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

Minutes of South Dublin County Council November 2019 County Council Meeting held on Monday 11 November 2019

### **PRESENT**

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

### **OFFICIALS PRESENT**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Chief Executive | D. McLoughlin.  |
| Directors/ Heads of FunctionHead of FinanceCounty Architect | L. Maxwell, T. Walsh, F. Nevin. C. Ward, M. Mulhern. R. FitzGerald.E. Conroy.  |
| Senior Executive Officers | C. Hurson, N. Hanley, M. Maguire, M. McAdam |
| Administrative Officers | M. Reilly, N. Noonan.  |
| Staff OfficerClerical OfficerIT SupportSord | L. Abbey.D. Murphy,R. SaizA. O’Brien. |

The Mayor, Councillor V. Casserly, presided.

Apologies were received from Councillors P. Holohan, E. Murphy, E. O’Brien

### **H1/1119 CONFIRMATION AND REAFFIRMATION OF MINUTES**

Minutes of the October County Council Meeting on 14th October 2019 which had been circulated were submitted and **APPROVED** as a true record and signed in the proposition of Councillor V. Casserly seconded by Councillor D. O’Donovan.

1. [Minutes of October Council Meeting - October 14th 2019](http://www.sdublincoco.ie/sdcc/departments/corporate/apps/cmas/documentsview.aspx?id=64646)

At this point the Mayor Councillor V. Casserly proposed and the Members **AGREED** to vary the sequence of items on the Agenda in order to take headed item no.9 **(H9)** next:

### **H9/1119 AUDIT COMMITTEE REPORTS**

The following reports by the Audit Committee, which had been circulated, were presented by Ms. E. Quinlan and were **CONSIDERED:**

**1. Introduction**

At the Audit Committee meeting held on 16th October 2019, the Principal Local Government Auditor was in attendance to review and discuss his audit and report in respect of the Council’s Annual Financial Statement 2018. Where questions were posed by committee members, these were responded to by the Auditor and the Committee was satisfied with the responses.

Issues highlighted by the Auditor were discussed and considered by the Committee along with the Chief Executive’s responses to those issues raised. In accordance with Section 60 of the Local Government Act 2014, I set out hereunder the Committee’s report in respect of the key issues considered by the committee and our overall conclusions.

**2. Financial Standing**

The net surplus for the year in the amount of €39,306 after transfers to reserves of €35.3m was noted by the committee. The committee noted the significant movements during the year in the finances in the following areas; the increase in Work in Progress of €30.3m, the increase in Bank Investments of €52m and the decrease in Trade Debtors and Prepayments of €10.1m. 2

**3. Income Collection**

The committee noted the improvement in the collection of rates in 2018. The Local Government Auditor highlighted the potential impact on the Council’s finances, of the substantial number of ratepayers appealing valuations, if their appeals are successful. The committee noted management’s budget provision in respect of possible reductions following Valuation Tribunal appeals.

With respect to the collection of outstanding monies, the committee noted the Chief Executive’s response in relation to the establishment of a Debt Management Unit, focussing on improving the collection of Housing Rents and Housing Loans in particular.

The Local Government Auditor’s concerns in relation to the Housing Loans System were discussed with the auditor and the Head of Finance. The Committee acknowledged that this is an issue across the Dublin Local Authorities and welcomed the establishment of a project team, led by Fingal County Council, tasked with the procurement of a new Housing Loans System.

The committee noted that the auditor was satisfied with the calculation of doubtful debt provision.

**4. Transfer of Water & Sewerage Functions to Irish Water**

The committee noted that the transfer of water and sewerage functions to Irish Water is an on-going process and that the Council continues to deliver services on behalf of the company under a service level agreement.

**5. Capital Account**

It was noted that capital expenditure increased from €66m in 2017 to €123m in 2018. The increase in expenditure occurred mainly in the housing area, which rose from €46m in 2017 to €89m in 2018.

The committee acknowledged the Chief Executive’s response to review residual balances on the voluntary and affordable accounts.

With respect to the Approved Housing Bodies register the auditor highlighted the importance of reconciliation of CLSS loans so the completeness and accuracy of the register can be assured.

**6. Fixed Assets / Property Register**

The Committee noted the significant progress made in the reconciliation of the fixed assets register to other property records and the on-going updating and improving of existing property systems pending the development of a new national property management system.

**7. Loans Payable**

The committee noted management’s assurance to investigate and resolve the discrepancy in respect of the outstanding balance, regarding one particular Housing Finance Agency loan, as highlighted in the auditor’s report.

**8. Contributions & Bonds**

The committee noted the progress made in addressing weaknesses in the management reports available from the Financial Contributions System. The Chief Executive’s response provided assurances that further enhancements will be procured if required. The committee noted that the work completed with Development Contributions is now being replicated with Bonds.

**9. Procurement**

The committee noted the framework in place to support staff compliance with procurement requirements. The auditor outlined the tests carried out on a sample of procurement transactions and highlighted that in some instances the relevant procurement information was not recorded correctly in the financial system. These findings were consistent with compliance checks carried out by the Procurement Unit. The committee noted the pro-active approach adopted by Procurement, in respect of monitoring the application of good procurement practice.

**10. Local Authority Companies**

The committee noted that the most recent financial statements for the four companies the Council has an interest in were made available for audit.

**11. Governance**

The auditor referred to the on-going work of Internal Audit and the Audit Committee and expressed satisfaction with the level of activity and quality of Internal Audit reports, the findings of which he considered, where appropriate, during his audit.

The auditor also referred to the Council’s risk management policy and risk register which includes risks at both corporate and departmental levels. Risks are rated and relevant mitigation actions are recorded as appropriate against the risks. No issues were identified by the auditor.

The committee noted that the auditor confirmed that the annual ethics declarations were received for all council members and designated staff as required by legislation. 4

**12. Conclusion**

Having considered the Local Government Auditor’s report and discussed the various issues with him, the Audit Committee is satisfied with the level of improvement that has taken place over the last number of years in the areas of governance, improved processes and systems, and acknowledges the progress made in relation to legacy issues.

The Audit Committee will continue to monitor progress on outstanding issues as part of their work programme by receiving and considering updates from Management.

b) [Audit Committee Charter & Work Programme 2019-2020](http://www.sdublincoco.ie/Meetings/ViewDocument/64642)

c) [Audit Committee - Standing Orders](http://www.sdublincoco.ie/Meetings/ViewDocument/64643)

The reports were **NOTED** and it was proposed byCouncillor V. Casserly, seconded by Councillor P. Kavanagh and **RESOLVED:**

“That the Audit Committee Standing Orders, Charter & Works programme be **ADOPTED and APPROVED.**”

### **H2a/1119 REPORTS OF AREA COMMITTEES**

**a) Rathfarnham/Templeogue/Firhouse/Bohernabreena Area Committee - 8th October 2019**

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

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

An Application for an Arts Grant under Section 6 of the Arts Act 2003, has been received from the organisation listed below. Payment of this grant, in accordance with the conditions of the Scheme and in the amount set out hereunder, is recommended for approval:-

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
|   Ref: |  Name of Group |  Type of Application - Grant | Amount |
|   AG 906 | Ballyfermot Youth Service | Ballyfermot Youth Service which runs an adventure centre at the 7th lock on the Grand Canal is seeking assistance towards the cost of painting a mural on both sides of the Kileen Road Bridge, which is currently tagged in Graffiti. One side of the bridge is in the South Dublin County Council administrative area. Permission for a mural has been given for the by SDCC Planning department. The mural will be designed and painted by young people attending the centre with the support of an artist. A mural has already been completed on the Dublin City Council side of the bridge, with funding from that Council. |    €650 |

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The report was **NOTED** and it was proposed by Councillor G. O’Connell seconded by Councillor V. Casserly and **RESOLVED**:

“That the recommendations contained in the foregoing report of The Rathfarnham/Templeogue/Firhouse/Bohernabreena Area Committee 8th October 2019 be **ADOPTED** and **APPROVED.**”

### **H2b/1119 REPORTS OF AREA COMMITTEES**

**b) Clondalkin Area Committee – 16th October 2019**

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

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

### **H2c/1119 REPORTS OF AREA COMMITTEES**

**c) Tallaght Area Committee – 21st October 2019**

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

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

### **H2d/1119 REPORTS OF AREA COMMITTEES**

**d)** **Lucan/Palmerstown/Fonthill Area Committee – 22nd October 2019**

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

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

An Application for an Arts Grant under Section 6 of the Arts Act 2003, has been received from the organisation listed below. Payment of this grant, in accordance with the conditions of the Scheme and in the amount set out hereunder, is recommended for approval:-

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  Ref: |  Name of Group |  Type of Application - Grant | Amount |
| AG 907 | Palmerstown One Act Drama Festival | Palmerstown One Act Drama Festival are seeking assistance towards the cost of their festival. This is their 50th year and they cater for all 32 counties. The festival takes place over two nights and presents a wide and varied selection of plays.   The arts office recommends that a contribution of €650 be allocated to Palmerstown One Act Drama Festival in respect of the One Act Drama Festival. |   €650 |

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The report was **NOTED** and it was proposed by Councillor V. Casserly seconded by Councillor G. O’Connell and **RESOLVED**:

“That the recommendations contained in the foregoing report of The Area Lucan/Palmerstown/Fonthill Committee 8th October 2019 be **ADOPTED** and **APPROVED.**”

### **H3/1119 STANDING COMMITTEES ORGANISATION, PROCEDURE & FINANCE**

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

### **H4/1119 STRATEGIC POLICY COMMITTEES**

1. Nominations to the Board of the South Dublin Arts Company - Arts, Culture, Gaeilge, Heritage and Libraries SPC meeting on 6th November.

It was proposed by Councillor V. Casserly, 2nd by Councillor F. Timmons and **APPROVED** that Councillor P. Kavanagh be nominated to the Board of the Arts, Culture, Gaeilge Heritage and Libraries SPC.

**REPLY:**

At the Arts, Culture, Gaeilge Heritage and Libraries SPC meeting on 6th November the nomination of three (3) members to the Board of the South Dublin Arts Company, (Rua Red), was discussed by the members. It was agreed that:

* The previous protocol that the three members to be nominated would be: the SPC Chair (ex officio), one elected member and one non-elected member, would continue.
* In line with this protocol it was agreed that Cllr Mick Duff, (Chair) and Ms Freda Manweiler, (PPN) would be nominated to the Board.
* As not all elected members of the SPC were present for the discussion it was agreed that the third nomination be deferred to the next meeting.

### **H5/1119 REPORTS REQUESTED BY AREA COMMITTEES**

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

**QUESTIONS**

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

“That pursuant to Standing Order No. 13, Questions numbered Q1 – Q23 be **ADOPTED** and **APPROVED.”**

### **Q1/1119 CRISP PACKET RECYCLING**

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

To ask the Chief Executive if the Council has plans to engage with recycling companies with a view to implementing a crisp packet recycling scheme? Crisp packets constitute a significant element nationally of litter pollution. They are currently non-recyclable however, there are some alternative recycling companies offering methods for the recycling of crisp packets as well as recycling for other non-recyclable plastics.

**REPLY:**

The Irish Environmental Network through their member charity Zero Waste Alliance Ireland have launched a Crisp Packet Recycling Scheme which is run by TerraCycle. The scheme involves, collection of crisp packets, which are then separated by plastic type, cleaned, and made into plastic pellets to make new recycled products.

South Dublin County Council, through its Environmental Awareness section, will promote this and other such schemes which can contribute to litter reduction and an increase in recycling activities.

### **Q2/1119 WATER QUALITY**

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

To ask the Chief Executive to list, in tabular form, by area, the incidents of water pollution over the last 12 months, the causes of such pollution and to list the steps being taken by the Council to prevent pollution and improve water quality overall.

**REPLY:**

The attached document lists the water pollution incidents in the streams and rivers in the SDCC area for the period September 2018 to August 2019. The list is a summation of the Water Pollution Section’s work under the broad heading of pollution incidents types. The Council keeps more detail of each date listed in these records. It should be noted that incidents are generated or reported from various difference sources such as by Water Pollution Section staff by direct work on the ground, other sections and departments of the Council, members of the public, commercial entities and Elected Member among others. Incident types include reported incidents, investigations and assessments that have a direct connection to the stormwater drainage system, and adjacent to or in streams and rivers. The source of pollution incidents may or may not be found as this depends on the duration of pollution, reporting times of pollution, the nature of the pollution itself. However, in all circumstances when the Council receives a report of pollution it will investigate.

Prevention and improvement of water quality in the streams and rivers of South Dublin County can fall under two broad headings: Pollution investigation under the Local Government (Water Pollution) Act 1977 and as amended by the 1990 Act, and basic measures of action that fall under the Water Framework Directive (WFD). These are dealt with as follows:

Pollution investigation such as domestic misconnection investigations allows the Council to find polluting sources that would otherwise be hidden or masked in the public storm water drainage system. A useful prevention tool the Council uses regularly is the taking-in-charge process whereby the Council assesses the stormwater drainage system of a housing estate to be taken-in-charge for surface water quality before coming into public ownership.

Basic measures prevention and improvement work that fall under the WFD and set out in more detail in the national River Basin Management Plan 2018-2021 include primarily septic tank inspection as required by the National Inspection Plan 2018-2021 and farm inspections under the European Communities (Good Agricultural Practices for the Protection of Waters) Regulations 2017. The Council in all of its discussions and interactions with the public and commercial sectors promotes good water quality practice.

The Dublin Urban Rivers LIFE project has recently commenced ([www.dublinriverlife.ie](https://eur04.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=http%3A%2F%2Fwww.dublinriverlife.ie&amp;data=02%7C01%7Ccgalvin%40SDUBLINCOCO.ie%7C9042a9489551403ff3a808d75eef3783%7C6a3c00c019d0492da8de95fad8fda1d4%7C0%7C0%7C637082253831510758&amp;sdata=Vu4iDnZOPuMKZkX055LGoJGGxVWdkQyM9jf5QxKv3fk%3D&amp;reserved=0) ) and will not only identify and prevent pollution discharges at source but will also include nature based systems of water quality improvement by way of integrated constructed wetlands. This is a four-year multi discipline project part funded by the EU LIFE Fund Programme.

[Water Incident List](http://www.sdublincoco.ie/sdcc/departments/corporate/apps/cmas/documentsview.aspx?id=64658)

### **Q3/1119 DUBLIN FIRE BRIGADE**

### **QUESTION:** **Councillor E. Higgins**

To ask the Chief Executive for the following information:

The number of hoax or malicious calls to the Fire Brigade in the years 2017, 2018 and 2019 to date.

How many of these hoax calls were reported to gardaí?

How many resulted in a prosecution?

**REPLY:**

Dublin Fire Brigade (DFB) log incidents as either reporting “False Alarm, Good Intent” (FAGI) or as “Malicious False Alarm’s” (MFA).

The following are the recorded figures of both FAGI & MFA incidents since 2017 up to the 25th of October 2019.

In incidents reported as MFA, DFB reported or informed An Garda Síochána (AGS) on the indicated number of occasions.

The figures in brackets relate to SDCC only.

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | **2017** | **2018** | **2019** |
| FAGI | 436 (61) | 1032 (147) | 906 (134) |
| MFA | 81 (19) | 99 (26) | 95 (28) |
| MFA Reported AGS | 12 (1) | 32 (4) | 22 (3) |

DFB do not have records on prosecutions for these incidents as these would be dealt with by An Garda Siochana.

### **Q4/1119 PARKING IN DISABLED PARKING BAYS**

### **QUESTION:** **Councillor E. Higgins**

To ask the Chief Executive for the number of parking fines issued by traffic wardens to drivers parking in disabled parking bays in the years 2017, 2018 and 2019 to date.

**REPLY:**

The following are the number of parking fines issued in respect of drivers parking in disabled parking bays:

2017 - 215

2018 - 182

2019 - 111 (To date)

The Council introduced a text alert messaging service at Disabled Parking Bays in Lucan and Rathfarnham Villages in 2018.  This service affords members of the public opportunity to text a dedicated Mobile Phone Number if they notice a vehicle parked illegally in a disabled parking bay, to which a traffic warden is dispatched as soon as practicable.

This text alert system has reduced the number of illegal vehicles parked in disabled parking bays considerably.

### **Q5/1119 TREE CANOPY STUDY**

### **QUESTION:** **Councillor Peter Kavanagh**

To ask the Chief Executive what actions have SDCC undertaken based on the findings and principles of the Dublin Tree Canopy Study specifically to increase canopy and retain the woodlands on SDCC owned lands? If the Chief Executive would report on SDCC's policy regarding Native Woodland establishment and the reason that natural native woodlands seem to be omitted from the tree management document?

**REPLY:**

The Council's Climate Change Action Plan contains a number of intended actions under the Nature Based Solutions section which will help to increase tree canopy cover in the County into the future.  These include the following actions -

* To develop an urban woodland management strategy and action plan, and
* To increase tree canopy cover in the County through annual planting and maintenance.

The Public Realm Section currently plants in the region of 1,500 trees in on-street and open space locations with a budget of approximately €150,000 provided annually for this work.  The planting proposed in the motion is intended to be additional to that planned tree planting programme, details of which are due to be presented to the Council's area committees in October and November. South Dublin County Council has adopted a tree management policy that seeks to manage existing trees appropriately and reduce the amount of trees being removed from public open space for non-essential reasons.  The council manages a large quantity of public trees within the streetscape; which presents its own challenges, so the management and retention of these trees is also an important facet in the Council’s Climate Change Action Plan.  Tree and hedgerow protection and retention is arguably as important as new tree planting, as it serves to retain a mature tree canopy that already supports an established ecosystem and existing ecological corridors.

All proposed schemes are examined for opportunities for new tree planting. For example - 500 trees were planted as part of the Ogham Tree trail in Dodder valley, 367 trees were planted as part of Phase 1 of the upgrading of N81.

The conversion of any open space area to woodland has to be carefully assessed and managed to ensure unintended consequences do not result. Quite a number of SDCC’s parks and open spaces contain species-diverse meadowlands that are important from a biodiversity point of view and support species that do not thrive in a woodland setting; such as protected flora and fauna species, ground nesting birds etc.

SDCC have examined Coillte’s recent announcement regarding Coillte Nature. SDCC intend, through its partnership with Coillte and other partners in the Dublin Mountains Partnership, to engage with Coillte on this initiative.  Coillte Nature have announced they will target the delivery of new woodlands facilitating species diversity, biodiversity and carbon sequestration as part of the Government’s National Forestry Programme.  The establishment of Coillte Nature will also see the conversion of certain commercial Coillte forests to recreational forests, notably in the Dublin Mountains.  South Dublin County Council will engage with Coillte in the development of their programme to examine if co-ordinated and complementary actions within South Dublin County Council owned lands can complement and enhance their proposed actions regarding the transition to broadleaf, mainly native woodlands.

### **Q6/1119 RECORDING BIODIVERSITY**

### **QUESTION:** **Councillor Peter Kavanagh**

To ask the Chief Executive what actions SDCC are undertaking to measure and record the presence, population, distribution and location of protected species and protected habitats within its jurisdiction to ensure no further habitats and species are accidentally destroyed, with particular reference to woodlands in the county and areas earmarked for future development.

**REPLY:**

There are various ways of protecting habitats through the planning system. Information on habitats and species is a requirement for large planning applications through the Environmental Impact Assessment process. Furthermore, all planning applications are appropriately assessed under the Habitats Directive to ensure no detrimental impact to the objectives set out for designated Special Protection Areas and Special Areas of Conservation. In addition to statutory requirements, ecological assessments may be provided or sought for applications where there is concern over specific flora and/or flora.

Occasional ecological studies and surveys are also commissioned by the Council's Heritage Officer under the County Heritage Plan or as part of co-operative projects with other Council Departments or local community groups.  Whenever requested, the Heritage Officer advises on known records of habitats and species.

Outside the planning process, there are many environmental protection procedures undertaken by the Council, for instance through waste management.

Ideally, to avoid unforeseen or accidental environmental impacts beyond those processes outlined above, detailed baseline data on the distribution and abundance of habitats and species in the County would be collated.

The forthcoming County Biodiversity Plan which is currently being drafted, will include a focus on the gathering of ecological data as part of a wider objective relating to a Green Infrastructure Strategy for the County.  The objective of this Green Infrastructure Strategy is to identify, develop and sustain green corridors throughout the County that will serve to protect interconnectivity for wildlife and habitats.  This action will also serve to address objectives in the current County Development Plan relating to Green Infrastructure.

### **Q7/1119 VACANT HOMES**

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

The 2016 Census identified 3,495 vacant units in the South Dublin County Council area. Many may now be occupied such as in the Tallaght Town Centre. Can the Chief Executive report on where we currently stand regarding vacant units, how they are classified and what potential exists to bring them into public usage?

**REPLY:**

South Dublin County had an extremely low vacancy rate (at 3.6%) according to the Central Statistics Office in 2016.

Under the National Vacant Housing Re-use Strategy, each local authority was required to identify the scale of vacant homes and develop plans to address vacancy within their administrative area, by categorising vacant homes by location, ownership and reason for vacancy and subsequently to identify those properties that have the potential to be refurbished and made available for use.

Many of the properties considered vacant at census time were clarified as not being suitable for potential return to use due to being subject of legal proceedings or other dispute, probate, occupiers in long-term care etc.  Notwithstanding those such properties, there are currently 64 vacant units identified within the County.

There are several proactive initiatives used to encourage and enable 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

The primary objective is to encourage property owners to engage with the Council and find solutions for the vacant homes without having to resort to an acquisition process. However, the Council has a range of legislative powers available to deal with under-utilised and derelict properties including Compulsory Purchase and Derelict Sites legislation where necessary.  To date, six homes have been acquired by the Council under the Derelict Sites legislation and brought back into social housing stock.

Vacant properties can be reported via [http://vacanthome.ie](http://scanmail.trustwave.com/?c=6600&amp;d=jJOE2wL3y_Q1YXrxCkROYD7gW2g0XOuP_9rvhS5U8Q&amp;s=344&amp;u=http%3a%2f%2fvacanthome%2eie%2f)

### **Q8/1119 RENT ARREARS**

### **QUESTION:** **Councillor David McManus**

To ask the Chief Executive to provide a report on the level of rent arrears from social housing for the period 2014-2019 within South Dublin County Council, if these are available for each local electoral area, how such arrears are managed and if he will make a statement on the matter.

**REPLY:**

The level of Housing Rent arrears for years 2014 – to date are detailed below which shows a reduction of over €240,800 in arrears over the past 10 months:

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
|   | Housing Rent arrears @ |
| 2014 | €7,827,834 |
| 2015 | €7,879,454 |
| 2016 | €7,749,612 |
| 2017 | €7,770,483 |
| 2018 | €8,117,785 |

 2019 to Date             €7,876,937

South Dublin County Council has established a Debt Management Unit which incorporates the collection of Housing Rents amongst its tasks. The Debt Management Unit provides a much focused team of experts dedicated to working constructively with the Council's tenants while at the same time safeguarding the Council’s revenue streams and reducing the value of the debt outstanding to the Council.

The Housing Rent arrears are being managed by staff from the Debt Management unit. They contact tenants in arrears and work constructively with them in addressing their arrears through various means such as agreed repayment plans etc. Over the past 10 months Housing rent arrears have reduced by €240,848 or 3%

### **Q9/1119 CONTROL OF DOGS**

### **QUESTION: Councillor David McManus**

To ask the Chief Executive to provide a report on the enforcement action taken by South Dublin County Council under the Control of Dogs legislation over the past 12 months, namely with regard to dog licences, stray dogs and other penalties issued and if he will make a statement on the matter.

**REPLY:**

South Dublin County Council currently employs two full time Dog Wardens within the administrative area whose role is the enforcement of the Control of Dogs Act 1986 as amended. This includes:

* responding to complaints relating to dogs not under effectual control and/or dangerous dogs
* carrying out of Licence Checks and the initiation of enforcement proceedings where possible
* seizure and collection of unwanted/stray dogs and removal to the Dog Pound.

The Dog Wardens can be contacted on 01 414 9000.

The following statistics reflect activity in respect of the Control of Dogs in the South Dublin Administrative Area for 2018 and up to 30th September 2019:

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
|   | **2018** | **2019 up to 30/09/2019** |
| Total of Live Licences | 8627 | 8332 |
| No of 10 day Notices | 670 | 665 |
| No of Dog Fines Issued | 297 | 65 |
| No Fines Paid | 14 | 7 |
| No of Prosecutions | 27 | 19 |
| No of Convictions | 7 | 1 |
| ***No of Dogs in the Pound*** |
|  at Year beginning | 61 | 16 |
|  Impounded during Year | 473 | 287 |
| *Stray* | *363* | *216* |
| *Surrendered* | *106* | *65* |
| *Seized* | *4* | *6* |
| *Reclaimed by owner* | *134* | *72* |
| *Rehomed* | *329* | *207* |
| *Euthanised* | *52* | *20* |
| *Died Naturally* | *3* | *2* |
|   at Year end | 16 | 2 |

### **Q10/1119 WATER QUALITY**

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

To ask the Chief Executive to give assurances in respect of the water quality in the County noting the concerns of many regarding the recent incident at the Leixlip Water Plant which created difficulties for some residents and will he make a statement.

**REPLY:**

In regard to water quality, all public drinking water supplied throughout South Dublin is monitored to ensure full compliance with the water quality standards required by the Drinking Water Regulations.  Monitoring results and information about water quality is available on Irish Water's website [www.water.ie](http://www.water.ie).  If customers have any queries regarding drinking water quality, or indeed any issue around water supply or wastewater services they can contact Irish Water's call centre 24/7 on 1850 278 278.

Members are reminded that Irish Water have established a Local Representative Service Desk which is committed to giving speedy responses.  This Service Desk can be contacted at localsupport@water.ie or at 1890 178 178.

### **Q11/1119 COC TOURISM**

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

To ask the Chief Executive to update the Council on his ongoing strategy to attract tourists to our County; will he give details of his actions in that regard and will he make a statement.

**REPLY:**

South Dublin County Council continues to progress the implementation of the 2015 Tourism Strategy including the following tourism projects and studies:

* Build on the successful opening of the Clondalkin Round Tower Centre in Summer 2017.
* Progress the tourism project at Rathfarnham Castle Courtyard and outbuildings with the return to market in Spring 2020.
* Identify funding for the Grand Canal Greenway, (Part 8 approved), and the proposed Canal Loop with Inland Waterways and neighbouring Authorities.
* Progress the Dublin Mountain Tourism Flagship Project through the current planning phase to detailed design, tender and commencement of construction, subject to planning.
* Continue to identify and promote events and festivals.
* Continue to implement the 2017 County Tourism, Marketing and Branding Strategy.
* Continue the positive working relationships through the Dublin Tourism Working Group with Failte Ireland in delivering on the potential of the “Grow Dublin” Tourism Project and the “Dublin-surprising by nature” marketing concept.
* Progress the roll out the translation app for heritage walks throughout the County trialled in Clondalkin.

In rolling out the above projects the Council will continue to work with all stakeholders at National and Local level particularly Failte Ireland and the Tourism operators.

### **Q12/1119 WEATHER EVENTS**

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

To ask the Chief Executive to confirm the Council's plans in place to deal with any serious weather events through the coming winter months; will he appreciate the concern of our communities throughout the County in respect of the matter and will he make a statement.

**REPLY:**

South Dublin County Council's Severe Weather Assessment Team (SWAT) meets in advance of all storms on foot of any Met Eireann Weather Warnings received. The SWAT is made up of senior staff from across the organisation. The purpose of the meeting is to assess the readiness of the council to deal with the upcoming storm and severe weather events and put in place preventative actions as required.

South Dublin County Council has under the Major Emergency Management Framework, the following plans:

* Major Emergency Plan
* Flood Emergency Plan,
* Severe Weather Plan, and
* Rest Centre Plan.

The protocols for Severe Weather are contained in the plans, and being actioned upon receipt of weather warnings from Met Éireann, are as follows:

Status Yellow: Be Aware - A general notification email is sent to relevant staff across the organisation- inspections of key infrastructure and equipment carried out by relevant departments.

Status Orange: Be Prepared - Triggers a meeting of the Severe Weather Assessment Team (SWAT) comprised of senior management across all departments, who discuss the issues particular to that weather event and agree the appropriate response/ action from each department.

Status Red: Take Action - this should be a comparatively rare event and implies that recipients take action to protect themselves and/or their properties. The SWAT team is now a Crisis Management Team and meets as often as necessary - hourly, twice daily, etc., depending on dynamics of the weather event, possibly over the conference call facilities. National and Regional Emergency offices are likely also being updated via teleconference at this stage to facilitate inter agency cooperation between the LA, HSE and AGS.

The 2019-2020 Winter Maintenance Plan has been finalised and will be presented to all the ACM’s by the Road Maintenance Department in November. The Winter Maintenance Plan includes information the 7 gritting routes and also on salt barns, salt bins etc.

The 7 gritting routes and the associated gritting truck can also have a snow plough attached if this is required, information on the routes are available at the link.www.sdcc.ie/

South Dublin County Council will continue to provide information to citizens through weather events on all available social media including our website ([www.sdcc.ie](http://www.sdcc.ie/) ), facebook and twitter.

The national winter ready web site also has very useful information and can be found at <https://www.winterready.ie/en>

### **Q13/1119 CLIMATE ACTION**

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

To ask the Chief Executive to give assurances that special attention is being given to the widespread concern of many in our County regarding the challenge of Climate Change; will he update members on recent decisions he has taken in respect of the Council's policy and will he make a statement.

**REPLY:**

**Update on Climate Change Action Plan and Implementation**

South Dublin County Council Climate Change Action Plan was presented to the Mayor and Elected Members in the September Meeting. The plan presents 130 actions to be progressed throughout its life, in order to fulfil our global obligations and commitments accepted under the Covenant of Mayors and the Paris Agreement.

The 4 key targets of the CCAP are;

* 33% improvement in the Council’s energy efficiency by the year 2020
* 40% reduction in the Council’s greenhouse gas emissions by the year 2030
* Make Dublin a climate-resilient region by reducing the impact of future climate change-related events
* Actively engage and inform our citizens on climate change

The 6 key areas under which the action plan will be implemented are;

* Energy and Buildings, Transport, Flood Resilience, Nature based Solutions, Resource Management, Citizen Engagement

The associated implementation plan outlines the action teams with oversight over each area and prescribes the frequency at which meetings are to be held. The implementation plan also defines the reporting mechanisms to the Climate Action Steering Group.

**Progress**

The first round of Action Team meetings are complete and the second round are in progress. Actions are currently being monitored and tracked and updates will issue to council and the public.

**Energy and Buildings**

Of the 27 actions detailed under Energy and Buildings, a number of key actions are critical to SDCC realising its efficiency improvement and emission reduction targets on schedule. CoDEMA, the energy management agency, has identified that public lighting in South Dublin accounts for 48% of energy use. SDCC has recently committed an additional €500,000 to accelerate the upgrading of sodium public lighting to more efficient LED systems.

In additional to upgrading public lighting, SDCC has approved the upgrading of lighting in the municipal buildings to LEDs. Phase 1 of the programme has been completed with 10% of the 2,600 lights having been replaced.

The Tallaght District Heating Scheme is currently progressing as well.

**Transport**

SDCC Climate Change Action Plan identifies 21 actions under transport aimed at reducing carbon emissions and promoting sustainable transport options to members of the public and to staff. Measures include the development of cycleways and greenways to encourage active travel modes in favour of car use.

5 Electric Vehicles have been piloted in the council’s operational fleet and the fleet is under review to identify vehicles that transition to EV.

Ongoing improvements to village centres and public realms aim to enhance the green infrastructure and provide sustainable transport linkages.

**Flood Resilience**

22 Actions have been identified for Flood Resilience in the CCAP. Key actions include

* Cross Boundary flood management with our neighbouring LAs
* the implementation of SuDS on SDCC properties and in SDZ and LAPs;
* Implement flood risk management guidelines;
* Protection of floodplains and wetlands

The following Flood Alleviation Schemes are at various stages of progression;

* Poddle FAS
* Whitechurch FAS
* Camac FAS

**Nature Based Solutions**

33 actions under Nature Based Solutions have been outlined in the CCAP. Funding has been made available to develop additional pollination areas within the County. Currently 90 Hectares of wildflower meadows are managed by SDCC.

SDCC have introduced a number of green roofs on buildings including Avonbeg Community Centre and Round Tower Visitor Centre. Additional green roofs are planned.

A 5 year programme to deliver natural playspaces across the county is underway.

Tree planting and management plan is in place, to provide 1,500 additional trees per annum.

**Resource Management**

Several of the 27 actions detailed under Resource Management represent recurring items that should be detailed and monitored under the Climate Change Action Plan. Significant progress has already been made in terms of waste management in SDCC offices and public realm, however further efforts are required to ensure that SDCC is seen as a leader in the movement against waste and in particular, single use plastics.

SDCC is currently introducing and commissioning water fountains for public use in strategic locations as a measure to help eliminate single use plastic bottles. Funding has been provided to install 9 units across the County, with scope to provide additional units in 2020.

**Citizen Engagement**

SDCC has been engaging actively with members of the public on the issues relating to climate change. Our key actions taken to date include;

* Regular updates on Social Media (Twitter, Facebook, SDCC Website)
* Supporting Climate Action Week
* Engaging with schools to promote cycling and road safety
* Engagement with Community Liaison Officers & Tidy Towns groups
* Media interviews relating to Climate Change and Actions (Radio na Life, RTÉ)
* Climate Change presentation to Comhairle na nÓg
* Three Climate Action videos informing the public about the Climate Change Action Plan and the action being undertaken. These are available on Youtube and on <http://www.sdcc.ie/climatechange>

### **Q14/1119 TREE PROGRAMME BUDGET**

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

To ask the Chief Executive to confirm that he will make provision in the forthcoming Budget to enhance the Tree Programme which is of interest to many; will he give details in that regard and will he make a statement.

**REPLY:**

The preparation and agreement of the budget for 2020 is in its final stages at the present time with the annual budget meeting due to take place on November 14th.   While the budget provision for tree management in 2020 is not known at this time it is hoped that the budget will be increased on the 2019 provision.  The targets set for the various elements of tree management in 2019 were as shown below, it is expected that these will be achieved at year end and that an increase in budget provision will enable the setting of more ambitious targets for 2020.

* Tree pruning 3,000 trees
* Tree removals 1,000 trees
* Trees planted 1,300 trees \*

\* Note that the number of trees planted to date in 2019 is 1,649.

In addition to the programme of cyclical tree maintenance which is in place the increase in budget provision in 2019 enabled the carrying out of specialist works on trees underneath power cables, the pruning and removal of trees deemed to be high risk and which otherwise could not have been included in the 2019 programme of works as well as the clearance of trees in a number of locations at the boundary between parkland or open space and private dwellings.  It is hoped that a further increase in the budget for tree maintenance will enable these works to continue, will enable an increase in the tree planting programme and will also allow the continued surveying of street trees which is an essential part of the overall programme.

### **Q15/1119 VACANT HOMES**

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

To ask the Chief Executive to do a report into how SDCC can get boarded up houses not owned by the council into Council stock? To also outlay how a compulsory purchase order can be done and how many properties has SDCC put a CPO on?

Is the Council aware of how many boarded up houses there are in SDCC area that are not Council owned?

**REPLY:**

South Dublin County had an extremely low vacancy rate (at 3.6%) according to the Central Statistics Office in 2016.

Under the National Vacant Housing Re-use Strategy, each local authority was required to identify the scale of vacant homes and develop plans to address vacancy within their administrative area, by categorising vacant homes by location, ownership and reason for vacancy and subsequently to identify those properties that have the potential to be refurbished and made available for use.

Many of the properties considered vacant at census time were clarified as not being suitable for potential return to use due to being subject of legal proceedings or other dispute, probate, occupiers in long-term care etc.  Notwithstanding those such properties, there are currently 64 vacant units identified within the County.

There are several proactive initiatives used to encourage and enable 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

The primary objective is to encourage property owners to engage with the Council and find solutions for the vacant homes without having to resort to an acquisition process. However, the Council has a range of legislative powers available to deal with under-utilised and derelict properties including Compulsory Purchase and Derelict Sites legislation where necessary.  To date, six homes have been acquired by the Council under the Derelict Sites legislation and brought back into social housing stock.

Vacant properties can be reported via [http://vacanthome.ie](http://scanmail.trustwave.com/?c=6600&amp;d=jJOE2wL3y_Q1YXrxCkROYD7gW2g0XOuP_9rvhS5U8Q&amp;s=344&amp;u=http%3a%2f%2fvacanthome%2eie%2f)

### **Q16/1119 RENTAL ACCOMMODATION SCHEME**

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

To ask the Chief Executive for a report into the RAS scheme? How many are on RAS in SDCC? When will the RAS scheme end and what will replace it for people on RAS?

**REPLY:**

The Rental Accommodation Scheme was originally introduced to provide accommodation for long-term rent supplement recipients assessing as having a housing need.

Under the Rental Accommodation Scheme, the Council enters a contract with landlords to provide housing for an agreed term for people with a long-term housing need.  The Council pays the rent directly to the landlord and the tenant contributes a portion of the rent to the Council in accordance with the Council’s Differential Rent Scheme.

Landlords must register tenancies with the Residential Tenancies Board (PRTB), the tenancies are governed by the Residential Tenancies Acts and the properties must meet minimum standards for private rental accommodation.

939 tenants are currently accommodated in private rental properties let under the RAS in South Dublin County with a further 170 tenants accommodated in units owned by Approved Housing Bodies with rent contributions subsidised under RAS.

In general, tenants accommodated under RAS are deemed to have their housing needs met and are no longer eligible to be on the Council’s housing list with the exception of a limited number of RAS tenants housed prior to April 2011 that requested to retain access to social housing.  However, RAS tenants may apply for apply for a transfer to alternative accommodation, in line with other social housing tenants, on the grounds provided for in the Housing Allocation Scheme, i.e. medical requirements, overcrowding etc.

The Housing Assistance Payment (HAP) scheme was introduced to replace rent supplement which will affect the numbers eligible for RAS but there are no current plans to cease RAS.  RAS tenants cannot transfer directly to HAP.

Where landlords issue notice to terminate RAS tenancies, the Council will endeavour to offer those tenants alternative accommodation suitable to their housing need and subject compliance with the conditions of his/her current tenancy agreement, i.e. clear rent account, clear Garda check/no record of anti-social behaviour, property condition inspection etc.  In such instances, suitable properties will be sourced within RAS where possible, but housing may be provided under other tenures (e.g. long term leased units, Council owned, AHB owned) while the tenant also has the option to source another property in the private rental market where the landlord of that property is willing to participate in RAS.

### **Q17/1119** [**RENT ARREARS AND WRITE OFFS**](http://intranet/cmas/documentsview.aspx?noinc=true&id=64613)

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

To ask the Chief Executive what Council rents are owed to SDCC? What efforts are being made to recoup these funds? How much if any outstanding debts has being written of each of the last 5 years and what was the reason?

**REPLY:**

The level of Housing Rents outstanding at the 25th October was 7,876,937 which is a reduction of over €240,848 since the start of the year when housing rent arrears were €8,117,785.

South Dublin County Council has established a Debt Management Unit which incorporates the collection of Housing Rents amongst its tasks. The Debt Management Unit provides a much focused team of experts dedicated to working constructively with the Councils tenants while at the same time safeguarding the Council’s revenue streams and reducing the value of the debt outstanding to the Council.

The Housing Rent arrears are being managed by staff from the Debt Management unit. They contact tenants in arrears and work constructively with them in addressing their arrears through various means such as agreed repayment plans etc. Over the past 10 months Housing rent arrears have reduced by €240,848 or 3%

Housing rent arrears are written off only as a last resort and once all possible debt collection options have been exhausted.

The level of housing rents write offs continue to decline and are detailed below for the previous 5 years:

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Year | Amounts written off during the year |
| 2014 | €0 |
| 2015 | €269,108 |
| 2016 | €87,287 |
| 2017 | €54,556 |
| 2018 | €0 |

The principle reasons for the writing off of these arrears include:

1. House being surrendered to the Council and dwelling subsequently reallocated to new tenant
2. House being abandoned and local authority unable to locate former tenants,
3. Tenant who have passed away and dwelling subsequently reallocated to new tenant

### **Q18/1119 SINGLE USE PLASTICS**

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

To ask the Chief Executive for a report into how SDCC can and is stopping the use of one use plastics within Council owned buildings? Also to estimate the amount of less waste since the introduction of keep cups ?

COMHAIRLE CONTAE ÁTHA CLIATH THEAS
SOUTH DUBLIN COUNTY COUNCIL

MEETING OF SOUTH DUBLIN COUNTY COUNCIL

Monday, November 11, 2019

QUESTION NO. 18

**QUESTION: Councillor F. Timmons**

To ask the Chief Executive for a report into how SDCC can and is stopping the use of one use plastics within Council owned buildings? Also to estimate the amount of less waste since the introduction of keep cups ?

**REPLY**

Plastic water cups have been removed from the building and products such as plastic salad containers have been removed from the canteen. There has been a large drop in single use coffee cups from the coffee dock following the introduction of the conscious cup campaign. As new contracts are signed or contracts come up for renewal, these initiatives are included in the new contracts. The management of the coffee dock is currently actively assessing an alternative re-usable cup for its customers.

South Dublin County Council has issued over a 920 conscious cups over 3 campaigns. It is estimated that each conscious cup diverts 1,000 single use cups from landfill over a 3 year period. It is therefore estimated that the cups issued by SDCC will result in 920,000 less single use cups being sent to landfill.

South Dublin will be raising awareness and encouraging everyone to be more conscious of their choices during European Week for Waste reduction which runs 16-24 November.

SDCC is also currently introducing and promoting public water fountains to encourage the use of reusable bottles.

We have also amended the application process for events taking place in SDCC Parks. All event organisers planning to hold an event in a public park must apply for approval prior to an event taking place.  A new condition in relation to prohibiting the use of single use plastics has been included under the terms and conditions attached to an application where approval is granted.

Weekly events such as the Parkruns which currently take place in Corkagh Park, Tymon Park, Griffeen Valley Park and Waterstown Park do not provide any refreshments for participants. It is a bring your own policy, which generally consists of refillable bottles.

### **Q19/1119 INCREMENTAL TENANT PURCHASE**

### **QUESTION:** **Councillor Joanna Tuffy**

To ask how many Council houses have been purchased under the current tenant purchase scheme since its introduction and if possible if it could be indicated how many houses have been purchased under this scheme by local electoral area

**REPLY:**

Since the introduction of the Incremental Tenant Purchase Scheme commenced in January 2016, seven properties have been sold under the scheme across electoral areas as follows:

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Electoral Area** | **Completed Sales** |
| Tallaght South | 3 |
| Clondalkin | 2 |
| Rathfarnham/ Templeogue | 1 |
| Lucan | 1 |

Full details of the scheme are available online at: <https://www.sdcc.ie/en/services/housing/buying-your-home/buying-your-local-authority-rented-property/>

### **Q20/1119 FEE SIMPLE**

### **QUESTION:** **Councillor Joanna Tuffy**

To ask the Chief Executive what happens in relation to properties in the County where the fee simple is owned by the Council and a long lease is in favour of the householder, how many properties are involved, and are there any where the amount of time left on the lease is a matter of years?

**REPLY:**

The estates where South Dublin County Council still owns Fee Simple Interest are;

* Ashwood Estate, Clondalkin
* Oakwood Grove, Clondalkin
* Limekiln Estate, Walkinstown
* Balrothery Estate, Tallaght and
* Alpine Estate, Clondalkin

There are currently 111 accounts open. Economic Development regularly contacts the householders with both the amount owing and also to remind them of the option allowing them to buy out the Fee Simple Interest.

If the home owner wishes to purchase the Fee Simple, they can contact the Council, make the payment of any amounts outstanding, in addition to the amount of the buy out. All purchases of Fee Simple then go before the members for approval under S.183 of Local Government Act, 2001.

The Fee Simple Interest is part of the lease, and remains on the property unless purchased in full, and approved by the Members.

### **Q21/1119 REBUILDING IRELAND HOME LOANS ANALYSIS**

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

To ask the Manager to provide the following information in tabular form; the number of Rebuilding Ireland Home Loans approved and drawn down in 2017, 2018 and 2019 broken down by the following amounts; €288k, €277k-€287k; €267k-€276k; €257k-€266k; €247k-€256k; €237k-€246k; €227k-€236k; €217k-€226; €207k-€216k; less than €207k.

**REPLY:**

Since the commencement of the Rebuilding Ireland Home Loan scheme in February 2018, this Council has approved loans in excess of €27 million under the scheme with more than €14million of loans drawn down to date as outlined below:

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Loan Value** | **No. of Loans in 2018** | **Value of Loans in 2018** | **No. of Loans in 2019** | **Value of Loans in 2019** | **Total No. of Loans** | **Total Amount Drawndown** | **Average Loan** |
| Less than 207K | 7 | €1,166,418 | 10 | €1,772,735 | 17 | €2,939,153 | €172,891 |
| 207K-216K | 3 | €639,600 | 3 | €636,600 | 6 | €1,276,200 | €212,700 |
| 217K-226K | 1 | €219,600 | 6 | €1,333,900 | 7 | €1,553,500 | €221,929 |
| 227K-236K | 1 | €235,800 | 2 | €461,500 | 3 | €697,300 | €232,433 |
| 237K-246K | 1 | €238,000 | 1 | €243,000 | 2 | €481,000 | €240,500 |
| 247K-256K | 4 | €1,023,400 | 3 | €751,900 | 7 | €1,775,300 | €253,614 |
| 257K-266K | 1 | €266,000 | 3 | €793,800 | 4 | €1,059,800 | €264,950 |
| 267K-276K | 6 | €1,639,400 | 4 | €1,091,000 | 10 | €2,730,400 | €273,040 |
| 277K-287K | 1 | €286,900 | 1 | €280,000 | 2 | €566,900 | €283,450 |
| 288K | 1 | €288,000 | 3 | €864,000 | 4 | €1,152,000 | €288,000 |
| Grand Total | 26 | **€6,003,118** | **36** | **€8,228,435** | **62** | **€14,231,553** | **€229,541** |

### **Q22/1119 EDUCATION BURSARY**

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

To ask the Chief Executive to provide a report on what bursaries the Council provide or have provided for people entering 3rd level education and to make a statement on the matter?

**REPLY:**

The Council's Educational Bursary started in 2006 in partnership with the then Institute of Technology Tallaght, now Technological University Dublin (TUD). This bursary is primarily designed to support and incentivise local students attending schools in disadvantaged areas to progress to higher education.

The bursary provides €2,500 to eight students in each of years 1 and 2 of their academic programme.  The annual recipients are selected from two further education colleges (Greenhills College and Tallaght Adult Education Service) and six schools (Mount Seskin, Killinarden Community School, St Aidan’s Community School, Collinstown Park Community College, St Kevins Community College and Deansrath Community College).  An additional €2,500 is available to support the Active Aged bursary for an older person returning to education.

Separately, €10,000 is provided for annual sports bursaries and approximately 40 students involved in sports teams in TUD benefit from this each year.  TUD contribute an additional €20,000 to this fund that is provided to eligible applicants that are in full-time education and involved in a team the university.  Applications are assessed and score points based on commitment to training, participation at matches, level at county/international level they compete at and engagement with developing the club within the college.  Grants are awarded as €2,000, €1,500, €1,000 or €500.  Students across various sports including Gaelic games, basketball, football, martial arts, badminton, boxing, volleyball, weightlifting, hockey have been supported by the sports bursary. Recipients have been on Irish international hockey, badminton and football teams as well as GAA county teams and League of Ireland football teams.

### **Q23/1119 ILLEGAL DUMPING COSTS**

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

To ask the Chief Executive to provide a report on the financial cost to the Council to remove illegal dumping for each year since the privatisation of waste management services and to make a statement on the matter?

**REPLY:**

The table below sets out the annual cost to collect and dispose of illegally dumped waste in the County each year since the sale of the waste collection service to Greyhound Waste in 2011.  A review of operations within the Environment and Parks Depts took place in 2013 which led to the establishment of the Public Realm Section during 2013 and this involved the restructuring of the finances and budget at the time.  This has given better control and more accurate recording of expenditure on the various work programmes involved since that date.  The figures shown below for 2012 and 2013 are based largely on estimates of the quantity of waste which was illegally dumped (as it was not recorded separately) and estimates of the resources assigned to this work, and therefore the costs given for those years are estimates also.

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Year** | **Total costs**  |
| 2012 | €2,358,217 |
| 2013 | €1,972,562 |
| 2014 | €1,353,186 |
| 2015 | €1,497,381 |
| 2016 | €1,522,217 |
| 2017 | €1,439,542 |
| 2018 | €1,406,865 |

### **H6/1119 DECLARATION OF ROADS TO BE MADE PUBLIC ROADS**

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

### **H7a/1119 PROPOSED DISPOSAL OF PROPERTIES/SITES**

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

**LD 1504 Proposed freehold disposal of Rowlagh Credit Union building,**

 **Collinstown Road, Dublin 22**

By Indenture of Lease dated 12th November 1992 for the term of 150 years from the 23rd April 1987, the premises as coloured orange on Indicative Drawing No. LD 1504 was disposed of by the Right Honourable The Lord Mayor Aldermen and Burgess of Dublin (hereinafter called Dublin City Council) to Rowlagh Credit Union Limited. The subject area was later transferred into South Dublin County Council’s ownership – Folio DN5201 refers.

Rowlagh Credit Union Limited now wish to purchase the freehold interest in the aforementioned premises and negotiations between the Applicant’s Solicitor and the Council Valuer have resulted in the following terms and conditions which have been accepted by the Applicant.

Accordingly, I now recommend that the Council disposes of its freehold interest in the Rowlagh Credit Union building as coloured orange on the attached Indicative Drawing No. LD 1504 to Rowlagh Credit Union Limited, in accordance with Section 211 of the Planning and Development Act, 2000 and subject to the provisions of Section 183 of the Local Government Act, 2001 subject to the following terms and conditions as negotiated by the Council Valuer:-

1. That the Council disposes of its freehold interest in the property coloured orange on the attached Indicative Drawing No. LD 1504.
2. That the Council disposes of its freehold interest in the property for the consideration of €52,500 (fifty two thousand five hundred euro) plus VAT (if applicable).
3. That the Applicant pays any charges which they are liable for and clears all outstanding rent, rates and taxes (if any) on the property prior to the completion of sale.
4. That the above proposal is subject to satisfactory proof of title.
5. That any boundary features be in accordance with the Planning & Development and the Building Control legislation.
6. That the Applicant pays the Council Valuer’s fees of €1,500 (one thousand five hundred euro) plus VAT.
7. That the Applicant pays the Council’s legal fees plus VAT and outlay.
8. That in the event of any name change to Applicant prior to formal completion of the legal transfer, the Applicant must provide documentary evidence to the Council proving that the new named party is one and the same as the named Applicant heretofore to enable the transfer to complete.
9. That each party shall use their best endeavours to complete the transaction within a reasonable timeframe following adoption of the disposal resolution.
10. That the Law Agent drafts the necessary legal agreements and includes any further terms deemed appropriate in Agreements of this nature.
11. That no contract enforceable at Law is created or intended to be created until such time as contracts have been exchanged.
12. That the disposal is subject to the necessary approvals and consents being obtained.

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

**Daniel McLoughlin**

**Chief Executive**

The report was **NOTED** and it was proposed by Councillor V. Casserly, seconded by Councillor F. Timmons and **RESOLVED:**

“That the proposed freehold disposal of Rowlagh Credit Union, Clondalkin, D. 22 be **ADOPTED** and **APPROVED.”**

### **H7b/1119 PROPOSED DISPOSAL OF PROPERTIES/SITES**

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

**LD 1468 Proposed disposal of 10 Crag Crescent, Clondalkin Industrial**

 **Estate, Dublin 22 to J & E Rocks Limited**

At its meeting on 8th July 2019, the Council approved of the freehold disposal of 10 Crag Crescent, as outlined in red on attached Drawing No. LR/16/19, to John and Edith O’Reilly – Chief Executive’s Order Dev/67/19 and Certified Minute No. H7f/0719 refer.

It has been confirmed that John and Edith O’Reilly have recently established a company called J & E Rocks Limited that will complete the purchase of the premises from the Council. The Law Agent has advised that a new Chief Executive’s Order and disposal resolution will be required in circumstances where the property is no longer being acquired by the individuals John & Edith O’Reilly but rather in the name of a separate legal entity, J&E Rocks Limited.

Accordingly, I recommend that the Council disposes of its freehold interest in 10 Crag Crescent, Clondalkin Industrial Estate, Dublin 22 as outlined in red on attached Drawing No. LR/16/19 to J & E Rocks Limited, in accordance with Section 211 of the Planning and Development Act, 2000 and subject to the provisions of Section 183 of the Local Government Act 2001.

All other terms and conditions remain the same.

The property and site being disposed of were acquired from Falkland Company Limited in 1982 for the purpose of providing a housing maintenance depot.

**Daniel McLoughlin**

**Chief Executive**

The report was **NOTED** and it was proposed by Councillor V. Casserly, seconded by Councillor F. Timmons and **RESOLVED:**

“That the proposed disposal of 10 Crag Crescent, Clondalkin Industrial Estate, Dublin 22 be **ADOPTED** and **APPROVED.”**

### **H8a/1119 MANAGERS REPORT**

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

[HI 8 a) SDCC Monthly Report](http://www.sdublincoco.ie/sdcc/departments/corporate/apps/cmas/documentsview.aspx?id=64675)

A discussion followed with contributions from Councillors E Ó Broin, M. Seery Kearney, K. Mahon and S. Moynihan

Mr. D. McLoughlin Chief Executive responded to the Members queries.

The Reports were **NOTED.**

### **H8b/1119 MANAGERS REPORT**

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

**Billing and Collection Statement**





The Reports were **NOTED.**

### **H8c/1119 MANAGERS REPORT**

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

[HI 8 c) Statistics Report](http://www.sdublincoco.ie/sdcc/departments/corporate/apps/cmas/documentsview.aspx?id=64671)

A discussion followed with contributions from Councillors E Ó Broin, M. Seery Kearney, K. Mahon and S. Moynihan

Mr. D. McLoughlin Chief Executive responded to the Members queries.

The Reports were **NOTED.**

### **H10/1119 300K HAVE YOUR SAY SHORTLISTED PROJECTS TO BE APPROVED**

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

**REPLY:**

The idea submission phase of the €300k Have Your Say – Firhouse Bohernabreena initiative is now complete and a shortlist of projects is recommended by the Steering Group for approval by the Council today following which they will be presented for public vote.

Following the launch event in Firhouse Community Centre on 18 September 2019, three workshops were held throughout the Firhouse Bohernabreena Electoral Area. These took place in The Park Community Centre, Whitechurch Library and Firhouse Community Centre from October 1st to 8th and were attended by approximately 100 people. A fourth workshop was scheduled for Knocklyon Community Centre on 3 October but was cancelled due to the severe weather warning that was issued by Met Eireann on that date. The Council’s community team subsequently directly contacted the local groups in that community and discussed the project criteria and potential ideas with them and encouraged participation.

The communications around the initiative during this period focused first on promoting the workshops and then on obtaining idea submissions from the public through the €300k Have Your Say website. This was done through social media, local press, bus shelters and over 12,000 direct mailouts to households and local businesses in the area. Social media promotion included paid advertising through Facebook and Instagram that targeted people living in the Firhouse - Bohernabreena Electoral Area over the age of 13 (the minimum age allowed on those platforms). Approximately 84,600 people were cumulatively reached across multiple paid adverts. This was in addition to standard social media posts on Twitter, Instagram, Facebook and LinkedIn.

The deadline for submissions passed on 14 October with the Council receiving 187 submissions from the public. A series of meetings were then carried out, first between Senior Management and then with the Participatory Budgeting Steering Group, during which each submission was assessed in accordance with the agreed criteria (attached). The resulting 19 projects were identified through these meetings and are now presented as a recommended shortlist for ratification by the Council today before the public voting stage commences. The public voting stage will allow for digital voting and a printed ballot at a number of locations.

Everyone who submitted an idea will be contacted and advised whether their idea was successfully listed for public vote. Those whose ideas had to be eliminated will be provided with an explanation on the reason why their idea did not meet the criteria.

### [â¬300k Have Your Say Criteria](http://www.sdublincoco.ie/sdcc/departments/corporate/apps/cmas/documentsview.aspx?id=64714)[â¬300k Have Your Say Firhouse Bohernabreena Shortlist](http://www.sdublincoco.ie/sdcc/departments/corporate/apps/cmas/documentsview.aspx?id=64713)

### A discussion followed with contributions from Councillors D. O’Donovan, B. Lawlor, A. Edge, P. Kavanagh, C. Bailey and M. Duff.

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

### It was proposed by Councillor V. Casserly, seconded by Councillor D. O’Donovan and **RESOLVED:**

“That the recommendations contained in the foregoing report of The 300K Have your say shortlisted projects be **ADOPTED** and **APPROVED.**”

### **H11/1119 GRIFFEEN PARK PAVILION PART 8**

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

**The attached Part 8 Report is for a Proposed Changing Room Pavilion at Griffeen Valley Park, Lucan, Co. Dublin.**

The outline details of the proposal are as follows:

* One single storey (311 sq. m) changing Pavilion consisting of six team changing rooms each with one shower/toilet area, two club storage areas, one official’s changing area with toilet and wash facilities, and one plant room, all with individual access
* Ancillary works to the landscape around the pavilion area
* Additional necessary ancillary works in adjacent areas including foul and surface drainage connections to existing sewers at Leisure Centre.

The proposal underwent Appropriate Assessment Screening under the Habitats Directive (92/43/EEC) and Environmental Impact Assessment Screening and the Planning Authority has concluded that there will be no real likelihood of significant effects on the environment arising from the proposed development and therefore an Environmental impact Assessment is not required. Any person could, within 4 weeks from the date of publication of the notice, apply to An Bord Pleanála for a screening determination as to whether the development would be likely to have significant effects on the environment.

Plans and particulars of the proposed scheme were available for inspection on public display at County hall, Tallaght, Dublin 24 and Clondalkin Civic Offices, Dublin 22, during normal working hours and on <http://www.sdcc.ie>, during the period from **26th September 2019 to 24th October 2019**

* The plans and particulars could be viewed on the Council’s Public Consultation Portal website [**http://consult.sdublincoco.ie**](http://consult.sdublincoco.ie/)
Submissions or observations with respect to the proposed development dealing with the proper planning and sustainable development of the area in which the proposed development will be situated could be made in writing up to 4.30pm**on the 8thNovember 2019**

4 submissions were made during the public consultation period.

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

**It is recommended that, as the proposal is in conformity with proper planning and sustainable development, that the Council proceed with the Part 8 proposal to construct a changing room pavilion at Griffeen Valley Park, Lucan, Co. Dublin.**

### [00-Headed item 12](http://www.sdublincoco.ie/Meetings/ViewDocument/64759)

[01-Presentation](http://www.sdublincoco.ie/Meetings/ViewDocument/64764)
[02-CE Report](http://www.sdublincoco.ie/sdcc/departments/corporate/apps/cmas/documentsview.aspx?id=64748)
[03-County Architectâ€s Report](http://www.sdublincoco.ie/sdcc/departments/corporate/apps/cmas/documentsview.aspx?id=64766)
[04-Drawings [Full Set]](http://www.sdublincoco.ie/sdcc/departments/corporate/apps/cmas/documentsview.aspx?id=64767)
[05-Newspaper Ad](http://www.sdublincoco.ie/sdcc/departments/corporate/apps/cmas/documentsview.aspx?id=64768)
[06-Site Notice Part 8](http://www.sdublincoco.ie/sdcc/departments/corporate/apps/cmas/documentsview.aspx?id=64758)
[07-Screening AA](http://www.sdublincoco.ie/sdcc/departments/corporate/apps/cmas/documentsview.aspx?id=64757)
[08-EIA Screening](http://www.sdublincoco.ie/sdcc/departments/corporate/apps/cmas/documentsview.aspx?id=64755)

### A discussion followed with contributions from Councillors E. Higgins, L. O’Toole, A. Hayes, P. Kavanagh, S. Moynihan, P. Gogarty, G. O’Connell and V. Casserly.

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

 The reports were **NOTED** and it was proposed by Councillor V. Casserly, seconded by Councillor F. Timmons and **RESOLVED:**

“That the Griffeen Park Pavilion Part 8 be **ADOPTED** and **APPROVED.”**

###

### **H12/1119 COMMUNITY GRANTS APPLICATIONS**

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

Applications were sought for the final round of the Council’s Community Grants Programme 2019 between 2nd September 2019 and 20th September 2019. The Community Grants Programme is aimed at providing financial assistance to Community and Voluntary Groups who are responding to locally identified needs within their communities.

106 Applications were received for a total of €224,961.85.

**Assessment Procedure**

Community Grant applications are assessed by the Community Department under the following criteria:

* + Impact on local community and local community involvement.
	+ Availability/existence of other groups doing the same work or duplication of activities.
	+ Proven track record and ability of the group to deliver the project.
	+ Provision of clear and accurate project costings.
	+ Projects/works demonstrating good value for money.
	+ Existing funds available to the group/funds in hand and availability of other funding sources.
	+ Projects or works demonstrating sustainability.Applications must be fully completed including relevant supporting documentation.

**Allocation of Funding**

Funding available for allocation at this stage of the year is the balance of the 2019 budget provision having regard for the previous rounds of community, sports and community centre management assitance grants already approved.

The remaining allocation now approved under the Council's Community Grants Scheme 2019 is in the total sum of €35,617 for the thirty-one applications listed below:

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **GF Ref** | **Name of Group** | **Type of Grant** | **Amount** |
| CG2-2019 -017 | Palmerstown Wood Residents Association | Running Costs Grant | €500 |
| CG2-2019 -020 | Clondalkin/Lucan Women's Network | Running Costs Grant | €500 |
| CG2-2019 -022 | Knocklyon Ladies Club | Running Costs Grant | €500 |
| CG2-2019 -035 | Unit 146 Firhouse Scouting Ireland | Equipment Grant | €1,000 |
| CG2-2019 -037 | Adamstown Youth and Community Centre | Equipment Grant | €2,000 |
| CG2-2019 -038 | North Clondalkin Community Dev Prog NCCDP | Social Inclusion Grant | €1,000 |
| CG2-2019 -039 | Palmerstown Wood Residents Association | Environmental Improvement Grant | €500 |
| CG2-2019 -040 | Palmerstown Community and Youth Centre | Equipment Grant | €2,000 |
| CG2-2019 -044 | The Elementals | Running Costs Grant | €300 |
| CG2-2019 -045 | St Martins Residents Association | Running Costs Grant | €500 |
| CG2-2019 -046 | From Lads to Dads | Start-up Costs | €500 |
| CG2-2019 -047 | Jobstown Community Centre | Equipment Grant | €750 |
| CG2-2019 -048 | Villagers Senior Club | Community Grant | €500 |
| CG2-2019 -053 | Quarryvale Family Resource Centre | Environmental Improvement Grant | €350 |
| CG2-2019 -064 | Grangebrook Residents Association | Start-up Costs | €500 |
| CG2-2019 -067 | Lealand Residents Group | Start-up Costs | €350 |
| CG2-2019 -070 | Willbrook Lawn Residents Association | Running Costs Grant | €500 |
| CG2-2019 -073 | Willbrook Lawn Residents Association | Environmental Improvement Grant | €500 |
| CG2-2019 -077 | Firhouse Active Age Group | Equipment Grant | €500 |
| CG2-2019 -079 | St Marks Youth and Family Centre | Equipment Grant | €4,000 |
| CG2-2019 -085 | Newcastle Lyons Development Trust | Equipment Grant | €2,000 |
| CG2-2019 -087 | Knocklyon Womens Group | Social Inclusion Grant | €500 |
| CG2-2019 -094 | Citywise Education | Equipment Grant | €1,000 |
| CG2-2019 -102 | Millrace Residents Committee | Support for Community Development | €475 |
| CG2-2019 -104 | Saggart Village Residents Association | Running Costs Grant | €2,000 |
| CG2-2019 -105 | The Park Community Centre | Equipment Grant | €4,000 |
| CG2-2019 -088 | Rathcoole Mens Shed | Equipment Grant | €2,000 |
| CG2-2019 -010 | Dominics Active Mens Social | Running Costs Grant | €500 |
| CG2-2019 -018 | Templeogue Mens Shed | Minor Equipment | €2,892 |
| CG2-2019 -026 | Firhouse Mens Shed | Equipment Grant | €2,000 |
| CG2-2019 -096 | Knocklyon Mens Shed | Social Inclusion Grant | €1,000 |
|   |   | **Total** | **€35,617** |

A discussion followed with contributions from Councillors M. Ward, F. Timmons, S. Moynihan, P. Kavanagh, L. Dunne and P. Kearns.

Mr. C. Ward, Director of Housing, Social and Community Development responded to the Members queries.

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

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

 **CORRESPONDENCE**

### **C1/1119** Letter dated 11th October 2019 from Donegal County Council in relation to a motion passed at their recent regarding the Mercosur Trade Deal

[Co1 Letter from Donegal County Council](http://www.sdublincoco.ie/sdcc/departments/corporate/apps/cmas/documentsview.aspx?id=64650)

### **C2/1119** Letter dated 16th October 2019 from Monaghan County Council in relation to a motion passed at their recent Council meeting regarding the banning of non-recyclable item by the end of 2021

[Co2 Letter from Monaghan County Council](http://www.sdublincoco.ie/sdcc/departments/corporate/apps/cmas/documentsview.aspx?id=64651)

### **C3/1119** Letter dated October 25th from Fingal County Council in relation to a motion passed at their recent Council meeting regarding a presentation by the Community Development Office

[Co3 (a) Letter from Fingal County Council](http://www.sdublincoco.ie/sdcc/departments/corporate/apps/cmas/documentsview.aspx?id=64652)
[Co3 (b) Presentation from Fingal County Council](http://www.sdublincoco.ie/sdcc/departments/corporate/apps/cmas/documentsview.aspx?id=64653)

**Motions for discussion**

### **M1/1119 ELECTION POSTERS**

### **It was proposed by Councillor Alan Edge and seconded by Councillor G. O’Connell**

That this Council will commit to move towards a County-wide voluntary ban on election posters and, as a first step, will agree here and now to limit voluntarily the number of posters to one hundred per candidate per Local Electoral Area and to refrain from erecting posters in areas zoned rural, and that the Environmental SPC be asked to identify suitable designated postering areas with a view to limiting all future election postering to one such area per LEA.

**REPORT:**

Election / Referendum / Public Meeting posters are governed by a suite of relevant legislation including:

1. Litter Pollution Act 1997, amended by the Electoral (Amendment) (No. 2) Act 2009
2. Protection of the Environment Act 2003
3. Planning and Development Regulations 2001-2013
4. European Parliament Elections Act 1997
5. Local Elections Regulations 1995
6. Referendum Act 1994
7. Electoral Act 1992
8. Road Traffic Act 1961

Posters for elections can be displayed either

1. A) 30 days before the poll day or
2. B) From the date the Minister makes the polling order appointing the polling ……….which ever provides the shorter period of time

Posters for referendum can be displayed from the date on which the Minister makes the polling day order appointing the day on which the referendum shall be held. [**Section 19 of the Litter Pollution Act 1997,**](http://www.irishstatutebook.ie/eli/1997/act/12/section/19/enacted/en/html) as amended, and [**Section 9 of the Electoral (Amendment) (No. 2) Act 2009**](http://www.irishstatutebook.ie/eli/2009/act/9/section/9/enacted/en/html)require that all posters/advertisements relating to an election / referendum must be removed within 7 days of date of polling day.

Posters for public meetings can be displayed in accordance with Section 19(7) of the Litter Pollution Act which provides that an advertisement advising of a public meeting can be in place for up to 30 days before and within 7 days after a public meeting.

Reforming the way election candidates reach the public may require political will and legislative change. National legislation permits election posters and does not (subject to road safety) put restrictions on where they should be erected, but rather when they can be erected and when they should be removed.

A working group of the former Environment SPC previously developed a voluntary code of practice to which election candidates in Local Elections in Lucan, Clondalkin and Palmerstown agreed not to erect posters in those villages at the request of the local Tidy Towns groups. Notwithstanding the above there is currently no legislative provision to enforce a voluntary code, and it was only relative to Local Elections, thereby not applying to other elections and Referenda which were held at that time.

The matter was further considered by the EPR&CC SPC in 2016 when significant data from other countries was collated as part of the work of the subcommittee established to look at options.

It was noted from that study that many European countries apply different mechanisms to facilitate communication between election candidates and voters.  Some place limits on the number of posters and where they may be placed, restricting them, for instance, to designated municipal hoardings. It is also known that in some countries candidates get an equal amount of posters and can post in designated areas only.

However as outlined already any meaningful change will require legislative change and Ministerial direction, the members if agreed can refer the matter to the incoming Environment SPC.

A discussion followed with contributions from Councillor A. Edge, F. Timmons, G. O’Connell, J. Tuffy, M. Duff, P. Gogarty, M. Johansson, F. Duffy, S. Fay, M. Ward, B. Lawlor, L. O’Toole, P. Kavanagh, W. Carey, K. Mahon, R. McMahon, L. Dunne, E Ó Broin and C. Bailey.

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

Councillor M. Johansson proposed and Councillor K. Mahon seconded an amendment to the Motion as follows:

“That this Council will commit to move towards a County-wide voluntary ban on election poster and, as a first step, will agree here and now to limit voluntarily the number of posters to one hundred per candidate per Local Election Area and to refrain from erecting posters om areas zoned rural, and that the Environmental SPC be asked to identify suitable designated postering areas with a view to limiting all future election postering to one such area per LEA. ***In addition, that all private advertising space be regulated to ensure equal access to private advertising space.***

A vote on the amendment to the Motion was taken by a **show of hands vote** and the result was as follows:

**FOR: 4 (FOUR)**

**AGAINST: 28 (TWENTY-EIGHT)**

**ABSTAINED: 1 (ONE)**

The Amendment to the Motion **FALLS.**

### At this point Councillor A. Edge informed the Members that he would like to **WITHDRAW** his Motion, this was seconded by Councillor V. Casserly with the agreement of the Members, in accordance with Standing Order No 20.

### **M2/1119 HOUSING RENTS**

### **It was proposed by Councillor K. Mahon and seconded by Councillor F. Timmons.**

### This Council commits to maintain the current Rent Differential Rate for Local Authority tenants at 10% and the continuation of the €10 per household discount for Local Authority tenants aged over 65, for the term of this Council.

**REPORT:**

The €10 discount per household that applies in respect of the rent assessment for a Council rented dwelling where one or more occupants is aged 65 or older was a temporary support measure that the Housing SPC of the previous Council were advised would be amended in the next differential rent scheme review.

Notwithstanding the deliberations of the Elected Members during the 2020 Revenue Budget process and the final budget to be adopted by the Elected Members and noting that the making of a differential rents scheme is an executive function, it is the view of Housing that the differential rents scheme should include provision specifically for households solely comprising of persons aged 65 and over, and whose only source of income is from social welfare/old age pension to continue to receive the €10 rent discount.

A discussion followed with contributions from Councillors K. Mahon, C. Bailey, F. Timmons, M. Ward, C. King, L. O’Toole, S. Fay, G. O’Connell, L. Dunne, B. Lawlor, M. Duff, W. Carey, P. Kearns, C. O’Connor, R. McMahon, B. Pereppadan.

Mr. C. Ward, Director of Housing, Social and Community Development responded to the Members queries.

The Members then called for a roll call vote on the Motion, the result of which was as follows:

 **FOR: 26 (TWENTY-SIX)**

**Councillors C. Bailey, W. Carey, T. Costello, M. Duff, F. Duffy, L. Dunne, A. Edge, S. Fay, T. Gilligan, P. Gogarty, A. Hayes, M. Johansson, P. Kavanagh, P. Kearns, C. King, K. Mahon, S. Moynihan, E. Ó Broin, G. O’Connell, C. O’Connor, W. Priestley, D. Richardson, L. Sinclair, F. Timmons, J. Tuffy, M. Ward.**

**AGAINST: 9 (NINE)**

**V. Casserly, Y. Collins, E. Higgins, B. Lawlor, R. McMahon, D. McManus, D. O’Donovan, B. Pereppadan, M. Seery Kearney.**

**ABSTAIN: 1 (ONE)**

**L. O’Toole**

The Motion was **AGREED.**

### **M3/1119 CARBON TAX**

### **It was proposed by Councillor M. Johansson and seconded by Councillor E. Ó Broin**

This Council agrees that carbon tax is not the answer to tackle climate change. Carbon tax is a regressive tax. It targets the wrong people and does not challenge the real cause of carbon emissions. This Council calls for a stoppage of any implementation of a new carbon tax and calls for immediate action on investment in renewable energy, public transport and a stop to licences issued to extract fossil fuels.

**REPORT:**

Prior to Budget 2020 Ireland applied a carbon tax of €20 per tonne of carbon emitted through the direct use of fossil fuels - oil, petrol, diesel and gas in heating homes and businesses or running cars and trucks.

The Irish Government increased the level of the carbon tax in the 2020 Budget by €6 to €26 per tonne, as a first step in the Government's commitment of increasing the price of carbon from €20 to €80 a tonne by 2030. This increase will not apply to home heating until after the winter period.

Ireland is also part of the EU Emission Trading System (ETS), a cap and trade system that sets an overall cap on emissions from power stations and industrial plants throughout the EU. Each power station or industrial plant in the EU receives a number of free emissions credits. They must either stay within their allocation or else purchase credits from other facilities. This incentivises operators to reduce emissions.

If this motion is agreed a letter will issue to the relevant minister and the reply, when received, will be circulated.

A discussion followed with contributions from M. Johansson L. Sinclair, P. Gogarty, F. Timmons, P. Kavanagh, E Ó Broin, K. Mahon, S. Fay, and C. King.

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

The Members then called for a roll call vote on the Motion, the result of which was as **follows:**

**FOR: 14 (FOURTEEN)**

**Councillors W. Carey, M. Duff, F. Duffy, L. Dunne, A. Edge, S. Fay, A. Hayes, M. Johansson, P. Kavanagh, C. King, K. Mahon, G. O’Connell, L. O’Toole, F. Timmons.**

**AGAINST: 12 (TWELVE)**

**Councillors C. Bailey, V. Casserly, Y. Collins, T. Costello, P. Gogarty, B. Lawlor, R. McMahon, D. McManus, S. Moynihan, E Ó Broin, B. Pereppadan, J. Tuffy.**

**ABSTAIN 2 (TWO)**

**Councillors W. Priestley, L. Sinclair**

The Motion was **AGREED**.

**M4/1119 SCHOOL REGISTRATION**

**It was proposed by Councillor M. Duff and seconded by Councillor L. O’Toole**

In view of the number of Post Primary schools in our County and the number of additional schools planned, and taking into account the amount of Section 29 Appeals for refusal to enrol that are going through the DDLEB and the DES, owing to the amount of parents or guardians that are missing application dates or acceptance dates, for Post Primary Schools, due to varying forms of notices of when this process starts and finishes, that this Council calls on the Minister of Education and Skills, to introduce a national registration period, applicable to every Post Primary School, in an effort to ensure that each potential pupil is given a fair and equal chance to enrol at the appropriate time, in the school of their choice.

**REPORT:**

If this motion is agreed a letter will issue to the relevant minister and any reply received will be circulated to all members.

A discussion followed with contributions from Councillors M. Duff, A. Edge, R. McMahon, C. Bailey, L. Dunne, K. Mahon, E Ó Broin, C. King, W. Carey, A. Hayes, P. Gogarty, V. Casserly, S. Fay, P. Kavanagh, L. O’Toole, B. Lawlor and T. Costello.

A vote on the Motion was taken by a **show of hands vote** and the result was as follows:

**FOR: 26 (TWENTY-SIX)**

**AGAINST: 1 (ONE)**

**ABSTAIN: 0 (ZERO)**

The Motion was **AGREED.**

### **M5/1119** As Councillor T. Gilligan was absent from the Chamber the following Motion **FELL** in accordance with Standing Order No. 19:

That we write to the Minister for defence also An Taoiseach asking that the long over due medals for gallantry and distinguished service specifically for the Irish soldiers of “A” Company who served at Jadotville in 1961 be awarded. These medals were promised by former Taoiseach Enda Kenny in his final days in Office and still they have not been received.

### **M6/1119 TAKING IN CHARGE**

### **It was proposed by Councillor Y. Collins and seconded by Councillor C. O’Connor**

That the Chief Executive put in place effective measures, to ensure that housing estates, in relation to which the conditions of the relevant planning permissions have been complied with, are taken in charge without delay, given the financial repercussions for the residents.

**REPORT:**

Section 180 of the Planning & Development Act 2000, as amended, provides for the taking in charge of residential developments by local authorities. This section provides that when a development has been completed in accordance with planning permission, the planning authority shall initiate procedures under Section 11 of the Roads Act 1993 to take it in charge, if requested to do so by the developer or by a majority of owners of the houses involved. A mandate from owners may be requested or a plebiscite of owners may be held to confirm their intent.

SDCC operators a Taking in Charge team within the Land Use Planning and Transport Directorate. The team works with developers to ensure they progress the delivery of their developments to the standards necessary so that these developments can be taken in charge. As and when developers have completed developments to the necessary standards they will then be taken in charge. The Council is keen to progress as many of these as possible and would welcome suggestions on how the TIC process could be expedited where the necessary standards have been attained.

A discussion followed with contributions from Councillor Y. Collins, C. O’Connor, B. Lawlor and E Ó Broin.

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

A vote on the Motion was taken by a **show of hands vote** and the result was as follows:

**FOR: 27 (TWENTY-SEVEN)**

**AGAINST: 0 (ZERO)**

The Motion was **AGREED.**

### **M7/1119** The following Motion in the name of Councillor C. King was **MOVED** and **RE-ENTERED**:

Following the attached Sinn Féin motion that was passed in March of this year, This Council reaffirms it’s call to the Chief Executive to review the current waste collection services in conjunction with the other Dublin local Authorities and the Unions with a view to the remunicipalisation of the domestic waste service whereby the Council would take charge once again of the Service but this time in a more efficient and cost competitive manner than was previously the case

### **M8/1119 CLIMATE CHANGE AND TREE PLANTING**

### **It was proposed by Councillor G. O'Connell and seconded by Councillor P. Gogarty**

This Council, given the recently launched Climate Action Plan and County Climate Emergency, and the recognised role of Trees in tackling Carbon emissions, calls on the Chief Executive to plant at least one acre of native trees over the 2019/20 planting season and that this be in addition to the planned tree planting schedule for 2019/20.

**REPORT:**

The Council's Climate Change Action Plan contains a number of actions under the Nature Based Solutions section which will help to increase tree canopy cover in the County into the future.

The Public Realm Section currently plants in the region of 1,500 trees in on-street and open space locations with a budget of approximately €150,000 provided annually for this work.  The planting proposed in the motion is intended to be additional to that planned tree planting programme, details of which are due to be presented to the Council's area committees in October and November.    South Dublin County Council has adopted a tree management policy that seeks to manage existing trees appropriately and reduce the amount of trees being removed from public open space for non-essential reasons.  The council manages approximately 60,000 public trees within the streetscape; which presents its own challenges, so the management and retention of these trees is also an important facet in the Council’s Climate Change Action Plan.  Tree and hedgerow protection and retention is as important as new tree planting, as it serves to retain a mature tree canopy that already supports an established ecosystem and existing ecological corridors.

All proposed schemes are examined for opportunities for new tree planting.

The conversion of any open space area to woodland has to be carefully assessed and managed to ensure unintended consequences do not result. Quite a number of SDCC’s parks and open spaces contain species-diverse meadowlands that are important from a biodiversity point of view and support species that do not thrive in a woodland setting; such as protected flora and fauna species, ground nesting birds etc.

SDCC have examined Coillte’s recent announcement regarding Coillte Nature. SDCC intend, through its partnership with Coillte and other partners in the Dublin Mountains Partnership, to engage with Coillte on this initiative.  Coillte Nature have announced they will target the delivery of new woodlands facilitating species diversity, biodiversity and carbon sequestration as part of the Government’s National Forestry Programme.  The establishment of Coillte Nature will also see the conversion of certain commercial Coillte forests to recreational forests, notably in the Dublin Mountains.  South Dublin County Council will engage with Coillte in the development of their programme to examine if co-ordinated and complementary actions within South Dublin County Council owned lands can complement and enhance their proposed actions regarding the transition to broadleaf, mainly native woodlands.

A discussion followed with contributions from Councillor G. O’Connell, P. Kavanagh, K. Mahon, P. Gogarty, W. Carey, B. Lawlor and P. Kavanagh.

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

The Motion was **AGREED**.

### **M9/1119 MEDICAL PRIORITY & CBL**

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

That this Council provides medical priority / disability list applicants with a process in which they can express interest in properties similar to Choice Based Lettings.

**REPORT:**

Every effort is made to provide persons with a disability or specific medical need with an appropriate home having regard to medical requirements, housing needs and proximity to service providers and supports.

Housing Applicants who have been awarded “Medical Priority for Standard Housing” have access to the Choice Based Letting (CBL) system.

However, applicants who have been awarded “Medical Priority for Specially Adapted Housing” do not have access to CBL where their needs are very specific and cannot be met and require delivery of specially adapted homes.

Where an existing specially adapted property becomes available, reports from occupational therapists and other medical supports are assessed to determine the property meet an applicant’s needs, before an offer of housing is made. In some cases, a site visit to the property is carried out with the applicants and their support team to assess the suitability of the property.  All applicants can also at any stage discuss their accommodation needs with staff in the allocations sections.

On this basis, neither purpose-built, specially adapted properties, nor properties that have had significant Disabled Persons’ Grants works carried out are advertised through CBL. Instead these properties are usually matched with the needs of a housing/transfer applicant. In some cases an existing tenant awaiting significant DPG works to be carried out on their current home may also be considered for the property as the terms of the scheme require the Council to make the best use of all specially adapted housing stock and it can also be more feasible to transfer a tenant to an available specially adapted home where it is excessively costly or challenging to carry out the required works to their current property.

The Council is committed to providing additional specially adapted homes both through our social housing construction programme and in conjunction with Approved Housing Bodies.

 The Motion was **AGREED.**

### **M15/1119 COMMUNITY CENTRES**

### It was proposed by Councillor F. Timmons and seconded by Councillor. P. Kavanaghand **MOVED** without debate.

That this council commends the work and value of community centres within our county and throughout the communities they serve.

We commit to writing to the Minister to request that Pobal Funding is looked and the rates paid are brought in line with the Living wage so that the wages reflect the invaluable community work staff do in delivering groups and other responsibilities , in particular working with vulnerable people and to ensure that community centres can compete in the Job market when retaining and recruiting staff.

We also ask SDCC to look how community centres are funded and staffed in our County Council and to investigate models used in other Councils and report back to council on this. We also request that SDCC continue to look at all ways to support this invaluable work and look at expanding community centres as hubs of our community and to keep this council updated.

**REPORT:**

South Dublin County is well served by a large network of community facilities covering the vast majority of the main neighbourhoods in the County with provision in the Council's Three-Year Capital Programme 2019-2021 to fund additional facilities where appropriate in the coming years.  The majority of the existing community facilities in the County are built on Council owned land and are usually managed by independent local voluntary management companies (legal companies in their own right, independent of the Council and established as Companies Limited by Guarantee) under management licences provided by the Council.

The management companies utilise a wide range of funding opportunities and supports on offer from a broad range of sources including from the Council and some central government departments to supplement locally generated funds in order to meet the running costs of the facilities. This approach is generally in line with the manner in which community facilities are operated in other local authority areas.  However, if there are alternative funding methods proposed, the Social, Community & Equality SPC can explore the appropriateness of the current support and funding model for community centres.

A number of years ago the then Department of Community, Rural and Gaeltacht Affairs announced a Community Services Programme (CSP), administered by Pobal, which provided the opportunity for community centre management companies to apply for funding to assist with the costs of employing a number of staff - this funding was quite limited and only a small number of community centres could be supported.  A competition was held in the County, facilitated by the Tallaght and Clondalkin Partnerships with some six community centres successfully acquiring funding. The funding allocated under CSP provided crucial support to those community centres in the subsequent years but there have only been extremely minimal opportunities for further funding for additional centres under the scheme since then, generally arising when other centres or projects exited the scheme.

The setting of staff salaries and wages in local community centres are a matter for the relevant management companies employing those staff working in the community facilities with local community officers on hand to provide advice. Management companies are always strongly advised to ensure that appropriate pay scales and salaries are adopted to reflect the duties and roles of the staff in the centres.

The Council's Community Services Department is constantly available to advise, assist and support the management companies of all centres in the County as well as recognising the commendable efforts and volunteerism in managing community centres to support delivery of a wide range of community activities and services for local residents.

The Motion was **AGREED.**

### **M17/1119 DUBLIN BUS DEPOT**

### It was proposed by Councillor L. O'Toole and seconded by Councillor V. Casserly and **MOVED** without debate:

This committee asks the Chief Executive to look at how we can introduce a depot/garage in South Dublin county council for Dublin Bus. There are seven depots in total in Dublin none of them in the county. We have such a demand on introducing additional busses in to many areas and we still have two new towns to build/complete in our county namely Adamstown and Clonburris. To ask that a discussion takes place and that the Chief Executive makes a comment on the matter.

**REPORT:**

With an increasing population in the County there is a growing need to promote more sustainable modes of transport and to reduce dependency of the private vehicle. The responsibility for the delivery of an enhanced bus network and associated infrastructure (such as depots) rests with the NTA. SDCC strongly supports the principle of an improved network and is in active discussions with the NTA about how an improved bus network could be delivered.

In 2018, The DOT allocated a number of Dublin Bus routes to Go-Ahead to operate. In turn Go-Ahead applied for Planning Permission for a large Bus garage and Service yard in Ballymount which was approved and is now operational. Go-Ahead are due to take over the running of a number of Bus Eireann regional routes later this year and as a result may seek additional capacity in the County, however to date they have only applied to SDCC and NTA for revisions to Bus Stop locations. SDCC are in discussion on this matter.

In September 2008, SDCC did grant planning permission to Dublin Bus for a Harristown type Dublin bus depot at Cluterland in Grange Castle. A section 183 for the disposal of the land was also agreed. However, the section 183 or the planning approval did not proceed at that time. Should a future application be received, it will be afforded the same assessment that any other Bus provider would receive.

Meeting Finished at 7:00pm

**Motions Not Reached**

### **(M10) Bike Rental Scheme**

### **Councillor Shane Moynihan**

That this Council calls for the introduction of a South Dublin Bikes scheme, modelled on the Dublin bikes scheme, as a practical step to increase cycling in our county.

### **(M11) SPC SCHEME**

### **Councillor E. Ó Broin**

The composition of the Land use Transportation & Planning SPC is:
Elected Members x 6
Development Construction x 1
Business Commercial x 1
PPN x 1(environmental pillar)

This council agrees that following this meeting a delegate from the Dublin Cycling Campaign (<https://www.dublincycling.com/>), is invited to be included as an additional ex officio non elected member of the SPC. This change in the composition of the Land use Transportation & Planning  SPC is to reflect the imperative that Dublin's leading advocates of improved cycling infrastructure are members of the county's leading planning forum. Although the other current members of the committee, both elected and non-elected, could advocate for cycling infrastructure, none would have the  hands on experience of Dublin Cycling Campaign that could both highlight the significant risks posed to cyclists today while also providing valuable contributions to discussions on future transport corridors. Dublin Cycling Campaign's input would also help formulate the policy changes needed to achieve the significant modal shift towards cycling implicit in the county's climate, health, road safety, air quality and congestion reducing goals and help reduce cycling related casualties

### **(M12)** [**TRAINING AND THE NATURAL ENVIRONMENT**](http://intranet/Cmas/documentsview.aspx?noinc=true&id=64363)

### **Councillor Carly Bailey**

That this council calls on the Chief Executive to review and reform current training, existing practices as well as methods of cross and inter-department communications in order to ensure that the needless destruction of natural environments, whether protected or not within the South Dublin County jurisdiction (a recent example being the Wetlands in Sean Walsh Memorial Park) can never happen again.

Further that all areas currently protected or in discussion as being protected would be brought to the public's attention by way of a page on the council's website or similar and regular updates given to councillors and all departments within the council. Such a review and reform ought to include ways to ensure that all departments are kept up to date about issues of this nature.

Proficient biodiversity training for all staff members, whether directly employed by the council or by private operators appointed to carry out work on behalf of the council should also be provided if this is not already being done.

Training should be provided to every staff member whether involved in the initial decision making or in the subsequent work of cutting, planting, digging, moving, replacing, spraying or any other work that comes into contact with the natural environment.

Signing up to the All Ireland Pollinator Plan and other similar initiatives should also be considered if not already done so.

###  **(M13)** **AGE FRIENDLY PARKING SPACES**

### **Councillor E. Higgins**

That this Council investigates the feasibility of assigning Age Friendly Parking spaces at County Buildings.

###  **(M14) BOOK RENTAL SCHEME**

### **Councillor L. Sinclair**

That this council calls on the Department of Education to set up book rental schemes as mandatory in all primary and secondary schools to replace the current practice of students purchasing their own books.

###  **(M16) HALLOWEEN BONFIRES**

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

That this Council calls on the Chief Executive to ensure that adequate resources are made available to deal with damage to our Open Spaces following the recent Bonfire season and in reporting will he give his initial reaction to how the Council responded to that recent challenge and will he make a statement.

###  **(M18)** [**RESIDENTIAL DEVELOPMENTS ON LANDS WITH OVER 1000 TREES**](http://intranet/cmas/documentsview.aspx?noinc=true&id=64676)

### **Councillor P. Gogarty**

That any housing developments on Council owned lands that involve the potential loss of more than 1,000 native trees not be proceeded with for the time being in the interests of sustainability, biodiversity and meeting the Council's climate change strategy targets and that the future use of such lands be instead considered during the next development plan process following submissions from any local communities concerned.

###  **(M19) BULKY WASTE COLLECTION**

### **Councillor M. Ward**

That this Council agrees a pilot junk collection scheme. The scheme would allow residents to bring large items of household junk to designated pick up points across the County.   This free service would also help to remove from circulation material which ends up on bonfires at Halloween thus helping to prevent thousands of euros in damage to playing surfaces in our parks.

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

Mayor

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