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

Minutes of South Dublin County Council Clondalkin Area Committee Meeting dealing with Housing, Community, Transportation, Planning, Economic Development, Libraries & Arts, Corporate Support, Performance & Change Management, Environment, Water & Drainage and Public Realm, held on Wednesday 20th May 2020.

**COUNCILLORS PRESENT**

 Councillor William Joseph Carey

 Councillor Kenneth Egan

 Councillor Peter Kavanagh

 Councillor Eoin Ó Broin

 Councillor Francis Timmons

An apology for inability to attend was received from Councillor Shirley O’Hara.

Cathaoirleach, Councillor P. Kavanagh presided.

**OFFICIALS PRESENT**

Senior Architect Mr. Paddy De Roe

Senior Engineer Mr. Willie Purcell

Senior Parks Superintendent Ms. Suzanne Furlong

Assistant Head of IT Mr. Bernard Gaughan

County Librarian Ms. Bernadette Fennell

A/Senior Engineer Mr. Derek Sargent

Senior Executive Officer Mr. Neil Hanly, Ms. Cristina Hurson

A/Senior Executive Officer Mr. Michael McAdam

Senior Executive Parks Superintendent Mr. David Fennell

Administrative Officer Ms. Marie Kavanagh, Ms. Fiona Hendley

Senior Staff Officer Ms. Pamela Brennan

Staff Officer Ms. Patricia O’Reilly

Assistant Staff Officer Ms. Ita Kenny

Prior to commencement of the meeting, Cathaoirleach Councillor Peter Kavanagh on behalf of the Members and Staff present, expressed condolences to Councillor Shirley O’Hara on the recent passing of a family member, and one minute’s silence was observed.

### **C/115/20 – (H1) Item ID:65882 - Confirmation & Re-affirmation of Minutes of Meeting held on 19th February 2020**

The minutes of the February meeting of the Clondalkin Area Committee dealing with Libraries & Arts, Economic Development, Performance & Change Management, Corporate Support, Environment, Water & Drainage, Public Realm, Community, Housing, Planning and Transportation held on Wednesday 19th February 2020, which had been circulated, were submitted and **APPROVED** as a true record and signed.

[Minutes of 19th February 2020](http://www.sdublincoco.ie/sdcc/departments/corporate/apps/cmas/documentsview.aspx?id=66214)

## It was proposed by Councillor P. Kavanagh and seconded by Councillor F. Timmons and **RESOLVED:**

“That the recommendations contained in the minutes of 19th February 2020, be **ADOPTED** and **APPROVED**.”

**C/116/20 – Questions**

It was proposed by Councillor P. Kavanagh and seconded by Councillor F. Timmons, and **RESOLVED:**

“That pursuant to Standing Order No. 13, Questions 1 to 14 be **ADOPTED** and **APPROVED.”**

## **Housing**

### **C/117/20 - (Q1) Item ID: 66017 – Clondalkin Housing List**

Proposed by Councillor Peter Kavanagh

"To ask the Chief Executive for a report on the number of people in the Clondalkin area currently on the Housing List, in receipt of HAP and in emergency accommodation?"

**REPLY:**

965 applicants on the Social housing list that have listed Clondalkin in their address.  It should be noted however that many applicants, currently renting outside of Clondalkin, may have originally lived in the area.

There are 727 HAP tenancies managed by South Dublin County Council with an address in Clondalkin.

There are 561 applicants (families and singles) currently listed with homeless priority in South Dublin.  It is not possible to give a breakdown specifically for Clondalkin, for those with homeless priority, as addresses change once families move into emergency accommodation.

### **C/118/29 – (Q2) Item ID: 66056 – Vacant Houses on Station Road**

Proposed by Councillor F. Timmons

"To ask the Chief Executive for a more detailed response than given at the last area meeting into an update on the vacant houses on Station Road?  When they will be brought into use?"

**REPLY:**

The Council has been advised that the site including the unfinished houses is due to go to the open market for sale through property agent Savills. When the sale is completed, it is envisaged that works on the houses will progress to bring them into a habitable state. No additional information is available to the Council at this present time.

### **C/119/20 – (Q3) Item ID: 66058 -Part 8 for Riversdale and Eircom Sites**

Proposed by Councillor F. Timmons

"To ask the Chief Executive for an update report into Part 8's agreed for Riversdale and Eircom sites and when they might start? Also, what other part 8's are envisaged? Also, an update on the Oldcastle site? Please give a detailed report."

**REPLY:**

|  |
| --- |
| **Construction Programme 2020-2021****Clondalkin** |
| **Projects with Part 8 Planning Approval** |
| **Project Name** | **Part 8 Approved Date** | **No. of Units Approved @ Part 8** | **Current Status** |
| Riversdale | 08/10/2018 | 44 | Stage 4 final budget approval was received from the Department of Housing on the 16th of March 2020. The Council is currently carrying out a risk assessment and value engineering with the preferred contractor. Guidance has been sought by the Council from the Department of Housing in respect of appointing contractors amid COVID-19 pandemic to manage financial risk on projects. Site start on this scheme will commence once national guidance on contract management is in place. |
| Nangor Road (Eircom Site) | 14/10/2019 | 93 | The Department of Housing, Planning & Local Government responded in respect of the Cost Effectiveness Analysis on the 23rd of March 2020. The Council is currently preparing a detailed cost report and preparing tender documents for submission to the Department for approval. Following confirmation of funding approval this scheme will progress to tender. Site start on this scheme is subject to funding approval. |

The Council continues to review sites within the area and any further proposals will firstly be brought to the Area Committee Members for consideration. There are no further sites at present for consideration.

The Council has commenced a Traveller led consultation process through CENA ( Culturally Appropriate Homes Limited) a Traveller led Voluntary Accommodation Association with regard to the proposed re-development of the Old Castle Park. To date an initial family profile has been completed by CENA. Due to current COVID-19 restrictions work on this consultation process is currently suspended and will resume when the COVID 19 restrictions have been lifted with the aim to progress the re-development of the site to Part 8.

### **C/120/20 – (H2) Item ID: 65858 – New Works**

(No Business)

**C/121/20 – (H3) Item ID: 66073 - Housing Allocations Report**

The following report as circulated, was presented by Mr. N. Hanly, Senior Executive Officer:

**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 |
|   |  |   |   |
|   |   |   |   |   |

**Clondalkin Area Committee Meeting**

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

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
|  ALLOCATIONS | 01/01/2019 TO 31/12/2019 | Allocations January – March 2020 |
| **Total Allocations**  | **2019 - 143** | **23** |
|   |   |   |   |
| **CBL Total**  |  | **73** | **CBL Total 10** |
| *CBL general* | 40 |   | 6 |
| *CBL HOMELESS* | 2 |   |   |
| *CBL MEDICAL* | 1 |   |   |
| *CBL RAS FIXED TRANSFER* | 16 |   |   |
| *CBL HAP TRANSFER* | 14 |   | 4 |
| HOMELESS/Homeless Medical(not inc.CBL) |   | **46** | **11** |
| Medical |   | **14** | **2** |
| OAP / other |   | **10** | **0** |
| **Transfers**  |   | **2019 - 31** | **4** |
| TRANSFERs LIST (includes medical) |   | 15 | 3 |
| *RAS landlord cancelled* |  | 16 | 1 |
|   |  |   |   |
|   |   |   |   |   |

A discussion followed with contributions from Councillor E. Ó Broin. Mr. Neil Hanly, Senior Executive Officer responded to the Members query, and the report was **NOTED.**

### **C/122/20 – (H4) Item ID: 66121 – Housing Supply Report**

The following report as circulated, was presented by Ms. M. Kavanagh, Administrative Officer:

**Housing Supply Report**

[HI 4 Housing Supply Report](http://www.sdublincoco.ie/sdcc/departments/corporate/apps/cmas/documentsview.aspx?id=66424)

Following a discussion with contributions from Councillors E. Ó Broin and P. Kavanagh, Ms. M. Kavanagh, Administrative Officer responded to the Members queries.

The report was **NOTED.**

### **C/123/20 – (H5) Item ID: 66122 – Part 8 Grand Canal/Lindisfarne**

The following report as circulated, was presented by Mr. P. De Roe, Senior Architect and Ms. M. Kavanagh, Administrative Officer:

[HI 5 Proposed Social Housing Project Part 8 at Grand Canal/Lindisfarne](http://www.sdublincoco.ie/sdcc/departments/corporate/apps/cmas/documentsview.aspx?id=66415)

### A discussion followed with contributions from Councillors F. Timmons, E. Ó Broin and P. Kavanagh. Mr. P. De Roe responded to the Members queries, and the report was **NOTED.**

### **C/124/20 – (C1) Item ID: 65857 - Correspondence**

(No Business)

### **C/125/20 – (M1) Item ID: 66016 – Homelessness and Covid-19**

**Cathaoirleach's Business**

It was proposed by Councillor P. Kavanagh and seconded by Councillor F. Timmons:

"This Area Committee agrees that as South Dublin County Council exits restrictions brought about by the Covid-19 pandemic, that families in danger of being evicted into homelessness at the end of the moratorium on evictions and rent increases be given specific attention and assistance by our housing team."

The following report by the Chief Executive which had been circulated, was **READ:**

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

Any family that has a valid notice to quit can contact the office by phone for advice.  The Housing Assistance Payment (HAP) at the higher rate is available to applicants who are at imminent risk of losing their tenancy.

While there is already a considerable number of families and individuals availing of homeless services, all assistance will be given, as usual, to families or individuals who are at risk of homelessness.”

The motion was **AGREED** without debate.

### **C/126/20 – (M2) Item ID: 65996 – Incomplete Boundary Wall around St. Cuthbert’s Park**

It was **AGREED** by the Cathaoirleach in consultation with the Members, to consider Motion 3 in tandem with this item as they were of a similar subject matter:

It was proposed by Councillor W. Carey and seconded by Councillor P. Kavanagh:

“This committee calls upon the Chief Executive to provide estimates for the completion of the stone wall at St. Cuthbert’s Park from Melrose Estate around to St. Cuthbert’s Meadow on the basis that the wall maintain the height, finish and alignment with the recently constructed stone wall sections, and that on foot of the receipt of these costs, the Chief Executive consider inclusion of these works in the next budget."

The following report by the Chief Executive which had been circulated, was **READ:**

“The stone walls form part of the contract for the housing development to the south side of St. Cuthbert’s Park.  The funding approved provided for stone walls in front of the housing and excluded any other locations. Prior to construction the ESB/HSA were consulted on the overall design to ensure that the proposed development complied with the Code of Practice on Overhead Electricity Lines in Construction, due to the close proximity of overhead high voltage lines. The HSA has approved a Code of Practice on Overhead Electricity Lines in Construction, published by ESB Networks .The ESB consultation resulted in minor alterations to the layout to ensure Regulatory compliance, and the omission of a section of stone wall in close proximity to the overhead cables. The extent of stone wall omitted due to this restriction was used to construct walls around the edge of the park to the existing housing.

No further funds are available from the project budget to carry out work on providing stone walls to the park.

Public Realm have been consulted on the future provision of a stone wall to St. Cuthbert’s Park. The details of the stone walls, and current extent have been shared with Public Realm. The extent of perimeter is extensive and Public Realm have confirmed that they will consider the construction of stone walls around the park in forthcoming budgets, subject to funding, and any restrictions required near the high voltage cables.”

### **(M3) Item ID: 65997 – Incomplete Boundary Wall around St. Cuthbert’s Park**

It was proposed by Councillor William Joseph Carey and seconded by Councillor P. Kavanagh:

"That this Committee acknowledges the disappointment of local residents of the incomplete nature of the boundary wall around St. Cuthbert's Park and requests that the Council outline detailed plans for the securing of the perimeter adjoining St. Cuthbert's Park with Lindisfarne and Melrose Estate. This committee further acknowledges the quality of workmanship of the stone wall that has so far been completed and commends those involved in the design and planning of the works to date."

The following report by the Chief Executive which had been circulated, was **READ:**

“The stone walls form part of the contract for the housing development to the south side of St. Cuthbert’s Park.  The funding approved provided for stone walls in front of the housing and excluded any other locations. Prior to construction the ESB/HSA were consulted on the overall design to ensure that the proposed development complied with the Code of Practice on Overhead Electricity Lines in Construction, due to the close proximity of overhead high voltage lines. The HSA has approved a Code of Practice on Overhead Electricity Lines in Construction, published by ESB Networks .The ESB consultation resulted in minor alterations to the layout to ensure Regulatory compliance, and the omission of a section of stone wall in close proximity to the overhead cables. The extent of stone wall omitted due to this restriction was used to construct walls around the edge of the park to the existing housing.

No further funds are available from the project budget to carry out work on providing stone walls to the park.

Public Realm have been consulted on the future provision of a stone wall to St. Cuthbert’s Park. The details of the stone walls, and current extent have been shared with Public Realm. The extent of perimeter is extensive and Public Realm have confirmed that they will consider the construction of stone walls around the park in forthcoming budgets, subject to funding, and any restrictions required near the high voltage cables.”

A discussion followed with contributions from Councillors W. Carey and P. Kavanagh. Mr. P. De Roe, Senior Architect responded to the Members queries, and the motions were **AGREED.**

## **Community**

### **C/127/20 – (H6) Item ID: 65860 – New Works**

(No Business)

### **C/128/20 – (H7) Item ID: 65883 - Deputations**

(No Business)

### **C/129/20 – (C2) Item ID: 65859 - Correspondence**

(No Business)

### **C/130/20 – (M4) Item ID: 66051 – Knockmitten Community Centre**

It was proposed by Councillor F. Timmons and seconded by Councillor P. Kavanagh:

"That this Committee asks South Dublin County Council to repair and fix the issue in Knockmitten Community Centre changing room that has a leak. The Centre got it checked and we are told it is not the underfloor heating as Council stated previously, the changing rooms cannot be used fully and pose a health and safety issue as many football players rely on this facility so this is an urgent matter."

The following report by the Chief Executive which had been circulated, was **READ:**

“The Council's Mechanical Inspector identified the underfloor heating as the source of the leak in the changing rooms  just prior to the introduction of COVID 19 restrictions.

Arrangements had been made for a contractor to disconnect a loop of the underfloor heating to resolve the problem. Due to current restrictions our Plumbing Contractor has not been in a position to visit and carry out the necessary works in relation to the under-floor heating leak.

The Council's Mechanical Inspector has been in touch with the Plumbing Contractors seeking an update as to when they might expect to visit and will contact the Centre Manager to arrange access when necessary.

The Council had also arranged for a portion of the plasterboard ceiling in the corridor leading to the changing rooms to be removed so we could better identify possible ingress of water from the roof at that location. I can confirm this has been done. However, until we have some significant rainfall this cannot be examined further.”

The motion was **MOVED** without debate.

## **Transportation**

### **C/131/20 – (Q4) Item ID: 65990 – Speeding in Newcastle**

Proposed by Councillor T. Gilligan

"I’ve enquired before about speed bumps as cars go much, much too fast on the road. Speed cushions were eventually put in just past Texaco, but vehicles speed up as soon as they have gone over them.

People walk the Main Street at all times of the day and night. Someone walking past could have been killed, or one of us had we happened to be in the driveway.

Any help you could provide with addressing safety on the Main Street would be appreciated

(Request for Traffic Management Meeting -   ramps Main St., Newcastle

Main Street Newcastle. At around 11.25pm on Sunday night a speeding car came off the road and into my driveway.)

**REPLY:**

South Dublin County Council have a limited budget for each electoral area for the provision of Traffic Calming annually.

Each location is assessed as to its suitability for Traffic Calming when an application is received.

To keep orderly control of the application process there is a simple form that South Dublin County Council require to be completed for each location by the applicant.

Following Technical Appraisal and approval a list will be presented to the Members for consideration.  South Dublin County Council will then advertise,  and subject to substantial majority support for measures, the Council will then proceed to tender.

The form which must be completed is available on the Councils Website   [Traffic Calming Measures (Ramps ONLY) Application Form](https://www.sdcc.ie/en/services/transport/road-application-forms/)

### **C/132/20 – (Q5) Item ID: 66015 – Parking Fines in Clondalkin LEA**

Proposed by Councillor Peter Kavanagh

"To ask the Chief Executive for a report on parking fines in the Clondalkin local area in the year to date."

**REPLY:**

The total number of parking fines issued in the Clondalkin area from 01/01/2020 to 06/05/2020 is 163, broken down by offence in Table below.

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **OFFENCE** | **NO. OF FINES ISSUED** |
| 06A Vehicle committing an offence contrary to Pay & Display/Permit Parking Area Regulations | 95 |
| 06Z Vehicle committing an offence contrary to Pay & Display/Permit Parking Area Regulations | 29 |
| 08A Parking a vehicle on a footway | 18 |
| 042 Parking a vehicle on a double yellow line | 11 |
| 041 Parking a vehicle on a single yellow line during a prohibited time | 5 |
| 10A Vehicle committing an offence contrary to Pay & Display/Permit Parking Area Regulations | 1 |
| 04B Parking a vehicle on a roadway with less than 3 lanes where there is a continuous white line | 1 |
| 9C Not parking a vehicle within the limits of a parking bay | 1 |
| 04G Parking a non-goods vehicle in a goods vehicle loading bay | 1 |
| 04M Parking a vehicle within 15 meters of pedestrian crossing (approach side) or 5 meters on the other side | 1 |
| **Grand Total** | **163** |

### **C/133/20 – (Q6) Item ID: 66020 – Ninth Lock Road**

Proposed by Councillor F. Timmons

"To ask the Chief Executive for an update report into the serious bad condition of the road at the entrance to Cappaghmore on the Ninth Lock Road? To include Who caused the damage? and when will it be repaired?"

**REPLY:**

The works referred to involved trenching for underground services associated with a new housing development at Whitton Avenue, off the Ninth Lock Road. The works were carried out in 2019 by a private developer Greenlight Developments. As final reinstatements have not taken place, South Dublin County Council are in the process of arranging for an independent contractor to carry out the works. This will proceed when the current working restrictions are relaxed.

### **C/134/20 – (H8) Item ID: 65862 – New Works**

(No Business)

### **C/135/20 – (H9) Item ID: 65863 – Proposed Declaration of Roads to be Public Roads**

(No Business)

### **C/136/20 – (C3) Item ID: 65861 - Correspondence**

(No Business)

### **C/137/20 – (M5) Item ID:66013 – Removal of Hoardings on N7**

**Cathaoirleach's Business**

The following motion which was proposed by Councillor P. Kavanagh and seconded by Councillor F. Timmons was **WITHDRAWN** at the request of Councillors W. Carey and E. Ó Broin, with the agreement of the Members in accordance with Standing Order No. 19.

"This Area Committee agrees to contact the NTA and ask that hoardings on the N7 be removed or altered to improve visibility at the junction of Green Isle Road and Boot Road."

The following report by the Chief Executive which had been circulated, was **READ:**

“If the Motion is agreed, a letter will be issued to the NTA and when a reply is received, the Committee will be notified accordingly.”

### **C/138/20 – (M6) Item ID: 65998 – Disabled Parking Bays**

It was proposed by Councillor W. Carey and seconded by Councillor P. Kavanagh:

"That this Area Committee agrees where feasible, that people requiring the use of wheel chair accessible vehicles should be provided with marked parking bays close to their homes."

The following report by the Chief Executive which had been circulated, was **READ:**

“There are many factors which determine the suitability or otherwise of providing "Disabled Persons Parking Bays" and their location. Best practice requires that each location and application be examined on a case by case basis.

Any requests for disabled parking bays should be sent in via Membersnet and will be examined and a report brought to the Traffic Management Meeting.”

Following a contribution from Councillor P. Kavanagh, the motion was **AGREED.**

### **C/139/20 – (M7) Item ID: 66052 – Use of Electric Scooters**

It was proposed by Councillor F. Timmons and seconded by Councillor P. Kavanagh:

''That this Committee writes to the Minister for Transport and asks for an update on the use of electric scooters in Ireland, is there an update on the current review of the law regarding the use of vehicles, including electric scooters on public roads and when will the regulations be updated to allow for the use of such a critical mode of transport in Ireland's already congested towns and cities?"

The following report by the Chief Executive which had been circulated, was **READ:**

“If the Motion is agreed, a letter will be issued to the Minister for his attention and when a reply is received, the Committee will be notified accordingly.”

The motion was **AGREED** without debate.

## **Planning**

### **C/140/20 - Q7/0520 Item ID: 66000 – Houses built at Station Grove**

Proposed by Councillor William Joseph Carey

"To ask the Chief Executive to outline how much money has been spent by South Dublin County Council towards the provision of services to the site of houses built at Station Grove?

To further ask what fees have been paid to South Dublin County Council by the Developer towards the provision of services or any other development costs provided by South Dublin County Council in relation to the development of the site at Station Grove. To outline what steps the Chief Executive proposes to take to ensure that any cost to South Dublin County Council is recouped immediately from the Developer?"

**QUESTION: Councillor William Joseph Carey**

"To ask the Chief executive to outline how much money has been spent by South Dublin County Council towards the provision of services to the site of houses built at Station Grove?

To further ask what fees have been paid to South Dublin County Council by the Developer towards the provision of services or any other development costs provided by South Dublin County Council in relation to the development of the site at Station Grove. To outline what steps the Chief Executive proposes to take to ensure that any cost to South Dublin County Council is recouped immediately from the Developer?"

 **REPLY:**

**Planning Ref:** SD05A/0125

**Applicant:** Sean Cleary

**Location of Development:** 5 Station Road, Clondalkin

**Description of Development:**

*9 residential units, comprising of 4 no. 2 and a half storey three-bedroom semi-detached houses and 5 no. 2 and a half storey three-bedroom terraced houses, each consisting of dormer window, roof light, front and rear garden.  The units will be connected to the main sewer and accessed via Station Road.  210m.sq. of public open space and 15 parking spaces will be provided on same lands.*

The following financial conditions were imposed to the grant of permission.

**CONDITION 18**

'The developer shall pay the sum of €85,096.00 (eighty five thousand  and ninety six euro)  (updated at the time of payment in accordance with changes in the Tender Price Index) to South Dublin County Council as a contribution towards expenditure in respect of public infrastructure and facilities benefiting development in the area of the planning authority and that is provided, or that it is intended will be provided, by or on behalf of the County Council as provided for in the Contribution Scheme for the County made by the Council'.  This contribution to be paid before the commencement of development on the site.

REASON:  The provision of such facilities will facilitate the proposed development.  It is considered reasonable that the payment of a contribution be required, in respect of public infrastructure and facilities benefiting development in the area of the planning authority and that is provided, or that is intended will be provided, by or on behalf of the Local Authority.

**CONDITION 19**

Before the development is commenced, the developer shall lodge with the South Dublin County Council a cash deposit of €44,436.00 (forty four thousand, four hundred and thirty six euro) , a bond of an Insurance Company of €71,106.00 (seventy one thousand one hundred and six euro), or other security to secure the provision and satisfactory completion and maintenance to taking-in-charge standard of roads, footpaths, sewers, watermains, drains, public lighting and other services required in connection with the development.

REASON: To ensure the satisfactory completion of the development.

### **C/141/20 – (Q8) Item ID: 65789 – Rathmill Meadows Rathcoole**

Proposed by Councillor T. Gilligan

"That the Chief Executive outline planning enforcement issues at lands at Rathmill Meadows, Rathcoole regarding bin storage & landscaping as per instructions from An Bord Pleanala, SD18A/0074/ABP-301727-18."

**REPLY**

The development at Rathmill Meadows, Rathcoole, Co Dublin has been the subject of two planning enforcement investigations.

The first investigation, S8292 commenced on the 17th September 2019. The matter under investigation related to condition 4 of An Bord Pleanála’s Grant of permission 301727-18. This condition required that the developer agree a landscape plan with the Council prior to commencing works. The Council agreed on a landscape plan in March 2020. As there is now an agreed landscape plan in place, the file was closed on 6th May 2020.

The second investigation, S8413, was initiated on the 17th February 2020. The matters under investigation related to conditions 1 and 3C of An Bord Pleanála’s Grant of permission 301727-18. The material issues related to the finishes of the bin storage units and the front elevation of the dwellings.

Following an inspection, the front elevations of the dwellings were found to be compliant with Condition 3C. Regarding the bin storage units, the construction materials for these were not the subject of a condition of permission nor were they specified in any of the permitted drawings. Therefore, they could not be considered to be non-compliant with condition 1. For that reason, the Council could not sustain an enforcement action and the file was closed on the 27th February.

### **C/142/20 – (Q9) Item ID: 66055 – Newcastle LAP**

Proposed by Councillor F. Timmons

"To ask the Chief Executive for a report into how the LAP agreed Market Square for Newcastle has been changed? How it was changed and why members where not consulted on this change? The Square would provided a centre for Newcastle to gather i.e Christmas etc?"

**REPLY:**

The current Newcastle Local Area Plan (LAP) includes provision for a car park adjacent to the Market Square:

*‘The Local Framework for Main Street (west) (figure 6.4) of the Newcastle LAP indicates that a small car park should be provided adjacent to Market Square.’*

A planning application (Reg. Ref. SD19A/0239) was lodged to amend the Market Square planning permission granted in 2017 on the 29th July 2019 for the following works:

*Provision of 16 additional car parking spaces to be located around the approved Market Square, as previously approved under An Bord Pleanála planning reference number PL06S.248760 (South Dublin County Council reference SD17A/0010) and all ancillary site works.*

In assessing this application, the Planning Authority considered that the proposal was acceptable in taking a balanced approach to car-parking in the area and the provision of public open space. Due consideration was also given to the requirements of the Local Area Plan and the overall provision of public open space in the LAP lands. It should also be noted that there were no observations received in relation to this application. Subsequently, the application was granted planning permission on the 23rd of September 2019.

It is considered that the modified Market Square, as well as the other future public open spaces in the area will provide a network of distinctive spaces that will offer extensive opportunities for people to gather in the Newcastle area, thereby meeting the requirements of the Newcastle LAP.

### **C/143/20 – (H10) Item ID: 65865 – New Works**

(No Business)

### **C/144/20 – (C4) Item ID: 65864 - Correspondence**

(No Business)

## **Economic Development**

### **C/145/20 – (H11) Item ID: 65867 – New Works**

(No Business)

### **C/146/20 – (C5) Item ID: 65866 - Correspondence**

[Cor 1 - Reply from Office of Public Works](http://www.sdublincoco.ie/sdcc/departments/corporate/apps/cmas/documentsview.aspx?id=66399)

## **Libraries & Arts**

### **C/147/20 – (H12) Item ID: 65869 – New Works**

(No Business)

### **C/148/20 – (H13) Item ID: 65870 – Library News & Events**

The following report was presented by Ms. B. Fennell, County Librarian:

[H-I (11) (a) Library report](http://www.sdublincoco.ie/sdcc/departments/corporate/apps/cmas/documentsview.aspx?id=66381)
[H-I(11)(b) Library Online Events](http://www.sdublincoco.ie/sdcc/departments/corporate/apps/cmas/documentsview.aspx?id=66382)

Following a discussion with contributions from Councillors P. Kavanagh and F. Timmons, the report was **NOTED.**

### **C/149/20 – (H14) Item ID: 65871 – Application for Arts Grants**

(No Business)

### **C/150/20 – (C6) Item ID: 65868 - Correspondence**

(No Business)

## **Corporate Support**

### **C/151/20 – (Q10) Item ID: 66014 – Improvement of Social Distancing**

Proposed by Councillor Peter Kavanagh

"To ask the Chief Executive if South Dublin County Council has considered measures for improving social distancing in the Clondalkin local area in line with measures carried out by other County Councils and City Councils nationwide."

**REPLY:**

The Roads Department is currently considering areas in and around Clondalkin Village for implementing measures that could help improve Social Distancing.

Public Realm have erected a large number of signs in Parks and Allotments and put one way walking loops in place in Corkagh Park (and other Parks) to assist with Social Distancing.

In the re-opening of the Clondalkin Civic Offices, consideration will be given to ensuring Social Distancing when arrangements are put in place.

### **C/152/20 – (H15) Item ID: 65873 – New Works**

(No Business)

### **C/153/20 – (C7) Item ID: 65872 - Correspondence**

[Cor 1 - Cor to Minister for Justice](http://www.sdublincoco.ie/sdcc/departments/corporate/apps/cmas/documentsview.aspx?id=66396)
[Cor 2 - Reply from Minister for Justice](http://www.sdublincoco.ie/sdcc/departments/corporate/apps/cmas/documentsview.aspx?id=66397)
[Cor 3 - Reply from Data ProtectionCommissioner](http://www.sdublincoco.ie/sdcc/departments/corporate/apps/cmas/documentsview.aspx?id=66398)
[Cor 5 Letter to Min. for Justice Equality - Sept 2019](http://www.sdublincoco.ie/sdcc/departments/corporate/apps/cmas/documentsview.aspx?id=66425)
[Cor 6 Reply from Minister for Justice Equality](http://www.sdublincoco.ie/sdcc/departments/corporate/apps/cmas/documentsview.aspx?id=66426)

The correspondence was **NOTED.**

### **C/154/20 – (M8) Item ID: 65983 – Mosaic Rocks Clondalkin**

It was proposed by Councillor F. Timmons and seconded by Councillor P. Kavanagh:

"That this Committee extends its appreciation to local Resident Rachel Somers who has developed Clondalkin Rocks and that after Covid 19 the Rocks are made into a mosaic in Clondalkin to commemorate those who died and survived Covid 19."

[Clondalkin Rock Mosaic Photo](http://www.sdublincoco.ie/sdcc/departments/corporate/apps/cmas/documentsview.aspx?id=66388)

The following report by the Chief Executive which had been circulated, was **READ:**

“If the Motion is agreed, a letter will be issued to Ms. Somers and when a reply is received, the Committee will be notified accordingly.”

A discussion followed, with contributions from Councillors P. Kavanagh and F. Timmons. Mr. M. McAdam, A/Senior Executive Officer responded to the Members queries and the motion was **AGREED.**

### **C/155/20 – (M9) Item ID: 66057 – Clondalkin Rainbow Charter**

It was proposed by Councillor F. Timmons and seconded by Councillor P. Kavanagh:

"That this Area Committee requests that South Dublin County Council adopt the Clondalkin Rainbow Charter that would help create and promote fully inclusive workplaces and look at how this can be promoted throughout our county and look at launching it around Pride Week."

The following report by the Chief Executive which had been circulated, was **READ:**

“Within the Clondalkin Rainbow Charter there are five suggested areas for actions. These are:

We recognise the importance of visually sending a message that we are an LGBT+ friendly and aware place;

We proof our organisation, its policies and procedures to ensure the consideration and inclusion of the LGBT+ community in all aspects of our work;

We ensure that staff and volunteers are aware of including and welcoming members of the LGBT+ community in all our work;

We ensure that we have relevant information available for and about members of the LGBT+ community, our families and friends;

We raise awareness of the LGBT+ community among the people we work with.

South Dublin County Council has demonstrated a strong commitment to LGBTQ+ equality and the LGBTQ+ community through a variety of actions, particularly over the past decade. Provided below is a sample of the actions that we have taken that meet the Rainbow Charter suggested areas for action:

The Pride Flag is flown over County Hall and Civic Offices Clondalkin in recognition of Pride Week each June.

The Transgender Pride Flag was flown on Tuesday, 31st March, 2020 in recognition of International Transgender Day of Visibility 2020. The flag will be flown annually from 2020 to observe this day of visibility.

Council policies, plans and staff forms are equality proofed on an ongoing basis.

The South Dublin County Council LGBTQ+ Staff Network, was founded in October 2017 by members of staff of South Dublin County Council. Anyone who identifies on the LGBTQ+ spectrum who is directly employed by the Council is eligible to join. Membership is also open to retired and former employees. The Network provides a staff LGBTQ+ information page through the Council’s Intranet. The Council’s Equality Officer supports the Executive of the Network.

South Dublin County Council were active members of the Diversity Champions initiative and through this membership we have forged strong links with the Dublin City Council LGBT+ Staff Network.

If the motion for SDCC to adopt the Clondalkin Rainbow Charter is agreed by the Area Committee, it will be considered in the context of the Council’s Equality and Human Rights Framework which will be developed this year to meet our responsibilities under Section 42 of the Irish Human Rights and Equality Commission (IHREC) Act 2014.”

A discussion followed with a contribution from Councillor F. Timmons. Ms. C. Hurson, Senior Executive Officer responded to the Members queries and the motion was **AGREED.**

## **Performance & Change Management**

### **C/156/20 - (H16) Item ID: 65875 – New Works**

(No Business)

### **C/157/20 – (C8) Item ID: 65874 - Correspondence**

(No Business)

## **Environment**

### **C/158/20 – (H17) Item ID: 65877 – New Works**

(No Business)

### **C/159/20 – (C9) Item ID: 65876 - Correspondence**

(No Business)

### **C/160/20 – (M10) Item ID: 66001 – Illegal Dumping Bawnogue Road & Lockview Road**

It was proposed by Councillor W. Carey and seconded by Councillor P. Kavanagh:

"That this Committee agrees that the Council will put in place a strategy with additional resources to combat the very high levels of illegal dumping on the Bawnogue Road and Lockview Road including the use of mobile CCTV."

The following report by the Chief Executive which had been circulated, was **READ:**

“Litter Wardens and Waste Enforcement Officers frequently patrol this area. 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 assess the areas identified for the potential for CCTV, within the existing resources available to us.

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.”

A discussion followed with contributions from Councillors W. Carey, F. Timmons, E. Ó Broin and P. Kavanagh. Mr. M. McAdam, A/Senior Executive Officer responded to the Members and the report was **NOTED.**

## **Water & Drainage**

### **C/161/20 – (H18) Item ID: 65879 – New Works**

(No Business)

### **C/162/20 – (C10) Item ID: 65878 - Correspondence**

(No Business)

### **C/163/20 – (M11) Item ID: 65715 – Round Towers Mural**

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

"That this Area Committee supports in principle the idea from Round Towers GAA Club, Clondalkin to have an epic mural painted on the Water Tower at the top of Monastery Road, Clondalkin commemorating 135 years of the club. The initiative would be a collaboration between the Club, Clondalkin Tidy Towns and the owners of the Water Tower, South Dublin County Council. See attached photo of the Water Tower."

The following report by the Chief Executive which had been circulated, was **READ:**

“This site is currently under review by the Council.  The Water Tower situated on the site has been out of use for over 10 years and there is no plan for it to be used for water supply again.”

[WaterTower](http://www.sdublincoco.ie/sdcc/departments/corporate/apps/cmas/documentsview.aspx?id=66105)

A discussion followed with contributions from Councillors E. Ó Broin, P. Kavanagh and F. Timmons. Mr. D. Sargent, A/Senior Engineer responded to the Members queries and the motion was **AGREED.**

## **Public Realm**

### **C/164/20 – (Q11) Item ID: 65994 – Upkeep of meadow along Lock View Road**

Proposed by Councillor William Joseph Carey

"To ask the Chief Executive what works have been approved including costing for maintenance and upkeep of the Meadow along Lock View Road and what actions are been taken to further the policy of expanding our Pollinator Planting Programme here and in other parts of Clondalkin Area Committee District?"

**REPLY:**

The section of open space at Lock View Road is 8.2 hectares in size. This piece of land was identified approximately 5 years ago as an area which could benefit pollinating insects by altering the mowing regime which was in place at the time. The mowing regime was therefore changed from a 2-week cycle to an annual cut which takes place in the autumn.

The lower intensity cutting can reduce costs (and emissions) associated with more frequent maintenance, however there is still a financial outlay required to cut, gather and remove the very long grass after it is cut. This process requires specialised machinery which the Council do not own, and the Council have therefore not been able to remove grass cutting to date on this site. The maintenance practice is under review with a view to identifying and engaging a contractor to carry out the operation at some stage in the future.

While there is no pollinator planting programme per se, the main opportunity where inroads can be made by the Council and its commitment to the All-Ireland Pollinator Plan for pollinators generally depends on grass cutting regimes, where altering the timing of mowing can have huge benefits.

There are 2 categories of cutting for pollinators: 1) one-cut-a-year for large meadows and 2) areas which need to be maintained but where every second normal cut can be missed out (i.e. cutting once every 4 or 5 weeks) in order to facilitate the flowering of low-growing pollinator plants like clovers and birds-foot trefoil.

Actions to further the commitments in the All-Ireland Pollinator Plan include the expansion of managed grasslands to increase areas or identify new locations. Planting of pollinator friendly bulbs took place in Winter 2019/Spring 2020 on four roundabouts on St Cuthbert’s Road and an area opposite Scoil Nano Nagle at Ashwood. The roundabouts planted were Westbourne roundabout, Kilmahuddrick roundabout, Kilcronan roundabout & Melrose roundabout. The bulb planting was one of the winning projects under the participatory budget scheme to brighten up the Bawnogue area using flowers. The bulbs include a mix of Anemone, Chinodoxa, Fritillaria, Crocus, Hyacinthoides, Narcissus, Allium, Muscari, Nectaroscordum and Tulipa. The bulbs flowered well this year and hopefully will continue to do so each year.

### **C/165/20 – (Q12) Item ID: 66019 – Cleaning & Sweeping Regime Ninth Lock Road**

Proposed by Councillor Eoin Ó Broin

"To ask the Chief Executive what cleaning and sweeping regime the dual pedestrian and bicycle lane between the Ninth Lock Road near Cappaghmore and Fonthill Train Station is under? The litter on the lane appears not to have been removed on any occasion in 2020 by South Dublin County Council. Does the National Transport Authority or Iarnrod Éireann have any role in the upkeep of this lane? It's current state of maintenance discourages its use. This subject has been raised in January in Members Reps. ID: 1512112."

**REPLY:**

The lane in question is not maintained by South Dublin County Council.  It was constructed by Iarnrod Eireann, the land remains in their ownership and maintenance is their responsibility.  The Council will make contact with Iarnrod Eireann regarding the matter to request that they put a cleaning regime in place.

### **C/166/20 – (Q13) Item ID: 66054 – Parkrun at Corkagh Park**

Proposed by Councillor F. Timmons

"To ask the Chief Executive that as the Parkrun use Corkagh Park every Saturday morning for a 5k run/walk, anywhere from 180 to 365 runners from all over Ireland and beyond each Saturday. This is an ideal opportunity to showcase Corkagh Park to all the participants - with this in mind, would it be possible for the course to be checked on a Friday to ensure it's free from potholes (especially around the lakes) and waterlogged paths?"

**REPLY:**

The Parkrun route will be checked on a regular basis and any potholes that are identified will be filled in preparation for the run/walk.

### **C/167/20 – (Q14) Item ID: 65995 – Pollinator Friendly Bulbs**

Proposed by Councillor William Joseph Carey

To ask the Cheif Executive to outline any plan by SDCC to match actions by DCC, Fingal and Dunlaoghaire/ Rathdown Councils for the planting of pollinator friendly bulbs in line with our Pollinator Plan Planting Programme and to provide costings and commitments to achieving this goal and to further commit to providing resources for pollinator planting along our approach roads and other suitable areas.

**REPLY:**

South Dublin County Council is a signatory to the All-Ireland Pollinator Plan, which contains many actions that support pollinators. South Dublin County Council has implemented projects and initiatives of varying types in support of biodiversity, many of these actions are in partnership with community groups, local resident associations and Tidy Towns Groups, with the support and encouragement of elected members and Council Staff. Some of these projects are detailed further below. These projects are supported by South Dublin County Councils policies and plans that incorporate biodiversity and pollinator supporting criteria. SDCC's County Development Plan has policies and objectives which outline the Council’s commitment to biodiversity; in particular Chapter 8, Green Infrastructure, and Chapter 9, Heritage, Conservation, and Landscapes are particularly relevant. The Council also included actions from the National Pollinator Plan within the adopted Climate Change Action Plan; (please see actions listed under 'nature based solutions'). The Council’s Heritage Plan also supports biodiversity and the Councils Tree Management Policy 'Living with Trees' puts the management of trees within a structure that supports the retention and expansion of the Councils tree canopy as well as encouraging the planting of native tree species. A Biodiversity Action Plan will also be completed later this year.

The main action undertaken by the Council that benefits pollinators involves a restructuring of mowing patterns and timings. This reduced frequency of grass cutting allows wildflowers to flower and set seed, providing additional opportunities for pollinating insects which are currently challenged by habitat loss and chemical usage. South Dublin County Council have audited some of these wildflower meadows with insect surveys and they display a wide variety of insect life, in some cases quite rare species have been discovered (reference Tymon Park). In order to create the wildflower meadows; altered mowing regimes have been in place in a number of the Council’s larger parks for the benefit of pollinators and biodiversity for a number of years; commencing with 13 separate areas in Tymon Park totalling 18 ha and 3 areas along the Dodder Valley Park totalling 5 ha. These areas were chosen for their particular soil types, the nature of their botanical composition, and their contribution to the amenity enjoyment of these parks. In 2019 these areas of wild flower meadowland were increased to 90 hectares; at various locations within our parks across the county and this is maintained for 2020.

This has proven to be a popular and highly successful action; with orchids in the thousands being counted. The use of the 'Managed for Biodiversity' signs assisted with spreading the message and the results have in general been positive. Most residents supported the initiative and requests were received that other areas also be looked at for similar reduced mowing for 2020 with much positive comment and feedback being received from members of the public.

It is intended to carry out ecological surveys in 2020 in these meadows and evaluate our success to date in terms of supporting insects and wildlife. This will allow us to also evaluate other locations for this reduced mowing approach. These wildflower meadows are highly important for pollinators as a lot of the meadowland species are native or naturalised and support local pollinators. Within the Clondalkin LEA there are a total of 23 hectares where grassland mowing is being managed this way. Corkagh Park accounts for the largest number of sites (8 No @ 8.72 ha) followed by Rathcoole Park (6 No @ 4.31 ha). The site adjacent to the Grand Canal in Bawnogue is approximately 8 hectares. Rathcoole Park was particularly commended for the presence of orchids within the meadowland during the summer of 2019.

South Dublin County Council has also implemented a maintenance regime to control Invasive Alien Species for the past 4 years; this innovative and proactive approach puts SDCC at the forefront of control of Invasive Alien Species. While this action is not within the pollinator plan it does support nature based actions to address Climate Change and is an important measure in supporting Ireland's' native ecology (which in turn supports pollinators).

Bulb planting also has a part to play and SDCC planted bulbs in the open space at Rockfield Drive / Boot Road in 2018 following liaison with the local residents association and this area has flowered well in recent years. One of the winning projects in the Clondalkin Participatory Budget scheme brightened up the Bawnogue area using flowers and this afforded an opportunity to plant pollinator friendly bulbs on four roundabouts on St Cuthbert’s Road and an area opposite Scoil Nano Nagle at Ashwood. Planting was carried out in Winter 2019/Spring 2020 and the roundabouts planted are at Westbourne, Kilmahuddrick, Kilcronan & Melrose. The bulbs which flowered well this year will continue to do so each year.

The options of planting additional areas with pollinator friendly bulbs at other location in the county will be examined having regard to the availability of the necessary resource.

### **C/168/20 – (H19) Item ID: 65881 – New Works**

(No Business)

### **C/169/20 – (C11) Item ID: 65880 - Correspondence**

(No Business)

### **C/170/20 – (M12) Item ID: 66012 – Biodiversity areas in Clondalkin**

**Cathaoirleach's Business**

It was proposed by Councillor P. Kavanagh and seconded by Councillor F. Timmons:

"This Area Committee agrees that the areas in Clondalkin being managed for biodiversity be increased, and ask that a report be compiled with suitable areas not currently being managed for biodiversity marked out for consideration."

The following report by the Chief Executive which had been circulated, was **READ:**

“There are 22 locations in the Clondalkin LEA where the grass cutting regime has been adapted to enhance biodiversity having regard to the National Pollinator Plan. There are approximately 23 hectares set aside of which Corkagh Park accounts for the largest number of sites (8 No @ 8.72 ha) followed by Rathcoole Park (6 No @ 4.31 ha). The site adjacent to the Grand Canal in Bawnogue is approximately 8 hectares.

In 2019 a new site was added in Clondalkin Park following agreement with Clondalkin Tidy Towns and additional sites were added in Corkagh Park. The management of these sites requires a change to mowing practices where the intensive regular mowing is reduced to an annual cut. The lower intensity cutting can reduce costs (and emissions) associated with more frequent maintenance, however there is still a financial outlay required to cut, gather and remove the very long grass after it is cut. This process requires specialised machinery which the Council do not own, and the Council have therefore engaged a contractor in the past to undertake this works. Not all sites are currently managed this way, and in some locations, the grass is not collected after cutting. This is counterproductive and needs to be resolved.

At this stage it is not proposed to increase the number of managed sites in the County. Some areas may not be suitable for growing meadows due to high fertility and we need to learn from this before expanding further. It is planned to survey existing sites and learn from what is happening. In addition, the current maintenance practice is under review with the intention of developing a comprehensive management system to look after all existing sites.”

A discussion followed with contributions from Councillors P. Kavanagh, F. Timmons and E. Ó Broin. Mr. D. Fennell, Senior Executive Parks Superintendent responded to the Members queries, and the motion was **AGREED.**

### **C/171/20 – (M13) Item ID: 65740**

Proposed by Councillor T. Gilligan

"That the Chief Executive outline any updates about Clondalkin Celtic to use St. Cuthbert’s Park to keep a presence in the Park."

In the absence of Councillor T. Gilligan, the motion **FELL.**

### **C/172/20 – (M14) Item ID: 66018 – Biodiversity Policy**

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

"That this Area Committee agrees to write to all primary, secondary and third level institutions in the LEA encouraging them to consider SDCC biodiversity policy when deciding their respective grass cutting regimes between now and the reopening of these institutions. Given that these institutions are closed until then, an opportunity has arisen to experiment with different approaches to grass cutting that give consideration to biodiversity."

The following report by the Chief Executive which had been circulated, was **READ:**

“We are not currently in a position to post out physical letters to every school and we do not know if all schools are monitoring their post. The most efficient way to contact schools would be by email. We have email addresses for all the registered Green Schools in the County – 138 of 147 schools.

The owners of those email addresses varies from the Green Schools Co-Ordinators to school secretaries. Some of them are school accounts while others are private email addresses and we don’t know for sure who is still checking their emails. So while we will arrange for an email to be sent, it will be difficult to gauge the uptake.

We will also raise awareness by way of Social Media posts, which Councillors and members of the public could assist with by forwarding and spreading the information.”

A discussion followed with contributions from Councillors E. Ó Broin and P. Kavanagh. Mr. M. McAdam, A/Senior Executive Officer responded to the Members queries, and the motion was **AGREED.**

### **C/173/20 – (M15) Item ID: 66053 – Rathcoole Athletics Club**

It was proposed by Councillor F. Timmons and seconded by Councillor P. Kavanagh:

"That this Committee supports Rathcoole Athletics Club request for a 400m running track. This could be around the GAA pitch or on the site Irish Water is on at the minute. We ask for a cost report and assessment for discussion by this Committee."

The following report by the Chief Executive which had been circulated, was **READ:**

“The Council have assessed the proposal and a 400m running track is not feasible at the current time. A 400m running track would not fit around the existing GAA pitch to the south and, at the location of the Irish Water works in the north of the park, 2 grass pitches previously existed here. A local club, who were previously licenced to these pitches, were accommodated at pitches elsewhere in the county at considerable inconvenience to themselves. It was always the intention, and commitments have been made to ensure the pre-existing pitches were re-instated at this location and ensure the continued provision of facilities previously available in the area.

Irish Water, after much negotiations with SDCC, have recently agreed to construct 2 new pitches to compensate for the removal of the 2 pitches that previously existed at this location; 1 of these pitches will be a full-sized pitch.  Installing a 400m running track at this location would remove the possibility of installing a full-sized grass pitch and reduce the capacity of Rathcoole Park to 2 small sized grass pitches. The Council's Sports Pitch Strategy recently presented to the Council shows that the Council have a deficit of grass pitches available in the west of the county and cannot afford to lose the possibility of a full-sized pitch at this location.

Recent costs for design and construction of a 400m running track include:

Upgrade of a grit running track to full Artificial Surface: €550,000

Provision of a grass running track: €300,000

Please note the above costs were for sites that were chosen due to their predominately level surfaces and / or previously existing surfaces. The site referred to at Rathcoole Park is not a level one so additional costs would be incurred in terms to site levelling / soil removal etc.

If Rathcoole Athletics Club wish to contact public realm to discuss availing of Council owned sports facilities in our parks they may do so at publicrealm@sdublincoco.ie

Following contributions from Councillors F. Timmons, P. Kavanagh and E. Ó Broin, the report was **AGREED.**

The meeting concluded at 5.10pm

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 **Cathaoirleach**