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

Minutes of South Dublin County Council May 2020 Rathfarnham, Templeogue, Firhouse, Bohernabreena, Area Committee Meeting dealing with Planning, Transportation, Libraries, Economic Development, Performance & Change Management, Corporate, Environment, Water & Drainage, Public Realm, Community and Housing held Virtually on Tuesday 12 May 2020 through Microsoft Teams

### **PRESENT**

### Mary Seery-Kearney

### Yvonne Collins

### Alan Edge

### Pamela Kearns

### Ronan McMahon

### David McManus

### Deirdre O’Donovan

### William Priestly

### Brian Lawlor

### Carly Bailey

### Emma Murphy

### Clare O’Byrne

### **OFFICIALS PRESENT**

### Senior Executive Officer Mary Maguire

### Neil Hanley

### Elaine Leech

### County Librarian Bernadette Fennell

### Communications Manager Niall Noonan

### Head of Local Enterprise Thomas Rooney

### Senior Parks Superintendent Suzanne Furlong

### Senior Engineer Leo Magee

### William Purcell

### Tony O’Grady

### A/Senior Executive Officer Brian Hora

### Michael McAdam

### 

### Senior Executive Engineer Joseph Bockarie

### Senior Executive Parks Superintendent Máire Ní Domhnaill

### Laurence Colleran

### Administration Officer Sheila Kelly

### Senior Staff Officer Barbara Reilly

### Clerical Officer Ciara Brennan

### 

**An Cathaoirleach, Councillor Mary Seery-Kearney presided.**

**Prior to commencement of the meeting Ms Mary Maguire, Senior Executive Officer reiterated the procedure and protocol for this Area Committee Meeting via Microsoft 365 Teams.   It was AGRRED that as the meeting was a virtual one a roll call of the members’ attendance was taken, and Members were also advised to register their attendance via the Show Conversation screen.**

### **RTFB/146/20 H1 Item ID:65911 - CONFIRMATION AND REAFFIRMATION OF MINUTES**

Minutes of South Dublin County Council Rathfarnham/Templeogue/Firhouse/Bohernabreena Area Committee dealing with Housing, Community, Transportation, Planning, Economic Development, Libraries, Corporate, Performance & Change Management, Public Realm, Environment, Water & Drainage held on, 10th March 2020 which have been circulated, were submitted and **APPROVED** as true record and signed.

[H1 Minutes 10th March 2020](http://www.sdublincoco.ie/sdcc/departments/corporate/apps/cmas/documentsview.aspx?id=66293)

It was proposed by Councillor Mary Seery-Kearney and seconded by Councillor Yvonne Collins and **RESOLVED** “That the recommendations contained in the minutes of 10th March 2020 be **ADOPTED** and **APPROVED**.”

**RTFB/147/20 – QUESTIONS**

It was proposed by Councillor Mary Seery-Kearney and seconded by Councillor Alan Edge and **RESOLVED** “That pursuant to Standing Order No. 13 that Questions 1 – 16 be **ADOPTED** and **APPROVED**

## **Housing**

### **RTFB/148/20 Q1 Item ID:65959 – Rough Sleepers**

Proposed by Councillor Alan Edge

Can the Chief Executive please report on the number of rough sleepers in the area covered by this LAC with whom they have had contact during the crisis and outline the actions taken in this regard.

**REPLY:**

South Dublin County Council together with the  Dublin Regional Homeless Executive (DRHE), Approved Housing Bodies and the HSE and various other agencies and partners, are working to ensure our supports and actions continue to deliver critical services to our homeless clients as well as minimising the risk of infection amongst individuals and families currently in homeless accommodation. A rough sleeper count is carried out twice a year. The first scheduled count for 2020 was cancelled due to the Covid 19 emergency.  All reports of rough sleepers and those sleeping in cars that have been brought to our attention throughout the county have been referred to the intake teams and all known rough sleepers have been offered accommodation.   Dublin Simon Outreach and PMcVT Intake teams continue to work across the County on behalf of the four Dublin Local Authorities to provide support, advice and accommodation to rough sleepers.

All one-night only accommodation provided to single people is available on a 24-hour basis with meals being provided on site during the Covid 19 emergency.  Residents are no longer required to vacate these facilities during the day, reducing contacts and associated risks.

While our homeless office remains closed, individuals/families are encouraged to make contact with us by phone at 01-4149364 or by email to sdcchomeless@sdublincoco.ie in line with advice from the HSE.  The Freephone (1800 707 707) is available out of hours for those in need of emergency accommodation.

### **RTFB/149/20 Q2 Item ID:65966 – Social Housing Applications**

Proposed by Councillor Mary Seery-Kearney

Has there been an increase in social housing applications since the commencement of the Covid 19 crisis? Can the Chief Executive provide statistics that provide a comparison between Q1 2019 and Q1 2020, thank you?

**REPLY:**

The following table shows applications received in the first quarter of 2019 and 2020:

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Year** | **Applications for social housing support to South Dublin County Council** |
| 2019 – Quarter 1 | 333 |
| 2020 – Quarter 1 | 331 |

### **RTFB/150/20 Q3 Item ID:65967 - Owendoher**

Proposed by Councillor Mary Seery-Kearney

What provisions have the Council put in place to alleviate the close quarters accommodation that arise particularly amongst some families in the Travellers in Owendoher during the Covid 19 crisis?

**REPLY:**

Owendoher Haven consists of 8-day units with bays and 1 House with all units currently allocated by licence/tenancy agreements. Under the COVID 19 emergency several measures have been introduced to reduce the spread of COVID 19 and lessen the risk of infection.

The Council in partnership with Tallaght Traveller Development Group (TTDG) have implemented a number of measures including the distribution of a Traveller Specific COVID 19 information leaflet and the installation of ‘Social Distancing’ signage at the location. A Hygiene/Sanitation pack was also provided to all residents. Arrangements are also currently being made to provide a skip at the site for extra refuse collection.

Due the configuration of this site, it is not possible to provide additional units for those bays that are overcrowded. The Council is however available to work with these families on the housing list and TTDG to discuss alternative accommodation options/social housing supports.

The Council has previously engaged with the residents regarding the redevelopment of the site and the construction of 8 new Traveller specific houses and the refurbishment of the existing house but due to a lack of consensus amongst the residents we have been unable to make progress. We are however hopeful that once the COVID 19 restrictions have been relaxed that we will recommence discussions and bring this development to Part 8.

### **RTFB/151/20 C1 Item ID:65900 - Correspondence**

Correspondence (No Business)

### **RTFB/152/20 H2 Item ID:65889 – New Works**

New Works (No Business)

### **RTFB/153/20 H3 Item ID:65913 – Anti-Social Behaviour Quarterly Report**

The following report was read by Elaine Leech, Senior Executive Officer

**The following is a statistical analysis of anti-social behaviour reported to South Dublin County Council for the period 01/01/2020-31/03/2020**

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **STATISITICAL ANALYSIS OF ANTI SOCIAL BEHAVIOUR REPORTED TO COUNCIL IN THE RATHFARNHAM/TEMPLEOGUE/FIRHOUSE/BOHERNABREENA ACM AREA** | | | | | | |
| **Incidents** | **2019 TOTAL** | **1st Qtr 2020** | **2nd Qtr 2020** | **3rd Qtr 2020** | **4th Qtr 2020** | **2020 TOTAL** |
| **CATEGORY A** |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Drugs Activity reported to SDCC | 5 | 0 |  |  |  | **0** |
| Criminal Activity reported to SDCC | 3 | 0 |  |  |  | **0** |
| Joyriding reported to SDCC | 0 | 0 |  |  |  | **0** |
| Violence/intimidation/ harassment reported to SDCC | 10 | 2 |  |  |  | **2** |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| **CATEGORY B** |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Squatters/illegal occupiers reported to SDCC | 4 | 1 |  |  |  | **1** |
| Vandalism reported to SDCC | 1 | 0 |  |  |  | **0** |
| Physical condition of property reported to SDCC | 4 | 0 |  |  |  | **0** |
| Physical condition of Garden reported to SDCC | 5 | 2 |  |  |  | **2** |
| Racism reported to SDCC | 0 | 0 |  |  |  | **0** |
| Vacant House reported to SDCC | 7 | 1 |  |  |  | **1** |
| Neighbour Dispute (including parking) reported to SDCC | 0 | 0 |  |  |  | **0** |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| **CATEGORY C** |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Noise/disturbance reported to SDCC | 9 | 1 |  |  |  | **1** |
| Pets/animal nuisance reported to SDCC | 11 | 1 |  |  |  | **1** |
| Children Nuisance reported to SDCC | 0 | 0 |  |  |  | **0** |
| Selling alcohol | 0 | 0 |  |  |  | **0** |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| **Total Incidents reported to SDCC** | **59** | 9 |  |  |  | 9 |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| **Total Complaints reported to SDCC** | **63** | 9 |  |  |  | **9** |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| **Total Actions taken by Allocations Support Unit Staff -     Main actions listed below** | **594** | 101 |  |  |  | **101** |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Housecall / Inspection | 226 | 49 |  |  |  | **49** |
| Demand for Possession Section 15 & 17 | 3 | 0 |  |  |  | **0** |
| Abandonment notice served | 0 | 0 |  |  |  | **0** |
| Surrenders Obtained (including Termination of Tenancy under Section 15) | 9 | 3 |  |  |  | **3** |
| Warnings issued | 21 | 3 |  |  |  | **3** |
| Interviews held (formal office and by phone) | 109 | 19 |  |  |  | **19** |
| Pre-Tenancies (includes following up Tenancy Checks) | 102 | 3 |  |  |  | **3** |

### Following contributions from Councillors E. Murphy, P. Kearns, Y. Collins and M. Seery-Kearney, Elaine Leech – Senior Executive Officer responded to queries raised and the report was **NOTED**

### **RTFB/154/20 H4 Item ID:65912 – Quarterly Housing Allocations Report**

The following report was read by Neil Hanly, Senior Executive Officer

**Quarterly Housing Allocations Report**

**COUNTY WIDE**

**Allocations and Transfer Report - 1st Quarter 2020**

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| ALLOCATIONS | | 01/01/2019 TO 31/12/2019 | | Allocations January – March 2020 |
| Total Allocations | | 2019 - 619 | | 168 |
|  |  | |  |  |
| **CBL** |  | | **307** | **Total CBL 86** |
| CBL general | *191* | |  | 45 |
| CBL Homeless | 8 | |  | 2 |
| CBL Medical | 3 | |  | 3 |
| CBL RAS Fixed Transfer | 38 | |  | 6 |
| CBL HAP Transfer | 67 | |  | 30 |
| Homeless/Homeless Medical  (not inc.CBL) |  | | **192** | **58** |
| Medical |  | | **68** | **21** |
| OAP / other |  | | **52** | **3** |
| **Transfers** | **2019 -** | | **146** | **Total Transfer 29** |
| TRANSFERs LIST (includes medical) |  | | 93 | 23 |
| *RAS landlord cancelled* |  | | 53 | 6 |
|  |  | |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |  |

**Rathfarnham, Templeogue, Firhouse Bohernabreena ACM**

**Allocations and Transfer Report - 1st Quarter 2020**

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| ALLOCATIONS | | 01/01/2019 TO 31/12/2019 | | Allocations January – March 2020 |
| Total Allocations | | 2019 - 88 | | 7 |
|  |  | |  |  |
| CBL Total |  | | 34 |  |
| CBL general | *22* | |  | 1 |
| CBL Homeless | 2 | |  |  |
| CBL Medical | 1 | |  |  |
| CBL RAS Fixed Transfer | 3 | |  |  |
| CBL HAP Transfer | 6 | |  |  |
| Homeless/Homeless Medical  (not inc.CBL) |  | | **30** | **2** |
| Medical |  | | **13** | **3** |
| OAP / other |  | | **11** | **1** |
| **Transfers** | **2019 -** | | **2019 - 19** | **1** |
| TRANSFERs LIST (includes medical) |  | | 12 | 1 |
| *RAS landlord cancelled* |  | | 7 |  |
|  |  | |  |  |

### Following contributions from Councillors C. Bailey, A. Edge, E. Murphy and P. Kearns, Neil Hanley and Elaine Leech – Senior Executive Officers responded to queries raised and the report was **NOTED**

### **RTFB/155/20 M1 Item ID:65833 – Illegal Dumping at Cherryfield Halting Site**

Proposed by Councillor Deirdre O'Donovan, seconded by Councillor Emma Murphy

To ask the Manager for a report on the ongoing illegal dumping beside the Cherryfield Halting Site, to include the cost within the past three years of cleaning the site up and what current refuse collection plans there are in place.

**The following report from the Chief Executive was READ;**

The Traveller Accommodation Unit (TAU) provides a daily caretaking service internally to the site. In addition, listed below is the amount spent by the TAU for cleansing operations in the area adjacent to the site for the last 3 years. This would be supported by cleansing operations carried out by direct labour staff in the public realm area.

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Year** | **Amount Spent** |
| 2018 | €0 |
| 2019 | €9,717 |
| 2020 | €9,828 |

In accordance with Circular Housing 6/2020, regarding the COVID 19 emergency measures, a skip is being provided to the site on a weekly basis for the disposal of domestic waste for residents in Traveller accommodation facilities.

The Council has also commenced a procurement framework for the engagement of a waste collection provider to provide a weekly refuse collection service for Traveller Accommodation Sites in South Dublin County. This cost will be incorporated into the weekly charges paid for residents.

Following contributions from Councillors D. O’Donovan, A. Edge, E. Murphy, P. Kearns, R. McMahon and M. Seery-Kearney, Elaine Leech – Senior Executive Officer responded to queries raised and the report was **NOTED.**

## **Community**

### **RTFB/156/20 Q4 Item ID:65954 – Supports and Services**

Proposed by Councillor Carly Bailey

To ask the Chief Executive to outline what supports and services are in place for communities within the Rathfarnham/Templeogue LEA that can be accessed via the community forum helpline.

**REPLY:**

The national framework for Community Response Forums identifies the following specific types of request for service to be recorded and actioned by the Community Call Helpdesk:

Collection and Delivery – Food, essential household items, fuel, medication in line with guidance

Social Isolation, supports, engagement

Meals and their delivery

Garda-related

Other medical/health needs

Other initiatives undertaken as part of the Community Response include:

* 1,600 calls have been made under the Community Call "Callout" initiative. The aim of the initiative is to make vulnerable households aware of the Community Call and respond immediately to any issues or concerns raised.
* 200 school meals delivered to families in need through the county with the assistance of An Post.
* Correspondence to pharmacies across the County to advise of supports available for emergency delivery of medication to vulnerable customers.
* Over the phone bereavement counselling services for those who have suffered the loss of a loved one
* Mapping of community, sporting and voluntary across the county who are providing locally based responses and launch of COVID 19 Emergency Fund to support their efforts
* Promotion by the Forum of the An Post Request a Check Initiative
* Coordinated and streamlined volunteer management process with South Dublin Volunteer Centre and voluntary organisations responding to COVID19 Support Helpdesk requests for support
* Promotion of online mental health and wellbeing activities

Community Call "In This Together"

On Friday 24th April Government launched the next phase of the Community Call "In This Together" wellbeing campaign to help everyone stay connected, stay active and stay mentally well.

South Dublin County Council and the Community Response Forum is offering a range of activities and resources as part of the "In This Together" initiative:

* SDC Sports Partnership live exercise classes
* The Libraries Borrow Box
* Online music classes with Music Generation
* 5-minute crafts with our Library service
* Age Friendly News
* Bouncing baby book club
* LEO online courses and business supports

*In This Together* also draws together the huge range of advice and support that is available online for people of all ages, including:

* Mindmindr app
* Mental Health Facebook talks from 27th to 30th April
* Promotion of our parks and getting back to nature
* Volunteer from Home initiative
* 4 the Family support programme
* Crosscare Youth Information Chat Service

 The Council are collating a listing of all activities supporting in this Together and this will be available on the Council website.

### **RTFB/157/20 Q5 Item ID:65958 – Vulnerable Individuals**

Proposed by Councillor Alan Edge

Can the Chief Executive provide a breakdown of the number of individuals considered vulnerable for the purposes of covid19 within the Area covered by this committee and explain how the data is compiled and what steps have been taken to ensure that no-one is missed.

**REPLY:**

In the area covered by this Area Committee 1,332 individuals were identified by South Dublin County Council as potentially vulnerable persons.

In determining this information, several internal databases were examined and collated to a single comprehensive dataset. This included the following:

- applicants under the Council's Home Security and Lock scheme

- applicants under the Council's Carbon Monoxide scheme and Smoke Alarm schemes

- records of social inclusion and older persons

- housing records of potentially vulnerable tenants

In addition, South Dublin County Partnership identified potentially vulnerable persons on a county wide basis within their records.

The South Dublin Community Response Forum, led by South Dublin County Council set up a dedicated Community Call Helpdesk (freephone 1800 240519 or email covidsupport@sdublincoco.ie ) operated 7 days a week jointly by the Council’s Community Department and South Dublin County Partnership to respond to requests for support and assistance from vulnerable people. Across the County over 1,100 calls have been received by the Community Call Helpdesk since 30th March. Part of this initiative included the Community Call Callouts to those identified as potentially vulnerable with over 1,600 calls having been made to date. The aim of the initiative is to make vulnerable households aware of the Community Call and respond immediately to any issues or concerns raised.

The South Dublin Community Call Helpdesk has been extensively advertised on the Council's social media accounts, by the Councils Community Development Team, by member organisations of the Community Response Forum and information leaflets have been distributed at COVID -19 test centres across the county.

The Community Response Forum also wrote to pharmacies across the County to advise of supports available for emergency delivery of medication to vulnerable customers and has supported the An Post Request a Check Initiative locally. An Post have also assisted with the delivery of the school meals programme. A survey of 30 lone parents was conducted by SDCP and was followed up with 180 lone parents across the county being contacted. Shorter versions of the SICAP funded "4 the Family" programme have been developed offering simple tips to families around the areas of Play, Parenting, Health & Technology.

A national co-ordinated campaign for the Community Call was launched by the Department Rural and Community Affairs including radio, tv print and social media advertising. An information booklet was produced containing local authority Community Call helpdesk contact details and circulated to every household in the country, starting in the Dublin region.

### **RTFB/158/20 C2 Item ID:65897 - Correspondence**

Correspondence (No Business)

### **RTFB/159/20 H5 Item ID:65885 – New Works**

New Works (No Business)

### **RTFB/160/20 H6 Item ID:65909 - Deputations**

Deputations for Noting

**REPLY:**

**DEPUTATION MEETING REPORT**

**Date & Time                         26th February @ 3pm**

**Deputation Group:             Rathfarnham Wood Residents Association**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Councillors Present | Cllr. Mary Seery-Kearney, Cllr. Yvonne Collins, Cllr. Deirdre O’Donovan |
| Apologies | Cllr. Carly Bailey & Cllr. David McManus |
| Deputation | Thomas Sexton & John Cribben |
| Council Officials Present: |  |
| Eamon Harnett | Environment, Water & Climate Change |
| Brendan Redmond | Environment, Water & Climate Change |
| Caitriona Lambert | Land Use Planning & Transportation |
| Michael Glynn | Land Use Planning & Transportation |
| Kevin Reilly | Land Use Planning & Transportation |
| Sheila Kelly | Land Use Planning & Transportation |
| Brian Carroll | Housing Social & Community Development |
| Carol McDonnell | Housing Social & Community Development |

The meeting was chaired by Cllr. Mary Seery-Kearney.

**Items discussed**:

1) Repair of wall at entrance to the Rathfarnham Wood estate. 2) Upgrade of software on gate adjacent to No. 13 Rathfarnham Woods. 3) Street lighting in Rathfarnham Wood. 4) Roads resurfacing in Rathfarnham Wood. 5) Request to install a Yield sign at the front of the estate.

6) Commitments given at Deputation meeting.

Commitments given:

* Tree stump removal; wall repaired this year, but prioritised given health & safety issues discussed that are urgent – Brendan Redmond & Eamon Harnett.
* Commitment to immediately address gate issue & keyholder options at site meeting.  Technical issues to take into account issues of all users. Site meeting with residents to take place within next week – Brendan Redmond & Eamon Harnett.
* There is an issue at national level. Rathfarnham Wood is prioritised as soon as this is resolved – Caitriona Lambert.
* Commitment to send on photos to C Lambert regarding exposed cables – Cllr. Collins & Cllr. Seery-Kearney.
* Road resurfacing in Rathfarnham Wood is listed to be completed in a further two phases in 2020 & 2021. Maybe subject to review if additional funding becomes available – Michael Glynn.
* Clarification to be established regarding yield sign. Will bring to March Traffic Management Meeting but will circulate answer to elected members within 10 days of this meeting – Kevin Reilly.

**The Report was NOTED.**

### **RTFB/161/20 M2 Item ID:65956 – Community Response**

Proposed by Councillor Alan Edge, seconded by Councillor Mary Seery-Kearney

To ask the Chief Executive to report on demand for and supply of support by the Community Response in the Area covered by this committee, identifying any issues arising and detailing how the system is operating.

**The following report from the Chief Executive was READ;**

There have been 148 requests for assistance made to the South Dublin Community Call Helpdesk form the area covered by this committee. At the time of reply, there are no outstanding requests**.**

The overall objective of the South Dublin Community Response Forum is to facilitate and co-ordinate the most appropriate community response to the needs of vulnerable people living in the community where their usual sources of support become unavailable. It has specifically been established to lead the co-ordination of COVID-19 community supports and resilience, including:

forum members and organisations working collaboratively (including with third party organisations) to identify vulnerable groups and individuals in South Dublin County.

Ensuring delivery of targeted social care supports and assistance to those vulnerable groups and individuals.

Identifying issues arising through Tus Nua/Older Persons Council, South Dublin PPN, community and other groups, and helpline calls.

Helping vulnerable individuals in isolation.

Ensuring the resilience of existing community services.

Harnessing offers of assistance from enterprises/businesses generally; and,

Collecting and mapping information on services and voluntary groups across the Country to help direct requests for assistance and identify gaps in service.

The Community Call Helpdesk manages requests for support and responses on a priority basis and ensures appropriate follow up calls are completed where needed in line with agreed national community response protocols. Calls for assistance and support are logged by Community Call operators and assigned to voluntary groups or agencies for actioning as appropriate.

On average 35 calls a day are made to the Community Call Helpdesk, with 70% completed on a same day basis. All request for assistance to the end of week 5 i.e. to Sunday 3rd May have been closed and completed.

The Community Call Helpdesk is primarily for the purpose of contact being made by or on behalf of vulnerable persons who are isolated and for whom there are non-emergency and/or non-medical support gaps.  However, it is also possible for community and voluntary organisations to contact the Forum to provide details of volunteer supports and resources available locally. The helpdesk will deal with non-medical and non-emergency cases only and will, where necessary, refer callers to other statutory or voluntary services (including the HSE/An Garda Siochana in the case of emergencies) where the case is in relation to existing service provision.  Nationally agreed shopping protocols are being adhered to as is guidance on the collection and delivery of medication. A system of referrals to and from ALONE services is in place as is signposting to other relevant services. Helpdesk operators have a detailed information packs which are updated regularly, to enable them to respond to incoming calls

All requests for assistance are logged by the Community Call Helpdesk operators and assigned to local community and voluntary groups to be actioned.

Following contributions from Councillors A. Edge and M. Seery-Kearney, Brian Hora – Senior Executive Officer responded to queries raised and the Report was **NOTED.**

## **Transportation**

### **RTFB/162/20 Q6 Item ID:65965 – Footpath Repairs in Templeogue**

Proposed by Councillor Mary Seery-Kearney

To ask the Chief Executive to provide an update please in relation to the footpath repairs in Templeogue, particularly Templeville, Fortfield and Wainsfort? Clearly work was in preparation at the time when the Covid 19 crisis commenced, how has the works schedule been impacted by the crisis?

**REPLY:**

Wainsfort Grove, which was funded late 2019, was completed mid-March 2020. For the remainder, some tenders are back but cannot be awarded just yet until contractors are back, and we cannot finalise other schemes until site visits can resume.

### **RTFB/163/20 C3 Item ID:65905 - Correspondence**

Correspondence (No Business)

### **RTFB/164/20 H7 Item ID:65894 – New Works**

New Works (No Business)

### **RTFB/165/20 H8 Item ID:65908 – Proposed Declaration of Roads to be Public Roads**

Proposed Declaration of Roads to be Public Roads - No Business

### **RTFB/166/20 M3 Item ID:65821 – Procedure to Take in Charge Otterbrook, Rathfarnham**

Proposed by Councillor Yvonne Collins, Seconded by Councillor Brian Lawlor

That the Chief Executive set out, in step by step form, the procedure which must be followed by the residents of Otterbrook, Rathfarnham, Dublin 14 in order to have their estate taken in charge, to include the conditions and procedures for holding a plebiscite, and any relevant paperwork which must be completed in order to have a plebiscite and effect the taking in charge

**The following report from the Chief Executive was READ;**

For a development to be Taken in Charge a developer would be required to make submission under the 18 headings as listed in the Council's Taking in Charge Policy document. This procedure is developed to protect the Council from faulty and low standard developments being taken into public maintenance.

In the case of Otterbrook, it has taken a considerable amount of time to research and compile the historic documentation that exists for the development. In the last week of April 2020, following a review of the above documentation the Council has made the decision to go to public consultation of the Otterbrook Estate.

The procedure will commence in the coming weeks and will last about 3-4 months before the procedure is complete and subject to it being ratified by the full membership of the Council at a full Council meeting.

Following contributions from Councillors Y. Collins, E. Murphy, D. O’Donovan, P. Kearns, M. Seery-Kearney, William Purcell – Senior Engineer responded to queries raised and it was **AGREED** to bring a Headed Item to a future meeting and the report was **NOTED.**

### **RTFB/167/20 M4 Item ID:65884 – Footpaths in RTFB Area**

Proposed by Councillor Deirdre O'Donovan, Seconded by Councillor Mary Seery-Kearney

That the Manager conducts a review of the state of footpaths within the RTFB Area, especially during this current crisis where most of us are out walking while trying to exercise social distancing.  There have been a number of serious incidents where walkers have sustained serious injuries as a result of broken footpaths.

**The following report from the Chief Executive was READ;**

The Footpath Programme for 2020 has been agreed with all the ACM's and the Council. If there are individual areas where incidents occurred, can the Councillor inform the Senior Executive Engineer and the area will be inspected. At the moment it is not possible to carry out repairs as the Concrete companies are not supplying the material.

Following Contributions from Councillors D. O’Donovan, Y. Collins, E. Murphy and M. Seery-Kearney, Tony O’Grady – Senior Engineer responded to queries raised and the report was **NOTED.**

### **RTFB/168/20 M5 Item ID:65950 – Car park at Shopping Complex in Whitechurch Estate**

Proposed by Councillor Emma Murphy, seconded by Councillor Yvonne Collins

That this Area Committee seeks to allocate funding in the upcoming budget for improvement works to the car park at the shopping complex in Whitechurch estate. The car park in particular is in significant disrepair.

**The following report from the Chief Executive was READ;**

This car park is not in charge of the County Council and therefore is not eligible for funding.

Following contributions from Councillors E. Murphy and P. Kearns, Tony O’Grady - Senior Engineer responded to queries raised and the report was **NOTED.**

## **Planning**

### **RTFB/169/20 Q7 Item ID:65981 – Wall between Stonepark Abbey and Ely Square**

Proposed by Councillor Yvonne Collins

To ask the Chief Executive, given that the wall between Stonepark Abbey and Ely Square is apparently the boundary wall between South Dublin County Council and Dun Laoghaire-Rathdown County Council, would a unilateral decision by one local authority, whether pursuant to an application for planning permission or otherwise, to cause or allow the wall to be knocked down and replaced, be ultra vires it's power or authority and/or outside the scope of its jurisdiction?

**REPLY:**

Any planning application or a Declaration of Exempted Development application for works in a Local Authority is required to be made to that Local Authority, expect in instances specifically outlined in the Planning and Development Act 2000 (as amended), including Strategic Housing Developments, Strategic infrastructure Developments and Local Authority Own Development with an EIAR which are applied to An Bord Pleanala. In instances where a development site is partially in two local authorities, a planning application is required to both planning authorities.

Please note that under Section 34(13) of the Planning and Development Act states that a person shall not be entitled solely by reason of a permission under this section to carry out any development.

In relation to alleged unauthorised development, please be advised that planenforcement@sdublincoco.ie is the relevant contact to report same for investigation.

### **RTFB/170/20 Q8 Item ID:65744 – Primary Care Centre Ballyboden**

Proposed by Councillor Emma Murphy

Can the Chief Executive please provide an update on the Primary Care Centre development in Ballyboden? Can he please provide any details on a start date, on the number of pedestrian gates that will be erected and the locations of these gates?

**REPLY:**

Planning permission was granted under SD13A/0222 and on appeal. The permission was extended in 2019 and will expire in 2024. The site layout plan is attached and indicates the maintaining of 3 pedestrian entrances and 1 new entrance. Of the 4 pedestrian entrances shown, 2 will be from St Augustin’s to the east, one from Moyville to the south and one from Edmondstown Road to the west.

The timing of construction is a matter for the HSE. However, the Planning Department made contact with the HSE and have been advised that the Health Service Executive have completed the sale and leaseback procurement process for the delivery of a new Primary Care Centre at Taylors Lane, Ballyboden and the successful tenderer has been selected.

It is understood that the HSE is currently completing the contractual paperwork and intend to progress to Contract stage as soon as possible. Whilst there has been a delay due to Covid-19, it is anticipated that this will close out shortly.

Once the contract is signed and Covid-19 restrictions are lifted the developer will confirm the start date for construction of the works.

[Q8(i) Site Layout Plan](http://www.sdublincoco.ie/sdcc/departments/corporate/apps/cmas/documentsview.aspx?id=66231)

### **RTFB/171/20 C4 Item ID:65903 - Correspondence**

Correspondence (No Business)

### **RTFB/172/20 H9 Item ID:65892 – New Works**

New Works (No Business)

## **Economic Development**

### **RTFB/173/20 C5 Item ID:65899 - Correspondence**

Correspondence (No Business)

**RTFB/174/20 H10 Item ID:65887 – New Works**

New Works (No Business)

### **RTFB/175/20 M6 Item ID:65759 – Depot at Rathfarnham Castle**

Proposed by Councillor Yvonne Collins, Seconded by Councillor Deirdre O’Donovan

That the Chief Executive considers, when the Parks Department vacates the depot at Rathfarnham Castle, incorporating the vacant depot as an overflow carpark accessed from the existing carpark in a sympathetic manner without affecting the existing structures, in view of the shortage of car parking spaces in Rathfarnham Village.

**The following report from the Chief Executive was READ;**

*A tender process in respect of the proposed uses at Rathfarnham Castle failed to identify a preferred bidder for the opportunity at the castle outbuildings.*

*The Council is currently reviewing the process with the consultants with a view to bringing the project back to the market as soon as possible.*

*It should be noted that the former depot forms an essential element of the proposed development at Rathfarnham Castle Courtyard and Stables and a report on same will be brought to the AC as soon as possible.*

Following contributions from Councillors Y. Collins, M. Seery-Kearney, P. Kearns and C. Bailey, Thomas Rooney – Head of Local Enterprise responded to queries raised and the report was **NOTED**

## **Libraries & Arts**

### **RTFB/176/20 Q9 Item ID:65969 – Little Free Libraries**

Proposed by Councillor Mary Seery-Kearney

To ask the Chief Executive what is the Council's policy position regarding "free little libraries" set up on council property - green spaces/entrances to parks?  Has there been enquiries about them? If it has been considered, is there any funding for them?

**REPLY:**

**Little Free Library**

“The Little Free Library is a non-profit organisation that works on the principle of “take a book, return a book” exchange policy. ‘The Little Library’ come in many shapes and sizes, but the most common is a small wooden box of books. It requires volunteer stewards to erect, donate and monitor the little library.

While the library service can advise any community group or residents’ association on information they require in setting up such a service, South Dublin County Council library service would prefer to encourage residents to take out free membership in their local branch library, with access to a wide range of materials including books, DVDs, magazines, online resources, languages and courses. The community also have access to trained, motivated staff with expert knowledge in the area of reading and learning supports.

As part of the 300k Have Your Say initiative, South Dublin Libraries purchased the required allocation of free library books for the Lucan/Palmerstown area. The budget was €3,000 and books were purchased and delivered to five centres in the area.

The project was completed in early 2018”.

### **RTFB/177/20 C6 Item ID:65901 - Correspondence**

Correspondence (No Business)

### **RTFB/178/20 H11 Item ID:65890 – New Works**

NEW WORKS (No Business)

### **RTFB/179/20 H12 Item ID:65907 – News and Events**

The following Reports was read by Bernadette Fennell, County Librarian

Library News & Events

[H12 Library Report](http://www.sdublincoco.ie/sdcc/departments/corporate/apps/cmas/documentsview.aspx?id=66258)  
[H12(i) Library Events](http://www.sdublincoco.ie/sdcc/departments/corporate/apps/cmas/documentsview.aspx?id=66259)

Following contributions from Councillors C. Bailey, Deirdre O’Donovan, P. Kearns, M. Seery-Kearney and A. Edge, Bernadette Fennell – County Librarian responded to queries raised and the Report was **NOTED**

### **RTFB/180/20 H13 Item ID:65910 – Arts Grants**

Application for Arts Grants (No Business)

## **Corporate Support**

### **RTFB/181/20 C7 Item ID:65898 - Correspondence**

Cor 7a - Firhouse Educate Together - Further resources

Cor 7b - Reply - Dept Education & Skills - Firhouse ET

[C7(a) Firhouse ET](http://www.sdublincoco.ie/sdcc/departments/corporate/apps/cmas/documentsview.aspx?id=66316)  
[C7(b) Reply Firhouse ET Dept Education](http://www.sdublincoco.ie/sdcc/departments/corporate/apps/cmas/documentsview.aspx?id=66317)

This correspondence was **NOTED.**

### **RTFB/182/20 H14 Item ID:65886 – New Works**

New Works (No Business)

### **RTFB/183/20 M7 Item ID:65972 – 300k Have Your Say**

Proposed by Councillor Brian Lawlor, seconded by Councillor Emma Murphy

That this Committee gets an update on the 300k Have Your Say initiative including the tree cutting that is needed to facilitate the laneway idea

**The following report from the Chief Executive was READ;**

Works on a number of projects arising from the Firhouse-Bohernabreena €300k Have Your Say initiative but all have been delayed due to the COVID-19 crisis. Namely, the extension to the playground at Ballycragh has been tendered while preliminary work had begun on the intergenerational proposal at Glenasmole but is currently on hold.

The Council will deliver updated timelines in line with government guidance as soon as possible.

Following contributions from Councillors B. Lawlor, E. Murphy, P. Kearns, A. Edge and D. O’Donovan, Niall Noonan – Communications Manager responded to queries raised and it was **AGREED** to bring a Headed Item to a future meeting and the reported was **NOTED.**

## **Performance & Change Management**

### **RTFB/184/20 C8 Item ID:65902 - Correspondence**

Correspondence (No Business)

### **RTFB/185/20 H15 Item ID:65891 – New Works**

New Works (No Business)

## **Environment**

### **RTFB/186/20 Q10 Item ID:65952 – Fly Tipping, Illegal Dumping and Dog Fouling**

Proposed by Councillor Carly Bailey

To ask the chief executive if it is the view of the local authority that there has been an increase in fly tipping, illegal dumping and dog fouling. To ask the chief executive whether services in these areas have been curtailed through staff redeployment/illness and what the plan is to help address these areas given enforcement measures are unlikely to be in operation.

**REPLY:**

Throughout the Covid 19 crisis and the subsequent implementation of Social Distancing restrictions, South Dublin County Council in conjunction with Waste Collectors and Civic Amenity Site Operators/Collectors, have maintained waste collection services throughout the county. Despite maintaining the level of service, South Dublin County Council has witnessed a sizeable increase of illegal dumping and burning of waste, particularly domestic household waste. The volume of dumped material collected during the months of March and April has increased by 33% compared to the same period in 2019. Conversely, the Council has noted a reduction in the amount of litter being collected from litter bins which is 13% less for the same period in 2019.

To address the illegal dumping activities, Litter Wardens and Public Realm Crews have increased patrols and removed illegally dumped items at the earliest opportunities, whilst taking the necessary health and safety precautions to prevent the spread of Covid-19. Waste Enforcement Officers are carrying out ongoing surveillance of litter pollution black spots.

In addition, South Dublin County Council has seen an increased demand on bottle banks throughout the county. The frequency of collections has been increased to address this demand. The total collected during March and April is 42% more than the same period in 2019.

Through South Dublin County Council Social Media, the council has sought to highlight the current increase in dumping and has requested the public to play their part. Campaigns in respect of bottle banks and dog fouling are also being run through this forum.

### **RTFB/187/20 Q11 Item ID:65970 - Dumping near Bottle Banks**

Proposed by Councillor Mary Seery-Kearney

Can the Council please report on the level of dumping particularly near bottle banks during Covid 19 and the actions they have taken? Thank you.

**REPLY:**

South Dublin County Council has seen an increased demand on bottle banks throughout the county. The frequency of collections has been increased to address this demand. The total collected during March and April is 42% more than the same period in 2019.

Throughout the Covid 19 crisis and the subsequent implementation of Social Distancing restrictions, South Dublin County Council in conjunction with Waste Collectors and Civic Amenity Site Operators/Collectors, have maintained waste collection services throughout the county. Despite maintaining the level of service, South Dublin County Council has witnessed a sizeable increase of illegal dumping and burning of waste, particularly domestic household waste. The volume of dumped material collected during the months of March and April has increased by 33% compared to the same period in 2019. Conversely, the Council has noted a reduction in the amount of litter being collected from litter bins which is 13% less than the same period in 2019.

To address the illegal dumping activities, Litter Wardens and Public Realm Crews have increased patrols and removed illegally dumped items at the earliest opportunities, whilst taking the necessary health and safety precautions to prevent the spread of Covid-19. Waste Enforcement Officers are carrying out ongoing surveillance of litter pollution black spots.

Through South Dublin County Council Social Media, the council has sought to highlight the current increase in dumping and has requested the public to play their part.

### **RTFB/188/20 C9 Item ID:65896 - Correspondence**

Correspondence (No Business)

### **RTFB/189/20 H16 Item ID:65888 – New Works**

New Works (No Business)

### **RTFB/190/20 M8 Item ID:65957 – Friarstown Allotments**

Proposed by Councillor Alan Edge, seconded by Deirdre O’Donovan

While commending the sterling work of the Council in ensuring the success of the lockdown, that this Committee requests that the feasibility of limited access to Friarstown allotments under the food exemption be explored, perhaps using a rota system administered by plot-holders, given the key function of allotments in terms of mental health.

**The following report from the Chief Executive was READ;**

The decision to close allotments was made following the Taoiseach’s announcement on March 27th.

Following enquiries from allotments users, clarification was sought, and the Government & Public Health Advice was that there is no exemption for allotments.

In the Taoiseach's announcement on Friday 1st May, an easing of the restrictions was announced which included *"A phased return of outdoor workers (for example: construction workers, gardeners, including people working on allotments"* from 18th May.

SDCC intends to arrange for the re-opening of the allotments in compliance with this Government decision from 18th May, social distancing requirements will continue to apply.

Following contributions from Councillors A. Edge, D. O’Donovan, R. McMahon, Y. Collins and M Seery-Kearney, Michael McAdam A/Senior Executive Officer responded to queries raised and the report was **NOTED.**

### **RTFB/191/20 M9 Item ID:65974 – Litter Complaints**

Proposed by Councillor Brian Lawlor, seconded by Councillor Mary Seery-Kearney

There seems to have been an increase in litter in our area during Covid19 restrictions. Can the Chief Executive provide a report on litter complaints? Thanks

**The following report from the Chief Executive was READ;**

Throughout the Covid 19 crisis and the subsequent implementation of Social Distancing restrictions, South Dublin County Council in conjunction with Waste Collectors and Civic Amenity Site Operators/Collectors, have maintained waste collection services throughout the county. Despite maintaining the level of service, South Dublin County Council has witnessed a sizeable increase of illegal dumping and burning of waste, particularly domestic household waste. The volume of dumped material collected during the months of March and April has increased by 33% compared to the same period in 2019. Conversely, the Council has noted a reduction in the amount of litter being collected from litter bins which is 13% less than the same period in 2019.

To address the illegal dumping activities, Litter Wardens and Public Realm Crews have increased patrols and removed illegally dumped items at the earliest opportunities, whilst taking the necessary health and safety precautions to prevent the spread of Covid-19. Waste Enforcement Officers are carrying out ongoing surveillance of litter pollution black spots.

In addition, South Dublin County Council has seen an increased demand on bottle banks throughout the county. The frequency of collections has been increased to address this demand. The total collected during March and April is 42% more than the same period in 2019.

Through South Dublin County Council Social Media, the council has sought to highlight the current increase in dumping and has requested the public to play their part.

The number of complaints received in relation to litter and illegal dumping is consistent with the same period in 2019. However, there has been a considerable increase in the number of complaints relating to household waste. Detection rates remain high during this time.

Following contributions from Councillors B. Lawlor, E. Murphy, D. O’Donovan, P Kearns, D. McManus and A. Edge, Michael McAdam A/Senior Executive Officer responded to queries raised and the report was **NOTED.**

### **RTFB/192/20 M10 Item ID:65975**

Proposed by Councillor Brian Lawlor, seconded by Councillor Ronan McMahon

That this Committee asks that bottle banks are emptied more regularly for the duration of pubs being closed

**The following report from the Chief Executive was READ;**

Recent analysis of the frequency of emptying the bottle banks carried out on the 27th of April 2020 has shown that 219 collection services were made during the period of restrictions in April compared to 207 collection services during the normal times in March. South Dublin County Council has already increased the frequency of collection services in some shopping centres and other sites .For example, the increase in the frequency of servicing the bring banks in the following shopping centres during the covid-19 restrictions are shown  below: Knocklyon SuperValu  - 44% increase in the frequency of servicing in April. Lucan Supervalu - 59% increase in the frequency of servicing.  Mill Clondalkin - 29% increase in the frequency of servicing. Palmerstown Supervalu - 36% increase in the frequency of servicing. Rathfarnham Bugler - 33%increase in the frequency of servicing.

South Dublin County Council is actively monitoring the usage and the frequency of collection services in our bottle banks and will further increase the frequency of collection services when required.

Following contributions from Councillors B. Lawlor, R. Mc Mahon, M Seery-Kearney, D. O’Donovan, P. Kearns and Y. Collins, Joseph Bockarie – Senior Executive Engineer responded to queries raised and the report was **NOTED**.

## **Water & Drainage**

### **RTFB/193/20 Q12 Item ID:65963 – Poddle Flood Alleviation Scheme**

Proposed by Councillor Mary Seery-Kearney

Can the Chief Executive provide an update please on the Poddle Flood Alleviation Scheme and how it's progress has been impacted by the Covid 19 crisis? Thank you.

**REPLY:**

The Poddle Flood Alleviation Scheme Part X Planning application has been submitted to An Bord Pleanala. The public consultation phase of this planning application was due to end on 16th April. Due to Covid-19, this has been extended on a number of occasions and the current date for the public consultation to end is May 28th.

Please note that due to the current closure of public buildings, the full suite of documents can only currently be viewed online at

[**https://consult.sdublincoco.ie/en/consultation/river-poddle-flood-alleviation-scheme-part-10-planning-submission**](https://eur04.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fconsult.sdublincoco.ie%2Fen%2Fconsultation%2Friver-poddle-flood-alleviation-scheme-part-10-planning-submission&amp;data=02%7C01%7Ccgalvin%40SDUBLINCOCO.ie%7Ce8ab0fbf7d744f3b65ab08d7eac3849d%7C6a3c00c019d0492da8de95fad8fda1d4%7C0%7C0%7C637235997774010684&amp;sdata=t0Uh624vyEf%2BGUoAQQDsDjqMczJEZGiYA1pwV5uB8Hg%3D&amp;reserved=0)

[**www.poddlefas.ie**](https://eur04.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=http%3A%2F%2Fwww.poddlefas.ie%2F&amp;data=02%7C01%7Ccgalvin%40SDUBLINCOCO.ie%7Ce8ab0fbf7d744f3b65ab08d7eac3849d%7C6a3c00c019d0492da8de95fad8fda1d4%7C0%7C0%7C637235997774020677&amp;sdata=w%2B1OTqOvptnNLRNvYo5WTsI1dsEOTuLMuV22eV%2F977U%3D&amp;reserved=0)

[**http://www.pleanala.ie/publicaccess/EIAR-NIS/306725/River%20Poddle%20FAS/**](https://eur04.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=http%3A%2F%2Fwww.pleanala.ie%2Fpublicaccess%2FEIAR-NIS%2F306725%2FRiver%2520Poddle%2520FAS%2F&amp;data=02%7C01%7Ccgalvin%40SDUBLINCOCO.ie%7Ce8ab0fbf7d744f3b65ab08d7eac3849d%7C6a3c00c019d0492da8de95fad8fda1d4%7C0%7C0%7C637235997774020677&amp;sdata=tn84SQn%2F5w3k9qX47jlXZZTGl5WoTrsNm0XmbwAm5Kw%3D&amp;reserved=0)

Submissions on the proposed scheme are to be made in writing to The Offices of An Bord Pleanala, 64 Marlborough St, Dublin 1. D01 V902. Details on how to make public submissions can be found at [**http://www.pleanala.ie/sid/index.htm**](https://eur04.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=http%3A%2F%2Fwww.pleanala.ie%2Fsid%2Findex.htm&amp;data=02%7C01%7Ccgalvin%40SDUBLINCOCO.ie%7Ce8ab0fbf7d744f3b65ab08d7eac3849d%7C6a3c00c019d0492da8de95fad8fda1d4%7C0%7C0%7C637235997774030671&amp;sdata=WR6LvH1j5ZKGpaZ6jnAuXiTB8v45om8RnWC06AGjbz0%3D&amp;reserved=0)

### **RTFB/194/20 C10 Item ID:65906 – Correspondence**

Correspondence (No Business)

### **RTFB/195/20 H17 Item ID:65895 – New Works**

New Works (No Business)

## **Public Realm**

### **RTFB/196/20 Q13 Item ID:65951 – Grass Cutting**

Proposed by Councillor Carly Bailey

To ask the Chief Executive what the plan and rationale is in relation to grass cutting for small greens, large greens and parks.

**REPLY:**

In response to the public health emergency which commenced in mid-March the Council's Public Realm Section initially implemented a system of staggered start, break and finish times for staff for the first two week period in order to minimise contact between staff members.  On the announcement of tighter restrictions regarding movement and social distancing from March 29th a staff roster was introduced with all staff working a day on/day off system which was intended to achieve a substantial reduction in staff numbers in operational depots which in turn would enable social distancing measures to be implemented.  This has remained in place for many staff however a group of 50 staff who are key to the grass cutting operation have returned to a 5-day roster from Monday April 13th.

During the period from March 29th to April 13th the Public Realm section responded to cleansing tasks only as a priority, all other tasks were put on hold during that period and this included the cutting of grass.  The return to a 5-day roster for the 50 staff mentioned has enabled the Council's annual grass cutting programme to commence, however the start has been 3 to 4 weeks later than in other years.

The Council's Public Realm Section implements a grass cutting programme from March to November whereby all parks, open spaces and roadside margins are cut at the same frequency on a fortnightly schedule, with playing pitches cut weekly.  Small open spaces and roadside margins are cut by ride on mower while the larger open spaces are cut by tractor mowers.  There are other tasks which go hand in hand with the gras cutting, for example many areas need to be litter picked ahead of grass cutting.  There is also a need to deal with long grass growing at the base of trees and signage poles, as well as the treatment of weeds around the boundary of open spaces.  The grass cutting programme is now in its fourth week, having commenced on April 13th, and this means that some open spaces have only received their first cut of the year.  The delayed start to the programme means that we are dealing with longer grass which in turn has the added effect of slowing the work down further.  Good progress has been made in recent weeks however, assisted by good weather, and it is hoped that time lost in late March and early April will be recovered in the coming weeks and that the two week grass cutting schedule which is implemented each year will be achieved in the coming weeks.  The priority of the Council is to work to achieve the two week cutting schedule at the earliest possible date as this should ensure that an acceptable standard can be achieved.  The cutting of playing pitches on a weekly basis will have to be resumed in due course and in accordance with the national plan which was announced on May 1st.

### **RTFB/197/20 Q14 Item ID:65982 – Litter Bins in Dodder Valley Park**

Proposed by Councillor Yvonne Collins

To ask the Chief Executive when we may expect litter bins to be installed in Dodder Valley Park, particularly at Cherryfield, given previous commitments and the urgent need to keep the park litter free and a safe and healthy amenity for all, particularly in the current public health emergency.

**REPLY:**

While litter bins are already provided at entrances to Dodder Valley Park and at the car parks which service the park, a commitment was given in 2019 to provide litter bins within the park itself.  There is provision in the Public Realm Improvement Works Programme in 2020 for the provision of seating in the park.   While the details of locations for new seating have not been decided on yet it is proposed that litter bins will also be provided at these seating locations.  This type of work is currently on hold due to the Covid 19 restrictions however it is proposed that it will resume after the lifting of restrictions.

### **RTFB/198/20 Q15 Item ID:65960 – Scramblers in Kiltipper Park**

Proposed by Councillor Alan Edge

Can the Executive clarify whether and how scrambler use in Kiltipper Park can be restricted as regards the entry points to the Greenway.

**REPLY:**

In 2017 South Dublin County Council convened a taskforce consisting of SDCC, Dublin City Council, Fingal County Council, Dept of Justice, An Garda Siochana, the Road Safety Authority and Motocross Ireland to examine the issue of scramblers being driven in public parks and open spaces. Some of the issues which arose at meetings of the task force in 2017 and 2018 were that the Gardai do not currently have the power to pursue scrambler bikes, to stop them, to impound them, to pursue them to other locations and to question the owners and drivers about their movements. It was felt that these issues needed to be addressed by new legislation. Equally the Council has been unable to date to identify the drivers of these vehicles and to hold them responsible for damage caused to parks and open spaces. While the Council’s taskforce is still active a period of time has elapsed in 2019 where no meetings have taken place, this was while confirmation was awaited from the government departments with regard to the legal position and the views of the Attorney General’s Office on the adequacy of existing legislation.

In parallel to the Council’s taskforce the government put in place a cross departmental group to examine the issues at hand and in particular to examine the legal position with regard to existing legislation, with the assistance of the Attorney General’s Office. The legal advice provided by the Office of the Attorney General indicated that, in the main, current road traffic and public order legislation appears to provide sufficient means to police this issue. This view is shared by both the Department of Justice and the Department of Transport, Tourism and Sport. The Department of Justice reconvened the cross-agency group in March to discuss this legal advice with members of An Garda Síochána (AGS); meeting with the Garda National Roads Policing Bureau (GNRPB), the Dublin Metropolitan Region (Tallaght District) and the Youth Diversion, Community Engagement &Public Safety Bureau and the general consensus was that new legislative powers are not required. In the absence of a need for new legislation, it is envisaged that an effective response to this anti-social behaviour will be informed by a combination of targeted enforcement measures, awareness raising, and youth engagement programmes. These measures will be progressed in conjunction with the relevant Departments and agencies. We have been assured by the Dept of Justice that both ministers and the Garda Commissioner remain committed to finding a workable solution to this problem and in this regard we have been informed that there have been some recent seizures/prosecutions under the Road Traffic Acts and that one of these was in a public park. We remain in close contact with the Department of Justice and have provided them with some background information and background data to assist them in formulating a response. Separate to the above a Private Members Bill on the matter was brought before the Dáil earlier this year. It is understood that this Bill has passed the second stage and that it is due to be debated further in due course. We await the formation of the new Government to see how the above matter is further progressed.

The use of scrambler bikes in Kiltipper Park is an unfortunate, pre-existing problem that SDCC have been tackling with the assistance of the Gardai since before the implementation of current improvements in the park. Before the current improvements to the park “Anti-motorbike barriers” were in place. As we have seen at countless locations over the years including at Kiltipper; these barriers were ineffectual at reducing or indeed preventing access by scramblers or motorbikes, however they did act to reduce access by legitimate bicycle users and others. Most worryingly, we received communications from local wheelchairs users that they were excluded from the park by these barriers.

The current entrance points are designed to be universally accessible, specifically to facilitate wheelchairs, of which there are several users in the area. In addition Kiltipper Park is part of the Dodder Greenway which allows for shared use by bicycles and pedestrians. It is not feasible to restrict or reduce the size of access points under these circumstances. We have had some communications with residents in the area who inform us that the use of the park by scramblers has reduced to four individuals and their presence in the park has much reduced since the increase of more legitimate uses of the park by visitors due to the improvements to access, footpaths and so on. SDCC has contacted Tallaght Garda Station and the Community Gardai to request patrols to be carried out in the park. It is envisioned that current and future improvements will continue to encourage an increase in the number of legitimate park users, consequently resulting in a reduction of this and other types of anti-social behaviour in Kiltipper Park; however SDCC will continue to monitor this situation and keep it under review. The actions of central government will also assist in this regard.

### **RTFB/199/20 Q16 Item ID:65546 – Public Bins Ballyboden**

Proposed by Councillor David McManus

To ask the Chief Executive to provide an update on 10 public bins to be installed in locations requested by Ballyboden Tidy Towns group and if a timeline is available for their installation?

**REPLY:**

While a request for the provision of 6 litter bins was submitted in 2019 on behalf of the Ballyboden Tidy Towns group, no commitment was given in relation to this request.  Contact will be made with the Ballyboden Tidy Towns group to establish the exact locations where they suggest that litter bins should be provided.  Each of these locations will be examined against the protocol for litter bin provision which is included in the Council's Litter Management Plan.  The installation of new litter bins is not being carried out at the present time during the Covid 19 restrictions, any new bins to be provided in response to this request will be addressed after the restrictions have been removed.

### **RTFB/200/20 C11 Item ID:65904 - Correspondence**

Correspondence(No Business)

### **RTFB/201/20 H18 Item ID:65893 – New Works**

New Works (No Business)

### **RTFB/202/20 M11 Item ID:65961 – Tree Management Plan**

Proposed by Councillor Mary Seery-Kearney, Seconded by Councillor Brian Lawlor

**Cathaoirleach's Business**

I note that the tree management plan was set out and seek an update on that progress in the form of a question.  The execution of the previous tree management plan has rendered the Council with a schedule of sites in Rathfarnham Templeogue where trees were removed.

**I am seeking the support of this committee to ensure that priority is given to the alleviation of trip hazards in the form of holes where trees were removed and not filled in.  This is an acute hazard in the present crisis as people pass each other on footpaths and utilise the grass verge to maintain social distancing.**

I have supplied the council with specific addresses where attention is required in the members reps system, however, it would appear this is a systemic issue that gives rise to liability for the Council and need to be addressed formally in the practice of tree management.

**The following report from the Chief Executive was READ;**

When a tree is felled by the Council, a tree stump is usually left at around 1m high so that does not constitute a trip hazard in the period prior to removal. It is not always possible to remove the stump immediately. Tree stump removal is normally undertaken during the winter months between November and February

Due to problems with the Council's stump grinder and the lack of availability of a similar machine for hire very few stumps were removed by the Council during 2018.

Stump removal commenced in 2019 – see stump removal figures

2019                                       1033

2020 end March                        327

The tree stump removal process involves grinding down the stump to a depth 50mm. The area is reinstated by levelling the ground and placing a topsoil / sand mix with grass seed on the location.

As the tree roots decompose, a shallow depression can occur. This is a natural phenomenon and will with regular maintenance and cutting, repair itself.

Following contributions from Councillors M. Seery-Kearney, A. Edge, D. O’Donovan, P. Kearns, Y Collins and R. McMahon, Máire Ní Domhnaill – Senior Executive Parks Superintendent responded to queries raised and the report was **NOTED.**

### **RTFB/203/20 M12 Item ID:65844 – Kiltipper Park**

Proposed by Councillor D. O'Donovan, seconded by Councillor Ronan McMahon

That the Manager installs suitably accessible entrance to Kiltipper Park, that also stops Scramblers from entering the park.

**The following report from the Chief Executive was READ;**

In 2017 South Dublin County Council convened a taskforce consisting of SDCC, Dublin City Council, Fingal County Council, Dept of Justice, An Garda Siochana, the Road Safety Authority and Motocross Ireland to examine the issue of scramblers being driven in public parks and open spaces. Some of the issues which arose at meetings of the task force in 2017 and 2018 were that the Gardai do not currently have the power to pursue scrambler bikes, to stop them, to impound them, to pursue them to other locations and to question the owners and drivers about their movements. It was felt that these issues needed to be addressed by new legislation. Equally the Council has been unable to date to identify the drivers of these vehicles and to hold them responsible for damage caused to parks and open spaces. While the Council’s taskforce is still active a period of time has elapsed in 2019 where no meetings have taken place, this was while confirmation was awaited from the government departments with regard to the legal position and the views of the Attorney General’s Office on the adequacy of existing legislation.

In parallel to the Council’s taskforce the government put in place a cross departmental group to examine the issues at hand and in particular to examine the legal position with regard to existing legislation, with the assistance of the Attorney General’s Office. The legal advice provided by the Office of the Attorney General indicated that, in the main, current road traffic and public order legislation appears to provide sufficient means to police this issue. This view is shared by both the Department of Justice and the Department of Transport, Tourism and Sport. The Department of Justice reconvened the cross-agency group in March to discuss this legal advice with members of An Garda Síochána (AGS); meeting with the Garda National Roads Policing Bureau (GNRPB), the Dublin Metropolitan Region (Tallaght District) and the Youth Diversion, Community Engagement &Public Safety Bureau and the general consensus was that new legislative powers are not required. In the absence of a need for new legislation, it is envisaged that an effective response to this anti-social behaviour will be informed by a combination of targeted enforcement measures, awareness raising, and youth engagement programmes. These measures will be progressed in conjunction with the relevant Departments and agencies. We have been assured by the Dept of Justice that both ministers and the Garda Commissioner remain committed to finding a workable solution to this problem and in this regard we have been informed that there have been some recent seizures/prosecutions under the Road Traffic Acts and that one of these was in a public park. We remain in close contact with the Department of Justice and have provided them with some background information and background data to assist them in formulating a response. Separate to the above a Private Members Bill on the matter was brought before the Dáil earlier this year. It is understood that this Bill has passed the second stage and that it is due to be debated further in due course. We await the formation of the new Government to see how the above matter is further progressed.

The use of scrambler bikes in Kiltipper Park is an unfortunate, pre-existing problem that SDCC have been tackling with the assistance of the Gardai since before the implementation of current improvements in the park. Before the current improvements to the park “Anti-motorbike barriers” were in place. As we have seen at countless locations over the years including at Kiltipper; these barriers were ineffectual at reducing or indeed preventing access by scramblers or motorbikes, however they did act to reduce access by legitimate bicycle users and others. Most worryingly, we received communications from local wheelchairs users that they were excluded from the park by these barriers.

The current entrance points are designed to be universally accessible, specifically to facilitate wheelchairs, of which there are several users in the area. In addition Kiltipper Park is part of the Dodder Greenway which allows for shared use by bicycles and pedestrians. It is not feasible to restrict or reduce the size of access points under these circumstances. We have had some communications with residents in the area who inform us that the use of the park by scramblers has reduced to four individuals and their presence in the park has much reduced since the increase of more legitimate uses of the park by visitors due to the improvements to access, footpaths and so on. SDCC has contacted Tallaght Garda Station and the Community Gardai to request patrols to be carried out in the park. It is envisioned that current and future improvements will continue to encourage an increase in the number of legitimate park users, consequently resulting in a reduction of this and other types of anti-social behaviour in Kiltipper Park; however SDCC will continue to monitor this situation and keep it under review. The actions of central government will also assist in this regard.

Following contributions from Councillors D. O’Donovan and A. Edge, Suzanne Furlong - Senior Parks Superintendent responded to queries raised and the report was **NOTED**

### **RTFB/204/20 M13 Item ID:65955 – Signage in relation to Physical Distancing Measures**

Proposed by Councillor Carly Bailey, seconded by Councillor Alan Edge

That this committee requests that the chief executive provide and put up much more signage in relation to physical distancing measures in public spaces.

**The following report from the Chief Executive was READ;**

To encourage compliance with social distancing SDCC Public Realm have implemented the following Signage Strategy in relation to Covid 19 for our parks and open spaces:

* Park Entrances- large 2M wide Social Distancing Corry board signs. 250 No. placed at park entrances.
* Arrival in Parks- 2M social distancing stencils on paths. Regional Parks and busier parks marked.
* Playgrounds- Closure signage.
* Exercise Equipment- Closure signs and red tape.
* Notice Boards:  General Covid-19 Government advice on A4 Corry board signs in all parks.
* Cemeteries- 2M wide Social distancing signage at entrances.

In addition Public Realm staff are monitoring behaviour which allows us to respond to particular issues as they arise in our parks and open spaces.

SDCC has published information via social media and our website regarding compliance with social distancing in parks. Recently SDCC have designated hours to visit parks for people most vulnerable to Covid-19. In some of SDCC’s larger parks we have created some one-way walking loops; which can help people maintain social distancing. This commenced as a pilot in Corkagh Park and was rolled out to several of our larger parks subsequently with related signage.

We feel the signage outlined above for our parks and open spaces is adequate at present; however if there are particular issues at any particular location that warrants further action we would welcome that information.

Following contributions from Councillors C. Bailey, D. O’Donovan, E. Murphy, P Kearns, R McMahon , Y Collins and M. Seery-Kearney, Suzanne Furlong – Senior Parks Superintendent responded to queries raised and the report was **NOTED.**

### **RTFB/205/20 M14 Item ID:65971 – Development Pitch at Firhouse**

Proposed by Councillor Brian Lawlor

That the new development pitch at Firhouse Carmel urgently gets additional signage to discourage people from using it, including those playing golf on it

In the absence of Councillor B. Lawlor this **MOTION FALLS**

### **RTFB/206/20 M15 Item ID:65976 – Glendoher Park and Playspace**

Proposed by Councillor Yvonne Collins, seconded by Councillor Ronan McMahon

That the Chief Executive, as soon as it is safe to do so, consults with the residents of the Glendoher estate, with a view to implementing a strategy and/or carrying out appropriate works to secure access to the Glendoher Park and playspace in order to prevent anti-social gatherings, particularly at night, which are very problematic and stressful for the residents, particularly those closest to the area concerned.

**The following report from the Chief Executive was READ;**

The most appropriate response to incidents of anti-social activity in parks at night is to report them to the local Gardai.  Our experience is that the Gardai are very responsive to such reports and are effective in dealing with problems.

It would not be possible to secure the boundary of Glendoher Park, or any of the many parks across the County, to prevent access outside of park opening times. None of the County’s parks or open spaces are locked at night as this would require a massive undertaking, with many more staff allocated to locking and unlocking gates at hundreds of locations with no guarantee that it would impact on people determined to enter at night.  It would also discommode the many elderly park users who exercise in parks very early each morning before they become busy.

Securing Glendoher Park would involve installing new security railings and new gates across the front of the park.  It would also require neighbouring residents to install walls and railings to strengthen their own boundaries, at considerable cost, as people intent on using the park would simply cross through their properties.

Staff from SDCC have contacted the Gardai in Rathfarnham requesting information on the numbers of reported instances of and severity of anti-social activity in Glendoher Park and are awaiting a response.  SDCC will continue to liaise with Gardai on this matter and will heed any advice given to reduce problems there.

Following contributions from Councillors Y. Collins, D. O’Donovan, P. Kearns and E Murphy, Laurence Colleran – Senior Parks Superintendent responded to queries raised and the report was **NOTED.**

### **RTFB/207/20 M16 Item ID:65845 - Grass Cutting Schedule**

Proposed by Councillor Deirdre O'Donovan, seconded by Councillor Mary Seery-Kearney

That the Manager reports on the grass cutting schedule and what steps are being taken to ensure a quality service, during this Covid-19 Crisis.

**The following report from the Chief Executive was READ;**

In response to the public health emergency which commenced in mid-March the Council's Public Realm Section initially implemented a system of staggered start, break and finish times for staff for the first two week period in order to minimise contact between staff members.  On the announcement of tighter restrictions regarding movement and social distancing from March 29th a staff roster was introduced with all staff working a day on/day off system which was intended to achieve a substantial reduction in staff numbers in operational depots which in turn would enable social distancing measures to be implemented.  This has remained in place for many staff however a group of 50 staff who are key to the grass cutting operation have returned to a 5-day roster from Monday April 13th.

During the period from March 29th to April 13th the Public Realm section responded to cleansing tasks as a priority, all other tasks were put on hold during that period.  The return to a 5-day roster for the 50 staff mentioned enabled the grass cutting programme to commence on April 13th, however this was 3 to 4 weeks later than in other years.

Good progress on the grass cutting programme has been made in recent weeks however, assisted by good weather, and it is hoped that time lost in late March and early April will be recovered in the coming weeks and that the two week grass cutting schedule which is implemented each year will be achieved in the coming weeks.  All other work remains on hold for now with all staff resources being assigned to either cleansing or grass cutting work.  Other work will resume in the coming weeks as restrictions are removed on a phased basis, in accordance with the national plan which was announced on May 1st.

Following contributions from Councillor M Seery-Kearny, Leo Magee – Senior Engineer responded to queries raised and the report was **NOTED.**

### **RTFB/208/20 M17 Item ID:65962 - Living with Trees**

Proposed by Councillor Mary Seery-Kearney, seconded by Councillor Emma Murphy

I am mindful that there is a comprehensive Tree Management Plan "Living with Trees".  However, the lived experience of some residents is that council trees in close proximity to their property cause a significant encumbrance on their quality of life.  A criteria for removal of a tree is not sufficiently broad to reflect the requirements of residents who have to cope with trees belonging to the Council, where they are prohibited from taking action.

I am seeking the support of this committee in particular

That this council amends its criteria for giving attending to trees as we acknowledge that it is a requirement that the Council are good neighbours and oversized trees require a greater priority.  A review of the criteria for tree removal now need to be undertaken.

In particular I am calling for the removal of the two trees at (address supplied) who allegedly do not fit within the criteria as set out but are causing a significant detriment to the quality of life of the neighbours most closely affected by those two trees.

**The following report from the Chief Executive was READ;**

The Council's Tree Management Policy - Living with Trees - states the following with regard to large trees -

The Council will not prune or fell a Council owned/managed tree because it is considered to be ‘too big’ or ‘too tall’. Residents may feel apprehensive about the size of a tree and consider it dangerous. However, trees are not dangerous just because they are perceived as tall, too big for their surroundings or move in the wind. Tree movement in high winds is natural and one of the ways they are able to withstand strong winds. Other problems would need to be shown for the Council to consider the tree to be dangerous.

The two trees at the address supplied have been surveyed on a number of occasions, the last survey taking place on 21st June 2019.

Trees are estimated approximately 12 m away from property. They are in good health with no signs of physical defect. Recent crown lifting has taken place within past 3 years and there is evidence of healthy wood around the targeted pruning cuts. The recommendation is that the trees be re-assessed in 24 months.

Following contributions from Councillors M. Seery-Kearney, P. Kearns, C. Bailey, D O’Donovan, A. Edge and Y. Collins, Máire Ní Domhnaill – Senior Executive Parks Superintendent responded to queries raised and the report was **NOTED.**

### **RTFB/209/20 M18 Item ID:65973 – One Way Systems in Smaller Parks**

Proposed by Councillor Brian Lawlor

That the Council implements one-way systems, for social distancing, in our smaller parks

In the absence of Councillor Lawlor this **Motion FALLS**

### **RTFB/210/20 M19 Item ID:65964 – Inspections and Cleansing of Lanes**

Proposed by Councillor Mary Seery-Kearney, seconded by Councillor Carly Bailey

I am seeking the support of this committee:

That the Council increases the frequency of supervisory inspections and cleansing of the lanes in Dublin 12, as there has been an excess of dumping in recent times and that CCTV is considered as a means of implementing no dumping restrictions.

**The following report from the Chief Executive was READ;**

Laneways in the area are patrolled by the Litter Warden on at least a weekly basis. All incidents of littering and illegal dumping detected or reported are investigated and where evidence is found, appropriate enforcement action is taken. 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.

Across the county, during the Covid crisis, South Dublin County Council (SDCC) has witnessed a sizeable increase of illegal dumping and burning of waste, particularly domestic household waste. The volume of dumped material collected during the months of March and April has increased by 33% compared to the same period in 2019. To address the illegal dumping activities, Litter Wardens and Public Realm Crews have increased patrols and removed illegally dumped items at the earliest opportunities, whilst taking the necessary health and safety precautions to prevent the spread of Covid-19. Waste Enforcement Officers are carrying out ongoing surveillance of litter pollution black spots.

SDCC are currently undergoing an Audit by the Data Protection Commissioner (DPC) and we are awaiting final decision reports from them. We anticipate a decision report from the DPC shortly and consideration of any future CCTV will be given taking due regard on that report. In the interim, we will be arranging for mapping of the lanes to be undertaken and for your assistance in identifying suggested 'black spots' where cameras could be considered.

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.

Following contributions from Councillors M. Seery-Kearney and C. Bailey, Michael McAdam – A/Senior Executive Officer and Leo Magee – Senior Engineer responded to queries raised, it was **AGREED** to bring a Headed Item to a future meeting and the report was **NOTED.**

**Prior to conclusion of the meeting, An Cathaoirleach Cllr Mary Seery Kearney thanked the meeting attendees and administrators for their patience and attention throughout the meeting and congratulated them on the successful conclusion of the 1st ever virtual Council Meeting held in South Dublin County Council.**

The meeting concluded at 6.14 pm.

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

An Cathaoirleach