



Comhairle Contae
Átha Cliath Theas
South Dublin County Council

June 2020

Chief Executive's Report

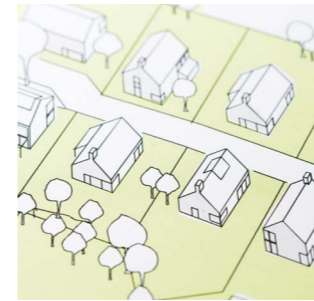
Kiltipper Park

About the Chief Executive's Report

South Dublin County Council's Chief Executive's Report is presented to elected members at Council every month and details important achievements across our various departments whilst highlighting key statistics and images from events that took place that month.

The report also highlights major news pieces and puts a focus on an area of the Council that doesn't always get the attention it deserves.

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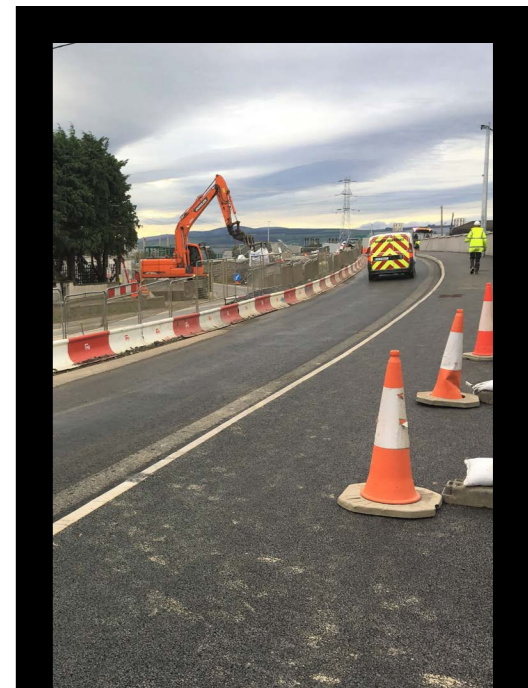


Eco-Cycle Counter

There is one Eco-Cycle Counter in the functional area of South Dublin County Council, which is situated in Rathfarnham on the Grange Greenway. This cycle track is fully off-road and shares its space with pedestrians.

The results in use in comparison with last year are astounding as the Grange Greenway has experienced an increase of 65% in the number of cyclists during the COVID-19 lockdown period.

The landscaping of this pathway, as carried out by South Dublin County Council Public Realm, further creates a peaceful and safe environment, abounding with biodiversity. The Grange Greenway measures just under 1km and is a link from Grange Road in Rathfarnham to Barton Road East in Dun Laoghaire Rathdown County Council.



URDF Applications

Two Urban Regeneration Development Funding applications were submitted to the Department of Housing, Planning and Local Government by the deadline of 29 May. The applications seek funding to deliver new transport, utility and community infrastructure for Clonburris and Adamstown to support the delivery of much needed new homes.

Planning Offices Reopen

As of Monday 25 May, South Dublin County Council planning offices are open to the public during normal office hours. The public planning counter will provide access to planning applications and Part 8 documentation in a manner that ensures public health and safe social distancing requirements can be observed by staff and customers. This will include provision for attendance by members of the public by appointment only, for an initial period.

The Council recognises that the planning function is a key element in our economy and that public consultation is an essential component of the decision making

process for planning application and Part 8 developments. In this context, customers will be facilitated and encouraged to engage in public consultation; plans and particulars for developments are available at www.sdcc.ie. The public can make submissions on Part 8s through the Council's Consultation Portal. In relation to planning applications, the Council is accepting fee payment by phone and third party submissions by post and email.

South Dublin County Council has continued to assess planning applications and make decisions on them during the COVID-19 restrictions, where possible. As part of the Roadmap to Reopening the Country, site inspections will recommence in line with safe social distancing requirements.



Planning Offices Reopen

The planning offices in County Hall have reopened to the public.

Construction Resumes

In line with the Governments Phase 1 plans to reopen the Country, construction projects have recommenced on-site. As part of this, construction has restarted on the delivery of new connections and bridges in the Dodder Valley, on improvements along Monastery Road, the delivery of a new road connecting Belgard North to Cookstown Way and the delivery of a new part of Tandy's Lane in Adamstown. Numerous private developers have also restarted their construction projects across the County. All construction projects must follow strict social distancing requirements on site.



Construction has resumed throughout the County.

HOUSING SOCIAL AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT



Physical Activity Programmes

While COVID-19 has caused the postponement of sports programmes with schools and in community settings, as part of the national In This Together phase of the Community Response, our teams in South Dublin County Sports Partnership (SCDSP) and our Sports and Recreation Office have been busy devising new and creative programmes to help residents of the County, young and old, to maintain physically active lifestyles as part of our overall health and wellbeing work.

During the initial phase of COVID-19 lockdown, SDCSP partnered with local fitness experts to provide regular online fitness classes through Facebook including aerobics, yoga, Pilates and children's athletics. The athletics programme was circulated to primary schools who were asked to promote the sessions amongst pupils. Now SDCSP are running a four-week, virtual "Couch to 3k" programme. This programme provides an easy, step by step weekly plan to help people attain a goal of jogging 3km within 28 days.



Marathon Families

Building on the success of the Marathon Kids initiative, the Council's Sports and Recreation team are now launching Marathon Families 2020. This initiative, starting in June, provides families with the opportunity to complete a marathon together during Phase 2 of Ireland's Roadmap for Re-Opening as it can be completed within a 5km radius of a person's home.

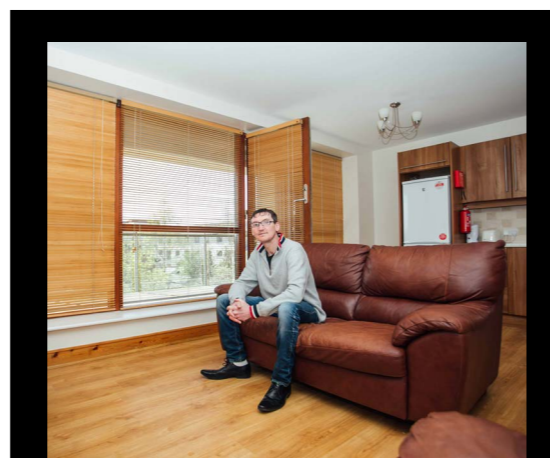
Housing First

As part of the Council's response to COVID-19, we have been committed to a range of supports for homeless persons in the County. Our Homeless Unit has continued to engage with persons sleeping rough and in emergency accommodation including accelerating offers of accommodation to minimise and mitigate against infection risks. A key part of this response has been to provide 'Housing First' tenancies to longer-term homeless persons with seven such tenancies offered since March along with a further HAP tenancy also provided – these are in addition to two tenancies offered before COVID-19 emerged.

The Housing First model is a participant-led programme that pro-

vides long-term homeless persons with their own secure accommodation, complemented by access to intensive, specialised support services. It is focused on ending homelessness for people who have been homeless for many years or who are particularly vulnerable and the Council, with the support of the Peter McVerry Trust (PMVT), is committed to its implementation by offering accommodation that is followed up by engagement with mainstream health, social welfare, employment, and other services.

Our Housing First work is in addition to ongoing COVID-19 related supports for homeless persons including enhanced emergency accommodation services, cocooning/isolation facilities, social distancing measures, accelerated allocations and re-let works.



Housing First

The Council has continued to tackle homelessness during COVID-19.

Aftercare Support

The Council is conscious of the dramatic effect that cocooning is having on older persons, people with a disability and other vulnerable people, coupled with the possibility of people within such groups having difficulties accessing the internet to participate in activities.

To combat this, SDCSP have partnered with Tallaght University Hospital and Stewart's Care in Palmerstown on a pilot programme that provides a number of mobile tablet devices. Exercise videos, information and other supports are also downloaded on to these tablets for use.



Support is available for older persons, people with a disability and other vulnerable people.

ECONOMIC ENTERPRISE AND TOURISM DEVELOPMENT



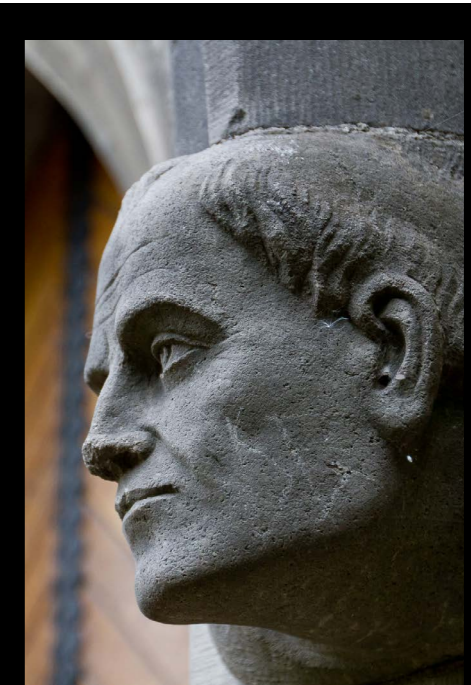
Online Safety Classes

Beginning on 20 May, online safety classes have begun to be delivered live by the libraries' fantastic education team to support children in 3rd to 6th class to be smart digital citizens. Each webinar lasts twenty minutes and will have an optional follow-on assignment.

The sessions follow 13-year old Emma and 9-year old Eoin and cover a range of online safety issues that will encourage kids to solve different problems:

- Week 1 - Get your CyberSafe check up!
- Week 2 - Social Media and Gaming
- Week 3 - Be proud of your Digital Footprint
- Week 4 - Do not believe everything you see!

The classes take place on Wednesdays at 12.30 pm for four weeks and are repeated for a further four weeks due to demand.



History at Your Fingertips

History at Your Fingertips is a series of on-line local history and genealogy activities, workshops and events by South Dublin Libraries during June. Online talks include the History of Tallaght with local studies librarian Michael Keyes and recorded lectures from the Tallaght Historical Society's archive. Find out more on www.sdcc.ie or South Dublin libraries' social media

The Council is now taking applications for the €250m Restart Grant

The Minister for Business, Enterprise and Innovation, Heather Humphreys TD, recently announced that the application form for the new €250m Restart Grant providing direct grant aid to micro and small businesses is now available online on all local authority websites.

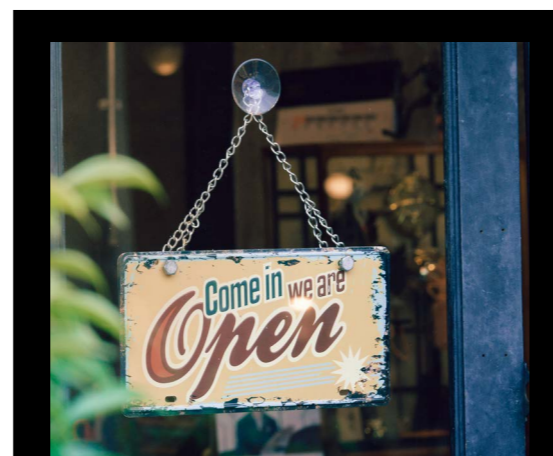
The Restart Grant is aimed at helping micro and small businesses with the costs associated with re-opening and re-employing workers following COVID-19 closures.

Eligible businesses who have stayed open throughout the crisis, as well as those who are reopening under Phase 1 (from 18 May) and

Phase 2 (8 June), are encouraged to apply now for the Restart Grant on www.sdcc.ie.

To avail of the Restart Grant, applicants must be a commercial business, be in the Council's Commercial Rates Payment System and:

- have an annual turnover of less than €5m and employ between 1 to 50 people;
- have suffered a projected 25%+ loss in turnover to end June 2020;
- commit to remain open or to reopen if it was closed;
- declare the intention to retain employees that are on The Temporary Wage Subsidy Scheme and re-employ staff on the Pandemic Unemployment Payment as business recovers.



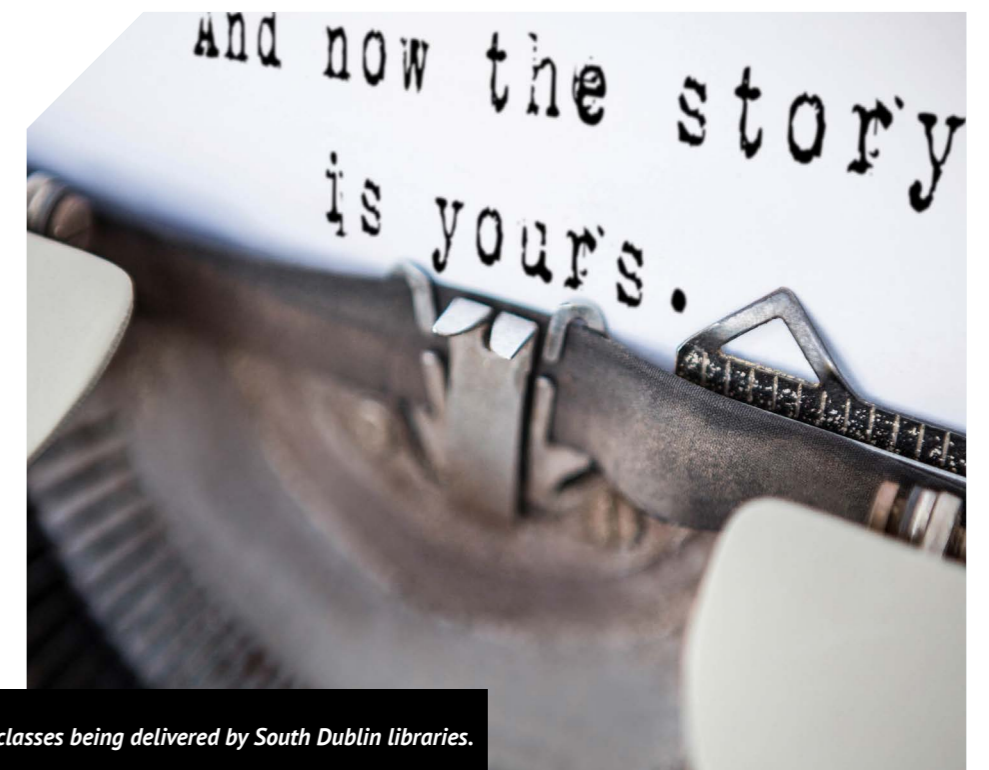
Restart Grant

Eligible commercial businesses are urged to apply for the grant.

Creative Writing

South Dublin Libraries have created an innovative opportunity for beginning and emerging writers to engage on a one-to-one basis with a published author.

We have partnered with acclaimed poet and fiction writer Brian Kirk to deliver a series of "writers' surgeries", where selected participants submit a 1,500-word writing sample for critique and receive one-to-one feedback. We offered eight, one-off sessions, delivered virtually via Zoom, to selected writers who applied. Sessions were delivered between April and May.



Creative Writing is just one of the online classes being delivered by South Dublin libraries.



CORPORATE PERFORMANCE AND CHANGE MANAGEMENT

Learning and Development

The Council has been working to adapt to the new working realities of COVID-19 in terms of delivering accessible learning options to staff. Remote working and social distancing present particular challenges in developing staff but also greater opportunities to innovate and embrace new delivery methods. The pandemic provides significant time and opportunity for developing our skills and knowledge to adapt to existing and future challenges in delivering quality services to the public.

Online webinars and virtual classrooms are increasingly becoming key elements of the training solutions. The Learning and Development section has also developed an online resource that contains information and access to hundreds of courses by numerous training providers which are all free of charge to staff.

E-learning will ensure staff can perform their duties safely and to the highest standards while continuing their personal and professional development.



Council Meetings

The first monthly Council meeting held under physical distancing guidelines took place in May. The Mayor and twenty elected members selected by party leaders and independent groupings attended the meeting in County Hall. Area committee meetings and Strategic Policy Committee meetings have also been taking place using Microsoft Teams.

The Mayor's Office during COVID-19

The office of the Mayor has had to adapt to the current COVID-19 situation as much of the social functions of the Mayor have been suspended due to the government's physical distancing guidelines. The Mayor is the First Citizen of South Dublin County and ranks second only to the President of Ireland when they are in South Dublin.

As such, the role of the Mayor often involves many social engagements that highlight the diversity and social cohesion existing in the County. Meeting with the many groups and individuals that contribute so much to the great spirit of community that exists in all corners

of South Dublin County, the Mayor can highlight and honour their hard work. Losing that aspect of the role during lockdown and the phased return is important as the office of the Mayor is held in such high regard by so many citizens. Mayor Vicki Casserly has, however, continued to promote the supports offered by the Council through initiatives like the In This Together campaign, through social media and has also led the Community Call multi-agency response.

The Council is preparing to elect a new Mayor at the first annual meeting to be held under physical distancing guidelines on 26 June. It may be a different role during COVID-19, but the importance of the office in leading the County has never been more appreciated.



Mayor's Office

The Mayor's Office celebrates the strength of community spirit in the County.

Annual Report 2019

The Annual Report 2019 was presented to elected members at the May Council meeting for adoption. The Annual Report is an important yearly milestone for the Council as it provides an opportunity to reflect on the significant achievements of the year just gone.

Included in the Annual Report 2019 is information on Council meetings, key 2019 statistics, an 'Our Year in Pictures' section, financial information for the year and more. On adoption, the report is translated into Irish and both versions made available on www.sdcc.ie.



The Annual Report highlights key Council achievements in 2019.

ENVIRONMENT WATER AND CLIMATE CHANGE



COVID and Climate Change

The world changed in 2020. Covid-19 forced a global economic cooling. Social distancing and travel restrictions changed our lifestyles and will have lasting repercussions. The slowdown, however, has presented us with many opportunities to reflect on and improve our habits and inspire us to become more creative and resourceful.

Adapting to changes to travel arrangements has led to an uptake in cycling. Increases in the number of cycling journeys of more than 75% have been reported nationally and cycle stores are struggling to keep up with the demand for new and second-hand bicycles.

South Dublin County Council is continuing to expand and improve its cycling and walking network including greenways, which provide a safe and stimulating environment for journeys for leisure and commuting. As we attempt to kickstart industry and growth we can continue to aid in the recovery of our environment.



National Spring Clean 2020

National Spring Clean, Ireland's largest and longest-running anti-litter campaign, will now go ahead from 8 June. In 2019, 5,448 groups registered to carry out clean-ups throughout the country and collected an estimated 3,000 tonnes of litter. All those wishing to take part in the campaign should register on www.national-springclean.org or 01 4002219.

Anti-Dumping Initiatives

South Dublin County Council has recently received notification from the Department of Communication, Climate Action and the Environment, of the approval of four projects as part of the 2020 Anti-Dumping Initiative. The 2020 grant awarded to the Council of €86,000 brings the total grant approval over the last four years to €312,000. This year's approved projects look to address current waste/litter issues to improve these services.

1. Covert Surveillance of Dumping Sites that will be identified based on established patterns of dumping. The project has commenced and the initial weeks of surveillance have highlighted 26 incidents of

illegal dumping.

2. Litter Bins and Bring Bank Monitoring through QR Codes – the Council will be installing QR Codes at Bring Banks and Litter Bins that the public will be able to scan to alert us when bins need attention.
3. Two existing Bring Banks will be identified for upgrade works that will form the basis of future development of Bring Banks in the County.
4. Reduce Litter and Dog Fouling in Public Parks – Paw Fall and Litter Surveys will be carried out in four of the Council's parks. The report will quantify the dog foul and litter issues and highlight measures for improvements.



Anti-Dumping

New initiatives are being put in place to combat illegal dumping.

Water Conservation

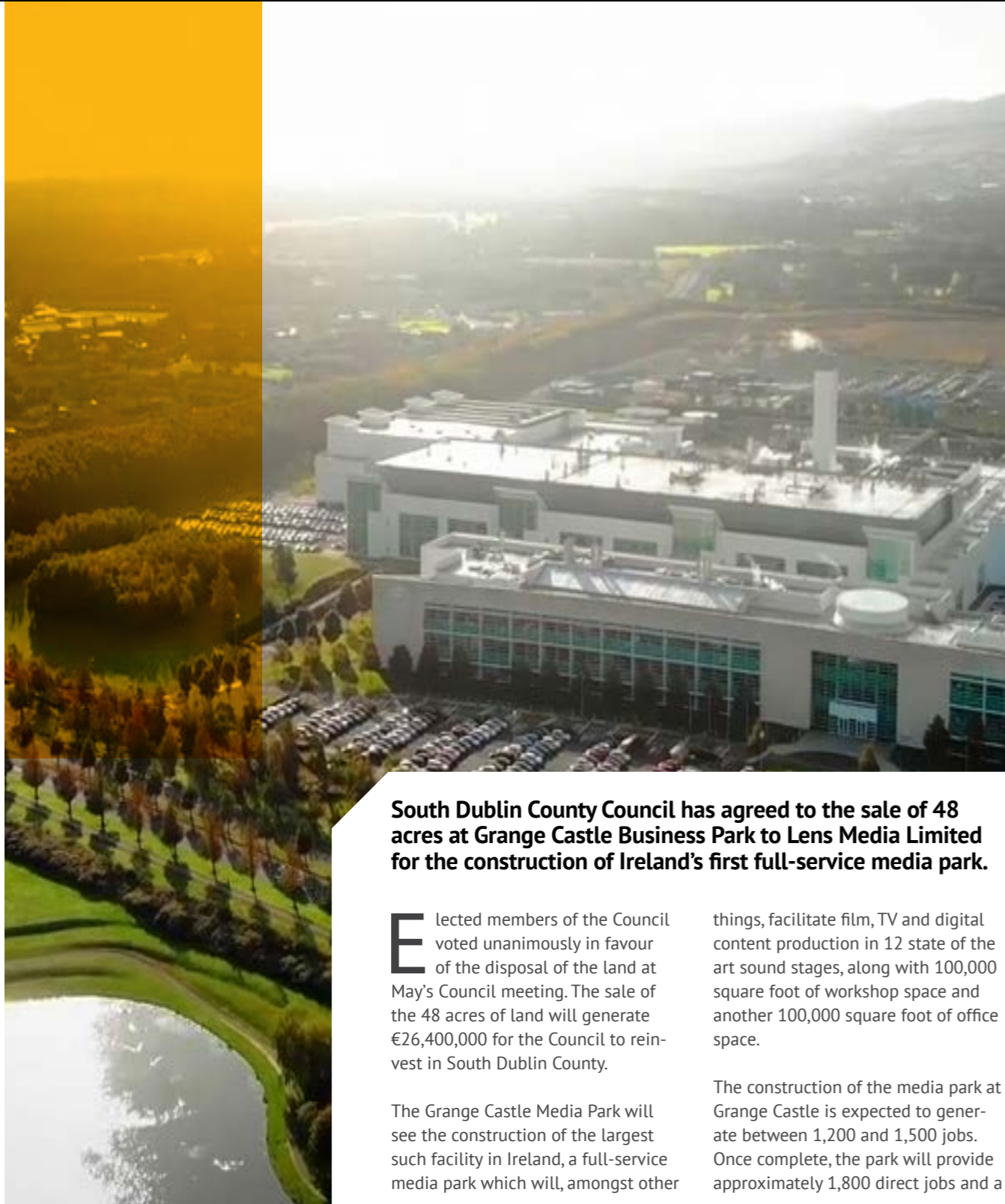
Drinking water usage in the Greater Dublin region hit a record daily high in late May/early June at over 600 million litres. We all need to do what we can to reduce our water usage to make sure that there is enough water for essential use and to get us all through the summer.

Irish Water and local authorities are closely monitoring the water supply situation and will use whatever measures necessary to manage the supply to ensure there is enough for everyone. We are appealing to everyone to conserve water and reduce wastage. There is further guidance on water conservation on Irish Water's website at www.water.ie.



A water conservation appeal has been issued

IRELAND'S FIRST MEDIA PARK



South Dublin County Council has agreed to the sale of 48 acres at Grange Castle Business Park to Lens Media Limited for the construction of Ireland's first full-service media park.

Elected members of the Council voted unanimously in favour of the disposal of the land at May's Council meeting. The sale of the 48 acres of land will generate €26,400,000 for the Council to reinvest in South Dublin County.

The Grange Castle Media Park will see the construction of the largest such facility in Ireland, a full-service media park which will, amongst other

things, facilitate film, TV and digital content production in 12 state of the art sound stages, along with 100,000 square foot of workshop space and another 100,000 square foot of office space.

The construction of the media park at Grange Castle is expected to generate between 1,200 and 1,500 jobs. Once complete, the park will provide approximately 1,800 direct jobs and a

Grange Castle

Grange Castle Business Park is a South Dublin County Council-owned business park promoted in association with IDA Ireland to attract major investment to South Dublin County.

Grange Castle has become a location of choice for world-class multinationals and is considered one of the leading business parks in Ireland. It is home to international companies like Pfizer, Takeda, Microsoft, Grifols and Google and provides employment to around 5,300 people.

further 1,800 ancillary jobs. The initial investment in the development of the media park by Lens Media is expected to be €125,000,000.

Speaking on the decision, Cllr Vicki Casserly, Mayor of South Dublin County, said, "This initial €125,000,000 investment by Lens Media into developing Ireland's first media park at Grange Castle Business Park once again highlights South Dublin County's ability to attract global leaders in enterprise. The economic impact of this decision will be enormous in terms of jobs created and the revenue this will generate for South Dublin County Council to reinvest in the County."

Frank Nevin, Director of Economic, Enterprise and Tourism Development

of South Dublin County Council, said, "This investment in Grange Castle Business Park will greatly enhance the existing site and deliver thousands of jobs during the construction phase and the operation of the media park itself. We are delighted to welcome Lens Media to Grange Castle to join Google, Microsoft, Pfizer and many more world-class companies."

A spokesperson for Lens Media said; "The Grange Castle Media Park will be a world-class facility. Its size and specification will help to propel Ireland into a major world-class player in the screen creative industries, creating thousands of long term and sustainable jobs for Dublin, and all over the country, as we re-emerge from the coronavirus pandemic."



Grange Castle Business Park

ROAD SAFETY AND THE COVID ROADMAP



We have now entered the first phases of the Government's five-step lockdown exit plan. As restrictions ease, what new challenges might road users face?

With lockdown having kept so many people at home over the past few weeks, huge numbers of us have been left not needing to drive since the coronavirus pandemic took hold.

If you are getting back behind the wheel for the first time in several weeks, there are some things that you are recommended to check before setting off on your journey.

Given how long it may have been since many drivers last turned the key in their ignition, it is easy to overlook a number of things that may be wrong with your vehicle and there is the possibility that problems may have developed since you last drove.

The Road Safety Unit at South Dublin County Council has some tips for those that are moving about as part

Government Roadmap

The Roadmap for Reopening Society and Business sets out how the COVID-19 restrictions will be lifted. The plan sets out five stages for unlocking restrictions, at three-week intervals.

The Roadmap is guided by a number of over-riding principles:

- Safe
- Rational
- Evidence-informed
- Fair
- Open and transparent
- Whole of Society

You can find out more and download a copy of the roadmap on www.gov.ie.

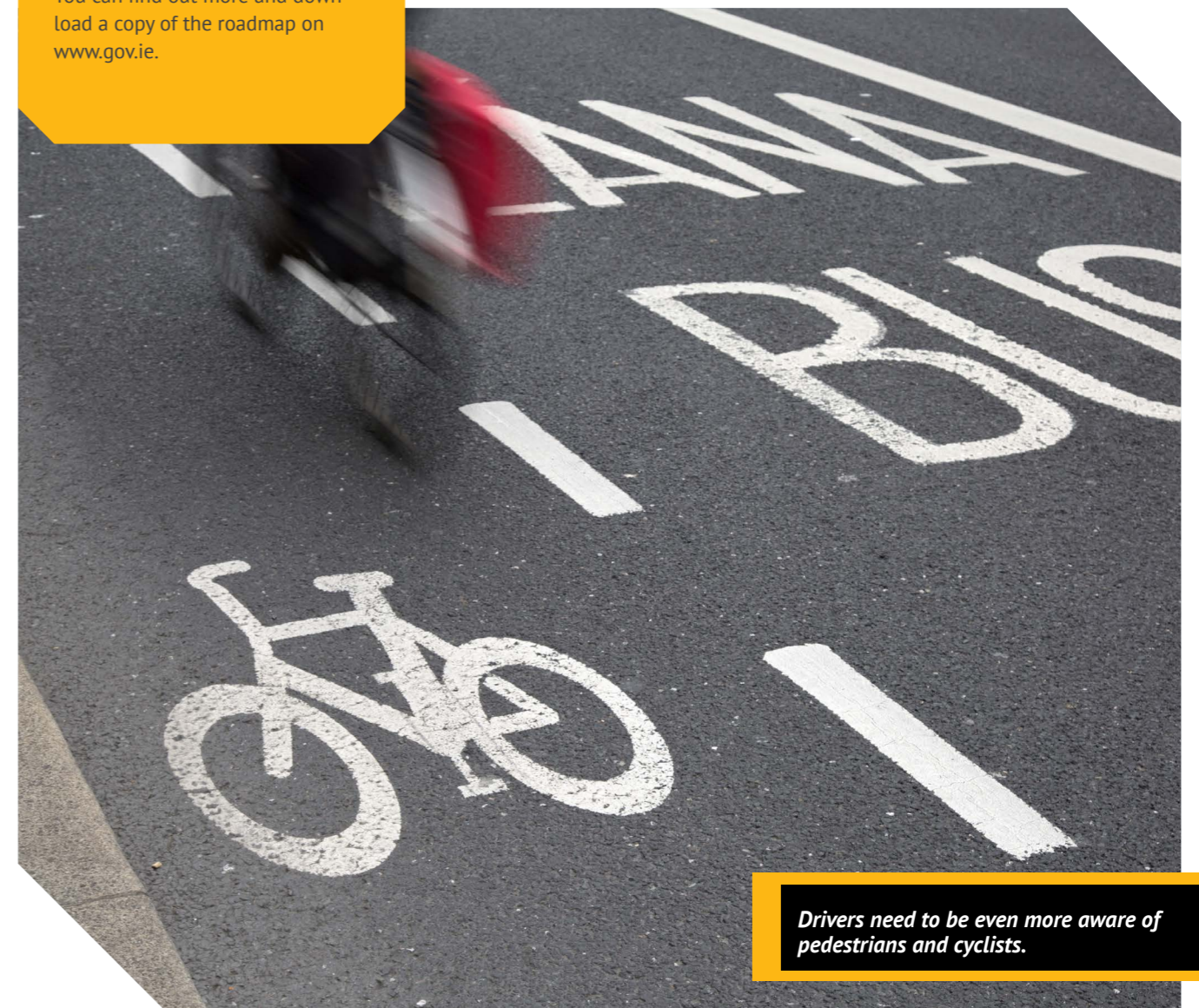
of the phased roadmap.

- First of all, do you need to drive? Can you drive part of your journey and walk or cycle the remainder?
- Expect to encounter many more cyclists and pedestrians on our streets and roads.
- Be aware some pedestrians may step out onto the road to adhere to social distancing rules on footpaths.
- Allow extra time for your journey as some road layouts may have changed to facilitate more cyclists and pedestrians.
- Check your tyres prior to setting off on a long or significant journey.
- Check your engine oil and use your dipstick to check the level

regularly and before any long journey, and top up if needed. Take your car back to the garage if you're topping up more than usual

- Check your water levels to ensure you have good visibility, and always keep your screen wash topped up so you can clear debris or dirt off your windscreen
- Check your lights, and if your indicators, hazard lights, headlights, fog lights, reverse lights or brake lights are not functioning properly, get them fixed.
- Check your fuel levels before setting out and make sure you have enough to get to your destination

Stay safe on the roads everyone!



Drivers need to be even more aware of pedestrians and cyclists.

CELEBRATING PRIDE

Pride Flag

The rainbow flag, which has become a universal symbol of hope for LGBTQ people around the world, first flew in San Francisco's United Nations Plaza for Gay Pride Day, on June 25, 1978. It has six colours and was designed by Gilbert Baker, an openly gay artist and activist. He had been commissioned to design a symbol for the LGBTQ community by his friend Harvey Milk, the first openly gay elected official in California. Baker assigned a meaning to each of the colours: red for life, orange for healing, yellow for sunlight, green for nature, blue for harmony and violet for spirit.

- The South Dublin County Council LGBTQ+ Staff Network was founded in October 2017 and anyone who identifies on the LGBTQ+ spectrum who is directly employed by the Council, or who is a retired or former employee is welcome to join. Membership is free of charge.
- The Council has forged strong links with the Dublin City Council LGBTQ+ Staff Network.

up for Pride, flags will be flying high across the city and the LGBTQ+ community and allies will still be there to support each other. In the words of Digital pride "Pride isn't cancelled, we're just bringing it home".

Digital Pride will take place from Thursday, 18 June to Sunday, 28 June 2020. The Council is currently exploring ways that we will participate.

This year the Dublin Pride festival has been replaced with 'Digital Pride'. The theme is 'In This Together'.

Digital Pride 2020 the first Digital Dublin Pride Festival with a fully interactive virtual Pride Parade and a Pride Concert. Buildings will still light

South Dublin County Council is flying the Pride flag in Tallaght and Clondalkin for June.

Each June, South Dublin County Council flies the Pride flag over County Hall Tallaght and Civic Offices Clondalkin. We do this to show our support, and respect, to LGBTQ+ members of our staff, county, and wider society.

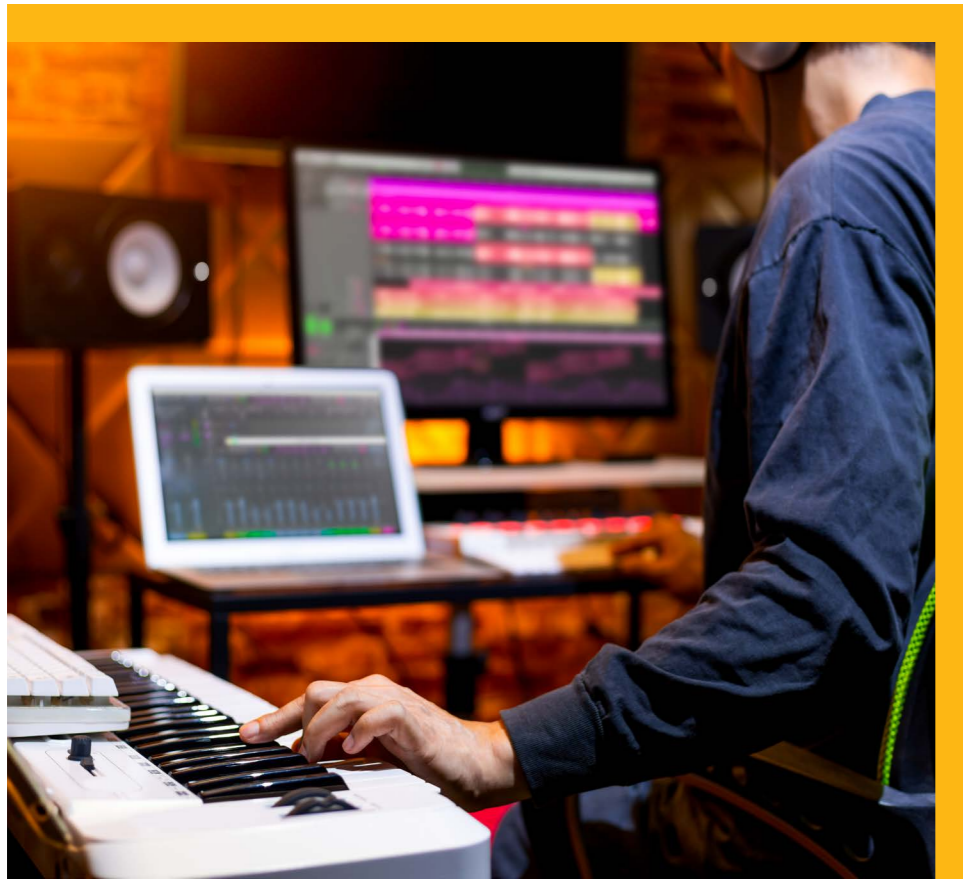
South Dublin County Council has demonstrated a strong and ongoing commitment to LGBTQ+ equality and the LGBTQ+ community through a

variety of actions. In addition to flying the Pride flag:

- The Transgender Pride flag is flown on 31 March for International Transgender Day of Visibility.
- Council policies, plans and staff forms are equality proofed on an ongoing basis.



Raising the LGBTQ+ Pride Flag at County Hall



The South Dublin County Council library service plans to open a Creative Studio in its new North Clondalkin Library in Autumn 2020.

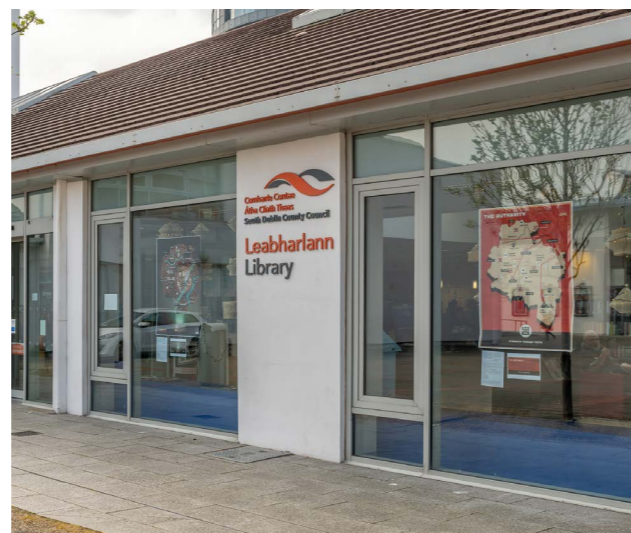
The South Dublin County Council library service has announced plans to open a Creative Studio in its new North Clondalkin Library in Autumn 2020 – with funding received through the Public Service Innovation Fund 2020 from the Department of Public Expenditure and Reform (DPER).

The Creative Studio is a free to use digital maker space facilitating the creation of music recordings, podcasts, videos, digital stories, and oral histories. At the centre of this space is a recording booth providing library patrons with access to a variety of audio and video recording equipment and software.

The idea of introducing The Creative Studio is to engage with younger people in particular - energise them and upskill them in digital media, with a view to expanding their horizons on future career possibilities.

The new community library in North Clondalkin was identified as a priority in South Dublin County Libraries' Development Plan. An expanding youth population and a strong demand for services from local schools and community groups underpins the need for innovative services to be implemented for young people in this locality. The new library will be ideally positioned as a key resource in the North Clondalkin area

SOUTH DUBLIN LIBRARIES' CREATIVE STUDIO



to promote inclusiveness and help young people to reach their potential. Young people can use the Creative Studio to:

- Record a music track, a song, create a demo.
- Get some band practice in.
- Deliver a Facebook Live event, be it a live music performance, an interview with a local celebrity, artist, historian, or even a poetry reading.
- Record an audio or video podcast, which could be an interview, a lecture, a group discussion.
- Record a video and upload to YouTube

The Council is grateful to DPER for the funding provided for this initiative through the Public Service Innovation Fund. The Public Service Innovation Fund is a competitive fund that aims to support innovative ideas from across public service organisations and turn them into a reality with funding available of up to €50,000. These projects help to add value to public service organisations and make what they do better for the public. It is part of the government's Our Public Service 2020 framework for development and innovation in Ireland's public service.

The Council envisions that this project would be extended to other library branches within South Dublin County in time. Upon completion of the Creative Studio project in North Clondalkin, we will critically assess and evaluate its impact, strengths and weaknesses to enable us to identify improvements and suggest anticipate solutions to expanding the project to other library branches.

APRIL STATISTICS REPORT HIGHLIGHTS



Corporate Performance and Change Management

Number of Customer Care queries received	5,546
Number of Customer Care queries closed within deadline	5,032
Web pages opened on Council websites	262,823
Social media reach	3,056,668
Social media engagement	102,967



Economic, Enterprise and Tourism Development

LEO - Number of mentoring sessions	29
Grange Castle jobs sustained	5,328
Library visitors	6,135 online
Library items borrowed	236,876



Environment, Water and Climate Change

Grass cut - hectares	625
Kilometers of road swept monthly	930
Derelict site/dangerous buildings inspections	23
Litter - Fines Issued	2
Tonnes of waste collected - litter and illegal dumping	570
Tonnes of waste collected from street bins	40



Housing, Social and Community Development

Total Housing Stock	9,680
Total housing needs assessed	6,716
Housing maintenance requests received	811
Tidy Towns Groups supported	11
Number of Sports Programmes	9
Number of sports programme participants	3,850
JPC and Policing Fora held	3

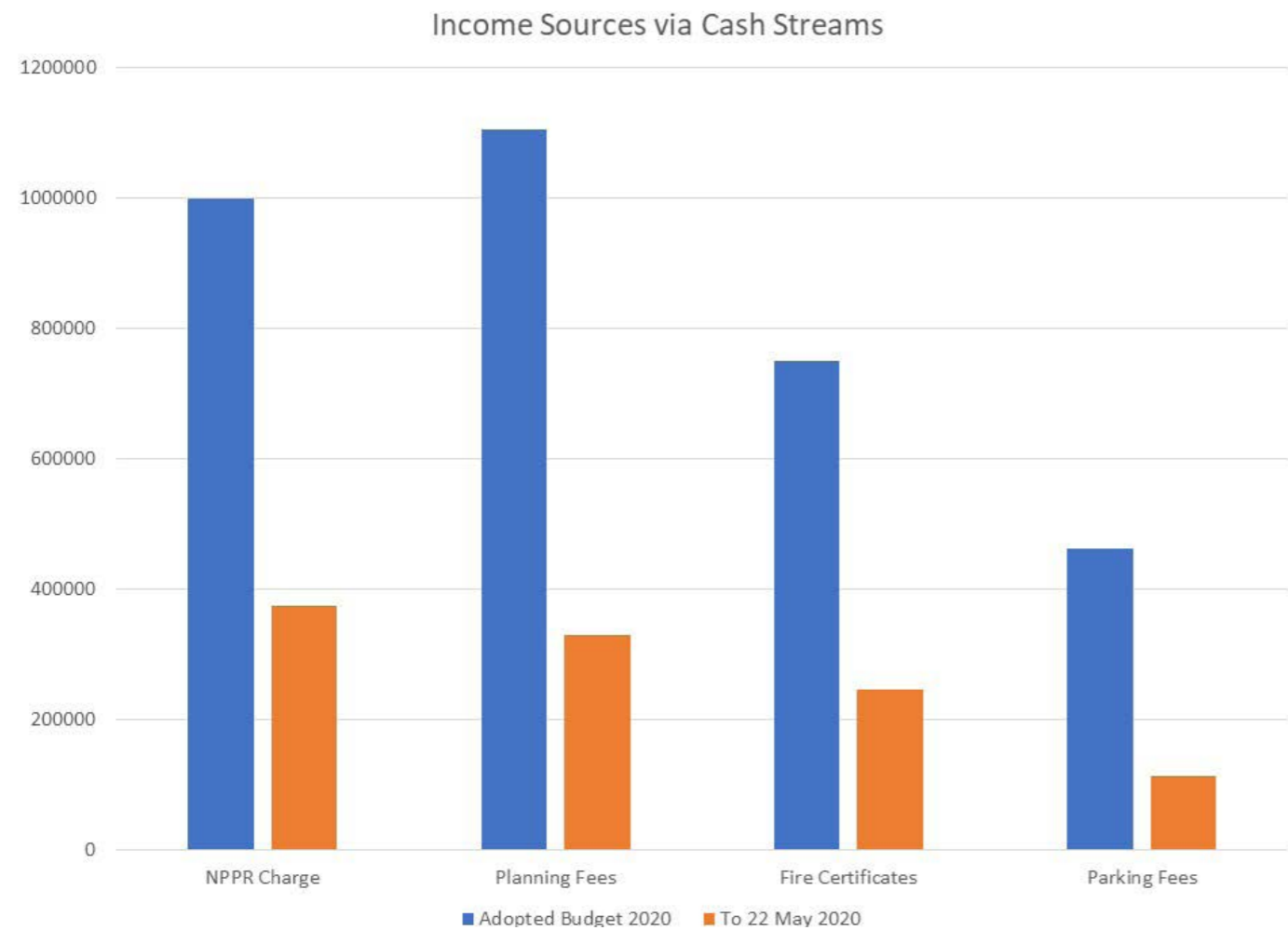


Land Use, Planning and Transportation

Planning applications received - new housing units	288
Percentage of decisions upheld by An Bord Pleanála	100%
Planning enforcements initiated	12
Number of public lights in charge	29,967
Number of traffic lights repaired within 24 hours	24

You can view all statistics under the Statistics Report in the Manager's Report headed item of the monthly Council meeting.

FINANCE REPORT



You can view the full Finance Report under the Manager's Report headed item of the monthly Council meeting agenda.

IMAGES OF THE MONTH



Pollinating in Corkagh Park



South Dublin County Council celebrating Pride

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