

To ensure that appropriate support is provided to assist the delivery of the on-going preliminary design and planning stages in Dublin City and Dun Laoghaire-Rathdown County and the continued progression of the detailed design, delivery and on-going maintenance stages of the Dodder Greenway project in South Dublin and subsequently Dun Laoghaire and Dublin City and to actively engage in seeking and supporting the delivery of appropriate funding streams.

Information on events held in Tallaght and across the county aimed at the visitor market is available on dublinsoutdoors.ie and various social media platforms. Furthermore, tourist and visitor information is provided through a network of brochure information stands placed in various hotels and attractions across Dublin."

### **T/363/19 Q29/1019 Item ID:63685**

Proposed by Councillor C. O'Connor

To ask the CEO to update members on his plans for the further development of Tallaght Stadium and in reporting will he also confirm actions being taken to further promote the use of the Stadium and make a statement? Charlie O'Connor

**REPLY:**

"The proposed development of the North Stand and remodelled Main Stand, continues with the appointment of the Design Team Architects in September 2019. Cooney Architects were appointed following a procurement process that took place during 2019.

Cooney Architects will develop detailed plans for both the proposed new North Stand and and also the remodelled Corporate Area of the Main Stand ,which will be brought forward to the Members through the Part 8 process. The Part 8 consultation process will commence in Q4 2019. It is anticpated that the capacity of the stadium will increase from 8,000 currently, to over 10,000 spectators, with the development of the North Stand.

The Stadium continues to attract top class sporting events to the County, including an attendance of over 7,000 for the Shamrock Rovers v Bohemians Airtricity League game on the 30th August, which is a record for a regular league fixture for the venue. The FAI Womens National Team game against Ukraine on 8th October, had an attendance of 5,328, a record for a Womens International game in Ireland. The FAI Mens U/21 Team game against Italy on 10th October, attracted an attendance of 7,231 ,which the FAI state is a record for an U21 International in Ireland. The UEFA U/17 European Championships in May, were a great success with seven games taking place in the Stadium, including the Final. The venue is rated Category 4 per UEFA standards, which allows the venue to continue to attract international games including the Senior Womens Internationals and U21 Mens teams to the venue, as well as hosting European club games, which in 2019, included two games involving Shamrock Rovers and one involving Dundalk.

Other recent events that have taken place in the Stadium include the South Dublin Local Enterprise Awards, a Local Enterprise Office Brexit Event, Engineers Week events, Bank of Ireland Enterprise Town event as well as several Public Participation Network events. In addition Demense Electrical held an Electrical Exhibition and Showcase in the Stadium in September. We are hopeful of attracting events like the Ice Rink and Circus back to the Stadium for the Christmas/New Year season.

We will continue to try and maximise usage of the Stadium and will endeavour to attract events both sporting and non-sporting to the venue, including business and community events. It is anticipated that with the proposed development of the improved Corporate Area in the Main Stand, that the venue will attract even more business and corporate events as well as becoming an unique venue for hosting weddings. We will continue to encourage visitors to the venue from both within the County and also from outside the County as well."

### **T/364/19 Q30/1019 Item ID:63719**

Proposed by Councillor C. O'Connor

"To ask the CEO to confirm actions planned in respect of Friarstown House and adjacent Lands; will he appreciate the interest of the community in the matter and make a statement?"

**REPLY:**

"The house and adjacent lands are owned by the Council and are presently licensed to a local farmer. There are no current plans to change this arrangement."

### **T/365/19 H16/1019 Item ID:63693**

New Works (No Business)

### **T/366/19 C11/1019 Item ID:63705**

Correspondence (No Business)

The Meeting concluded at 17.37pm.

Siniú: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Dáta: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

An Cathaoirleach