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

Minutes of South Dublin County Council January 2020 County Council Meeting held on Monday 13 January 2020

**PRESENT**

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

### **OFFICIALS PRESENT**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Chief Executive | D. McLoughlin. |
| Directors/ Heads of Function  Head of Finance | L. Maxwell, F. Nevin, T. Walsh, M. Mulhern, C. Ward.  R. FitzGerald. |
| Senior Executive Officers  Senior Parks Superintendent | C. Hurson, M. Staunton, L. Leonard, M. McAdam.  S. Furlong |
| Administrative Officers | M. Reilly, N. Noonan. |
| Staff Officer  Clerical Officer  IT. Support  Sord | L. Abbey.  D. Murphy.  M. Keating.  A. O’Brien. |

### Deputy M. Ward was in attendance.

The Mayor, Councillor V. Casserly, presided.

Apologies were received from Councillors P. Holohan, C. King, S. Moynihan, G. O’Connell.

### **H1/0120 CONFIRMATION AND RE-AFFIRMATION OF MINUTES**

### Minutes of Council Meeting 9th December 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 F. Timmons.

### [(a) - Minutes of the December Council Meeting - 9th December 2019](http://www.sdublincoco.ie/Meetings/ViewDocument/65420)

**H2/0120 FILLING OF CASUAL VACANCY ON SOUTH DUBLIN COUNTY COUNCIL IN ACCORDANCE WITH S.19 OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 2001 FOLLOWING THE ELECTION TO DÁIL ÉIREANN OF COUNCILLOR M. WARD**

Outgoing Councillor, Deputy M. Ward addressed the chamber and thanked staff, management and his colleagues for their assistance given in his time spent as a Councillor and wished new Councillor L. Kinsella-Colman best wishes in her new role.

Councillors E. O’Brien, M. Duff, P. Kearns, B. Lawlor, P. Kavanagh and K. Mahon, V. Casserly and W. Carey all offered their congratulations to Deputy M. Ward in the recent bye-election and welcomed new Councillor L. Kinsella-Colman to the chamber.

Mr. D. McLoughlin Chief Executive, congratulated Deputy M. Ward on his success in the recent bye-election and welcomed new Councillor L. Kinsella-Colman to the chamber.

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

### 

The report was **NOTED** and it was proposed by Councillor W. Carey seconded by Councillor L. Dunne and **AGREED**

“That Ms. Lisa Kinsella-Colman be co-opted to fill the vacancy occurring as a result of the election of Councillor Mark Ward to Dáil Éireann on Saturday 30th November 2019.”

Councillor L. Kinsella-Colman gave a speech accepting her new position as a Councillor.

In accordance with **Standing Order No. 13** it was **AGREED** with the consent of the Members to vary the sequence of business and to take Headed Item 13 (H13) first.

### **H13/0120 DRAFT SPORTS PITCH STRATEGY**

### The following report by the Chief Executive, which had been circulated, was presented by Ms. T. Walsh, Director of Environment, Water and Climate Change, Mr. James Gregory and Mr. Matthew Eames from 4global Consulting;

[HI 13 (a) Draft SDCC Sports Pitch Strategy](http://www.sdublincoco.ie/Meetings/ViewDocument/65360)

[HI 13 (b) Sports Pitch Strategy Presentation](http://www.sdublincoco.ie/Meetings/ViewDocument/65359)

### A discussion followed with a contribution from Councillors W. Priestley, A. Hayes, P. Kavanagh, P. Kearns, P. Gogarty, E. O’Brien, E Ó Broin, K. Mahon, L. O’Toole and V. Casserly

### Ms. T. Walsh, Director of Environment, Water and Climate Change, Mr. D. McLoughlin, Chief Executive, Mr. James Gregory and Mr. Matthew Eames from 4global Consulting responded to the Members queries.

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

### **H3a/0120 REPORTS FROM AREA COMMITTEES**

**a) Rathfarnham-Templeogue-Firhouse-Bohernabreena Committee - 10th December 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.

### **H3b/0120 REPORTS FROM AREA COMMITTEES**

**b) Clondalkin Area Committee – 18th December 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.

### **H3c/0120 REPORTS FROM AREA COMMITTEES**

**c) Tallaght Area Committee – 16th December 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.

### **H3d/0120 REPORTS FROM AREA COMMITTEES**

**d)** **Lucan-Palmerstown-Fonthill Area Committee – 17th December 2019**

Dealing with Public Realm, Water & Drainage, Housing, Community, Planning, Economic Development, **Libraries & Arts**, 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 2019 | Cool Stars Kids Club | Cool Stars Kids Club, Lucan which serves children (ages 5 to 16years) with mild disabilities. It runs every second Saturday and engages the children in activities that include arts, crafts and music. The group’s facilitator would like to introduce a new project using sensory modelling clay, exploration light panels and canvas paint. The group is seeking assistance to buy these materials for the project.  The Arts Office recommends that a contribution of €650 be allocated to Cool Stars Kids Club to purchase art project materials. | €650 |

The report was **NOTED** and it was proposed by Councillor V. Casserly seconded by Councillor M. Seery Kearney and **RESOLVED**:

“That the recommendations contained in the foregoing report of The Lucan-Palmerstown-Fonthill Area Committee 17th December 2019 be **ADOPTED** and **APPROVED.**”

### **H4/0120 STANDING COMMITTEES ORGANISATION PROCEDURE & FINANCE**

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

### **H5/0120 STRATEGIC POLICY COMMITTEES**

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

**a) Social, Community & Equality SPC**

(i) Minutes of Meeting - 19th February 2019

**Minutes of Meeting of Social and Community SPC on 19th February 2019**

**In Attendance:** Cllr. D. O’Donovan (Chair), Cllr. E. Murphy, Cllr. S. Holland, Cllr. J Graham, Cllr. K. Egan and Latifat Olagoke (PPN).

**Apologies:** Cllr. V. Casserly

**Officials present:**

C. Ward, Director of Services, B. Hora, A/Senior Executive Officer, B. Leonard, Administrative Officer, C. Purdy, Administrative Officer, P. McAlerney, Senior Community Officer, T. McDermott Sports Partnership Coordinator and A. Lane, Administrative Officer

**Also Present:M. Dolan, PPN Resource Worker.**

The meeting was chaired by Cllr. D. O’Donovan.

**Headed Item 1: Minutes of Social & Community SPC Meeting of 14th November 2018**

The Minutes of the Social & Community SPC Meeting of 14th November 2018 were AGREED.

**Headed Item 2 – Integration Strategy**

B Leonard gave a presentation on the draft integration strategy. Queries from Cllr. D. O’Donovan, and L. Olagoke that were responded to by C. Ward and B. Leonard. The report was NOTED and it was AGREED that:

* The Members of the Social & Community SPC are to revert within two weeks with comments/recommendations
* Draft Strategy to be presented to March full Council for adoption.
* Official launch of the Integration Strategy to be arranged after April Council meeting

**Headed Item 3 – PPN Presentation**

M. Dolan gave a detailed presentation on South Dublin PPN, highlighting that the next Plenary meetings are scheduled for May and October 2019. The report was NOTED.

**Headed Item 4 – European Action Week Against Racism**

B.  Leonard provided the Committee with an update on the schedule of events for European Action Week Against Racism which will take place from 16th to 24th March 2019. The report was NOTED.

**Headed Item 5 – Community Grants**

P. McAlerney gave a presentation on Round One of Community Grants 2019, outlining opening and closing dates. Following contributions the report was NOTED and it was AGREED that the Community team would examine grant application timeframes to facilitate Community Grants approvals going to the May Council meeting.

**Headed Item 6 – Community Infrastructure Fund 2019**

P. McAlerney gave a presentation on Community Infrastructure Fund 2019, the report was NOTED and it was AGREED that the maximum funding for individual grant applications will increase to €50,000.

**Headed Item 7 – Schools Cross Country 2019**

B. Leonard gave a detailed report on Schools Cross Country 2019. The report was NOTED.

**Headed Item 8 – National Community Weekend May 2019**

A. Lane gave a report on National Community Weekend May 2019, the report was NOTED and it was AGREED that the €10,000 fund is to be filtered through the existing Bealtaine funding stream to support appropriate events.

**Headed Item 9 – AOB**

Cllr D O’Donovan acknowledged the work of the Committee over the last 4 years.

The meeting concluded at 7.15 pm.

(ii) Report of Meeting - 4th December 2019

**Report of Meeting of Social, Community and Equality Strategic Policy Committee held at 6pm on 4th December 2019 in IT Conference Room, 2nd Floor, County Hall.**

**In Attendance:**

Cllr. E. Higgins (Chair), Cllr. E. Murphy, Cllr. C Bailey, Cllr. T. Gilligan and L. Olagoke (PPN).

**Apologies:** Cllr. V. Casserly

**Officials present:**

C. Ward, Director of Services and B. Hora, A./Senior Executive Officer.

**HI.1 Minutes of Social and Community Strategic Policy Committee held on 19th February 2019**

The minutes of the Social & Community SPC Meeting of 19th February 2019 were agreed.

**H1.2 Matters Arising**

None.

**HI.3 Role of SPC & Requirements under the Lobbying Regulation Act**

C. Ward provided a brief overview of the SPC Scheme that was adopted at the Council Meeting on 14th October 2019 and drew attention to the obligations of committee members under the Regulation of Lobbying Act 2015. It was also noted that both documents are available for download for Committee members to review.

**HI.4 Overview of Community Development**

B. Hora presented an overview of the structure, key policies and activities of the Community Development Department for the Committee. In addition, C. Ward outlined some of the key objectives and items for the Committee during its tenure including:

* Preparation of an updated County Age Friendly Strategy with an associated programme of initiatives and actions;
* Develop and implement County Sports Plan to maximise promotion, development participation, inclusion and physical literacy in the County in conjunction with guidance from the Department of Transport, Tourism and Sport;
* Review of social inclusion festival impacts and re-define social inclusion programme to deliver more targeted interventions and events focusing on most challenged cohorts;
* Leading and co-ordinating the County Health and Wellbeing framework;
* Developing an online application process for community grants to improve administration and management of grants.

Following contributions from Cllrs Higgins, Murphy, Bailey and Gilligan which were responded to by C. Ward and B. Hora, the report was noted.

**H-I (5)                 Social Inclusion Festival 2019**

A report was circulated on the 2019 Social Inclusion Festival.

Following discussion with contributions from Cllrs. Higgins, Gilligan, Bailey and Murphy, the committee agreed that it would establish a subcommittee in 2020 to advise and inform the Social Inclusion agenda in the County. This will ensure the activities of the Social Inclusion Festival are focused on the appropriate target groups and will inform the programme of work for 2020 and beyond.

**H-I (6)                 Community Endeavour Awards**

B Hora delivered a brief presentation on the Community Endeavour Awards (scheduled for Friday 6th December in the Red Cow Moran Hotel) which was noted by the Committee.

**H-I (7)                 Age Friendly Initiatives**

A report was circulated on Age Friendly Initiatives in the County which noted the urgent need to review and replace the current County Age Friendly Strategy.

It was agreed that proposals would be brought to the next Social, Community & Equality SPC meeting in February 2020 regarding the development and implementation of a new County Age Friendly Strategy to enhance the range of Age Friendly initiatives to make tangible impacts on older persons lives.

It was further agreed to establish a sub-committee to consider proposals and options in this regard in the intervening period.

**H-I (8)                 Any Other Business**

None.

The meeting concluded at 7.20pm

The reports were **NOTED.**

### **H6/0120 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 – Q18 be **ADOPTED** and **APPROVED.”**

### **Q1/0120 QUESTIONS: Councillor Carly Bailey**

To ask the Chief Executive what is the issue regarding the delay in providing tree stump removal services and what the plan is to resolve the issues and when service will be resumed.

**REPLY:**

The tree stump removal programme is currently underway. Up to the end of November 2019,  869 tree stumps have been removed by both contractors and Council staff. An ongoing programme of stump removal will continue focusing on areas where the greater number of tree stumps are present. A new stump grinding machine has been procured.

### **Q2/0120 QUESTIONS: Councillor Carly Bailey**

To ask the Chief Executive how complaints regarding the condition of social housing (whether managed by the council or by an AHB) are handled? How many complaints were received in 2018 and 2019? How many properties were subsequently inspected? How many of those had repairs carried out and how long after the complaint did they take place?

**REPLY:**

The Council categorises all maintenance requests in relation to our housing stock according to the following guide:

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **CATEGORY** | **TIMESCALE** | **EXAMPLE** |
| Emergency (Life-threatening and other serious matters) | 1 – 5 working days | Smoking Fuse Board, Burst water tank |
| Urgent  (Matters which could cause significant damage to property) | Up to 10 working days | Leak under sink unit, Leaking roof |
| Routine (Matters which require attention but don’t pose an immediate danger to life/property.) | Up to 12 weeks+ | Replace toilet cistern, Faulty radiator |

Categorisation of a maintenance request is generally the responsibility of the Clerk of Works or Foreman of Works - this may involve an initial inspection of the property to determine the exact nature of the repair request and the works required.

In 2018 we received 18,932 maintenance requests with a further 17,546 requests received in 2019.

In 2018 & 2019 the majority of requests were assigned as follows with the balance being either tenant's responsibility, required no further action or required another miscellaneous response:

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Repairs** | **2018** | **2019** | **Contractor** |
| Central Heating | *5,088* | *4,957* | External Contractor |
| Inspections | *3,797* | *3,607* | Foreman of Works/Clerk of Works |
| Electrical | *2,127* | *1,996* | External Contractor |
| Plumbing | *4,321* | *3937* | Direct Labour |
| Roofing | *249* | *239* | External Contractor |
| Carpentry | *264* | *380* | Direct Labour or External Contractor |

On submission of requests for repairs, tenants are advised as to whether the works are the Council responsibility or the Tenants responsibility  Generally, Tenants are responsible for repairs of a non-structural nature repairs to doors, windows, fixtures and fittings in the property caused by destruction or malicious damage.

The Council is not responsible for the maintenance of properties under the control of Approved Housing Bodies (AHB) but in general, a similar set of guidelines regarding categorisation and timescales for repairs is in place across the AHB sector.

### **Q3/0120 QUESTIONS: Councillor Carly Bailey**

To ask the Chief Executive how many individuals, families and children were officially recorded as homeless over the Christmas 2019 period and how many of these were asked to vacate their emergency accommodation during that time?

**REPLY:**

The Council's homeless list at the end of December 2019 comprised the following:

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Total No. of Households** | **588** |
| of which: |  |
| Single Male | 277 |
| Single Female | 57 |
| Couples | 13 |
| Families | 241 |
|  |  |
| Total adults on homless list | 727 |
| Total children on homeless list | 583 |

Emergency accommodation was available for all homeless persons who required it over the Christmas period.

### **Q4/0120 QUESTIONS: Councillor Carly Bailey**

To ask the Chief Executive to outline the number of Litter Wardens and Waste Enforcement Officers working in the County and to confirm how many are on duty at any one time. Would the Chief Executive care to make a statement on the matter?

**REPLY:**

There are five full time Litter Wardens and four Waste Enforcment Officers currently employed by South Dublin County Council. Since 2009 the full complement of Litter Wardens is six. Temporary cover is provided by the existing Wardens in respect of short-term absences due to annual or other leave. The full complement of Waste Enforcement Officers is six. Despite numerous competitions for Waste Enforcment Officers, at various grades, the Council has been unable to fill all vacant WEO positions.

All incidents of litter, illegal dumping, unauthorised signage and abandoned vehicles reported or detected in any area are investigated by the Council's Litter Warden Service and all dumped material is searched for evidence. Where evidence is found, the appropriate enforcement action is taken under the Litter Pollution Act 1997, as amended. Increasingly, it is found that no personal information relating to polluters is contained within the dumped material, with personal information having been removed or shredded. As part of the Council's commitment to deliver on the objectives of the Corporate Plan and Litter Management Plan, there has been an increased targeted focus on known litter generator areas. Similarly, there has been a raised visibility of our Warden Service through branded vehicles, and several structured routes have been identified for continuous patrol, as well as ad hoc patrols and investigations as required. 3891 incidents reported or detected have been investigated by the Litter Warden Service up to the end of November 2019.

In accordance with the Waste Management Act 1996 and associated legislation, Waste Enforcement Officers carry out compliance inspections of permited waste facilities/collectors (51 facilities, 121 collectors), producer responsibiltiy iniatives (Tyres, Packaging, Batteries, WEEE), construction sites, illegal waste collections, household waste compliance and incidents of large scale dumping of waste. Waste Enforcement Officers complete inspections on the basis of cradle to grave to ensure compliance by all persons generating, transporting and treating waste. To assist in the investigations, officers utilise technologies including drones, action cameras and covert cctv, whilst enlisting cooperation from Gardaí, neighbouring LA's and other agencies.

Administrative support for the Litter Warden Service and Waste Enforcment Officers is provided by 7.6 WTE staff within the Enforcement and Licencing Section. Support is also provided by the Council's Law Department in respect of prosecutions.

Provision has been made in the adopted 2020 budget for expenditure of €741,900 on the Litter Warden Service and €806,500 on Waste Enforcement Services.

### **Q5/0120 QUESTIONS: Councillor Carly Bailey**

To ask the Chief Executive how air quality monitoring operates within the county, how often it is carried out, where it is carried out (and how that is determined) and how the public and elected representatives can access reports on same?

**REPLY:**

Air Quality monitoring in South Dublin forms part of the government’s National Clean Air Strategy. This strategy has been implemented under the EU Clean Air for Europe, more commonly referred to as the Café Directive. The strategy is led by the Environmental Protection Agency under the Department of Environment’s aegis. As part of the Clean Air Strategy, the EPA introduced their National Ambient Air Quality Monitoring Programme back in 2017 and to run for the next three years.

This programme was based around the increase nationwide from 29 fixed air monitoring sites to 63 and to overhaul and update several of the current ones. The location and selection of stations is a function of the EPA in collaboration with local authorities. Ireland is divided up into 4 zones with the large cities being designated Zone 1 status and the Dublin region having the largest number of sites.

In South Dublin, our urban background air quality station at Old Bawn has been re designated upwards into a Traffic Pollutant station. This will result in the additional monitoring of Nitrogen Dioxide (NO2) to the existing parameters of Sulphur Dioxide (SO2) and Particulate Matter (PM10) with an investment of approximately €90,000.

Once the structural works are completed in mid-January 2020, all three parameter/pollutants will be monitored 24 hours a day and available on a daily basis @EPAAIRQUALITY.

In addition to this, the monitoring of Nitrogen Dioxide is also carried out by the Transport Infrastructure Ireland (TII) along the M50 motorway using dispersion modelling air quality monitoring. This is because of the high volumes of vehicular traffic on this road.

The EPA is also planning a large air project next year involving members of the public and second level schools in 2020. The aim of the project is to measure levels of NO2 in Dublin and Cork, particularly concentrating near areas of high traffic density. South Dublin County Council and TUD Tallaght have also commenced discussions in a potential partnership to measure air quality in the university campus and Tallaght village vicinity.

### **Q6/0120 QUESTIONS: Councillor Yvonne Collins**

To ask the Chief Executive if the Council will adopt a policy of, where planting appropriate trees and plants in parks and housing estates, to plant species which are native to Ireland.

**REPLY:**

The principle of planting the ‘right tree in the right place’  has been adopted by the Council through it's Tree Management Policy - Living with Trees. The choice of tree species for street tree planting is dependent on suitability to the planting location and local landscape character. Species will be selected on suitability to setting, biodiversity value and visual appearance. The selection of street trees is guided by their mature size, water demand, crown shape and future management requirements. Species utilised in tree planting programmes will be those judged by the Council to be appropriate for the circumstances based on policy, arboriculture knowledge and experience.

Native trees are trees that have grown in Ireland since the ice age and include hazel, oak, willow , birch, ash, Scot's pine and rowan. The native trees can be planted in parks and open spaces and cultivated varieties are used in street planting where uniformity and consistency is important.

### **Q7/0120 QUESTIONS:** **Councillor Alan Hayes**

To ask the chief executive to provide a report on the known reasons why SDCC were unsuccessful in receiving funding for the Hazelhatch to 12th Lock greenway, and to provide any information available as to what the next steps are for this council to acquire the necessary funding.

**REPLY:**

The Grand Canal Greenway project is a project led by Waterways Ireland in conjunction with the Local Authorities along the Canal from Grand Canal Dock to the River Shannon.  Members will be aware that the main element of the Greenway is in place in South Dublin County developed under a previous joint project with Waterways Ireland, Dublin City Council and the ESB. South Dublin County Council, by agreement with Kidare County Council, led the Part 8 process for the 12th Lock to Hazelhatch element of the project. The members of SDCC approved the Part 8 in May 2019. Members will also be aware that a project to link the two Canals, 12th Lock to 12th Lock, is currently being progressed in assocation with Fingal County Council and Waterways Ireland.

Unfortunately, the 12th Lock to Hazelhatch path was not funded under the Greenway programme. Next steps on both projects are currently under discussion with Waterways Ireland.

### **Q8/0120 QUESTIONS: Councillor M. Johansson**

To ask the Chief Executive how many reports of bonfire materials were received prior to Halloween in the area, including which sites, and how many of those sites had bonfire material removed?

**REPLY:**

The Council received in excess of 150 reports of stockpiled bonfire materials prior to Halloween.  The vast majority of these sites were cleared of these materials with a total of 237 tonnes of unburnt bonfire materials collected by public realm crews before October 31st. Early contact was made with the Gardai to ensure that information was exchanged between SDCC and AGS and that assistance was provided as necessary in the effort to locate and remove the threat associated with bonfires and the storage of bonfire materials. A small number of sites could not be cleared due to threats to public realm staff, such sites were left by the public realm section on the advice of the Gardai.

The number of bonfires recorded in 2019 was 226, which is down from the number recorded in 2018.  A total of 585 tonnes of waste has been collected this year and 237 tonnes of that was captured pre Halloween and before it was set on fire. The total cost of the Halloween/Bonfire related work to date stands at €102,566 and this is expected to rise to around €150,000 when all costs have been included.  Reinstatement of bonfire sites will take place in the Spring, when ground conditions will have improved.

### **Q9/0120 QUESTIONS:** **Councillor K. Mahon**

To ask the Chief Executive when and how local authority tenants and RAS tenants will be officially informed of rent increase and the removal of the over 65's allowance that was implemented through the 2020 budgetary process by councillors from The Green Party, Fianna Fail, Fine Gael?

**REPLY:**

Following the adoption of the 2020 Budget by the Elected Members, preparations are being made to our rents system to implement the revised rents for all Council, RAS and HAP tenants.  It is intended that notification will issue later this month to all tenants.

Due to system requirements and a review of eligible accounts, the removal of the temporary rental subsidy of €10 per week from certain rent accounts will be implemented in April 2020  together with a rent assessment form requesting details for each household member and proof of income where relevant following the introduction of the new integrated housing system.  Our housing rents team will apply certain criteria such as number of persons in a household and assessment of income types to remove and exclude poverty vulnerable persons from the removal of the subsidy where necessary.

### **Q10/0120 QUESTIONS: Councillor C. O'Connor**

To ask the Chief Executive to confirm the arrangements in place for collection of Christmas Trees; will he give details of locations and make a statement.

**REPLY:**

The following is a list of locations where Christmas trees will be accepted for recycling in January 2020.  Provision of this service will commence on Thursday January 2nd and it will run to Saturday January 11th.  This service is free for domestic household trees and only one tree per household can be accpeted.  Signage will be placed at the listed locations indicating that they are official recycling points.

**Lucan area**

* Beechpark open space
* Sarsfield Park open space
* Haydens Lane Car Park in Griffeen Valley Park
* Foxborough open space

**Palmerstown**

* Glenaulin Park
* Woodfarm Acres

**Clondalkin**

* Corkagh Park (St Johns Road car park)
* Corkagh Park (Green Isle car park at Caravan Park entrance)
* Collinstown Park
* Quarryvale Park
* Foxdene open space
* Grand Canal open space (junction of Bawnogue and Lockview roads)

**Tallaght**

* Raheen open space (opposite Raheen Shopping Centre)
* Seán Walsh Park – Storage area (behind Old Bawn CommunityCollege) near Parks Depot off Whitestown Way.

**Greenhills**

* Tymon Park (Limekiln car park)
* Tymon Park (Tymon North Road car park)

**Old Bawn**

* Church car park (beside Aylesbury shopping centre)

**Firhouse**

* Car park at Cherryfield (off the link road between Firhouse Road and Spawell Roundabout)
* Car park at Dodder Valley Park, Firhouse Road opposite Woodlawn Estate

**Rathfarnham**

* Rathfarnham Castle Park – Car Park

**Saggart**

* Parks Depot on Mill Lane

### **Q11/0120 QUESTIONS: Councillor C. O'Connor**

To ask the Chief Executive to confirm what actions he is taking to support Community Centres in our County who are facing challenges with regard to rising insurance costs; will he appreciate the concern of many in respect of the matter and will he make a statement.

**REPLY:**

Community Centres in the County are managed by independent local voluntary management companies and are legal companies in their own right, independent of the Council and established as Companies Limited by Guarantee.

The management companies utilise a wide range of funding opportunities and supports on offer from a broad range of sources from the Council and also some central government departments to supplement locally generated funds in order to meet the running costs of the facilities.   Boards of Management of Community Centres are also encouraged to take part and apply for funding assistance to help with the delivery of a variety of local community events.

The Council's Community Services Department is 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.

### **Q12/0120 QUESTIONS: Councillor C. O'Connor**

To ask the Chief Executive to confirm his Litter Management Plans 2020 noting the concerns of many that Litter and Graffiti remain a major problem throughout our County; will he give assurances in the matter and make a statement.

**REPLY:**

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

The current LMP has been reviewed and a Draft Litter Management Plan for the period 2020-2024 has been published for public consultation with the final date for receipt of submissions or observations being Tuesday 7th January 2020

There is a three-strand approach to managing these issues under the existing and draft plans as follows:

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

 Initiatives in 2019 included but were not limited to the following:

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

All these measures are aimed at improving the aesthetic appearance of our county in the interest of improving quality of life and our economic development potential. It is expected that these and other initiatives will continue in 2020 and as part of the new LMP when adopted.

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

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

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

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

### **Q13/0120 QUESTIONS: Councillor C. O'Connor**

To ask the Chief Executive if he has plans in the New Year to deal with the concerns of many in our communities with regard to the ongoing problem of Dog Fouling; will he appreciate the clear need for effective action in the matter and will he make a statement.

**REPLY:**

[**Section 22 of the Litter Pollution Act 1997**](http://www.irishstatutebook.ie/eli/1997/act/12/section/22/enacted/en/html), as amended (the Act), states that ....."the person in charge of a dog is subject to a fine or prosecution if he/she does not immediately remove any faeces deposited by their dog in certain places, and/or if that person fails to ensure that the dog litter is properly disposed of in a suitable sanitary manner".

As previously outlined, the difficulty with enforcement of Section 22 is the requirement for witness testimony, to report that the offence happened and that an identified person is the person in charge of the dog. Similarly, it is not possible for personnel to be at specific locations as fouling incident arises.

Dog litter, if properly bagged can be disposed of in a standard litter bin. The Council provides standard type litter bins in its main parks and at the dog runs which have been provided in those parks. In total there are approximately 130 litter bins provided at parks locations in the County, this number has increased in recent years and will continue to increase as the need arises. There are a further 650 litter bins provided on streets and in villages and urban centres. Currently, dog litter stickers are being piloted on existing litter bins demonstrating that these receptacles are suitable for such litter.

Dog Litter Signage (3 different designs x 100 of each) is available and requests for signage are considered on a case by case basis and signs are only erected on demonstrated need. The location of the request is examined for suitability and if deemed suitable signs can be erected. If there is/are registered group(s) in existence in an area, signage may be provided directly to the group through the Social Credit Scheme with the caveat that such signage erected must have due regard for public health and safety, and must not impede visibility or restrict traffic, cycling and pedestrian flow. Also, if it is proposed to co-use a pole, authorisation will be required. Alternatively, requests are added to the current signage waiting list, pending determination of suitability, and availability of resources for signage erection.

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

A very forceful media campaign continues through cinemas and radio adverts. The development of dog fouling advert was an element of the 2017 LMP Action Plan and part of the wider anti-litter awareness campaign that included anti-litter and illegal dumping adverts.

### **Q14/0120 QUESTIONS: Councillor C. O'Connor**

To ask the Chief Executive if he would confirm the numbers currently on the Council's Housing List and Homeless List and in reporting will he state what plans he has to continue to deal with the Housing crisis in 2020 and will he make a statement.

**REPLY:**

At the end of 2019 there were 6,882 applicants on the Council's housing list, of which 588 were registered as homeless.

The level of social housing need continues to be a major challenge facing this Council and increasing housing supply is a primary solution.  We continue to increase housing supply through our build/acquisition programme, Part V, collaboration with Approved Housing Bodies with additional housing options provided through Leasing, RAS and HAP schemes.  Proposals for significant housing delivery on large Council owned sites at Kilcarbery, Clonburris, Killinarden and Rathcoole are progressing and will form a major part of future housing supply in the County.  In addition, we continue to examine additional opportunities for further housing delivery where possible through exisitng landbank, possible land acquisition, turnkey house purchase etc.

Maximise the effectiveness of existing and new social housing stock through allocations, transfers and assisting rightsizing are also critical to help address the challenges provided by the current situation.

Our Homeless Unit will continue to provide assistance to those who find themselves homeless or at risk of becoming homeless.  This Unit continues to operate an advice clinic in County Hall and provides outreach and place-finding services across the County as well as detailing emergency accommodation options through central placement, self-accommodate, family hubs and other supported accommodation.  Staff in the homeless unit organise emergency accommodation for those assessed as homeless through the Assessment and Placement Service.  The Housing Department in conjunction with the Dublin Region Homeless Executive and other partners continue to look for suitable locations/properties throughout the County for use as appropriate emergency accommodation for single persons and families.  Additional options to support persons moving on from supported temporary accommodation continue to be explored and we are also committed to the provision of housing first tenancies where appropriate.

### **Q15/0120 QUESTIONS: Councillor Mary Seery-Kearney**

Can the Chief Executive advise please on whether AI (artificial intelligence) management systems are being deployed within the Council, and if so in what capacity are they being used? Are any decisions being made or filtering tools being used that are machine facilitated?

**REPLY:**

AI (artificial intelligence) management systems are not deployed within the Council.

### **Q16/0120 QUESTIONS: Councillor F. Timmons**

To ask the Chief Executive issue a report into how many Homeless people are on SDCC list and to break this into males / Females and children ?

**REPLY:**

The Council's homeless list at the end of December 2019 comprised the following:

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Total No. of Households** | **588** |
| of which: |  |
| Single Male | 277 |
| Single Female | 57 |
| Couples | 13 |
| Families | 241 |
|  |  |
| Total adults on homless list | 727 |
| Total children on homeless list | 583 |

### **Q17/0120 QUESTIONS: Councillor F. Timmons**

To ask the Chief Executive issue a report into how many over 55s are on a SDCC list for step down accommodation and how SDCC will address this need around our county for them and others who would be willing to step down from larger accommodation ?

**REPLY:**

The Council's Allocations Scheme allows for priority status for downsizing or rightsizing tenants - this will be a priority of the operation of the Allocations scheme in 2020 and beyond.  There are currently 37 transfer applicants aged 55 years or older looking to rightsize to a 1 bed home with approximately 600 additional tenancies where there is one occupant in a three or four bedroom home but who have not yet applied to rightsize.  There are also 753 applicants over 55 years old on the housing list / HAP Transfer list who are eligible for a 1 bed property.  In addition, the Allocations Scheme provides for a financial contribution scheme for owners of private homes to rightsize to Council housing unnder certain criteria.

Part 8 approval is currently in place for older persons' developments at Templeogue Village, Whitestown Way and Springfield (Fernwood & Maplewood).  A Part 8 proposal for 12 older persons' homes at Brady's Field, Old Bawn is currently at public consultation and further sites across the County wil be examined for suitability for proposals for similar developments as there is significant growing need for such accommodation.

### **Q18/0120 QUESTIONS:** **Councillor F. Timmons**

To ask the Chief Executive for a report into the cost of Water Fountains in SDCC how many have been installed and how many more are envisaged to cut down on Plastic bottles in our parks and to ask would he consider installing in community centre and other council owned building ?

**REPLY:**

A total of 7 water fountains have been installed to date with two of these installed in Tymon Park and one each at County Hall, Griffeen Valley Park, Rathfarnham Castle Park, Rathcoole Village and Lucan Village.  A further 2 stations are to be installed early in the new year at Clondlakin Village and Waterstown Park.  The Council's Public Realm Section intends to install an additional 8 units in 2020, locations are being considered at present and these will be finalised early in 2020.  It is intended that usage data available from the existing units will help to make the final decision on the second round of locations.  Locations chosen to date have either been town or village centres or in the County's main parks, with locations where park runs are held being chosen due to high footfall and expected high usage as a result.  The cost of the water station of the type being used is approximately €7,300 per unit.

### **H7/0120 DECLARATION OF ROADS TO BE MADE PUBLIC ROADS**

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

### **H8a/0120 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 & Tourism Development.

**LD 526 Proposed freehold disposal of plot of land to the rear of 12 Wellington Park, Templeogue, Dublin 6**

At its meeting on 13th July 2015 the Council approved the leasehold disposal of a plot of land to the rear of 12 Wellington Park, Templeogue, Dublin 6 as outlined in red on attached Drawing No. LA/37/08 to houseowners Seamus and Veronica Lawless – CEO Dev/45/15 and Certified Minute No. H8b/0715 refer.

The houseowners are now considering selling their property and have been advised to purchase the freehold interest in the plot of land above.

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

Accordingly, I now recommend that the Council dispose of its freehold interest in the plot of land measuring 325 square metres or thereabouts to the rear of 12 Wellington Park, Templeogue, Dublin 6 as outlined in red on attached Drawing No. LA/37/08 to the respective houseowners, Seamus and Veronica Lawless, in accordance with Section 211 of the Planning and Development Act, 2000 and subject to the provisions of Section 183 of the Local Government Act, 2001 subject to the following terms and conditions as recommended by the Council’s Valuer:-

1. That the subject plot of approximately 325 square metres is shown outlined in red on the attached Drawing No. LA/37/08.
2. That the subject plot is held under indenture of lease dated 28 July 2016 between Seamus and Veronica Lawless and the Council for a term of 999 years, subject to a yearly rent of €1.
3. That the Council dispose of the freehold interest in the subject plot for the consideration of €5,000 (five thousand euro) plus VAT (if applicable).
4. That the Applicants hold the freehold or equivalent interest in 12 Wellington Park, Templeogue, Dublin 6.
5. That the use of the subject plot is for gardening purposes only.
6. That any boundary feature constructed shall be in accordance with the Planning & Development and the Building Control legislation.

1. That the Applicants pay the Council Valuer fee of €800 (eight hundred euro) plus VAT.
2. That the Applicants pay the Council’s legal fees plus VAT and outlay.
3. That the Applicants shall be responsible for any VAT and stamp duty liability associated with this disposal.
4. That in the event of any name change to Applicants prior to formal completion of the legal transfer, the Applicants must provide documentary evidence to the Council proving that the new named party is one and the same as the named Applicants heretofore to enable the transfer to complete.
5. That each party shall use their best endeavours to complete the transaction within a reasonable timeframe following adoption of the disposal resolution.
6. That the Law Agent shall draft the necessary legal agreements and shall include any further terms deemed appropriate in Agreements of this nature.
7. That no contract enforceable at Law is created or intended to be created until such time as contracts have been exchanged.
8. That the disposal is subject to the necessary approvals and consents being obtained.

The lands being disposed of form part of the lands acquired from Mountdown Holdings in 1986 for open space purposes and registered in Council ownership in 1992.

**Daniel McLoughlin**

**Chief Executive**

The report was **NOTED** and it was proposed byCouncillor V. Casserly, seconded by Councillor M. Seery Kearney and **RESOLVED:**

“That the proposed freehold disposal of plot of land adjacent to 12 Wellington Park, Templeogue, Dublin 6W be **ADOPTED** and **APPROVED**.”

### **H9/0120 MANAGERS REPORT**

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

[HI 9 a) Chief Executive's Report](http://www.sdublincoco.ie/Meetings/ViewDocument/65413)

**Billing and Collection Statement**





**Use of overdraft facility**

Department approved overdraft facility = €25,000,000

No of days in Overdraft from 1st January to 13th December 2019 = 1

[HI 9 c) Statistics Report](http://www.sdublincoco.ie/Meetings/ViewDocument/65318)

A discussion followed with contributions from Councillors E Ó Broin and V. Casserly

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

The reports were **NOTED.**

### **H10/0120 DUBLIN MOUNTAINS - BRIEFING ON SUBMISSION TO ABP**

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

The proposed Dublin Mountains Visitor Centre is a joint development by South Dublin County Council, Coillte and the Dublin Mountains Partnership to create a new “gateway” to the Dublin Mountains located at the combined Massy’s Wood /Estate and Montpelier Hill incorporating the Hell Fire Club site.

Following extensive public engagement on the project with the elected members, the public and relevant stakeholders, an Application and Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Report in relation to this project were submitted on South Dublin County Council’s behalf to An Bord Pleanála (ABP) on Monday 31st July 2017 (Ref: JA0040).

In October 2017, ABP requested further additional information from the Council in relation to: Appropriate Assessment of the site; Red Squirrels; Pine Martens; Bats; and miscellaneous matters.  A comprehensive response addressing all the matters raised was submitted on the Council’s behalf to ABP on Thursday, 30th November 2017 including: a Further Information Response Document; a Revised Operational Management Plan; and a Red Squirrel Management Plan.

On the 7th February 2018, ABP wrote to South Dublin County Council requesting a bird survey of the area which is the subject of the application. ABP indicated they would hold an oral hearing into the proposed development.

Following on from the Oral Hearing that was held in November 2018, An Bord Pleánala issued another further information request.  A response to this request should be issued no later than 7th February 2020.

Consultants working on behalf of South Dublin County Council undertook additional bird surveys, prepared for submission a Natura Impact Statement including mitigation proposals to address any potential adverse effects of the proposed development; and, in relation specifically to biodiversity undertook any additional surveys/monitoring during recognised optimal conditions and updated the relevant sections of the EIAR to incorporate the results of these surveys.

The consultants completed the required additional surveys and analysis requested by An Bord Pleanala in late 2019 and submitted the completed documentation to the Board on 24 December, 2019.

Attached to this report is the cover letter submitted to the Board summarising the contents of the submitted documents. As indicated in the letter, we will follow the direction of the Board in terms of advertising the further information and making the submitted extensive documentation available for review on the Councils website.

As the submitted documents are now with the Board for consideration it would not be appropriate to comment further pending the decision of the Board.

A discussion followed with contributions from Councillors A. Edge, T. Collins, M. Johansson, E. O’Brien, M. Seery Kearney, E. Murphy.

Mr. F. Nevin, Director of Economic, Enterprise & Tourism Development, responded to the Members queries.

The Report was **NOTED**.

### **H11/0120 FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE FOR APPROVED HOUSING BODIES IN 2020 UNDER THE CAPITAL ASSISTANCE SCHEME IN ACCORDANCE WITH SECTION 6, HOUSING MISCELLANEOUS PROVISIONS) ACT, 1992**

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

The Capital Assistance Scheme (CAS) is funded by the Department of Housing, Planning & Local Government to Approved Housing Bodies (AHBs) to provide accommodation through construction or acquisition to meet specific categories of housing need, particularly in situations where tenancy supports and low to medium care are required.  In many cases, AHBs provide a housing model and a range of on-site supports not normally associated with more mainstream local authority social housing schemes.  The eligible categories or persons covered under CAS are:

* Elderly persons;
* Homeless persons (including "care leavers" exiting State care on reaching the age of 18);
* People with a disability, with a particular emphasis on moving people with a disability from a congregated setting into community-based living.

Under Section 6 of the Housing (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act, 1992 it is a reserved function of the Council to approve such assistance and any associated terms and conditions under which that assistance is provided.  If approved, funding is then provided by way of a grant to AHBs and is not repayable provided that the accommodation continues to be let to eligible categories of persons and is properly maintained.

At the January 2019 Council Meeting, CAS funding of €7 million was approved by the Council with €6.1m utilised to date for the acquisition of 20 properties and the refurbishment of an emergency accommodation facility. It is projected that a similar number of properties will be acquired in 2020 by AHBs under CAS along with the construction of 10 one-bedroom homes by Dublin Simon Community at Old Nangor Road, Clondalkin at a cost of €3,265,533 for which both DHPLG approval and planning permission have been granted.  Therefore, it is now estimated that approval for a total sum of €10 million will be required under CAS in 2020.

All properties acquired, constructed and funded through CAS will continue to be reported to each Area Committee as part of the quarterly housing delivery update.

Accordingly, the following Motion is proposed:

"*That this Council hereby approves assistance by way of grants up to the total sum of €10 million to various Approved Housing Bodies under the Capital Assistance Scheme for the acquisition and/or construction of appropriate housing units in South Dublin County in accordance with the requirements of Section 6 of the Housing (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act, 1992".*

A discussion followed with contributions from Councillors K. Mahon, C. Bailey, E Ó Broin, and P. Kavanagh.

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 this Council hereby approves assistance by way of grants up to the total sum of €10 million to various Approved Housing Bodies under the Capital Assistance Scheme for the acquisition and/or construction of appropriate housing units in South Dublin County in accordance with the requirements of Section 6 of the Housing (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act, 1992".

### **H12/0120 REPORT ON CORPORATE PLAN ACHIEVEMENTS 2019**

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

**Corporate Plan Annual Report 2019**

2019 from a corporate perspective was a local election year and also the 25th Anniversary of the establishment of the Council. Voter.ie was rolled out to assist with those elections. One of the primary obligations of the new Council was the preparation of its five year Corporate Plan, which was adopted in December. The Council continued with its programme of enhanced communication with the redevelopment of its Intranet and websites, the publication of a more user friendly monthly management report and the substantial increase in its social media engagement.

Across all of its work areas, good progress was made in improved service delivery and the advancement of infrastructure developments. Once again in 2019 housing completion targets will be exceeded, which taken together with private rented solutions and AHB activity, will see 1,500 rehousing solutions. Progress on our large housing sites has been reported to Council at various stages. This Programme with its projected yield of 4,500 homes over the next five years, will be the main focus of delivery in the immediate future. The first of these developments at Kilcarbery, received planning permission from An Bord Pleanála for 1,034 homes in December. Our large sites provide mixed tenure opportunities and the Council has received provisional approval of €18m from the Serviced Sited Fund to support the provision of affordable housing in this regard.

Conscious of the need to manage our existing stock, the Council adopted an €11m Planned Maintenance Programme early in 2019, while substantial progress has been made on the implementation of a dedicated ICT Housing System, which will greatly enhance tenant services and response times to those engaging with all aspects of housing services.

In the context of Community Services, the Council once again provided a vast range of community and social inclusion supports including grant aid, sport programmes, health and wellbeing interventions and direct support through its network of community centres. In the context of housing and community policy, the Council adopted a new Traveller Accommodation Plan for the period 2019-2024 and a new Integration Strategy “A More Inclusive County”, for the same period.

Community development is also supported through the provision of a wide range of sport and recreation facilities. 2019 saw the completion of our Playspace Programme with a 70% increase in provision to 49 facilities. The emphasis going forward, will be on our recently developed Teen Space Programme with the first five locations being advanced. Additional facilities at Firhouse Mount Carmel, Dodder Valley, together with two new parks at Adamstown valued at €14m are among the additions to our recreation provision, being advanced to construction. We continue to support clubs in advancing projects under the Sport Capital Programme, such as Lucan Athletic and Collinstown FC. We have commenced our Pavillions Programme with construction started at Old Bawn and planning received for Griffeen, Lucan. The construction of Lucan Pool and Leisure Centre is underway, while a new Sport Pitch Strategy will be presented to the Council in January 2020.

It has been a busy year on the planning front. With the final approval of the Clonburris SDZ and the publication of the Tallaght LAP. The Council has successfully applied for funding under the first round of the URDF, receiving €15m for a range of projects in Tallaght Town Centre and funding for the master planning of the regeneration zoned lands along the Naas Road, east of the M50. There has been a very significant increase in planning activity associated with Strategic Housing Developments (SHDs), which although determined by An Bord Pleanála, require advance consultation with our planning department. Revisions to apartment guidelines and building heights under ministerial direction has increased the focus of activity in this area. The LUPT Department has advanced a range of mobility and cycling projects, while the Roads projects of note, include the completion of the €20m R120 upgrade and the commencement of the Belgard North Link Road. The Villages Enhancement Programme continued with works to Saggart Village, while plans for Templeogue received Part 8 approval and will commence in February 2020.

# Sustaining and growing business and employment are fundamental to our growth strategy. Once again in 2019, we supported existing businesses through our €1m Business Support Fund. Architects have been appointed to design the new Innovation Centre which will be the centrepiece of the Innovation Quarter at Belgard North. The expansion of Grange Castle took another step forward, with the tender of the access road to the new lands. This will commence construction in early 2020. Further information has been lodged with An Bord Pleanála for the Dublin Mountains Project, while the expansion of the Grand Canal Greenway has received planning approval. Other substantial projects in this area include the final stand in Tallaght Stadium, which is under design and library developments at Tymon and Clondalkin, which are nearing completion. We continue to make good progress on the presentation of the County with enhancement works to our villages and improved public realm and landscape improvements, most notably to the N81.

# The launch of our first Climate Action Plan 2019-2024 signifies a significant area of focus in the years ahead. We have already made good progress in LED public lighting replacement, single use plastics policy, tree planting, electrification of our fleet, pollinator plan implementation and flood alleviation projects. In this latter regard, Schemes for the Poddle, Camac and Whitechurch Stream are being advanced through planning. The planned Tallaght District Heating Programme has received €4m grant aid and will commence construction in March 2020.

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

**CORRESPONDANCE**

### **C1/0120** Letter dated 2nd December 2019 from Donegal County Council in relation to Parental Alienation

[Co1 - Letter from Donegal County Council](http://www.sdublincoco.ie/sdcc/departments/corporate/apps/cmas/documentsview.aspx?id=65362)

### **C2/0120** Letter dated 4th December 2019 from Laois County Council in relation to 5G Fifth Generation Cellular Technology

[Co2 - Letter from Laois County Council](http://www.sdublincoco.ie/sdcc/departments/corporate/apps/cmas/documentsview.aspx?id=65363)

### **C3/0120** Letter dated 16th December 2019 from Monaghan County Council in relation to recycling and funding for a Climate Action Officer

[Co3 - Letter from Monaghan County Council](http://www.sdublincoco.ie/sdcc/departments/corporate/apps/cmas/documentsview.aspx?id=65361)

### **C4/0120** Letter dated 17th December 2019 from Kerry County Council in relation to the County Enterprise Board and the cap on dealing with companies with less than 10 employees

[Co4 - Letter from Kerry County Council](http://www.sdublincoco.ie/sdcc/departments/corporate/apps/cmas/documentsview.aspx?id=65364)

### **C5/0120** Letter dated 19th December 2019 from Westmeath County Council in relation to LPT (Local Property Tax)

[Co5 - Letter from Westmeath County Council](http://www.sdublincoco.ie/sdcc/departments/corporate/apps/cmas/documentsview.aspx?id=65365)

**Motions for discussion**

**MAYORS BUSINESS**

### **M1/0120 TOURISM HERITAGE**

### The following Motion in the name of **Councillor V. Casserly and seconded by Councillor F. Timmons** was **MOVED** without debate:

To call on Management to investigate the viability in exploring funding through the EIB to purchase Heritage Sites of interest in our county to develop and promote Tourism and Heritage in South Dublin

**REPORT:**

There are a number of tourism projects related to Heritage sites in the County, primarily the completed Bru Caoimhin Round Tower Village Centre, Rathfarnham Castle Courtyard, the proposed Dublin Mountains Visitor Centre, Lucan Village and the Grand Canal projects. The ongoing projects are at various stages of development and are currently listed and funding identified under the Councils' Capital Programme 2020-2022 considered at the December Council meeting. Grant funding has been secured for some of the projects.

As these, and other potential Tourism/Heritage projects continue to evolve, all forms of funding will continue to be explored.

### **M6/0120 Bike Rental Scheme**

### The following Motion in the name of **Councillor Liam Sinclair and seconded by Councillor Cllr. P. Kavanagh** was **MOVED** without debate:

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.

**REPORT:**

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

### **M10/0120 LIBRARY SERVICES**

### The following Motion in the name of **Councillor Joanna Tuffy and seconded by Councillor P. Kavanagh** was **MOVED** without debate:

That the Council commends the library service and its successes in moving to a system without fines and where books can be taken and returned at any library in the Country and also new initiatives such as the 'Bark in the Park' and because the library service is so important in terms of social inclusion that it will provide more support for further expansion and innovation in the Mobile Library and Library Outreach services, and explore further mobile library stop provision, or mobile library special events, including in our villages and urban centres, and mini libraries that are accessible to the wider public.

**REPORT:**

South Dublin County Council Library Service welcomes the positive comments on the delivery of the service, including initiatives undertaken within our mobile libraries, such as family events held in the Council's parks over the summer months, where the mobile library and staff were a big attraction. We are currently reviewing our mobile library stops and seeking to continue to give a fair geographic spread across the county, considering social demographics and communities with greatest needs. Our public stops are monitored to take account of usage, and we are reviewing our book drops to local schools, creches, nursing homes and other services. The mobile library timetable operates 4.5 days per week with a four day late evening service. As our two new libraries are opening in 2020 at North Clondalkin and Castletymon, there will be a further review carried out to identify new stops and service provision.

### **M11/0120 SAFETY OF CYCLISTS**

### The following Motion in the name of **Councillor E. Murphy** and seconded by **Councillor M. Seery-Kearney** was **MOVED** without debate:

To ask the Chief Executive to react to the national legislation passed recently on safe passing distances for overtaking cyclists and investigate the provision of signage and road markings throughout the County to advocate for a safe passing distance of 1.5m.

**REPORT:**

SDCC supports in principle measures that will improve the safety of the cycle environment for cyclists and where these measures will lead to more people cycling. The DoT and NTA are providing updated guidance and once finalised SDCC will assess how best to put in place these new signage requirements to advocate for safe passing distances to reflect the new legislation.

### **M12/0120 MAINTENANCE SERVICE**

### The following Motion in the name of **Councillor T. Costello** and seconded by **Councillor V. Casserly** was **MOVED** without debate:

### That this Council (or subcontractors working on their behalf) contact tenants when work has been approved to be carried out on their homes and sub contractor appointed to advise them on approximate date of when works will start.

**REPORT:**

Upon receipt of housing maintenance requests, our team will confirm that the person requesting the maintenance service is the tenant of the property and will request contact details along with details of the availability of access to the property during normal working hours.  This information is then made available to the direct labour staff and/or contractors that are assigned to carry out the required works so that they call at an appropriate time.

Our maintenance policy clearly identifies the guide timeframes for works to be carried out depending on the category of works as follows:

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **CATEGORY** | **TIMESCALE** | **EXAMPLE** |
| Emergency | 1 – 5 working days | Smoking Fuse Board, Burst water tank |
| Urgent | 10 working days | Leak under sink unit, Leaking roof |
| Routine | 12 weeks + | Replace toilet cistern, Faulty radiator |
| Cyclical | 1 – 7 years | Leaking gutters, replacement hall door etc. |

If staff/contractors call but cannot gain access to the property, a calling card will be left at the property to advise the tenant to contact the housing maintenance team to arrange an alternative time.

When staff/contractors are repeatedly unable to gain access to a property, our Estate Management Officers or Tenant Liaison Officer may make contact with the tenant to facilitate access where necessary.

### **M14/0120 CRISP PACKET RECYCLING**

### The following Motion in the name of **Councillor Y. Collins** and seconded by **Councillor V. Casserly** was **MOVED** without debate:

That the Chief Executive engage with Terracycle or other alternative recycling companies to implement a crisp recycling scheme so that we as a local authority can take our own steps to deal with plastic problem and reduce the environmental damage caused by littering

**REPORT:**

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. The scheme relies on premises or centres for to act as a drop off centre/location for the crisp packets, this is most frequently done by shops and newsagents.

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.

A Draft Litter Management Plan 2020-2024 is now live on the Council’s [**Consultation Portal**](https://consult.sdublincoco.ie/en/consultation/draft-litter-managment-plan-2020-2024).

Submissions or observations in respect of the Draft Plan can be made up to Tuesday 7th January 2020. Submission will be considered and a draft Litter Management Plan 2020 - 2024 will be brought to the February SPC in advance of the February Council Meeting.

### **M15/0120 HUMAN TISSUES BILL**

### The following Motion in the name of **Councillor P. Kearns** and seconded by **Councillor F. Timmons** was **MOVED** without debate:

### That this Council calls on the Minister for Health to report on the legislative timeline for the advancement of the Human Tissues Bill.

**REPORT:**

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

**M16/0120 DOG FOULING LITTER**

The following Motion in the name of  **Councillor F. Timmons** and seconded by **Councillor L. O’Toole** was **MOVED** without debate:

That this council asks the Chief Executive to consider rolling out bio-degradable poop bags for dog poo throughout the county to stop the practice of dog walkers dumping plastic bags in bushes and trees and also as part of this to ask for an estimated cost for such action for SDCC and to ask that this is brought to the Environment SPC for discussion and consideration

**REPORT:**

Section 22 of the Litter Pollution Act 1997, as amended, (the Act), states that ....."the person in charge of a dog is subject to a fine or prosecution if he/she does not immediately remove any faeces deposited by their dog in certain places, and/or if that person fails to ensure that the dog litter is properly disposed of in a suitable sanitary manner".

Dog foul waste if properly bagged can be disposed of in a standard litter bin. The Council provides standard type litter bins in it's main parks and at the dog runs which have been provided in those parks. In total there are approximately 130 litter bins provided at parks locations in the County, this number has increased in recent years and will continue to increase as the need arises. There are a further 650 litter bins provided on streets and in villages and urban centres. Currently, dog litter stickers are being piloted on existing litter bins demonstrating that these receptacles are suitable for such litter. The Council previously provided dog poo bags in Rathfarnham Castle Park and Rathcoole Park on a trial basis. The uptake of the bags and the impact on dog littering was assessed at both locations and the outcome was that the provision of the bags had little impact on the level of dog littering in those parks.

In efforts to combat the problem of dog fouling, and as part of the Litter Management Plan, the Council has embarked on a high level anti - Dog Foul campaign as follows:

Dog Litter Signage (3 different designs x 100 of each) is available and requests for signage are considered on a case by case basis. The location of the request is examined for suitability and if deemed suitable signs can be erected. If there is/are registered group(s) in existence in an area, signage may be provided directly to the group through the Social Credit Scheme with the caveat that such signage erected must have due regard for public health and safety, and must not impede visibility or restrict traffic, cycling and pedestrian flow. Also, if it is proposed to co-use a pole, authorisation will be required. Alternatively requests are added to the current signage waiting list, pending determination of suitability, and availability of resources for signage erection.

Similarly, a very forceful media campaign continues through cinemas and radio adverts. The development of dog fouling advert was an element of the 2017 LMP Action Plan and part of the wider anti-litter awareness campaign that included anti-litter and illegal dumping adverts.

Green Dog Walker (GDW) promotion material at popup stands are available in Council's public buildings. As GDW is a community led initiative GDW pop up stand is also made available to community groups for use at community events.

Through the Environment, Public Realm & Climate Change SPC, the current LMP has just been reviewed and a Draft Litter Management Plan for the period 2020-2024 has been published for public consultation with the final date for receipt of submissions or observations being Tuesday 7th January 2020.

If the motion is passed, the matter will be brought to the Environment, Public Realm & Climate Change SPC.

**M2/0120** As **Councillor S. Moynihan** was absent from the Chamber the Following Motion **FELL** in accordance with Standing Order no 19:

### 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.

### **M3/0120 SPC SCHEME**

### **It was proposed by Councillor Eoin Ó Broin and seconded by Councillor P. Kavanagh**

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

**REPORT:**

The SPC guidelines, which include composition of the committees and selection of sectoral representatives, are developed by the Department of Housing, Planning and Local Government. The structure for participation of external members on the SPCs, outside of the sectoral organisations, is through the Public Participation Network. The environmental pillar of the PPN is the relevant representative structure for considering a nomination of the  body suggested in motion and the process for agreeing the nominations is the entirely the PPN's responsibility. The nomination of an ex officio member to an SPC outside of this nominating process is not provided for and therefore this motion as it is proposed cannot be implemented. An SPC may however establish sub-groups to broaden the expertise available to them in giving due consideration to specific issues. This would be a matter for hte SPC to determine. The SPC Scheme for the period 2019 - 2024 was adopted by the Council at its meeting in October 2019 setting out the membership of each SPC agreed by Council and lasts for the duration of hte current Council until 2024.

A discussion followed with contributions from Councillors E Ó Broin, P. Kavanagh, C. Bailey, E. O’Brien, P. Gogarty, K. Mahon, L. O’Toole, L. Dunne and V. Casserly.

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

The Report was **NOTED**.

### **M4/0120** [**TRAINING AND THE NATURAL ENVIRONMENT**](http://intranet/Cmas/documentsview.aspx?noinc=true&id=64363)

### **It was proposed by Councillor Carly Bailey and seconded by Councillor F. Timmons**

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.

A discussion followed with contributions from Councillors C. Bailey, K. Mahon, L. Sinclair and L. O’Toole.

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

The Report was **NOTED**.

### **M5/0120 AGE FRIENDLY PARKING SPACES**

### **It was proposed by Councillor E. Higgins and seconded by Councillor V. Casserly**

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

**REPORT:**

There are emerging examples of "Age Friendly" Parking initiatives being introduced across the country. These generally appear to be provided in 'on street/off street' parking locations in public car parks, or in car parks owned and operated by large retail entities. The principle of providing this type of parking is supported, however, currently "Age Friendly" parking is not defined within statutes.

SDCC is currently working on the preparation of a new County Age Friendly Strategy to enhance our range of Age Friendly initiatives and to make tangible impacts on older persons lives. As part of preparing this strategy we will consider if and how it would be possible to introduce Age Friendly parking at Council buildings.

A discussion followed with contributions from Councillors E. Higgins, P. Kavanagh, S. Fay, T. Collins, V. Casserly.

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

The Motion was **AGREED**.

### **M7/0120 HALLOWEEN BONFIRES**

### **It was proposed by Councillor C. O'Connor and seconded by Councillor E. O’Brien**

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.

**REPORT:**

All available resources have been deployed to remove bonfire materials prior to this Halloween, crews have been assigned to this task as necessary during normal working hours but also at weekends and on the run up to October 31st itself. Early contact was made with the Gardai to ensure that information was exchanged between SDCC and AGS and that assistance was provided as necessary in the effort to locate and remove the threat associated with bonfires and the storage of bonfire materials.

The number of bonfires recorded in 2019 is 226, which is down from the number recorded in 2018.  A total of 585 tonnes of waste has been collected this year and 237 tonnes of that was captured pre Halloween and before it was set on fire. The total cost to date stands at €102,566 and this is expected to rise to around €150,000 when all costs have been included.  Reinstatement of bonfire sites will not take place until the Spring, when ground conditions will have improved.

A discussion followed with contributions from Councillors C. O’Connor, E. O’Brien, W. Carey, L. Dunne, K. Mahon, E. Higgins, F. Timmons, Y. Collins, L. Kinsella-Colman, E Ó Broin, T. Costello, S. Fay, B. Lawlor, P. Kavanagh, D. McManus, L. O’Toole.

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

### The Mayor Councillor V. Casserly then called for and the Members **AGREED** to, a show of hands vote the result of which was as follows:

**FOR: 22(TWENTY-TWO)**

**AGAINST: 0 (ZERO)**

**ABSTAIN: 0 (ZERO)**

The Motion was **AGREED**.

Meeting Finished @ 7:00pm

**Motions Not Reached**

### **(M8)** [**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.

### **(M9) DOMESTIC WASTE COLLECTION**

### **Councillor C. King**

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

### **(M13) PLANNED MAINTENANCE PROGRAMME**

### **Councillor Alan Edge**

That the Chief Executive, in light of the recent rent increase affecting some of the poorest in the county, ensures that the accelerated maintenance programme is expedited and that priority is given to those households with older residents and residents with medical conditions and to prepare a report.

### **(M17) FREE PUBLIC TRANSPORT**

### **Councillor Peter Kavanagh**

This council, in light of the climate and biodiversity emergency declared both nationally and in this chamber, calls on the Minister for Transport, Tourism and Sport to begin preparations for the implementation of free public transport for all in Dublin and across Ireland.

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

Mayor

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