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

Minutes of South Dublin County Council September 2020 County Council Meeting held on Monday 14 September 2020

**PRESENT**

**PRESENT**

|  |  |  |
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| **Councillors** |  | **Councillors** |
| Bailey, C. |  | Lawlor, B. |
| Carey, W. |  | Mahon, K. |
| Casserly, V. |  | McCrave, L. |
| Collins, Y. |  | McMahon, R. |
| Costello, T. |  | McManus, D. |
| Donaghy, L. |  | Moynihan, S. |
| Duff, M. |  | Murphy, E. |
| Dunne, L. |  | O’Brien, E. |
| Edge, A. |  | Ó Broin, E |
| Egan, K. |  | O’Byrne, C. |
| Fay, S. |  | O’Connell, G. |
| Gilligan, T. |  | O’Donovan, D. |
| Gogarty, P. |  | O’Toole, L. |
| Hayes, A. |  | Pereppadan, B. |
| Holohan, P. |  | Sinclair, L. |
| Johansson, M. |  | Timmons, F. |
| Kavanagh, P. |  | Tuffy, J. |
| Kearns, P. |  |  |
|  |  |  |

**OFFICIALS PRESENT**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Chief Executive | D. McLoughlin.  |
| Directors/ Heads of FunctionHead of Finance | F. Nevin, T. Walsh, M. Mulhern, C. Ward. R. FitzGerald. |
| Senior Executive OfficersSenior EngineerSenior Executive Architect | C. Hurson, L. Leonard,C. Galvin.T. Pender |
| Administrative OfficersExecutive Accountant | M. Reilly A. O’Melia |
| A/Senior Staff OfficerClerical OfficerIT. Support | L. Abbey.D. Murphy.R. Saiz. |

The Mayor, Councillor E. O’Brien, presided.

Apologies were received from Councillors C. King, L. Kinsella-Colman, C. O’Connor, S. O’Hara and D. Richardson.

Senator M. Seery-Kearney was in attendance at the meeting.

As the meeting was being held in the National Basketball Arena, the Mayor, Councillor E. O’Brien, outlined the emergency exits and read out the following in relation to Covid 19 :-

It is essential that we follow the Government and HSE guidelines during this meeting.  If anyone has a positive response to any of the following questions, I request that you absent yourself immediately from the meeting:

* If you have symptoms of cough, fever, high temperature, sore throat, runny nose, breathlessness, or flu like symptoms now or in the past 14 days?
* If you have you been diagnosed with confirmed or suspected COVID-19 infection in the last 14 days?
* If you are a close contact of a person who has a confirmed or suspected case of COVID-19 in the past 14 days?
* If you have been advised by a doctor or the HSE to self-isolate at this time?

As there was no response from any member in the affirmative, the meeting proceeded. As previously agreed, the meeting would conclude after 2 hours.

**H1/0920 CONFIRMATION AND REAFFIRMATION OF MINUTES**

1. Minutes of the July Council Meeting Minutes on July 13th 2020 which had been circulated were submitted and **APPROVED** as a true record and signed in the proposition of Councillor E. O’Brien seconded by Councillor E. Murphy.

[a) - Minutes of July Council Meeting - July 13th 2020](http://www.sdublincoco.ie/sdcc/departments/corporate/apps/cmas/documentsview.aspx?id=67185)

1. Minutes of the July Special Council Meeting Minutes on July 14th 2020 which had been circulated were submitted and **APPROVED** as a true record and signed in the proposition of Councillor E. O’Brien seconded by Councillor E. Murphy.

[b) - Minutes of July Special Council Meeting - July 14th 2020](http://www.sdublincoco.ie/sdcc/departments/corporate/apps/cmas/documentsview.aspx?id=67186)

1. Minutes of the Minutes of Budget 2020 Meeting 14th November 2019 which had been circulated were submitted and **APPROVED** as a true record and signed in the proposition of Councillor E. O’Brien seconded by Councillor E. Murphy.

[c) - Minutes of Budget 2020 Meeting 14th November 2019](http://www.sdublincoco.ie/sdcc/departments/corporate/apps/cmas/documentsview.aspx?id=67187)

**H2/0920 FILLING OF CASUAL VACANCY ON SOUTH DUBLIN COUNTY COUNCIL IN ACCORDANCE WITH S.19 OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 2001 FOLLOWING THE ELECTION TO SEANAD EIREANN OF COUNCILLOR M. SEERY KEARNEY**

Outgoing Councillor Senator M. Seery Kearney addressed the chamber and thanked, staff, management and her colleagues for their help during her time as a Councillor and wished Ms. L. McCrave, the Fine Gael nominee, best wishes in her new role.

The following report by the Chief Executive, which had been circulated, was presented by Ms. C. Hurson Senior Executive Officer, Corporate Performance and Change Management, and was **CONSIDERED**:

As a result of the election of Councillor M. Seery Kearney to Seanad Éireann on Saturday 27th June 2020, a casual vacancy has occurred on South Dublin County Council (Rathfarnham-Templeogue Electoral Area).

[**Section 19 of the Local Government Act 2001**](http://www.irishstatutebook.ie/2001/en/act/pub/0037/sec0019.html) provides that a casual vacancy shall be filled by the co-option by the Local Authority of a person to fill the vacancy and such co-option shall be made at the next meeting of the local authority after the expiration of 14 days from the occurrence of the vacancy or as soon after the expiration of the 14 days as circumstances permit.

Ms. L. McCrave has been duly nominated by Fine Gael, being the registered political party who nominated Councillor M. Seery Kearney for election, and in accordance with Section 19 (5), Ms. L. McCrave's written consent to their proposed co-option has been received.

Members are required to ratify the co-option of Ms L. McCrave at today’s meeting.

[H2 (b) Fine Gael Nomination - L. McCrave](http://www.sdublincoco.ie/sdcc/departments/corporate/apps/cmas/documentsview.aspx?id=67170)
[H2 (c) Fine Gael Nomination - L. McCrave Acceptance](http://www.sdublincoco.ie/sdcc/departments/corporate/apps/cmas/documentsview.aspx?id=67169)

The report was **NOTED** and it was proposed by Councillor E. O’Brien seconded by Councillor B. Lawlor and **AGREED**

“That Ms. L. McCrave be co-opted to fill the vacancy occurring as a result of the election of Councillor M. Seery-Kearney to Seanad Éireann on Saturday 27th June 2020.”

Councillor L. McCrave gave a speech accepting her new position as a Councillor.

The Mayor, Councillor E. O’Brien, congratulated Senator M. Seery Kearney on her election to Seanad Eireann and welcomed new Councillor L. McCrave to the Council.

**H3/0920 FILLING OF CASUAL VACANCY ON SOUTH DUBLIN COUNTY COUNCIL IN ACCORDANCE WITH S.19 OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 2001 FOLLOWING THE RESIGNATION OF COUNCILLOR W. PRIESTLEY**

The following report by the Chief Executive, which had been circulated, was presented by Ms. C. Hurson, Senior Executive Officer of Corporate Performance and Change Management and was **CONSIDERED**:

As a result of the resignation of Councillor W. Priestley from South Dublin County Council on Friday 31st July 2020, a casual vacancy has occurred on South Dublin County Council (Rathfarnham-Templeogue Electoral Area).

[**Section 19 of the Local Government Act 2001**](http://www.irishstatutebook.ie/2001/en/act/pub/0037/sec0019.html) provides that a casual vacancy shall be filled by the co-option by the Local Authority of a person to fill the vacancy and such co-option shall be made at the next meeting of the local authority after the expiration of 14 days from the occurrence of the vacancy or as soon after the expiration of the 14 days as circumstances permit.

Dr. L. Donaghy has been duly nominated by the Green Party, being the registered political party who nominated Councillor W. Priestley for election, and in accordance with Section 19 (5) Dr. L. Donaghy's written consent to their proposed co-option has been received.

Members are required to ratify the co-option of Dr. L. Donaghy at today’s meeting.

[H3 (b) Letter of resignation from Councillor W. Priestley](http://www.sdublincoco.ie/sdcc/departments/corporate/apps/cmas/documentsview.aspx?id=66968)
[H3 (c) Green Party Nomination - L. Donaghy](http://www.sdublincoco.ie/sdcc/departments/corporate/apps/cmas/documentsview.aspx?id=67207)
[H3 (d) Green Party Nomination - L. Donaghy Acceptance](http://www.sdublincoco.ie/sdcc/departments/corporate/apps/cmas/documentsview.aspx?id=67204)

The report was **NOTED** and it was proposed by Councillor P. Kavanagh seconded by Councillor E. O’Brien and **AGREED**

“That Dr. L. Donaghy be co-opted to fill the vacancy occurring as a result of the resignation of Councillor W. Priestley on Friday 31st July 2020.”

Councillor L. Donaghy gave a speech accepting her new position as a Councillor.

The Mayor, Councillor E. O’Brien welcomed new Councillor L. Donaghy to the Council.

**H4/0920 STRATEGIC POLICY COMMITTEES - CHAIR VACANCY**

The following report by the Chief Executive, which had been circulated, was presented by Ms. C. Hurson, Senior Executive Officer, Corporate Performance and Change Management and was **CONSIDERED**:

A vacancy exists on the Land Use, Planning & Transportation SPC following the resignation of Councillor W. Priestley, who was subsequently disqualified from membership of this committee.

It is now a matter for this Council to fill the vacancy of Chair of the Land Use, Planning & Transportation SPC.

**Chair Vacancy on Land Use, Planning & Transportation SPC (Councillor W. Priestly)**

It was proposed by Councillor E. O’Brien, seconded by Councillor P. Kavanagh and **AGREED** that Councillor L. Sinclair be appointed Chair of the Land Use, Planning and Transportation SPC to fill the vacancy occurring as a result of the resignation of Councillor W. Priestley on Friday 31st July 2020.

**H5/0920 REPORTS OF AREA COMMITTEES**

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

**H6/0920 STANDING COMMITTEES ORGANISATION, PROCEDURE & FINANCE**

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

**H7/0920 STRATEGIC POLICY COMMITTEES**

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

**H8/0920 REPORTS REQUESTED BY AREA COMMITTEES**

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

**H9/0920 REPORT FROM JOINT POLICING COMMITTEE**

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

**Report of the South Dublin County Council Joint Policing Committee Meeting held 10am on Friday 3rd July 2020 via Microsoft TEAMS**

**In attendance** Cllr. Emma Murphy (Chair), Cllr. Ed O Brien, Cllr. Mick Duff, Cllr. Louise Dunne, Cllr Baby Pereppadan, Cllr Shane Moynihan, Cllr/Deirdre O’Donovan, Cllr Eoin O’ Broin, Cllr. Liona O’Toole, Cllr Yvonne Collins, Emer Meighan, Michael Noonan, Gemma Carton, Colm Ward, Chief Superintendent Peter Duff, Chief Superintendent Finbarr Murphy

**Apologies:** Noreen Byrne

**Present**: Superintendent Ian Lackey, Brian Hora

In the absence of the Chair, Cllr. E. Murphy at the start of the meeting, Cllr S. Moynihan chaired the meeting.

Cllr S Moynihan began the meeting by offering condolences to family of Detective Garda Colm Horkan and to An Garda Siochana. A moments silence was observed by the Committee.

**1. Report of Meeting held on the 31st January 2020**

Minutes of the meeting held on 31st January 2020 were circulated and noted. Proposed by Cllr. S, Moynihan and seconded by Cllr M. Duff.

**2. Matters arising**

None.

**3. Correspondence**

 Correspondences regarding resourcing Local Policing Fora received from the Minister for Justice, Equality and Law Reform and the Policing Authority were circulated and noted.

**4. Governance**

B. Hora outlined in the governance report steps taken to invite members of the Oireachtas to join the South Dublin Joint Policing Committee. He advised there are 5 vacancies and the following Oireachtas members had formally expressed interest: Mark Ward TD; Emer Higgins TD; Paul Murphy TD & John Lahart TD.  It was also noted that former Cllr. Mary Seery Kearney was also interested in remaining on the committee and is expected to formally express interest.

The report was noted.

At this point Cllr. E. Murphy joined the meeting and thanked Cllr S. Moynihan for chairing the start of the meeting in her absence.

**5. Garda Síochána Reports**

Reports from An Garda Siochana were circulated to the members of the Committee in advance of the meeting.  Chief Superintendent Peter Duff gave statistical report for Tallaght and Rathfarnham. Chief Superintendent Finbarr Murphy gave statistical reports for Clondalkin, Lucan and Rathcoole.

Cllrs. D. O’Donovan, L. Dunne, M. Duff, L. O'Toole, S. Moynihan, E. O'Brien & and E. Meighan & M.Noonan made contributions on the Garda Reports in relation to:

* Praising the work of An Garda Siochana, and particularly Community Gardai, during COVID -19
* Concerns over public order issues in Dodder Valley Park, anti-social behaviour in Killinarden, drug issues in the Moyglass area and generally about anti-social behaviour in the summer months
* Concerns over nitrous oxide use and querying if specific legislative powers are needed to deal with same
* Community Garda for Firhouse
* Concerns over house parties and breaches of public health guidelines
* Welcoming the proactive approach from An Garda Siochana to domestic incidents but noting concerns over domestic violence and impact on children and querying if domestic violence figures captured coercive control or financial control from child to parent
* Welcoming positive news in relation to detection of drugs offences and querying if increased detections was as a result of COVID 19 checkpoints
* Concerns over use of scramblers
* Requested an update on the LFP reply (noted under correspondence) before the next Joint Policing Committee meeting
* Noted to work of the Gardai in detecting drug related offences and suggestion that consideration be given to invite Minister for Drugs to meet the Committee.

In reply to the queries raised by the members of the Committee, Supt. I. Lackey. and Chief Supts. P. Duff and F. Murphy responded in relation to:

* nitrous oxide and importance of education and awareness of the dangers for personal use and that the issue of nitrous oxide is being examined nationally
* domestic violence arrest policy and training for Gardai on how to respond
* child protection and confirmed TUSLA referral automatically made and dedicated Child Protection Unit is in place
* Community Gardai and focus on responding to anti-social behaviour and policing anti-social behaviour in parks
* Intelligence gathered during COVID -19 checkpoints in detecting drugs offences
* Domestic violence and increased awareness of coercive control especially in relation to older people

**6. LPF Reports**

The LPF report was circulated to the members of the Committee. B Hora updated the Committee on LFP vacancies to be filled and the process for seeking representation on the Ballyfermott LPF if agreed by the Committee and responded to members questions.

He also advised the Committee of a request from Noreen Byrne that the Agenda Planning Group consider having a presentation at a future Joint Policing Committee Meeting on research currently underway on Safety & Inclusivity in North Clondalkin.

The report was agreed.

**7. Any Other Business**

* Cllr. S. Moynihan asked if Clondalkin Drug and Alcohol Taskforce can nominate an alternate representative to the Committee
* Cllr. Y. Collins required Garda resources in Rathfarnham. Superintendent I. Lackey advised that 6 no. additional Gardai were assigned to Rathfarnham
* Cllr. O’Toole requested a map of the Garda districts
* Cllr O’ Donovan queried when the Tallaght LPF will be reconvened. C. Ward advised this will be taken up with the LFP Coordinator and a date fixed

Schedule of Meeting was circulated and noted.

C. Ward asked the Committee to consider the timing of future meetings and that views will be collated prior to the next meeting.

The meeting ended at 12 noon.

Councillor E. Murphy gave an update from the Joint Policing Committee.

 The report was **NOTED.**

**QUESTIONS**

It was proposed by Councillor E. O’Brien, seconded by Councillor M. Duff and **RESOLVED**:

“That pursuant to Standing Order No. 13, Questions numbered Q1 – Q38 be **ADOPTED** and **APPROVED.”**

 **Q1/0920 QUESTIONS: Councillor Carly Bailey**

To ask the Chief Executive to publish a list of all bike parking stands in the county and make this information available to the public.

**REPLY:**

There is a significant amount of cycle infrastructure located throughout the county in / on both private and public property. This infrastructure includes bicycle parking stands, bicycle maintenance stands and bicycle lockers.

The infrastructure is provided on footpaths in our towns and villages, in carparks, in public parks, on school grounds, at public service buildings incl libraries, community centres etc and a significant additional number of bike parking stands are soon to be installed as part of the July Job Stimulus.

Cycle infrastructure is available in the following public parks and open spaces

Waterstown Park,

Lucan Demesne,

Rathfarnham Castle park,

Stocking well Playgrounds,

Tymon park north (beside the car park) and Tymon Park (Wellington car park),

Ballycragh playground (4 no. beside the community centre),

Woodstown

While there is not a current collective list of cycle infrastructure that can be published it is intended to complete a full audit of all cycle infrastructure across the county as part of the Cycle South Dublin project    The definitive list will be made available when complete.

**Q2/0920 QUESTIONS: Councillor Carly Bailey**

To ask the Chief Executive as to whether SDCC has joined Dublin City Council in a review of into the operations of Ashton Dog Pound, which is also currently under Garda investigation for the alleged improper use of veterinary drugs at the facility and would he care to make a statement on the matter. The contract between SDCC and this facility expires at the end of the year. Can the Chief Executive advise what is the contingency plan if the facility is found not to be to standard. Can the Chief Executive please advise whether animals are being brought to this facility while Gardaí investigate and what actions have been taken if any to satisfy SDCC that animal welfare is guaranteed.

**REPLY:**

The Control of Dogs Act 1986, [**Section 15(2)**](http://www.irishstatutebook.ie/eli/1986/act/32/section/15/enacted/en/html#sec15) provides for the establishment and maintenance of *"one or more shelters for dogs seized, accepted or detained under any of the provisions of this Act"* and authorises the local authority to *"enter into arrangements with any person for the provision and maintenance of such shelters and for the exercise by such person of the functions of the local authority under this Act, in respect of the acceptance, detention, disposal and destruction of stray and unwanted dogs"*

South Dublin County Council employs two full time Dog Wardens. Ashton Dog Pound and Warden Service provides the Council with a Dog Pound Service.

The existing contract continues to be monitored and reviewed as part of contract management and oversight. Policies and procedures are regularly reviewed, most recently relating to maintaining services during Covid 19 and lockdown and any required changes to protocols for health and safety purposes.

The contract provides for services to South Dublin County Council including:

* Acceptance of surrendered dogs
* Managing reclaims
* Rehoming in accordance with policy
* Monthly reports to SDCC
* Notify Dog Warden of surrendered or seized dogs detained by Gardaí
* Access for Council representatives at any time

The pound is regularly inspected by Council staff. In addition, the Council’s veterinary Inspectors carry out regular unannounced inspections, at least monthly. To date in 2020, eight such inspections have been carried out. None of these inspections have revealed any issues regarding the welfare of dogs in the pound. Improvements to the facilities have been carried out during the current contract and have been documented.

Ashton Pound Service has an excellent working relationship with the DSPCA, and any dogs taken into the Pound which require veterinary care are treated by the DSPCA. 24-hour access to veterinary care is provided for all dogs in the Pound. The pound operator works with the public and several rescue groups to achieve a high level of rehoming. In 2019 94% of stray, abandoned or unwanted dogs from the South Dublin Administrative Area were either reclaimed by their owner or rehomed.

Ongoing training for Pound staff and Council staff is provided through several sources including attending training seminars and conferences arranged by the Department of Agriculture with updates on legislative changes and through liaison with other Local Authorities Dog Warden services.

The sum of €457,700 is provided in the 2020 adopted annual budget for expenditure in respect of Control of Dogs activities, of which approximately €137,500 is provided for the provision of the pound services outlined above.

The Contract between South Dublin County Council and Ashton Dog Pound and Warden Service expires on 31st December 2020. Prior to this expiry date the Council proposes to go to tender for the provision of Pound Services for the South Dublin administrative area.

An Garda Síochána are currently carrying out an investigation in relation to allegations made in relation to certain aspects of Pound Operations and the Council is not therefore in a position to comment on specifics in relation to Pound operations which may prejudice these investigations.

**Q3/0920 QUESTIONS: Councillor Carly Bailey**

To ask the Chief Executive whether pocket forests of native broadleaf trees are being considered for the county and if so to ask for more information on this plan and to ask that engagement with communities be sought to seek collaboration with SDCC on a very worthwhile and rewarding project.

**REPLY:**

Pocket forests area mini urban forests of native woodland planted using a method invented by a Japanese botanist, Miyawaki in the 1970s . The forests located in small areas – 100 square metres – grow very quickly and act as an oasis for biodiversity.

The Council have received a request from a local community group regarding examining the possibility of using this method in the parks.

The Council’s tree management strategy for the period 2015 to 2020 ‘Living with trees’ is being reviewed at present and will be replaced with a new policy document from 2021.  The strategy currently deals with the planting and maintenance of trees in on-street locations, it does not consider trees in park or urban woodland settings.  These areas will be included in the scope of the review of the strategy and will form part of the new strategy.  Work is due to be carried out to establish the extent of existing woodlands in SDCC ownership, these areas will be mapped in the strategy and this will help to identify areas where there is potential for urban woodlands to be extended or newly developed. The concept will be examined in this context and also as part of developing greater biodiversity and amenity value along the Green Infrastructure of the County.

**Q4/0920 QUESTIONS: Councillor Yvonne Collins**

To ask the Chief Executive what supports are available at Council level to support and assist older people who have lost their jobs, particularly those who were self employed, to return to work. There is a perceived bias in employment terms against those in their fifties or older who find themselves having to start again despite having worked hard all their lives.

**REPLY:**

There is close collaboration between SDCP, LEO and South Dublin Library Service with regard to our supports and services offering for older people seeking employment and self-employed people seeking to return to work or indeed set up new business opportunities.

Looking at the Enterprise and Employment supports from SDCP they include the following :-

Local Employment Services (LES) can offer **one to one guidance supports** as well as potentially accessing a **€500 training allowance** per person per year under Local Employment Services mediation funding for further training to enhance the job prospects.

The Job Club offers a structured work preparation programme which includes career planning, job application assistance and mock interview support.

South Dublin County Partnership’s **SICAP** enterprise and employment team can provide Information on **employment or self employment options locally** including

Ø  part-time and full-time job opportunities

Ø  part-time work placements in your local community with training supports on **TUS** and **CE**

Ø  advice on setting up your own business and assistance with accessing grant supports

Ø  We offer a range of **job preparation supports** including: employment training, CV preparation and interview skills

In addition South Dublin Public Library service provides free and Open access to:

* Stock (including a wide range of business books)
* Online Courses (Free access to Universal Class-offering 500 online continuing education courses)
* High Quality Broadband and Wifi
* Print and scanning facilities
* Online Reference Resources including business.ie (a database of over 130 000 company records) Press Reader (allowing access to hundreds of international papers) and much more.

The South Dublin Public Library service is also are part of WM programme (Work Matters) - where they work with 4 stakeholders to provide support and information to people out of work/entrepreneurs/ people who wish to upskill.

Branches regularly provide free talks/workshops in this area e.g.  How to update your CV/ Interview preparation/ Creating your website etc.

Many of our branches have rooms which are available for booking by business groups. Three library branches have IT rooms where computer classes can be provided.

Local Enterprise Office offers training and mentoring supports to all self employed who wish to upskill or those who may be exploring the opportunity of setting up a new or first time business. LEO financial supports are open to all individuals who have a business idea which meet the basic criteria and are deemed eligible activities.

Brief overview of financial supports together with details on eligibility criteria and application process can be accessed at <https://www.localenterprise.ie/SouthDublin/Financial-Supports/>

**Q5/0920 QUESTIONS: Councillor Yvonne Collins**

To ask the Chief Executive if there are plans to consider planting tracts of open grassland with a series of pocket sized forests, consisting exclusively of a wide range of native shrubs and trees, so as to provide contiguous forest stepping stones for wild life, in effect, a nature corridor superimposed upon and enhancing the existing green infrastructure.

**REPLY:**

Pocket forests area mini urban forests of native woodland planted using a method invented by a Japanese botanist, Miyawaki in the 1970s . The forests located in small areas – 100 square metres – grow very quickly and act as an oasis for biodiversity.

The Council have received a request from a local community group regarding examining the possibility of using this method in the parks.

The Council’s tree management strategy for the period 2015 to 2020 ‘Living with trees’ is being reviewed at present and will be replaced with a new policy document from 2021.  The strategy currently deals with the planting and maintenance of trees in on-street locations, it does not consider trees in park or urban woodland settings.  These areas will be included in the scope of the review of the strategy and will form part of the new strategy.  Work is due to be carried out to establish the extent of existing woodlands in SDCC ownership, these areas will be mapped in the strategy and this will help to identify areas where there is potential for urban woodlands to be extended or newly developed. The concept will be examined in this context and also as part of developing greater biodiversity and amenity value along the Green Infrastructure of the County.

**Q6/0920 QUESTIONS: Councillor Teresa Costello**

To ask the Chief Executive for details on how the Council proposed to deal with bonfires across the county this year, what plans have been made and what contacts have been made with Garda to co-ordinate services

**REPLY:**

The Council has always recognised the difficulties that Halloween causes for many communities through the illegal burning of waste on Halloween bonfires, the damage to local amenities, and the threat to property and local services.

In line with previous years the Council will adopt a cross departmental approach, utilising the services of Public Realm, Waste Enforcement, Environmental Awareness, Library Service, Housing and Community Services Departments to prevent damage and promote the “Safe Halloween” message. The Council's response to Halloween in 2020 will involve the following:

* Various awareness measures to highlight the dangers associated with bonfires and the harm done to the environment,
* Action by the Council's Environmental Licensing and Enforcement Section to deal with commercial premises and their obligations to properly store their waste including aerial surveys,
* The Public Realm response to remove stockpiles of bonfire materials will commence as soon as necessary most likely in September,
* Liaison with An Garda Siochana with regard to action being taken by them and by the Council in relation to this matter,
* Liaison with local residents groups who can help to identify the locations of material stockpiles,
* Implementation of the ‘bulbs not bonfires’ scheme
* The social credits scheme will once again facilitate groups who are registered on the scheme with the disposal of materials at the Council's civic amenity site in Ballymount, and this will help to reduce the amount of materials being handed over for bonfires.

**Q7/0920 QUESTIONS: Councillor Teresa Costello**

To ask the Chief Executive to confirm if the Council has ceased using glyphosate based products to remove weeds. Furthermore to ask what is being used as a replacement and has this had any impact on Council work practices of the removal of weeds.

**REPLY:**

South Dublin County Council carries out weed control in connection with its grass cutting, road sweeping and village cleaning and maintenance operations. The elected members of the Council passed a motion in May 2017 banning any use of glyphosate in or close to public parks, public playgrounds and public gardens.  This ban has been implemented by Public Realm Operations since its adoption.  Where the use of glyphosate based weed killer is not permitted in the locations mentioned the Council utilises alternative methods of weed control and these range from identifying areas where weed control can cease completely to utilising other methods such as weed removal by hand.  In addition, trials have been carried out on the use of non-glyphosate based weed killer, however the results obtained have not been considered a success.  SDCC staff have also attended trials on the use of hot foam and hot water-based weed control techniques carried out by other local authorities, however while these techniques may be suitable for confined areas they have been deemed to be not suitable for the purpose of public realm maintenance on a large scale.

Weed control along public roads, footpaths and in roadside margins presents a specific problem due to the nature of the task at hand.  The Council maintains close to 1,000km of roads including main roads, housing estate roads and industrial estate roads.  Labour intensive methods of weed control are not appropriate to this task, such is the volume of work involved.  The Council's road sweeping contractor, Oxigen Environmental, therefore continues to use a glyphosate-based weed killer to deliver the weed control element of their contract. The contractors staff engaged in this work are required to be highly trained in the task, are required to use the appropriate equipment including PPE and are also required to be registered with the Dept of Agriculture as a professional user of pesticides in accordance with the Sustainable Use Directive. The Council meets regularly in relation to the provision of services under this contract and monitors all relevant matters including the weed control element of the contract.

It would therefore not be currently feasible to omit use of glyphosate from all future contracts, though this Council will continue in its efforts to reduce the use of glyphosate in its weed control operations and in keeping with the National Pollinator and National Biodiversity Plans.

**Q8/0920 QUESTIONS: Councillor Teresa Costello**

To ask the Chief Executive since the last review of countrywide speed limits in built up area's and the introduction of "Slow Zone" "Children at Play" Signs in 2017, how many requests have been received for additional Children at Play & Slow Down signs where residents feel due to speeding in estates or areas where signage is absent that more signage is necessary. Furthermore can I get clarification on how a decision to refuse a request for signage is reached.

**REPLY:**

In general, the Council receives very few requests for Children at Play signs.

In 2017 the speed limits for every residential scheme in the County was revised to 30kph zones.  At the same time the Council reviewed and implemented a number of special periodic 30kph zones in the vicinity of schools.

The Council cannot declare 30 kph slow zones where roads are not Taken In Charge (TIC) but have introduced slow zones 30kph areas into Planning discussions and Permission.

Requests for signage is considered on a case by case basis and in general additional signage is not provided where there are already signs at entrances to estates.

**Q9/0920 QUESTIONS: Councillor M. Duff**

Could the Chief Executive to give a report clarifying the procedures that potential tenants of Approved Housing Bodies have to follow to secure Rent Allowance and the procedure for existing tenants of AHBs that require an increased Rent Allowance if their income circumstances change, due to conflicting information and advice, given to tenants and potential tenants from the DEASP and SDCC Housing officers.

**REPLY:**

The level of rent set for an Approved Housing Body (AHB) tenancy, and therefore the nature of potential supports in that regard, is generally determined by how the individual property was funded.  In effect this means that where a specific property has been funded by a private funding mechanism (and not public funding), the tenancy of that property may be considered for Housing Assistance Payment (HAP) support and all necessary details will be provided by the relevant AHB to support the application for HAP to the Council.  Any queries from applicants in relation to HAP applications are dealt with by the Council's HAP team.

Where public funding has been used to provide a specific property, the tenant(s) of such a property may be eligible for rent supplement.  However, rent supplement applications and the processes for approval for same are managed by the Department of Employment Affairs and Social Protection and accordingly all enquiries should be directed to that Department.

**Q10/0920 QUESTIONS: Councillor M. Duff**

Could the Chief Executive to make a report regarding the situation where tenants of Approved Housing Bodies are complaining that they are being ignored when they inform the AHB about serious Anti Social behaviour in their apartment complex and believe that they have no recourse for a response to the complaints. Is there a mechanism available to these tenants to take their complaints directly to SDCC Anti Social officers if they continue to be ignored by the AHB?

**REPLY:**

All reports in relation to anti-social behaviour affecting tenants of an Approved Housing Body (AHB) should be reported in the first instance to the Housing Officer of the relevant AHB.  There are well established and good working relationships between the Council's estate management/anti-social behaviour teams and their counterparts in AHBs strongly supported by ongoing liaison with local Gardai in relation to anti-social behaviour affecting tenants.

No details or specific evidence has been provided to the Council regarding AHB Housing Officers not fulfilling their duties towards their tenants or in any way ignoring their tenants' complaints - any such details can be provided to our estate management team and will be raised at a high-level with the AHB concerned where necessary.

**Q11/0920 QUESTIONS: Councillor Alan Edge**

To ask the Chief Executive if he is aware whether samples from the South Dublin region are being included in the ongoing UCD research project to monitor sewage discharge points for advanced warning of covid-19?
<https://www.rte.ie/news/ireland/2020/0609/1146441-raw-sewage-covid/>

**REPLY:**

SDCC is aware of the research project.  Irish Water was contacted for further detail and the following report was received:

No specific sampling is being undertaken in the SDCC area, however, sampling is being undertaken at Ringsend WWTP where SDCC sewage is treated. This sampling is being undertaken by UCD as per below

The presence of SARS-CoV-2 in stool samples of infected individuals implies that surveillance of sewage entering wastewater treatment plants (WWTP) can be used to monitor the circulation of SARS-CoV-2 in the population. This, therefore, provides data on the effectiveness of public health-mandated measures and may potentially serve as an early warning system for its re-emergence.

**Q12/0920 QUESTIONS:** Councillor Alan Edge

How much money is paid by South Dublin County Council to privately operated dog shelters? and how frequently are inspections carried out?

**REPLY:**

The Control of Dogs Act 1986, [**Section 15(2)**](http://www.irishstatutebook.ie/eli/1986/act/32/section/15/enacted/en/html#sec15) provides for the establishment and maintenance of *"one or more shelters for dogs seized, accepted or detained under any of the provisions of this Act"* and authorises the local authority to *"enter into arrangements with any person for the provision and maintenance of such shelters and for the exercise by such person of the functions of the local authority under this Act, in respect of the acceptance, detention, disposal and destruction of stray and unwanted dogs"*

South Dublin County Council employs two full time Dog Wardens. Ashton Dog Pound and Warden Service provides the Council with a Dog Pound Service.

The existing contract continues to be monitored and reviewed as part of contract management and oversight. Policies and procedures are regularly reviewed, most recently relating to maintaining services during Covid 19 and lockdown and any required changes to protocols for health and safety purposes.

The contract provides for services to South Dublin County Council including:

* Acceptance of surrendered dogs
* Managing reclaims
* Rehoming in accordance with policy
* Monthly reports to SDCC
* Notify Dog Warden of surrendered or seized dogs detained by Gardaí
* Access for Council representatives at any time

The pound is regularly inspected by Council staff. In addition, the Council’s veterinary Inspectors carry out regular unannounced inspections, at least monthly. To date in 2020, eight such inspections have been carried out. None of these inspections have revealed any issues regarding the welfare of dogs in the pound. Improvements to the facilities have been carried out during the current contract and have been documented.

Ashton Pound Service has an excellent working relationship with the DSPCA, and any dogs taken into the Pound which require veterinary care are treated by the DSPCA. 24-hour access to veterinary care is provided for all dogs in the Pound. The pound operator works with the public and several rescue groups to achieve a high level of rehoming. In 2019 94% of stray, abandoned or unwanted dogs from the South Dublin Administrative Area were either reclaimed by their owner or rehomed.

Ongoing training for Pound staff and Council staff is provided through several sources including attending training seminars and conferences arranged by the Department of Agriculture with updates on legislative changes and through liaison with other Local Authorities Dog Warden services.

The sum of €457,700 is provided in the 2020 adopted annual budget for expenditure in respect of Control of Dogs activities, of which approximately €137,500 is provided for the provision of the pound services outlined above.

The Contract between South Dublin County Council and Ashton Dog Pound and Warden Service expires on 31st December 2020. Prior to this expiry date the Council proposes to go to tender for the provision of Pound Services for the South Dublin administrative area.

An Garda Síochána are currently carrying out an investigation in relation to allegations made in relation to certain aspects of Pound Operations and the Council is not therefore in a position to comment on specifics in relation to Pound operations which may prejudice these investigations.

**Q13/0920 QUESTIONS: Councillor M. Johansson**

To ask the Chief Executive to provide an update on Ashton Dog Pound in light of the review being held by Dublin City Council, and what action the council will take as a result?

**REPLY:**

The Control of Dogs Act 1986, [**Section 15(2)**](http://www.irishstatutebook.ie/eli/1986/act/32/section/15/enacted/en/html#sec15) provides for the establishment and maintenance of *"one or more shelters for dogs seized, accepted or detained under any of the provisions of this Act"* and authorises the local authority to *"enter into arrangements with any person for the provision and maintenance of such shelters and for the exercise by such person of the functions of the local authority under this Act, in respect of the acceptance, detention, disposal and destruction of stray and unwanted dogs"*

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An Garda Síochána are currently carrying out an investigation in relation to allegations made in relation to certain aspects of Pound Operations and the Council is not therefore in a position to comment on specifics in relation to Pound operations which may prejudice these investigations.

**Q14/0920 QUESTIONS: Councillor L. Kinsella-Colman**

To ask the Chief Executive to issue a statement on how often is the mutual transfer lists updated and how accurate is the information that is supplied as this. This is one of the only ways people can see who is interested in a mutual swap.

**REPLY:**

The current Mutual Transfer register is revised on receipt of requests for inclusion on same.  While efforts are made to keep the information on the register up to date, this is reliant on applicants notifying the Council of any change to their circumstances.

A review of the mutual transfer process including exploring an online register will be explored in conjunction with the Housing SPC after the introduction of the new Integrated Housing System later this year.

**Q15/0920 QUESTIONS: Councillor L. Kinsella-Colman**

To ask the Chief executive to produce a report detailing how many RAS tenants are in the County, how may are on RAS transfer lists, average time before transfer is realised and to make a statement on this matter?

**REPLY:**

There are currently 1,139 RAS tenancies.

There are 97 remaining applicants on the RAS Fixed Transfer List.

These applicants have access to Choice Based Letting which allows them to express interest in properties advertised each week.  A list is generated following advertisement of properties based on the Time On List of applicants.  It is not possible to give a time frame as to when they will be offered a property.

**Q16/0920 QUESTIONS: Councillor K. Mahon**

To ask the Chief Executive to please provide a list of the name of companies in the county that currently have a rateable value of above €100,000? Could company names be divided into categories as below but updated for 2020? €100,000 -€500,000. (129 accounts in 2019) €500,001 -€1 million ( 11 accounts in 2019) > €1 million ( 11 accounts in 2019)

**REPLY:**

 Commercial rates are levied on non domestic premises and are a contribution towards maintaining the county. Considering the commercial sensitivity of the information requested the Council sets out in the tables below details of commercial rates billed in excess of €100,000, the business types  in each category and breakdown for 2020.

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
|   | **Commercial Rates 2020 - Billing Bands**  |   |
|   | ***€100,001 - €500,000*** | ***€500,001 - €1,000,000*** |  ***>€1m*** |
| **Category**  |  |  |  |
| Utility/Global valuations | 5 | 2 | 6 |
| Health | 4 |   | 1 |
| Hospitality | 16 | 1 |   |
| Industrial Use | 47 | 6 | 7 |
| Leisure | 2 |   |   |
| Minerals | 1 | 1 |   |
| Retail Shop | 27 | 2 |   |
| Retail Warehouse | 9 |   |   |
| Office | 20 |   |   |
| Miscellaneous | 1 |   |   |
|   | **132** | **12** | **14** |

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| ***€100,001 - €500,000*** | 132 | 5 x utility companies |
|   |   | 4 x health sevices (nursing homes) |
|   |   | 16 x hospitality(hotels and pubs) |
|   |   | 47 x industrial use premises |
|   |   | 2 x leisure (cinemas) |
|   |   | 1 x minerals (quary) |
|   |   | 1x miscellaneous(car park) |
|   |   | 20 x office |
|   |   | 36 x retail |
| ***€500,001 - €1,000,000*** | 12 | 2 x utility companies |
|   |   | 6 x industrial use premises (4 x data centre and 2 x factory/warehouse) |
|   |   | 1 x hospitality (hotel) |
|   |   | 2 x retail |
|   |   | 1 x minerals (quary ) |
|  ***>€1m*** | 14 | 6 x utility companies |
|   |   | 7 x industrial use(6 x data centres and 1 x pharma factory |
|   |   | 1x health (hospital) |

**Q17/0920 QUESTIONS: Councillor Shane Moynihan**

To ask the Chief Executive to outline the criteria used to identify the projects for which NTA cycling funding from the July Stimulus Package was sought, and as to why South Dublin County Council received the lowest allocation of the four Dublin councils and if he will make a statement on the matter.

**REPLY:**

There was a very tight timeframe attached to the July Job Stimulus scheme. For example, the notification of available opportunities under the scheme was received via circular from the NTA on 28th July 2020, with a closing date for submission of proposals back to the NTA no later than 14th August 2020, with a  caveat that works approved must be capable of being planned and  completed, and claimed from NTA, by the end of November 2020.

The Council’s application was compiled based on a number of factors including:

* Examinations of locations where it was identified that maintenance works would enhance COVID-19 mobility measures across the county
* Liaison by our Road Safety Officer with schools regarding bicycle parking in response to requests
* Identification of suitable locations at Luas and bus stop locations for bicycle parking and lockers
* Identification of speedy civil works:    ducting for comms /cabling and upgrade of signal control equipment / installation of radio equipment

The Council was notified by the NTA of the decision on the application on 19th August 2020.

Full details of the schemes approved are available at this link

ttps://www.nationaltransport.ie/news/nta-allocates-e55m-to-councils-for-cycling-and-walking-projects-under-july-jobs-stimulus-plan/

While it is acknowledged that there are variances in the value of the awards / applications made, we are very satisfied with our application and consider our  programme to be quite ambitious given our available resources, and we are already working towards the speedy implementation of the projects.

**Q18/0920 QUESTIONS: Councillor Shane Moynihan**

To ask the Chief Executive about the current waiting times and size of waiting list for housing adaptation requests, and how the national funding made available to this scheme will reduce those waiting times, and if he will make a statement on the matter.

**REPLY:**

On the 6th of August 2020, the Department of Housing, Planning and Local Government issued a funding allocation of €2,830,605 to the Council in respect of housing adaptation grants for 2020. To the end of August, 47% of the funding has been drawdown by applicants in respect of adaptation works completed. There are currently 231 applications approved on hand awaiting drawdown of funding by the applicants.  There are 135 applications on hand at various stages of processing.  The current average waiting time is between 8-10 weeks from receipt of application to grant approval.The COVID-19 pandemic had an impact on the assessment of approvals due to no inspections being carried out during March and April. However, inspections resumed in May.  The allocation of funding from the Department of Housing, Planning and Local Government has had no impact on the processing times of grant applications. Due to the volume of applications approved and waiting approval, the Council will strive to spend the funding allocation provided.

**Q19/0920 QUESTIONS: Councillor Shane Moynihan**

To ask the Chief Executive whether or not there has been a reduced frequency of grass cutting in the county, by how much it has been reduced, and whether there are plans to return to a similar frequency as previous years and if he will make a statement on the matter.

**REPLY:**

Each year the Council’s grass cutting programme commences in early March and has reached full pace by mid-April with a full cutting schedule established by that date.  The target cutting frequencies are weekly for cutting of playing pitches and fortnightly for other grass areas such as estate open spaces, roadside margins and parks.  This year's grass cutting programme was affected in the early stages by the Covid 19 restrictions which were in place at the time.  While it was brought back on track in Q2 the slow down in grass growth that is normally experienced in Q3 did not materialise.  Grass continued to grow strongly in July and August due to a very high level of rainfall (rainfall in July was twice the average of the previous 4 years) combined with high temperatures, this has had the effect of slowing the grass cutting operation which in turn presents difficulties in meeting the target frequencies.  Each year the grass cutting programme is bolstered by the recruitment of seasonal staff however it was not possible to do so this year, these seasonal staff generally assist in cleaning of areas ahead of grass cutting as well as providing cover to operate machinery when regular staff are on annual leave.  The absence of these staff this year has had an impact on the grass cutting service and on the ability of the public realm section to keep machinery working when regular staff are out on leave.

All available staff and machinery have been assigned to the grass cutting programme and every effort is being made to achieve the target frequencies as in previous years.

**Q20/0920 QUESTIONS: Councillor Shane Moynihan**

To ask the Chief Executive for an updated implementation plan, with expected completion dates for the next three years by electoral area, for the Tree Maintenance Programme, mindful of the impact of COVID-19 and the need to keep tree maintenance crews safe.

**REPLY:**

The 3 year 2020-22 Tree Maintenance Programme was presented to the Area Committees in early 2020. COVID -19 has impacted on the delivery of the Tree Maintenance Programme as waste and litter management and grass cutting were prioritised during the Covid lockdown periods.  It is proposed that reports will be presented to the ACMs in October to update elected members with regard to the current position on programmed works, and to provide information on work that is planned to take place over the remaining months of the year.

In advance of commencing works within an estate or road, a full survey of all trees at the location is carried out to inform the programme and scheduling of tree maintenance. There are areas surveyed where work can now commence. The Council’s tree crews are currently working on the tree maintenance programme. It is proposed to reorganise the tree operation to support the crews with additional resources. In addition, the Council have procured additional support from tree maintenance contractors to deal with dangerous trees, trees near electricity wires, trees carried forward from previous programmes and individual urgent trees.

The measures taken will ensure that tree work will continue and that the proposed work will be completed at the end of 2022 period.

**Q21/0920 QUESTIONS: Councillor Shane Moynihan**

To ask the Chief Executive to provide the number of times an authorised person employed by South Dublin County Council has requested proof of compliance with the 2018 Waste Management Bye-laws, in the form of documentary evidence, the number of fixed penalty notices issued, the number of prosecutions initiated and the number of successful convictions. Please provide the information in tabular form, by year and by electoral area.

**REPLY:**

In relation to issues relating to Household Waste, Waste Enforcement Section utilises various aspects of the Waste Management Act 1996, to tackle the issue raised. To date in 2020, 160 household waste complaints have been received and investigated. The complaints received primarily relate to dumping hoarding and or burning of waste in back gardens, and to a lesser extent include issues relating to Household & Commercial Waste Bye Laws. Each reported incident is assessed to identify the appropriate action, with the initial interactions allowing householders the opportunity to become compliant with their legal obligations associated with household waste.

Household and Commercial Waste Presentation Bye Laws, 2018, came into force in December 2018. The scope of the Bye Law is prescribed in the Waste Management Act 1996, as amended. The Act stipulates the scope of the bye laws to issues relating to the presentation of waste, such as maintaining evidence of the correct disposal of waste, type of receptacle which can be used, time and location the receptacle can be left out for collection and ensuring the bin does not cause litter. In the case were complaints raised relate to a person’s obligation to “Participate in a Waste collection Service”, documentary evidence is sought and obtained relating to the householder’s waste disposal method. Documentary evidence can include proof showing the household have engaged an Authorised Bin Collection Service or proof of permission to bin share with another compliant household or receipts demonstrating waste was brought to an authorised waste facility/civic amenity site. The evidence is sought as follows.

* Information directly from the Authorised Waste Collector operating in the area.
* Written confirmation from the householder to include receipts.
* In the event of Council Tenants, through the assistance Housing Section, Estate Management Officers

In the case of dumping, hoarding, and burning of waste, this illegal activity falls outside the scope of Household & Commercial Waste Presentation Bye Laws and actions are pursued under the Waste Management Act 1996.  The legislation does not provide for Fixed Payment Notices for these offences. For such cases, actions carried out include warning letters, Section 14 Direction and Section 55 Enforcement Notice.  If the issue continues, prosecution cases are prepared.

The table below relates to complaints received associated to the disposal of household waste, which includes potential breaches of the bye laws, dumping, hoarding and burning of waste. To date, complaints received specifically relating to presentation of Household Waste, have been resolved through provision of information to the relevant householder to ensure compliance and also highlighting Fixed Payment Notice of €75 will be issued if they fail to comply with the Bye Laws.

In the event, a person is aware of potential breaches by householders in relation to their obligations under the Waste Management Act 1996 and the Bye Laws, Waste Enforcement section requests the person make contact with this office and provide details to the issue to allow for further investigation.

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Non-Disposal of Household Waste Complaints** | **2019** | **2020** | **Total** |
| Complaints Received (Bye Laws, dumping, hoarding and burning issues). | 175 | 160 | 335 |
| Inspections Required | 285 | 382 | 667 |
| Complaints Closed | 169 | 141 | 310 |
| Number of Information Letters Issued | 175 | 160 | 335 |
| Household Waste Warning Letters Issued | 162 | 268 | 430 |
| Number of Fixed Payment Notices issued under Household Waste Presentation Bye Laws. | 0 | 0 | 0 |

**Q22/0920 QUESTIONS: Councillor C. O'Connor**

To ask the Chief Executive to confirm various Grants received from Government in the past two months in relation to housing upgrades/adaptations and footpaths/roads. Will he detail proposals for works in that regard and make a statement?

**REPLY:**

**LUPT :** LUPT draws grants from various government departments eg DTTS / NTA / LIHAF in respect of revenue and capital projects in line with the terms of the various schemes.  Funds are drawn to the value of the works completed and are often but not necessarily claimed on a quarterly basis.

The following is an outline of funding claimed by SDCC during the period from 1st June 2020 to 31st August 2020 in respect of various schemes which are ongoing.

TII - Road Maintenance recoupment  -  €721,678

TII -  N 81 Public Lighting costs recoupment - €125,140

DHPLG - LIHAF - Construction of Celbridge Link Road - €68,875

SDCC successfully applied for €2,440,995 under the July Jobs stimulus, notification of approval was received from NTA on 19th August 2020. This funding is in respect of a suite of proposals relative to the following which must be completed and claimed for by end of November 2020:

* Reconstruction / renewal of defective footpaths and cycle tracks across the county
* Provision of cycle parking across the county
* Civil works (e.g. ducting) for comms /cabling and upgrade of signal control equipment / installation of radio equipment specifically at locations in Rathfarnham/Firhouse/Knocklyon and Clondalkin.

**Housing Department**

**Housing Adaptation Grants on Private Homes**

The Council was notified in August, 2020 of funding allocation of €2,830,605 from the Department of Housing, Planning and Local Government (DHPLG) for housing adaptation grants on private homes in 2020.  To the end of August 2020, a total of €1,337,533 grant funding has been drawndown by 147 applicants in respect of Housing Adaptations Grants, Mobility Aid Grants and Housing Aid for Older Persons and additional applications continue to be assessed, approved and progressed.

**Voids Programme 2020 and July Stimulus Funding**

The Council was notified of a preliminary funding allocation of €2.1m from the DHPLG under the recently announced July stimulus programme for the refurbishment of vacant units within the local authority housing stock.

**COVID- 19 Voids Funding**

A grant of €165,250 has been approved by the DHPLG to contribute towards the cost of 14 units which were identified under this funding stream for the refurbishment of voids for the accommodation of social housing support qualified households which were required to help prevent, limit minimise or slow the spread of COVID -19.

**Q23/0920 QUESTIONS: Councillor C. O'Connor**

To ask the Chief Executive to present an updated report on the Traveller Accommodation Programme and will he make a statement?

**REPLY:**

The Traveller Accommodation Programme 2019-2024 was adopted by the Elected Members in July 2019. The Council’s approach to the provision of Traveller Accommodation over the lifetime of the programme includes:

* Construction of new sites
* Redevelopment of existing sites
* Filling of casual vacancies
* Refurbishment/Extension of Existing Units
* Standard Social Housing

Despite the significant impact of the Covid-19 restrictions, progress has been made in relation to the provision of Traveller Accommodation during the year as follows:

**Construction/Redevelopment**

Three sites were prioritised to be progressed in 2020 and were identified for construction/redevelopment works to provide long-term sustainable Traveller Accommodation:

**Oldcastle Park** - With the agreement of the Local Traveller Accommodation Consultative Committee, the Council has completed a Traveller led consultation process through CENA (Culturally Appropriate Homes Limited), a Traveller-led Voluntary Accommodation Association, to bring forward proposals for the redevelopment of Oldcastle Park.  While work on this consultation process was suspended due to COVID-19 restrictions. This process has now been completed and a draft report will be issued shortly.

**Fonthill Road** – a consultation process with the tenants of this site regarding the proposed re-development of their current site has been ongoing. The Traveller families concerned have requested some amendments to the proposed plans and these are currently under review with a view to finalising plans as soon as possible and progressing development work.

**Owendoher Haven** – Staff from the Traveller Accommodation Unit and Architectural Services Department have met with all the families from Owendoher Haven to discuss proposals for the re-development of the site.  While feedback from these meetings was extremely positive and all families were agreeable in principal to the proposed re-development plans, we are unable at present to reach a consensus on the preliminary designs during this phase of the consultation process. We are currently exploring resolution of this with the engagement of external groups/agencies to progress plans for redevelopment towards a Part 8 Public Consultation process later this year.

**Adamstown -** Discussions are ongoing with developers in Adamstown and, subject to planning approval, an initial six units of accommodation have been identified for potential delivery in Quarter 4, 2021.

**Group Housing - Refurbishment**

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| No. of Units | Location | Type | Status |
| 1 | Daletree | 4 bed Unit | Allocated |
| 3 | Lynch’s Park | 4 bed Unit | Allocations pending |

**Provision of Medical Chalet**

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| No. of Units | Location | Type | Status |
| 1 | Belgard Park | Medical Unit | Allocated |
| 1 | Old Castle Park | Medical Unit | Allocations |

**Day Unit and Bay - Refurbishment**

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| No. of Units | Location | Type | Status |
| 3 | Stocking Hill | Day unit and Bay | Allocations pending |
| 1 | Belgard Park | Day unit and Bay | Allocations pending |
| 1 | Cherryfield | Day unit and Bay | Allocated |
| 1 | Kishogue | Day unit and Bay | Allocated |

**Provision of Mobile Homes /Caravans**

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| No. of Units | Location | Type | Status |
| 1 | Stocking Hill | Mobile Home | Allocated |
| 2 | Belgard Park | 1 Mobile Home and 1 Caravan | Allocated |
| 3 | Kishogue | 1 Mobile Home and 2 Caravan | Allocated |
| 1 | Old Castle Park | 1 Mobile Home | Allocated |

**Unauthorised Encampment**

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| No. of Units | Location | Type | Status |
| 1 | Roadside | 4 bed Unit-standard social housing | Allocated |

**Temporary Site**

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| No. of Units | Location | Type | Status |
| 3 | Various | 3/4 bed Units standard social housing | Allocated |

**Part 8 Medical Extension**

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| No. of Units | Location | Type | Status |
| 1 | Kishouge | Medical Extension | Tendered |

In addition to above, the allocation of standard social housing to Traveller households under the Traveller Accommodation Programme continues on an ongoing basis for those families whose stated preference is for such accommodation.

**Q24/0920 QUESTIONS: Councillor C. O'Connor**

To ask the Chief Executive to detail actions being taken to facilitate the reopening of Community Centres in these difficult times and in reporting will he also say if any consideration has been given to suggestions that Community Centres should get a once off annual grant to cover their costings and will he make a statement?

**REPLY:**

The challenges faced in re-opening of community centres & other community, sporting, voluntary facilities due to health & safety requirements, social distancing and other Covid related burdens as well as the financial challenges for organisation including income reductions, fixed costs, capacity issues etc. are acknowledged.  In this regard, the Community Services team have been working to assist the Boards of Management of community centres with their plans to re-open facilities in line with covid-related public health guidelines.

The repurposed community grants programme as agreed by the Elected Members at the July Council meeting has gone live to support community centres and other community facilities with Covid-related re-opening costs including risk audits, safety plans, signage, screens, personal protective equipment and other related costs as well helping community and sports organisations with running costs, management assistance, equipment grants and appropriate events.

Annual management assistance grant funding for community centres that is usually administered by the Community Department in October each year has been accelerated with payment made to centres in June to assist with cashflows for re-opening plans while awaiting the repurposed community grant funding.  We have also specifically engaged health and safety advisors to support and assist Boards of Management with Covid response plans in place in a number of the community facilities in the County.

Community grant funding details and online applications are available here: <https://sdcc.ie/en/services/community/funding-and-support/community-grants/community-grants.html>

**Q25/0920 QUESTIONS: Councillor C. O'Connor**

To ask the Chief Executive if he has maintained contact with Government and its agencies in respect of the job creation needs of our County which are of particular importance in these times and will he make a statement?

**REPLY:**

Given the challenges faced by all businesses across all sectors due to the COVID 19 pandemic the focus of the Government and its Agencies has primarily been on supporting businesses and protecting existing jobs in the county as the various sectors re-open. Communications have and continue to take place on a weekly basis with virtual meetings are held by the Department Enterprise Trade and Employment together with Local Enterprise Office representatives and guest agencies. These meetings have on occasion been attended by Minister Humphries in the past government and two weeks ago by Minister Damien English.

In addition, there are weekly meeting with Department of Finance together with a senior officials from a number of Agencies including Enterprise Ireland, Central Bank of Ireland, SBCI, MFI and the Credit Review Office which are directly communicated to the Chief Executive’s office and Head of Finance.

A summary of the direct supports and engagements by SDCC and LEO SDCC directly to our businesses in South Dublin are included on the attached presentation which has been prepared for SDCC SPC meeting of 9th September 2020

 [COVID-19 Supports Presentation SPC 8.09.2020.pptx](http://intranet/cmas/documentsedit.aspx?id=66810&amp;itemTxt=H-I3)

**Q26/0920 QUESTIONS: Councillor C. O'Connor**

To ask the Chief Executive how many Litter Fines have been issued in the County so far this year; will he give details in respect of each Electoral Area and give an overview of actions being taken and planned to deal with the issue?

**REPLY:**

All incidents of illegal dumping reported or detected in any area are investigated by the Council's Litter Warden Service and all dumped material is searched for evidence. Where evidence is found, the appropriate enforcement action is taken under the Litter Pollution Act 1997, as amended. Increasingly, it is found that no personal information relating to polluters is contained within the dumped material, with personal information having been removed or shredded. Up to the end of August, the Litter Warden Service has dealt with 344 Members Reps, 637 Fix Your Street reports and 1,419 Environmental Complaints. The number of Litter Fines issued up to the end of August 2020 is 155.

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, maintained waste collection services throughout the county. Despite maintaining the level of service, South Dublin County Council witnessed a sizeable increase of illegal dumping and burning of waste, particularly domestic household waste.

To address the illegal dumping activities, Litter Wardens and Public Realm Crews 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 carried out surveillance of litter pollution black spots. These activities continue.

In addition, the Council will continue to deliver on the actions set out in the Litter Management Plan 2020-2022 and report to Area Committee on the achievements of the plan.

**Q27/0920 QUESTIONS: Councillor L. O'Toole**

To ask the Chief Executive for a detailed report on the solar bins which were piloted in the county sometime ago.

**REPLY:**

The following report on the solar, smart street litter bin trial was presented to the Environment, Water and Climate Change SPC meeting on May 27th.  A further report is due to be presented to the SPC on 23 September dealing the Public Realm Section's proposal for using this bin type, and this report will be available to all members following presentation to the SPC.

**Report.**

In response to requests received from elected members the Council’s Public Realm Section agreed to carry out a trial on the use of solar powered, smart street litter bins.  The matter was referred to the Environment, Public Realm and Climate Change SPC for discussion where it was agreed that a limited number of these bins would be installed in the Rathfarnham area where a 6 month trial would be undertaken.

In early 2019 a tender process was carried out for the installation and maintenance for a 6 month period of 8 such bins.  Three tenders were received however one of these was late and could not be accepted, while a second was deemed not to be compliant with the requirements of the tender.  The contract for the supply of these bins was awarded to the one remaining compliant tenderer Kyron Street Furniture, trading as the Big Belly Bin Company.

The locations chosen for inclusion in the trial were Rathfarnham Village main street, Rathfarnham Castle park and Rosemount Shopping Centre at Marian Road.  A total of 7 existing standard litter bins in Rathfarnham Village were removed and replaced by 5 solar powered bins, 4 standard litter bins in the Castle playground were removed and replaced with one solar powered bin and 2 standard bins at Rosemount shops were removed and replaced by 2 solar powered units.

The trial commenced in November and the 6 month period has nearly elapsed with 24 weeks of data available.  The data available from these ‘smart’ litter bins has been examined and below is a summary of the findings.  It should be noted that the service provided when standard litter bins were in place consisted of the operative visiting the bin each day and emptying it when required, and this was considered to be servicing of the bin every day.  With the smart bins in place it was possible, for the most part, to respond to alarms sent by the system requesting that the bin be serviced when the preset fullness level is reached.  On some occasions the smart bins were emptied before the fullness level was reached and this is deemed to be inefficient servicing by the system.  This point will be explained further below.

Features of the bin

The ‘Big Belly’ bin is substantially larger than the standard litter bin, and when the ability of the unit to compact the waste is accounted for it is estimated that the capacity of this type of unit is 8 times that of the standard 90 litre bin.

* The compactor is powered by a solar power unit which makes it compliant with the Council’s resource management objectives under the Climate Change Action Plan.
* The bin contains a sensor which monitors the ‘fullness level’ of the bin.
* The sensor can be preset to send a warning message when waste reaches a predetermined level, such as 80% of full.
* Alarms are sent to supervisory staff and the operative to advise them that the bin requires attention.
* There is also a visual alarm which can be seen by passing members of staff or the public.
* The bins can be opened by foot pedal which means that they do not need to be touched by hand.
* The bin opening is covered at all times therefore no waste can escape and animals and birds cannot scavenge from the bin.
* The smart system records and stores all data relating to bin servicing and the fullness level on emptying.
* The bin contains 2 side panels which can be used for advertising however the potential for these to generate an income which would offset against the cost of the bin has not been explored as yet.

Data

The report generated by the smart bin system is attached.  In summary it shows the following –

* The number of collections which would have been provided to the 13 standard litter bins over the period of the trial is 2,184.
* The actual number of collections provided to the 8 smart bins which replaced them was 320.
* This represents an 85% reduction in the number of collections provided.
* Of the 320 collections made, 226 of these happened when the 80% fullness level had been reached representing an efficiency level of 71%.
* 96 of these collections were made when the fullness level had not been reached and the bin had not sent an alarm, this represents an inefficiency level of 29%.
* While 96 of these collections were unnecessary at the time they were made the decision to make them was an operational one based on availability of staff resources and other issues.
* Many of the ‘unnecessary’ collections were made during the period of Covid 19 restrictions when there were limits on the staff resources available.

Options.

It is clear that this type of bin system offers the opportunity to substantially restructure the litter bin collection system, if smart bins were to be introduced to replace existing ones.  The following could be considered -

* The number of street litter bin (approximately 650 at present) and the number of park litter bins (approximately 150) could be substantially reduced.  This would mean some locations losing litter bins and this could be problematic.  A further exercise would be required to consider which locations should lose their litter bins and also to determine the optimum replacement ratio of smart bins for standard bins.
* There are bins currently in areas of high footfall and others in low footfall areas which could be looked at separately.  Bins in high footfall areas require to be collected daily and in some cases could be emptied more often, the higher capacity offered by the compactor bins may help to address this issue.
* Bins in low footfall areas require only weekly or twice weekly collections.  The alarm system would enable an operative to be sent out to these bins when they are ready for collection, whereas at the minute they have to be included in a planned collection route and checked daily to establish if they need to be collected.
* It is clear that the number of staff assigned to this work, currently 5, could be substantially reduced with some staff reassigned to other work.  The vehicles they currently operate would also be available for other work.
* The liner for this litter bin can be replaced with a liner on wheels which can be emptied by a rear end loading refuse truck.  This would remove all manual handling from the task which would enable the fullness level of the bin to be set at 100% of bin capacity thereby creating further efficiency.
* There is potential for the side panels of the bin to be used for advertising and to be rented out for this purpose.  There is potentially an income to be generated from this and this potential should be examined and determined and could be offset against the installation of these bins.
* The cost of these bins at approximately €6,000 per bin is substantial and is approximately 15 times that of the standard litter bin.  The costs involved in replacing a large part of the litter bin  stock would be substantial also, for example approximately 160 of these units would cost around €1m.

**Q28/0920 QUESTIONS: Councillor L. O'Toole**

To ask the Chief Executive to provide a detailed report on the permeability (pedestrian and cycle )projects for each area which have been approved by the NTA and other such funding organisations. To include in the report projects that will commence this year, and to include the two projects in Lucan/Adamstown(Embankment and Paddocks-Hillcrest)

[July Job Stimulus](http://www.sdublincoco.ie/sdcc/departments/corporate/apps/cmas/documentsview.aspx?id=67148)

**REPLY:**

**Capital Projects**

A programme of capital Permeability, Walking, Cycling and Roads projects are being progressed by SDCC. The attached provides a breakdown of these.

The Council is currently preparing a Cycle South Dublin programme, which will highlight our current and future walking and cycling priorities and projects. The intention is the discuss this emerging programme with SPC in Sept and then with the full Council, following which we would publicly consult on it. We would then look to agree this programme with Council early in 2021.

**July Job Stimulus**

In July 2020 as part of the "July Jobs 2020 Stimulus Plan" local authorities in the Greater Dublin Area and the metropolitan areas of Cork, Galway, Limerick and Waterford  were notified by the NTA of their eligibility to submit projects to support pedestrian and cyclist movement and enhancing accessibility. The funding is specifically aimed at  supporting local authorities’ response to Covid-19 challenges, and to assist with their work to equip local communities and businesses with improved walking and cycling infrastructure.

SDCC successfully applied to the NTA under the scheme for €2,440,995 and notification of approval was received on 19th August 2020. This approved funding is in respect of a suite of proposals including the reconstruction / renewal of defective footpaths and cycle tracks across the county, the provision of cycle parking across the county and some element of civil works (e.g. ducting) for comms /cabling and upgrade of signal control equipment / installation of radio equipment specifically at locations in Rathfarnham/Firhouse/Knocklyon and Clondalkin.

The caveat to this approval is that the works must be planned, completed and claimed for in the period between the start of August and the end of November 2020.

The attached report outlines the approved locations for these works many of which are now in planning and delivery stage.

**COVID -Social Distancing measures**

The NTA will fund Social Distancing measures including

The introduction of Bollarded areas outside Centra and a number of Cafe's in Lucan Village

The proposed installation of a Parklet in Lucan Village

The Provision of nearly 2km of temporary cycle lane along Wellington Road and

Measures to manage queueing outside AIB Clondalkin Village.

**Q29/0920 QUESTIONS: Councillor F. Timmons**

To ask the Chief Executive if the Council has plans to looks at communication boards for children with speech, language and communication needs in all the playgrounds and playspaces throughout the county and how this could be funded? '

At South Dublin County Council we are committed to equality, inclusion and providing services that are accessible to the whole community' (<https://www.sdcc.ie/en/services/our-council/policies-and-plans/disability-access/>). 'Communication accessibility' is generally overlooked in public policy. SDCoCo is home to 4 Specialist Disability Services and over 65 schools/preschools providing education to children who have communication difficulties linked to Specific Language Disorder, Intellectual Disability or Autism. Public parks & playgrounds are a lifeline to these children and their families, never more so than during the current COVID 19 pandemic. The Speech & Language Therapy Dept at Cheeverstown would like to SDCoCo to consider the installation of communication boards in all public playgrounds, as has been recently done by Wexford CoCo (template has been shared with the SLT Dept). True inclusion is not something that most of these families experience - it would be wonderful for them to see that their children are recognised as citizens of this county

**REPLY:**

The Council is supportive in general of measures that would increase the accessibility and inclusivity of our playgrounds and are currently evaluating the level of need for the communication boards. We have contacted our Disability Officer and her fellow Access Officers around the country and also the Special Projects Team responsible for the playground at Min Ryan Park in Wexford.

In addition, we have contacted a speech and language therapist who submitted the recent information on the communication boards, who has us information on how the proposal relates particularly to playgrounds.

We understand that many children who have this need have their own communication cards but may not always need to have them with them.  In some cases, children who have a mild or moderate disability can become unable to concentrate in a playground as it can be an overstimulating environment. In such cases the boards would help the children and parents to maintain communication and allow the child to continue using the playground.

The Council intend investigating the feasibility of installing a communication board in the upgrade of the new Corkagh Park Playground, which is commencing shortly, on a pilot basis.  We can examine feedback from parents / children before considering their further roll out.

[Q29 (b) Example of boards](http://www.sdublincoco.ie/sdcc/departments/corporate/apps/cmas/documentsview.aspx?id=66949)

**Q30/0920 QUESTIONS: Councillor F. Timmons**

To ask the Chief Executive for a report into projected estimated populations by electoral area over the next 5 years and how many homes are estimated to be built over next 5 years and how many villages will be designated as towns due to such growth?

**REPLY:**

The Regional Spatial and Economic Strategy sets out the population targets for South Dublin. Between 2016 and 2031, the population of the county is targeted to grow by between 41,500 - 50,000 persons. Between 2016 and 2026 the growth is targeted at 29,000-35,000 persons which equates to an annual growth of population of 2,900-3,500 persons up to 2026.

The review of the County Development Plan, which commenced on 31st July this year, will include a core strategy which will set out the settlement strategy for the county. In the Regional Strategy Adamstown and Clonburris SDZs, the regeneration areas of Tallaght and Naas Road/Ballymount are designated growth areas. So too are Fortunestown and Kilcarbery. It is national and regional policy that 50% of all new homes in Dublin city and suburbs are delivered within the existing built-up footprint.

The consultation booklet currently on display as part of the consultation for the pre-draft stage of the Development Plan identifies ‘Population Growth and Housing’ as a strategic issue. The booklet sets out some of the key statistics in relation to growth and housing at county and neighbourhood level.

An average of approximately 1,200 new homes would have to be delivered annually to accommodate the targeted population growth. A significant proportion of this growth will be concentrated in the designated growth areas supported by compact growth on brownfield and infill lands.

**Q31/0920 QUESTIONS: Councillor F. Timmons**

To ask the Chief Executive to comment and report on The Minister for Agriculture and the Minister of State with responsibility for Forestry at the departments new scheme to fund the creation of new native woodland on public lands and how the council proposes to meet this need including preserving current Woodlands already in SDCC.

**REPLY:**

The purpose of the Woodland Creation on Public Lands  Scheme is to encourage Public Bodies to establish new native woodlands on suitable bare land.

Native woodlands are an important part of Ireland’s natural heritage, history and culture, and are unique in terms of their biodiversity. They are home to specialised woodland animals, birds, insects and plants, including red squirrel, pine marten, great spotted woodpecker, narrow-leaved helleborine and wood millet, to name but a few. They provide numerous ecosystem services, including the protection and enhancement of water quality, wider habitat linkage, landscape enhancement, opportunities for outdoor recreation and interpretation, and carbon capture.

The Scheme aims to conserve nature by developing permanent, non-commercial woodlands on public land that will deliver the following benefits:

Recreation of lost native woodland habitats, rich in biodiversity and cultural significance.

Reverse the fragmentation of other habitats and the loss of biodiversity corridors within the wider landscape.

Carbon sequestration from forests that will exist in perpetuity.

Protection and enhancement of water and associated aquatic ecosystems.

Provision of attractive woodland amenities, to promote health and well-being and opportunities for outdoor learning amongst local communities.

Enhancing air quality in urban and peri-urban areas.

Soil protection and the reclamation of former landfill and brownfield sites.

The first step in the process is to identify a potential site or sites within the public land bank, which if developed into a native woodland, would advance SDCC’s own targets regarding the Sustainable Development Goals, corporate social responsibility, climate targets, etc. The site must also be suitable from a ‘silvicultural’ perspective to grow a new woodland, and also from an environmental perspective, so that negative impacts of other valuable habitats and species are avoided.

South Dublin County Council have recently commenced a Green Infrastructure Strategy and a Parks and Open Spaces Strategy for the county that will map areas of Green Infrastructure at a strategic level and help the council identify the optimal locations for retention and protection of existing elements of Green Infrastructure (including woodlands), the reinforcement of existing elements that require augmentation or the creation of new Green Infrastructure links and hubs (which can also include woodlands). The Parks and Open Spaces strategy will also examine our public lands at the county wide level and make similar recommendations on how we best develop and manage lands within public ownership and provide the optimal balance between our provision of active and passive recreation and provision and protection of visual amenity and protection and enhancement of biodiversity and environmental habitats.

The Council’s tree management strategy for the period 2015 to 2020 ‘Living with trees’ is being reviewed at present and will be replaced with a new policy document from 2021.  The strategy currently deals with the planting and maintenance of trees in on-street locations, it does not consider trees in park or urban woodland settings.  These areas will be included in the scope of the review of the strategy and will form part of the new strategy.  Work is due to be carried out to establish the extent of existing woodlands in SDCC ownership, these areas will be mapped in the strategy and this will help to identify areas where there is potential for urban woodlands to be extended or newly developed.

South Dublin County Council is a founding member of the Dublin Mountains Partnership (DMP); and the DMP in tandem with Coillte Nature recently announced the Dublin Mountains Conversion Programme as outlined below. SDCC are delighted to be a partner with Coillte in this proposal through the Dublin Mountains Partnership and will seek further ways to partner with Coillte Nature going forward to augment the proposals.

Dublin Mountains Conversion Programme:

“Coillte owns and manages around half of the forests in the Dublin Mountains, with the remainder managed by private forest owners. When this land was first planted with trees between the early 1940s and late 1960s, Dublin was a much smaller city and nobody thought much about outdoor recreation in forests. Today, these forests are among the most important recreational sites for a growing urban population seeking fresh air and green space: Coillte’s most popular forest, Ticknock, sees over 550 visits a day. Until now, Coillte have managed these areas for commercial purposes first, and for recreational purposes second. But because of their popularity and proximity to the city, it’s time to put people’s needs much higher up the agenda. Through the Dublin Mountains Makeover, nine Coillte forests will transition away from the clearfell and replanting cycle towards a different model. Multi-generational forests managed under ‘Continuous Cover Forestry’ (CCF) principles will maintain their green canopy on a permanent basis, and in areas where this isn’t possible, non-native Sitka spruce and lodgepole pine trees will be removed and replanted with native species such as Scots pine, birch, rowan, oak, holly and willow to provide habitat for nature and bring autumn colours to the hills.

Work will start on the Dublin Mountains Makeover in June 2020 and continuing over the coming years, Collite are moving towards a new ‘continuous cover’ approach to forestry that maintains a permanent forest canopy. In areas where this isn’t possible, they are clearfelling small areas of conifer plantations and replanting them with native woodland within the same year. This will enhance and create habitats for wildlife, enrich the forests’ recreational appeal for people and improve the wider landscape’s aesthetic value. The aim of the Dublin Mountains Makeover is to improve biodiversity, climate resilience and recreation.”

**Q32/0920 QUESTIONS: Councillor F. Timmons**

To ask the Chief Executive to issue a report into the Playspace programme and how many are planned for future and timeframes? Also, to look at a council scheme to upgrade as required and maintain the finished Playspaces. Also can areas apply to Council for a playspace and is there an email where people can contact re playspaces?

**REPLY:**

The Playspace programme in South Dublin County Council is a programme that commenced in 2014. The provision of playgrounds in the recent past concentrated on large, formally equipped and defined playgrounds with highly specialised equipment. The playspace programme aims to provide opportunities to play. This type of play allows children to develop their imagination, challenge their abilities, deal with risk and, critically, adapt their own environment.

The Play Space programme was established following the identification of a deficit of play areas for children in this county. This was documented in the policy document ‘Developing play in South Dublin County’ adopted by the Council in June 2006. However the development of play areas / playgrounds did not result in the immediate aftermath, due to the economic downturn and lack of development generally.

In recent years there has been an emphasis on the physical and mental well-being of children. Over the past 20 years there has been a significant rise in levels of obesity, childhood diabetes, high levels of stress and increasing sedentary lifestyles. A report the National Taskforce on Obesity estimates that 300,000 children in Ireland are now obese.

Due to a variety of factors children are less likely to wander far from their own homes. A study in the UK documented the distance children travelled from home for play; the results showed that the distance children roam from home on their own has shrunk by 90% since the 70s; 43% of adults think a child shouldn't play outdoors unsupervised until the age of 14. So children are increasingly confined to the immediate environs of their homes.

**Delivery of Playspace Programme 2014-to date.**

The Play Space Programme is in the final stages of completion. The programme has been very successful to date and has progressed through the significant active involvement from elected members and local communities, and direct engagement with children; this Council is recognised favourably for creating new play opportunities close to where children live. A new type of play space delivery has been achieved – using the concepts of Natural Play and where children can create their own play opportunities.

With the recent completion of a playspace at Collinstown, the programme has delivered to date, 27 new playspace projects, as well as the refurbishment of 6 existing playgrounds. The refurbishments incorporate significant new natural playspace elements and provide new equipment where required. There are some final playspaces from the programme at various stages of completion and, as we are now approaching the completion of the programme, it is the intention to carry out a final report on the programme and its outcomes. Going forward suggestions for new playspaces can be made to cccounter@SDUBLINCOCO.ie and will be forwarded to the public realm team for consideration subject to funding and resource availability.

**Q33/0920 QUESTIONS: Councillor F. Timmons**

To ask the Chief Executive to issue a progress report into the Teenspace programme and how many are planned for future? How can communities suggest areas for Teenspaces and is there an email contact for suggestions?

**REPLY:**

The attached report, presented as a headed item to the June Council Meeting, gives the up-to-date progress on the teenspace programme.There are 9 projects currently planned and at various stages of delivery. Suggestions can be forwarded for consideration of the public realm team to cccounter@SDUBLINCOCO.ie

[Q33 (b) Teenspace report](http://www.sdublincoco.ie/sdcc/departments/corporate/apps/cmas/documentsview.aspx?id=67075)

**Q34/0920 QUESTIONS: Councillor Joanna Tuffy**

To ask for an update on parklets and cycle lanes introduced during the summer

**REPLY:**

 A number of Social Distancing measures were introduced over the summer.

These included about 1.5km of bollarded cycle lane along Wellington Road. Further phases of this work locally are to take place.

In addition, a number of Social Distancing spaces were introduced around the county at Lucan Village, Clondalkin Village and Marian Road.

A Parklet is to be introduced at Lucan imminently outside River Cafe.

**Q35/0920 QUESTIONS: Councillor Joanna Tuffy**

To ask how many applicants for housing, and how many on the homeless list, were accommodated in Council or HAP accommodation over the past 5 months approximately, while Covid restrictions in place, and how did this compare with previous months and years

**REPLY:**

The table below shows the number of allocations to Council and AHB properties from the Council's housing and homeless lists along with the number of Housing Assistance Payment (HAP) and Homeless HAP tenancies supported during the Covid restrictions in recent months (March to August 2020).

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
|   | **Mar-Aug 2020** | **Mar-Aug 2019** |
| Allocations from Housing List | 128 | 174 |
| Allocations from Homeless List | 81 | 98 |
| HAP Tenancies | 202 | 127 |
|   | **Mar-Jul 2020** | **Mar-Jul 2019** |
| Homeless HAP Tenancies\* | 210 | 251 |

\*Data for Homeless HAP tenancies (i.e. HAP tenancies at the increased rate due to homelessness or a risk of becoming homeless) in the County is managed by the Dublin Regional Homeless Executive on behalf of the Council and the final figures for August 2020 were awaited as this reply was being prepared so the comparative figures for Homeless HAP tenancies is for the period March to July.

Allocations of properties continued during the Covid restrictions notwithstanding some initial delays in revising procedures for same in line with the appropriate guidance and requirements.  Some delays were also experienced in completion of new housing projects due to the restrictions which has also impacted somewhat on the number of allocations.

HAP assessments and applications continued to be managed by staff during the Covid 19 restrictions with every effort made to facilitate applicants doing business remotely, including the acceptance of documents via email, online or through phone technology.

**Q36/0920 QUESTIONS:** Councillor Joanna Tuffy

In light of fact that Cork County Council recently took back its parking scheme to be run directly by the Council, can a report on the estimated difference in income and expenditure between having a private company operate the parking scheme and if it were to be directly run by the Council be presented to councillors accompany the Chief Executives report on the public consultation on the draft parking regulations?

**REPLY:**

This Council operates it car parking services under contract and is currently at tender stage for a new single supplier Framework Agreement for the Provision of Managed Car Parking Services.

The decision on whether to provide a service under direct labour or through a procured independent contractor is made on a case-by-case basis and issues for consideration are far reaching and are not limited to human resource costs.

Managing car parking services is multifaceted includes a range of elements including:

* Enforcement Services
* Cash Collection Services
* Provision and maintenance of machines
* General support services

The following is an outline of the financials associated with managing parking services in 2018 and 2019

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Year | INCOME€ | EXPENDITURE€ |
| 2018 | 691,724.16 | 462,188.44 |
| 2019 | 692,464.34 | 433,933.46 |
|   | 1,384,188.50 | 896,121.90 |

Managing parking services on a daily basis is an Executive Function and is separate to the Reserved Function of making Parking ByeLaws.

The Chief Executive's report on the public consultation on the draft Parking Byelaws (between 23rd July 2020 and 11th September 2020) is restricted to dealing with observations and submission received during the statutory public consultation period.

A preliminary report on the Draft ByeLaws is expected to be considered by the LUPT SPC at the next meeting scheduled for 24th September 2020, and thereafter by full Council.

**Q37/0920 QUESTIONS: Councillor Joanna Tuffy**

Can the Chief Executive give an update on the pilot scheme for solar belly bins and what is the next step after the pilot scheme?

**REPLY:**

**The following report on the solar, smart street litter bin trial was presented to the Environment, Water and Climate Change SPC meeting on May 27th.  A further report is due to be presented to the SPC on 23 September dealing the Public Realm Section's proposal for using this bin type, and this report will be available to all members following presentation to the SPC.**

**Report.**

In response to requests received from elected members the Council’s Public Realm Section agreed to carry out a trial on the use of solar powered, smart street litter bins.  The matter was referred to the Environment, Public Realm and Climate Change SPC for discussion where it was agreed that a limited number of these bins would be installed in the Rathfarnham area where a 6 month trial would be undertaken.

In early 2019 a tender process was carried out for the installation and maintenance for a 6 month period of 8 such bins.  Three tenders were received however one of these was late and could not be accepted, while a second was deemed not to be compliant with the requirements of the tender.  The contract for the supply of these bins was awarded to the one remaining compliant tenderer Kyron Street Furniture, trading as the Big Belly Bin Company.

The locations chosen for inclusion in the trial were Rathfarnham Village main street, Rathfarnham Castle park and Rosemount Shopping Centre at Marian Road.  A total of 7 existing standard litter bins in Rathfarnham Village were removed and replaced by 5 solar powered bins, 4 standard litter bins in the Castle playground were removed and replaced with one solar powered bin and 2 standard bins at Rosemount shops were removed and replaced by 2 solar powered units.

The trial commenced in November and the 6 month period has nearly elapsed with 24 weeks of data available.  The data available from these ‘smart’ litter bins has been examined and below is a summary of the findings.  It should be noted that the service provided when standard litter bins were in place consisted of the operative visiting the bin each day and emptying it when required, and this was considered to be servicing of the bin every day.  With the smart bins in place it was possible, for the most part, to respond to alarms sent by the system requesting that the bin be serviced when the preset fullness level is reached.  On some occasions the smart bins were emptied before the fullness level was reached and this is deemed to be inefficient servicing by the system.  This point will be explained further below.

Features of the bin

* The ‘Big Belly’ bin is substantially larger than the standard litter bin, and when the ability of the unit to compact the waste is accounted for it is estimated that the capacity of this type of unit is 8 times that of the standard 90 litre bin.
* The compactor is powered by a solar power unit which makes it compliant with the Council’s resource management objectives under the Climate Change Action Plan.
* The bin contains a sensor which monitors the ‘fullness level’ of the bin.
* The sensor can be preset to send a warning message when waste reaches a predetermined level, such as 80% of full.
* Alarms are sent to supervisory staff and the operative to advise them that the bin requires attention.
* There is also a visual alarm which can be seen by passing members of staff or the public.
* The bins can be opened by foot pedal which means that they do not need to be touched by hand.
* The bin opening is covered at all times therefore no waste can escape and animals and birds cannot scavenge from the bin.
* The smart system records and stores all data relating to bin servicing and the fullness level on emptying.
* The bin contains 2 side panels which can be used for advertising however the potential for these to generate an income which would offset against the cost of the bin has not been explored as yet.

Data

The report generated by the smart bin system is attached.  In summary it shows the following –

* The number of collections which would have been provided to the 13 standard litter bins over the period of the trial is 2,184.
* The actual number of collections provided to the 8 smart bins which replaced them was 320.
* This represents an 85% reduction in the number of collections provided.
* Of the 320 collections made, 226 of these happened when the 80% fullness level had been reached representing an efficiency level of 71%.
* 96 of these collections were made when the fullness level had not been reached and the bin had not sent an alarm, this represents an inefficiency level of 29%.
* While 96 of these collections were unnecessary at the time they were made the decision to make them was an operational one based on availability of staff resources and other issues.
* Many of the ‘unnecessary’ collections were made during the period of Covid 19 restrictions when there were limits on the staff resources available.

Options.

It is clear that this type of bin system offers the opportunity to substantially restructure the litter bin collection system, if smart bins were to be introduced to replace existing ones.  The following could be considered -

* The number of street litter bin (approximately 650 at present) and the number of park litter bins (approximately 150) could be substantially reduced.  This would mean some locations losing litter bins and this could be problematic.  A further exercise would be required to consider which locations should lose their litter bins and also to determine the optimum replacement ratio of smart bins for standard bins.
* There are bins currently in areas of high footfall and others in low footfall areas which could be looked at separately.  Bins in high footfall areas require to be collected daily and in some cases could be emptied more often, the higher capacity offered by the compactor bins may help to address this issue.
* Bins in low footfall areas require only weekly or twice weekly collections.  The alarm system would enable an operative to be sent out to these bins when they are ready for collection, whereas at the minute they have to be included in a planned collection route and checked daily to establish if they need to be collected.
* It is clear that the number of staff assigned to this work, currently 5, could be substantially reduced with some staff reassigned to other work.  The vehicles they currently operate would also be available for other work.
* The liner for this litter bin can be replaced with a liner on wheels which can be emptied by a rear end loading refuse truck.  This would remove all manual handling from the task which would enable the fullness level of the bin to be set at 100% of bin capacity thereby creating further efficiency.
* There is potential for the side panels of the bin to be used for advertising and to be rented out for this purpose.  There is potentially an income to be generated from this and this potential should be examined and determined and could be offset against the installation of these bins.
* The cost of these bins at approximately €6,000 per bin is substantial and is approximately 15 times that of the standard litter bin.  The costs involved in replacing a large part of the litter bin  stock would be substantial also, for example approximately 160 of these units would cost around €1m.

**Q38/0920 QUESTIONS: Councillor Joanna Tuffy**

To ask the Chief Executive in light of evidence that transmission of Covid is less likely outdoors what is the situation regarding restaurants and cafes having table and seating outdoors, similarly casual traders selling food near or in parks, particularly during good weather.

**REPLY:**

South Dublin County Council cannot confirm or deny that Covid is less likely to be transmitted outdoors.

[Section 71 of the Roads Act 1993](http://www.irishstatutebook.ie/eli/1993/act/14/section/71/enacted/en/html) refers to unauthorised structures et al on public roads and [Section 254 of the Planning and Development Act 2000](http://www.irishstatutebook.ie/eli/2000/act/30/section/254/enacted/en/html) as amended, provides for circumstances  where the placing or maintaining of certain structures on/under/over or along a public road may be permitted.

The Council does want to support local businesses including where possible supporting the provision of outdoor seating and tables. As part of this the Council must still ensure that there is no hindrance to the reasonable use of the public road by the public, or any person entitled to use the public road. Similarly, the Council must ensure that a nuisance is not created to the owner or occupier of premises on/adjacent to the public road.

Therefore, where proprietors or occupiers of premises referred to in this question wish to erect or place tables and seating outdoors on public roads (including footpaths), they should consult with the Roads Department in order to have established if such a request can be accommodated.

Casual Trading may only be conducted in accordance with the [Council's Casual Trading Bye Laws 2016](https://www.sdcc.ie/en/services/business/casual-trading/casual-trading-bye-laws-2016.pdf) and Licences awarded on an annual basis

**H10/0920 DECLARATION OF ROADS TO BE MADE PUBLIC ROADS**

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

**H11a/0920 PROPOSED DISPOSAL OF PROPERTIES/SITES**

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

1. Disposal of fee simple in 24 St. Patrick’s Cottages, Rathfarnham, Dublin 14

The following have applied, in accordance with the provisions of the Landlord and Tenant (Ground Rent) (No 2) Act, to acquire the fee simple in the property

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| ADDRESS  | LESSEE(S)  | PURCHASE PRICE  |
| 24 St. Patrick’s Cottages, Rathfarnham, Dublin 14 | Simon Johnson and Caroline Kavanagh | €44.95 |

It is proposed, in accordance with the provisions of the landlord and Tenant (Ground Rents) (No 2) Act, 1978 and subject to the provisions of Section 183 of the Local Government Act 2001, to dispose of the fee simple in the site listed above.

**Daniel McLoughlin**

**Chief Executive**

The report was **NOTED** and it was proposed byCouncillor E. O’Brien, seconded by Councillor M. Duff and **RESOLVED:**

“That the disposal of fee simple in 24 St. Patrick’s Cottages, Rathfarnham, Dublin 14 be **ADOPTED** and **APPROVED.”**

**H11b/0920 PROPOSED DISPOSAL OF PROPERTIES/SITES**

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

1. Disposal of fee simple in 130 Arthur Griffith Park, Lucan, Co. Dublin

The following have applied, in accordance with the provisions of the Landlord and Tenant (Ground Rent) (No 2) Act, to acquire the fee simple in the property

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| ADDRESS  | LESSEE(S)  | PURCHASE PRICE  |
| 130 Arthur Griffith Park, Lucan, Co. Dublin  | Ping Ling Guo | €305.76 |

It is proposed, in accordance with the provisions of the landlord and Tenant (Ground Rents) (No 2) Act, 1978 and subject to the provisions of Section 183 of the Local Government Act 2001, to dispose of the fee simple in the site listed above.

**Daniel McLoughlin**

**Chief Executive**

The report was **NOTED** and it was proposed byCouncillor E. O’Brien, seconded by Councillor M. Duff and **RESOLVED:**

“That the disposal of fee simple in 130 Arthur Griffith Park, Lucan, Co. Dublin be **ADOPTED** and **APPROVED.”**

**H11c/0920 PROPOSED DISPOSAL OF PROPERTIES/SITES**

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

1. Disposal of fee simple in 84 Arthur Griffith Park, Lucan, Co. Dublin

The following have applied, in accordance with the provisions of the Landlord and Tenant (Ground Rent) (No 2) Act, to acquire the fee simple in the property

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| ADDRESS  | LESSEE(S)  | PURCHASE PRICE  |
| 84 Arthur Griffith Park, Lucan, Co. Dublin  | Peter Doherty | €320.61 |

It is proposed, in accordance with the provisions of the landlord and Tenant (Ground Rents) (No 2) Act, 1978 and subject to the provisions of Section 183 of the Local Government Act 2001, to dispose of the fee simple in the site listed above.

**Daniel McLoughlin**

**Chief Executive**

The report was **NOTED** and it was proposed byCouncillor E. O’Brien, seconded by Councillor M. Duff and **RESOLVED:**

“That the disposal of fee simple in 84 Arthur Griffith Park, Lucan, Co. Dublin be **ADOPTED** and **APPROVED.”**

**H11d/0920 PROPOSED DISPOSAL OF PROPERTIES/SITES**

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

1. Proposed disposal of laneway between 47 & 49 Rowlagh Park, Clondalkin, D. 22

**LD 1409 Proposed disposal of laneway between 47 & 49 Rowlagh Park,**

 **Clondalkin, Dublin 22**

June & Michael Cullen, the houseowners of 49 Rowlagh Park, Clondalkin have applied to purchase the laneway between 47 & 49 Rowlagh Park, to incorporate into their garden. The houseowners in No. 47 Rowlagh Park have no objection to the proposed disposal and approval for the Public Right of Way in the subject laneway to be extinguished, took place at Council meeting on 9 December 2019 – Certified Minute No. H16/1219 refers.

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

Accordingly, I now recommend that the Council disposes of the laneway measuring 0.0038 hectares (38 square metres) or thereabouts between 47 & 49 Rowlagh Park as outlined in red on the attached Drawing No. LA/12/20 to June & Michael Cullen, in accordance with Section 211 of the Planning and Development Act, 2000 and subject to the provisions of Section 183 of the Local Government Act, 2001 subject to the following terms and conditions as recommended by the Council’s Valuer:-

1. That the subject plot comprises an area of 0.0038 hectares (38 square metres) or thereabouts as outlined in red on attached Drawing No. LA/12/20.
2. That the Council disposes of the subject plot for the consideration of €5,300 (five thousand three hundred euro) plus VAT (if applicable).
3. That the land is disposed of with full freehold title and vacant possession.
4. That the Applicants hold the freehold or equivalent interest in No. 49 Rowlagh Park.
5. That the Applicants incorporate the area and any boundary feature constructed shall be in accordance with the Planning and Development and the Building Control legislation.
6. That the Applicants pay the Council Valuer fee of €800 (eight hundred euro) plus VAT.
7. That the Applicants pay the Council’s legal fees plus VAT and outlay.
8. That the Applicants be responsible for any VAT and stamp duty liability associated with this disposal.
9. That in the event of any name change to Applicants prior to formal completion of the legal transfer, the Applicants must provide documentary evidence to the Council proving that the new named party is one and the same as the named Applicants heretofore to enable the transfer to complete.
10. That each party shall use their best endeavours to complete the transaction within a reasonable timeframe following adoption of the disposal resolution.
11. That the Law Agent shall draft the necessary legal agreements and shall include any further terms deemed appropriate in Agreements of this nature.
12. That no contract enforceable at Law is created or intended to be created until such time as contracts have been exchanged.
13. That the disposal is subject to the necessary approvals and consents being obtained.

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

**Daniel McLoughlin**

**Chief Executive**

The report was **NOTED** and it was proposed byCouncillor E. O’Brien, seconded by Councillor M. Duff and **RESOLVED:**

“That the Proposed disposal of laneway between 47 & 49 Rowlagh Park, Clondalkin, D. 22 be **ADOPTED** and **APPROVED.”**

**H12/0920 MANAGEMENT REPORT**

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

[HI 12 (a) July 2020 Statistics Report](http://www.sdublincoco.ie/sdcc/departments/corporate/apps/cmas/documentsview.aspx?id=67028)

[HI 12 (b) August 2020 Statistics Report](http://www.sdublincoco.ie/sdcc/departments/corporate/apps/cmas/documentsview.aspx?id=67029)

[HI 12 (c) Finance report](http://www.sdublincoco.ie/sdcc/departments/corporate/apps/cmas/documentsview.aspx?id=67030)

**Billing and Collection Statement**





**Use of overdraft facility**

Department approved overdraft facility = €25,000,000

No of days in Overdraft from 1st January to 28th August = 1

[HI 12 (d) Chief Executive Report September 2020](http://www.sdublincoco.ie/sdcc/departments/corporate/apps/cmas/documentsview.aspx?id=67043)

A discussion followed with contributions from Councillors D. O’Donovan, L. Sinclair, R. McMahon and K. Mahon.

Mr. D. McLoughlin, Chief Executive, Ms. T. Walsh, Director of Environment Water and Climate Change and Mr. R. FitzGerald responded to the members queries.

The reports were **NOTED**.

**H13/0920 VENUE FOR MEETINGS GOING FORWARD**

The following report by the Chief Executive, which had been circulated, was presented by Ms. C. Hurson, Senior Executive Officer, Corporate Performance and Change Management and was **CONSIDERED:**

At the 2020 Annual Meeting it was agreed by resolution under Section 6 of the Standing Orders of South Dublin County Council to hold the July & September Council meetings at the National Basketball Arena or such other viable option in recognition of the Covid 19 Emergency and the Council's obligation to comply with social distancing requirements, while at the same time ensuring that the democratic process is preserved.

Members are asked to extend agreement of the resolution for Council meetings going forward to be held in the National Basketball Arena or other viable optionto provide for the same public health and safety requirements.

A discussion followed with contributions from Councillors C. Bailey, L. Dunne, J. Tuffy and M. Duff.

Ms. C. Hurson, Senior Executive Officer, Corporate Performance and Change Management responded to the Members queries.

It was proposed by Councillor E. O’Brien seconded by Councillor R. McMahon and the item was **AGREED.**

**H14/0920 CONSIDERATION OF LOCAL PROPERTY TAX – LOCAL ADJUSTMENT FACTOR**

The following reports by the Chief Executive, which had been circulated, were presented by Mr. R. FitzGerald, Head of Finance.

[H14 (a) LPT Variation Budget 2021 Strategy Presentation](http://www.sdublincoco.ie/sdcc/departments/corporate/apps/cmas/documentsview.aspx?id=67150)
[H14 (b) Sept 2020 LPT Local Adjustment Factor](http://www.sdublincoco.ie/sdcc/departments/corporate/apps/cmas/documentsview.aspx?id=67151)
[H14 (c) Circular Fin 12/2020](http://www.sdublincoco.ie/sdcc/departments/corporate/apps/cmas/documentsview.aspx?id=67152)

A discussion followed with contributions from Councillors B. Lawlor, M. Duff, D. McManus, L. Sinclair, P. Kearns, P. Holohan, J. Tuffy, K. Mahon, S. Moynihan, W. Carey, E Ó Broin, L. O’Toole, L. Dunne, S. Fay, P. Gogarty, G. O’Connell, P. Kavanagh and R. McMahon

Mr. R. FitzGerald, Head of Finance, responded to the Members queries.

Councillor B. Lawlor proposed and Councillor M. Duff seconded a reduction of 15% in the rate of property tax.

The Mayor Councillor E. O’Brien then called for a vote by way of a show of hands, the result of which was as follows:

**FOR: 30 (THIRTY)**

**AGAINST: 4 (FOUR)**

**ABSTAIN: 0 (ZERO)**

It was **RESOLVED** “That South Dublin County Council hereby determines that the basic rate of Local Property Tax should stand varied downwards by fifteen per cent (15%) for the year ending 31st October 2021 was **APPROVED”**

**H15/0920 TALLAGHT STADIUM PART 8**

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

A discussion followed with contributions from Councillors V. Casserly, T. Costello, P. Kearns, K. Mahon, A. Edge, C. Bailey, M. Duff, D. McManus, E. O’Brien, C. O’Byrne

Mr. F. Nevin, Director of Economic Enterprise and tourism Development responded to the Members queries.

The Mayor, Councillor E. O’Brien, proposed that the Item be deferred until the October Council Meeting to give management time to re-examine the feasibility of including a “Changing Place” facility into the development.

The Mayor, Councillor E. O’Brien then called for a vote by way of a show of hands, the result of which was a follows:

**FOR: 32 (THIRTY-TWO)**

**AGAINST: 0 (ZERO)**

**ABSTAIN: 0 (ZERO)**

It was **AGREED** that the Tallaght Stadium Part 8 be deferred until the October Council Meeting.

**H16/0920 LUCAN ROAD PART 8**

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

[H16 Part 8 Report on Older Persons' Housing at Old Lucan Road](http://www.sdublincoco.ie/sdcc/departments/corporate/apps/cmas/documentsview.aspx?id=67132)
[H16 Presentation for Part 8 Report on Older Persons' Housing at Old Lucan Road](http://www.sdublincoco.ie/sdcc/departments/corporate/apps/cmas/documentsview.aspx?id=67199)

A discussion followed with contributions from Councillors A. Hayes, G. O’Connell, J. Tuffy, S. Moynihan, L. O’Toole, P. Gogarty, P. Kavanagh.

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

The Mayor, Councillor E. O’Brien then called for a vote by way of a show of hands the result of which was as follows:

**FOR: 30 (THIRTY)**

**AGAINST: 0 (ZERO)**

**ABSTAIN: 0 (ZERO)**

The reports were **NOTED** and it was proposed byCouncillor E. O’Brien, seconded by Councillor A. Hayes and **RESOLVED:**

“As the proposed development is in accordance with the proper planning and sustainable development of the area, the Council approves the development of a social housing project for Independent Living for Older Persons, consisting of 4 no. 1-bedroom apartments in a two-storey structure on the Old Lucan Road adjacent to the junction with Hollyville Lawn, Palmerstown, Dublin 20”.

**H17/0920 DRAFT AGE FRIENDLY COUNTY STRATEGY**

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

**A) DRAFT AGE FRIENDLY COUNTY STRATEGY**

**B) AGE FRIENDLY HOUSING**

[H17 (a) Draft Age Friendly County Strategy 2020-2024](http://www.sdublincoco.ie/sdcc/departments/corporate/apps/cmas/documentsview.aspx?id=67202)
[H17 (a) Draft Age Friendly County Strategy Presentation](http://www.sdublincoco.ie/sdcc/departments/corporate/apps/cmas/documentsview.aspx?id=67201)
[H17 (b) Age Friendly Housing Presentation](http://www.sdublincoco.ie/sdcc/departments/corporate/apps/cmas/documentsview.aspx?id=67200)

A discussion followed with contributions from Councillors P. Kavanagh, E Ó Broin, M. Johansson, E. Murphy, M. Duff, G. O’Connell and K. Mahon.

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

The reports were **NOTED** and it was proposed byCouncillor E. O’Brien, seconded by Councillor P. Kavanagh.

The Mayor Councillor E. O’Brien then called for a vote by way of a show ofhands the result of which was as follows:

**FOR: 32 (THIRTY-TWO)**

**AGAINST: 0 (ZERO)**

**ABSTAIN: 0 (ZERO**)

It was **RESOLVED** that “The South Dublin Age Friendly County Strategy 2020 -2024 be **ADOPTED** and **APPROVED**”.

**H18/0920 DISTRICT CENTRE ENHANCEMENT PROGRAMME**

The following report by the Chief Executive, which had been circulated, was presented by Mr. M. Mulhern, Director of Land Use, Planning and Transportation.

[H18 Centre Enhancement Programme](http://www.sdublincoco.ie/sdcc/departments/corporate/apps/cmas/documentsview.aspx?id=67059)

The report was **NOTED** and it was proposed byCouncillor E. O’Brien, seconded by

Councillor F. Timmons.

The Mayor Councillor E. O’Brien then called for a vote by way of a show of hands the result of which was as follows:

**FOR: 30 (THIRTY )**

**AGAINST: 0 (ZERO)**

**ABSTAIN: 0 (ZERO)**

It was **RESOLVED** that “The District Centre Enhancement Programme be **ADOPTED** and **APPROVED**”.

**H19/0920 PART 8 INNOVATION CENTRE**

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

[H19 Innovation] Centre](http://www.sdublincoco.ie/sdcc/departments/corporate/apps/cmas/documentsview.aspx?id=67097)

 The report was **NOTED**.

**H20/0920 TALLAGHT DISTRICT HEATING UPDATE**

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

**Tallaght District Heating.**

Having already met its EU commitment to reduce energy usage by 33% by the end of 2020, South Dublin County Council now faces the challenge of further reducing this figure to 50% by 2030. As heating and cooling of buildings accounts for over half of energy usage in the EU, this is an area that needs to be urgently addressed. Dublin generates much more waste-heat than is required to heat every building in the city. Through district-heating this waste-heat could be collected and utilised to produce low carbon space heating, significantly reducing fossil fuel and greenhouse gases.

In 2018 SDCC succeeded in a bid to secure € 1.0m EU funding to promote the development of a district heating network in Tallaght. The HEATNET project will connect the Council Headquarters and Technical University of Dublin Tallaght (formerly IT Tallaght) to a large datacentre currently now under completion on Belgard Road. As part of their corporate commitment towards full decarbonisation, the datacentre company agreed to become the major heat source for the new district heating network, funding waste-heat collection systems in their building and offering the heat at no charge to the Council. They also provided a lease for site for the construction of an energy-centre designed to raise the waste-heat temperature for more efficient use in network distribution. Contracts for the lease and the heat-recovery agreement will be signed in the coming weeks. The construction of the Energy-centre will be supported by €4.5m in grant-aid from the Department of Communications, Climate Action and Environment. The network will service not just public buildings but also residential, commercial and retail.

The SDCC/data-centre partnership embodies a way to add social and community value to data-centre construction utilising waste heat for public buildings and the homes of Tallaght residents while contributing towards a low-cost, low-carbon energy future. The use of a datacentre to supply a public district-heating scheme linking waste-heat to heat-pump technology will be the first of its kind in the UK and Ireland.

A company was required to set up and manage the district-heating network. Based on best practice elsewhere it was decided to establish a publicly owned, not-for-profit company (the Council already has similar companies in place for the management of Leisure and Arts Centres and Tallaght Stadium for example). The South Dublin District Heating Company will trade as “Heatworks” and is wholly owned by SDCC. It will own the district heating network and energy centre and will also be responsible for pricing policy and the expansion of the network across Tallaght.

As SDCC has little experience in the realities of district-heating it was also necessary to contract an experienced energy supply company to design, build, operate and maintain the energy centre and heat network for an initial contract period of 10 years. Supported by City of Dublin Energy Management Agency ( Codema), an international tender process identified Fortum, a large Finnish district-heating provider, as the preferred company. They deliver and manage large heat networks all over Scandinavia and Eastern Europe and are establishing an Irish-based company for this project. An Energy-supply contract will be signed within the coming weeks and construction work will begin in October on the pipe-network and energy-centre building. The construction period is estimated at 60 weeks to completion.

Initial customers for the heat supply will be the County Hall /County Library buildings and the main campus building in the TUD Tallaght. Both will be serviced by district-heating before the end of 2021. Two new buildings - 134 Affordable apartments and the Tallaght Innovation Centre - to be constructed around a large public square as centrepiece of the Tallaght Innovation Quarter, will be completed and connected in early 2022. Planning permissions have been granted by An Bord Pleanala for almost 2,000 apartments, designed to be district-heating- ready, on nearby sites.

Heatworks will operate as a utility company charging its customers for the supply of heat. Costs will be in line with existing gas bills. Annual surplus will be re-invested in extending the heat network and maintaining good value in heat costs to its customers. Fortum will charge Heatworks for the supply of heat through the network while maintaining and optimising the use of waste-heat. The energy-centre and heat network will be owned by Heatworks from completion of construction.

The heat network will reduce carbon-emissions by more than 60%, saving 1500 tonnes of carbon per annum on Phase 1 alone. Eliminating particulates will produce cleaner air. The Energy-centre heat-pumps are electrically powered integrating heat and electricity networks, facilitating grid-balancing and promoting renewable electricity sources. The supply of low-cost low-carbon heat will attract more businesses and development to Tallaght town-centre as well as creating specialised jobs and technical training in the operation and management of this technology as it grows. As carbon taxes increase on fossil fuels, low-cost heat from the network will mitigate fuel poverty and increase commercial competitiveness. With ongoing innovations in tendering, contracts and company structure and powered by 4th generation district-heating technology, Tallaght continues its journey to a sustainable future.

[H20 (b) Presentation Tallaght HeatNet Company](http://www.sdublincoco.ie/sdcc/departments/corporate/apps/cmas/documentsview.aspx?id=67123)

A discussion followed with contributions from Councillors E Ó Broin and K. Mahon

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

The reports were **NOTED.**

**H21/0920 CLIMATE ACTION PLAN PROGRESS REPORT**

The following report by the Chief Executive, which had been circulated, was presented by Ms. T. Walsh, Director of Environment, Water and Climate Change.

[H21. Climate Change Action Plan Update Report](http://www.sdublincoco.ie/sdcc/departments/corporate/apps/cmas/documentsview.aspx?id=67124)

Councillor G. O’Connell spoke on the item.

Ms. T. Walsh, Director of Environment, Water and Climate Change responded to the Member’s query.

The report was **NOTED**.

**C1/0920 CORRESPONDENCE**

(a) [Letter from the Minister of State at the Department of Health with special responsibility for Mental Health and Older People](http://www.sdublincoco.ie/sdcc/departments/corporate/apps/cmas/documentsview.aspx?id=67085)

[(b) Correspondence dated 3rd June 2020 from AILG report on the Plenary Members Activities](http://www.sdublincoco.ie/sdcc/departments/corporate/apps/cmas/documentsview.aspx?id=67086)

[(c) Letter dated 16th June from Kerry County Council regarding the VAT rate on the Tourism industry.](http://www.sdublincoco.ie/sdcc/departments/corporate/apps/cmas/documentsview.aspx?id=67087)

[(d) Letter dated 24th June from Westmeath County Council in relation to the 2020 Leaving Certificate Examination](http://www.sdublincoco.ie/sdcc/departments/corporate/apps/cmas/documentsview.aspx?id=67088)

[(e) Letter dated 25th June from Roscommon County Council in relation to a motion passed at a recent meeting calling for financial support for Tidy Towns and Voluntary groups.](http://www.sdublincoco.ie/sdcc/departments/corporate/apps/cmas/documentsview.aspx?id=67089)

[(f) Letter dated 8th July from Limerick City County Council in relation to a motion passed at a recent meeting in support of the National Small Business Recovery Plan](http://www.sdublincoco.ie/sdcc/departments/corporate/apps/cmas/documentsview.aspx?id=67090)

[(g) Letter dated 13th July from Sligo County Council in relation to a motion passed at a recent meeting calling for a ban on the use and sale of inflatable dinghies.](http://www.sdublincoco.ie/sdcc/departments/corporate/apps/cmas/documentsview.aspx?id=67091)

[(h) Letter dated 13th July from Sligo County Council in relation to a motion passed at a recent meeting regarding the right of way](http://www.sdublincoco.ie/sdcc/departments/corporate/apps/cmas/documentsview.aspx?id=67092)

[(i) Letter dated 14th July from Limerick City County Council in regard to a motion passed at a recent meeting opposing the National Planning Framework policy relating to one-off rural housing.](http://www.sdublincoco.ie/sdcc/departments/corporate/apps/cmas/documentsview.aspx?id=67093)

[(j) Letter dated 14th August 2020 from Kerry County Council in relation to a motion passed calling for the introduction of a state pension public service fund for public service workers.](http://www.sdublincoco.ie/sdcc/departments/corporate/apps/cmas/documentsview.aspx?id=67094)

[(k) Letter dated 20th August 2020 from Louth County Council in relation to a motion passed to establish a special taskforce in regards to the impact of Covid-19 on mental health well being](http://www.sdublincoco.ie/sdcc/departments/corporate/apps/cmas/documentsview.aspx?id=67095)

[(l) Letter dated 21st August from FermanaghOmagh District Council in relation to a motion passed calling for carehomes to be brought into public ownership](http://www.sdublincoco.ie/sdcc/departments/corporate/apps/cmas/documentsview.aspx?id=67096)

Correspondence was **NOTED.**

**Motions for discussion**

**M2/0920 COMMUNITY CENTRES**

**The following Motion in the name of Councillor Shane Moynihan and seconded by Councillor E. Murphy was** **MOVED** **WITHOUT DEBATE.**

That this Council calls for the introduction of electronic booking systems for community centres in the County.

**REPORT:**

Community centres in the County, including those built by the Council, are each managed by independent local voluntary management companies that are independent legal companies established as Companies Limited by Guarantee.   However, the Council does retain overall ownership and responsibility for the asset it has provided.

Community centres typically hire out rooms and facilities to groups/individuals who run classes or activities for which bookings may be made directly with the organiser and not necessarily with the community centre.   Each management company is responsible for managing its own daily bookings, procedures and systems and therefore, theoretically at least, the introduction of electronic booking systems is a matter for each individual management company to consider and the development and installation of such systems may be supported by the Council's Community Grants Scheme.

However, the synergies and efficiencies that could be gained across the network of community centres in the County through adopting a centralised online booking system certainly warrant an assessment of the feasibility of such a system.  This assessment will be undertaken by the Community team, having regard in particular to the pitch booking system that is being implemented by the Parks section.

**M3/0920 COVID MEMORIAL**

**The following Motion in the name of Councillor L. O'Toole and seconded by Councillor D. O’Donovan was** **MOVED** **WITHOUT DEBATE.**

That the members request the Chief Executive to design, install and organise for Plaques similar to the one in the photo to be placed in our parks in thanks to all our volunteers/hero’s that have helped out in so many ways during the challenging times of Covid19

**REPORT:**

The Council has an agreed **Policy on Infrastructure Naming, provision of memorials and plaques**.  This policy provides for an Infrastructure Naming Committee which consists of 7 Councillor Members - 6 Councillor Members with the Mayor as ex officio.

In line with the policy, the committee may review requests on a quarterly basis and will make determinations that proposals being put forward are in the public interest.

**Section 5** of the **Policy on Infrastructure Naming, provision of memorials and plaques**outlines as follows:

The provision of plaques and memorials can support heritage and cultural awareness in addition to promoting tourist sites and locations. The council receives many request for recognition of historic figures and events by way of plaque on their residence or at a location of significance so there is validity to inclusion of this category of commemoration in the policy.

The following guidelines are set out in Section 5 of the policy in relation to plaques and memorials:

**5.1** Wording on commemorative plaques, memorials or statues should be kept to a minimum. The use of Irish and English is desirable and proposers should be aware of the need to comply with the requirements of the Official Languages Act 2003 at all times

**5.2** Normally an individual or event can only be commemorated with one plaque or monument within the County.

5.3 In general only one commemorative plaque should be erected on any building/structure.

**5.4** The design should be consistent with County Branding templates and construction should require little maintenance and should be resistant to vandalism.

**5.5** All proposals to erect monuments, memorials or plaques will have to comply with planning regulations. Due to the general nature and size of monuments or statues proposals for these may require planning permission, this facilitates public engagement and submissions.

**5.6** Early advice should be sought on the erection of a plaque, memorial or monument on, or within the curtilage of, a Protected Structure, ACA, Conservation area, Heritage or Biodiversity site (including Special Areas of Conservation and proposed Natural Heritage Areas), as planning permission may be needed in order to proceed.

**5.7** The erection of a plaque, memorial or monument on, or in the vicinity of, a Recorded Monument will require 2 months prior notification to the National Monuments Service of the Department of Arts, Heritage, Regional Rural and Gaeltacht Affairs or in the case of a National Monument ministerial consent will be required from the Minister of Arts, Heritage Regional Rural and Gaeltacht Affairs. There are official forms that must be submitted in relation to notification or consent which are available from the National Monuments Service (www.archaeology.ie).

**5.8** Requests for memorials and plaques from family members in cases of tragic deaths will not come under this policy, such requests will be dealt with on a case by case basis by the relevant Department of the Council.

The types of Commemorative Memorials that should be considered to mark significant historical events, anniversaries or people are as follows:

**Plaques** – A flat tablet of metal, stone or other material which includes text or images and is fixed to a wall or other surface. Plaques are generally erected to commemorate the residence or a location associated with an important individual or the site of a significant event.

It is recommended that this request be referred to the committee who will make a decision in line with the policy.

[M3 (b) Example](http://www.sdublincoco.ie/sdcc/departments/corporate/apps/cmas/documentsview.aspx?id=66955)

**M4/0920 GLYPHOSATE USAGE**

**The following Motion in the name of Councillor Carly Bailey and seconded by Councillor A. Edge was** **MOVED** **WITHOUT DEBATE.**

That this Council ensures that all future contracts entered into with private contractors to carry out works on behalf of this local authority, will ensure that a clause will be included that states that glyphosate based products can no longer be used by them or the Local Authority, in relation to any work that is carried out on our behalf.

**REPORT:**

South Dublin County Council carries out weed control in connection with its grass cutting, road sweeping and village cleaning and maintenance operations. The elected members of the Council passed a motion in May 2017 banning any use of glyphosate in or close to public parks, public playgrounds and public gardens.  This ban has been implemented by Public Realm Operations since its adoption.  Where the use of glyphosate based weed killer is not permitted in the locations mentioned the Council utilises alternative methods of weed control and these range from identifying areas where weed control can cease completely to utilising other methods such as weed removal by hand.  In addition, trials have been carried out on the use of non-glyphosate based weed killer, however the results obtained have not been considered a success.  SDCC staff have also attended trials on the use of hot foam and hot water-based weed control techniques carried out by other local authorities, however while these techniques may be suitable for confined areas they have been deemed to be not suitable for the purpose of public realm maintenance on a large scale.

Weed control along public roads, footpaths and in roadside margins presents a specific problem due to the nature of the task at hand.  The Council maintains close to 1,000km of roads including main roads, housing estate roads and industrial estate roads.  Labour intensive methods of weed control are not appropriate to this task, such is the volume of work involved.  The Council's road sweeping contractor, Oxigen Environmental, therefore continues to use a glyphosate-based weed killer to deliver the weed control element of their contract. The contractors staff engaged in this work are required to be highly trained in the task, are required to use the appropriate equipment including PPE and are also required to be registered with the Dept of Agriculture as a professional user of pesticides in accordance with the Sustainable Use Directive. The Council meets regularly in relation to the provision of services under this contract and monitors all relevant matters including the weed control element of the contract.

It would therefore not be currently feasible to omit use of glyphosate from all future contracts, though this Council will continue in its efforts to reduce the use of glyphosate in its weed control operations and in keeping with the National Pollinator and National Biodiversity Plans.

**M6/0920 TRAVELLER ACCOMMODATION PROGRAMME FUNDING**

**The following Motion in the name of Councillor G. O'Connell and seconded by Councillor F. Timmons was MOVED** **WITHOUT DEBATE.**

This Council calls on the Chief Executive, in the event of there being financial restrictions as a result of the Covid-19 or for any other reason, that the funds for  the Traveller Accommodation Programme 2019-2024 for this County be safeguarded and that the planned programme be fully implemented and that in any associated discussions he or the Director of Housing have with Government Departments that they convey the determination of the elected members that the said Traveller Accommodation Programme be fully funded and resourced.

**REPORT:**

Funding for the capital programme associated with the delivery of the Council's Traveller Accommodation Programme 2019-2024 is provided by the Department of Housing, Planning and Local Government.  The ongoing commitment and support of the Elected Members for the delivery of this programme and the importance of delivery of the Traveller accommodation required in the County underpin ongoing engagements with the Department in this regard.

**M8/0920 COMMUNITY EMPLOYMENT PROGRAMMES**

**The following Motion in the name of Councillor M. Duff and seconded by Councillor F. Timmons was** **MOVED** **WITHOUT DEBATE**.

In an effort to combat Youth Unemployment, following COVID-19, this Council call on Minister Heather Humphreys, TD, Minister for Social Protection, Community & Rural Development and the Islands, to remove the age barrier and twelve month "Live Register" requirement for access to Community Employment Programmes, to allow young people participate in meaningful employment within their Community, to access accredited training and educational opportunities, and to enhance their mainstream employment prospects

**REPORT:**

If this Motion is a passed a letter will be issued to the Minister for Social Protection, Community and Rural Development and the Islands and a response, when received, will be circulated to the Members.

### **M9/0920 COVID-19 SERVICE AWARD**

### **The following Motion in the name of Councillor W. Carey and seconded by Councillor P. Kavanagh was MOVED** **WITHOUT DEBATE**.

This Council agrees to call upon the government to introduce a service award/medal to be granted to all those front line workers who risked their personal safety in battling the Covid 19 pandemic and that such an award also be made to those in transport and logistics who have been deemed to have gone above and beyond their normal work commitments. also in recognition of their sacrifice, that a compensation package be put in place for the families of those workers that have died as a result of contracting the Covid 19 virus whilst engaged in this work

**REPORT:**

If this Motion is a passed a letter will be issued to the relevant Minister and a response, when received, will be circulated to the Members.

**M13/0920 LGBT COMMUNITY IN POLAND**

**The following Motion in the name of Councillor F. Timmons and seconded by Councillor V. Casserly was MOVED** **WITHOUT DEBATE**.

That this Council shows solidarity with the LGBT Community in Poland and opposes the manner and way that Poland's government is treating its LGBT Community by Banning Gay Marriage , Creating LGBT Free zones , locking up LGBT activists etc , We are proud that in Ireland we have come such a long way and we affirm that We are a country that promotes and advocate equality for everyone, We send solidarity to all our Polish LGBT Brothers and Sisters! We commit to write to the Polish Ambassador and our Minister for Foreign Affairs to express our Solidarity to the polish LGBT community.

**REPORT:**

If this Motion is a passed a letter will be issued to the above named people and a response, when received, will be circulated to the Members.

### **M18/0920**  **AGE FRIENDLY COUNTY**

### **The following Motion in the name of Councillor Peter Kavanagh and seconded by Councillor C. O’Byrne was** **MOVED** **WITHOUT DEBATE**.

This Council reaffirms its commitment to becoming an Age Friendly County and commits to prioritising opportunities for older people to live healthy and active lives, as close to their communities as possible, supported and enabled by SDCC in its policies, actions and by the range of services and types of accommodation provided, and also commits to examine the development of further long term care facilities as they may be contrary to this aim.

**REPORT:**

The Draft Age Friendly County Strategy presented to the Council for consideration at this meeting (see Headed Item 17) demonstrates the range of commitments and objectives contributing to the stated aim of the draft strategy to "enhance the quality of life of older people in South Dublin through a coordinated and strategic approach to age friendly initiatives, to make South Dublin a place where older people are treated with dignity and respect, and a place where the contribution of older people to the social, economic and cultural fabric of the County is highly valued."

A Joint Policy Statement on Housing Options for our Ageing Population developed by the Department of Housing, Local Government & Heritage and the Department of Health , with support from key stakeholders including the HSE, the Housing Agency and Age Friendly Ireland provides a policy framework to support our ageing population in a way that will increase the range of options available to older people across the continuum of care and give meaningful choice in how and where people choose to live as they age.  The core aim is to increase the options available to older people, provide alternatives to the traditional nursing home model and to facilitate the integration of supports in a more coherent way, particularly between the housing and health sectors.

The  Age Friendly Housing proposals being advised to the Elected Members of this Council at this meeting are a local progression of the policy statement to help provide increased numbers of exemplar age friendly housing in existing communities, proximate to services and supports.  The Development Plan review will also include the preparation of a Housing Strategy which will examine the accommodation needs of different groups of people including older people.  Compact growth is an important aspect of the national and regional growth model and will facilitate older people, as well as other groups, to live as close to their communities as possible.

**M1/0920 MAYORS BUSINESS - COMMUNICATION BOARDS**

**It was proposed by Councillor E. O’Brien and seconded by Councillor G. O’Connell**

That this Council supports the efforts of the Irish Association of Speech & Language Therapists (IASLT) to increase inclusivity in various facilities by piloting the use of communication boards in our playgrounds to assist children with communication disorders and to meet with the chair of IASLT to discuss ways that we can improve inclusivity for those with speech and language difficulties throughout the County.

**REPORT:**

The Council is supportive in general of measures that would increase the accessibility and inclusivity of our playgrounds and are currently evaluating the level of need for the communication boards. We have contacted our Disability Officer and her fellow Access Officers around the country and also the Special Projects Team responsible for the playground at Min Ryan Park in Wexford.

In addition, we have contacted a speech and language therapist who submitted the recent information on the communication boards, who has us information on how the proposal relates particularly to playgrounds.

We understand that many children who have this need have their own communication cards but may not always need to have them with them.  In some cases, children who have a mild or moderate disability can become unable to concentrate in a playground as it can be an overstimulating environment. In such cases the boards would help the children and parents to maintain communication and allow the child to continue using the playground.

The Council intend investigating the feasibility of installing a communication board in the upgrade of the new Corkagh Park Playground, which is commencing shortly, on a pilot basis.  We can examine feedback from parents / children before considering their further roll out.

 A discussion followed with contributions from Councillors E. O’Brien, P. Kavanagh and C. Bailey

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

The Motion was **AGREED**.

Meeting finished @ 17:34.

**Motions Not Reached**

**(M5) Councillor Eoin Ó Broin**

This Council agrees to install two self-cleaning outdoor public toilets on the high streets of each of the seven local electoral areas of the county and to liaise with the City of Paris if any advice on the matter needed.

**(M7) Councillor Yvonne Collins**

To ask the Chief Executive to write to the relevant Minister and request that a procedure be put in place allowing for a postal vote in a General Election for qualifying citizens who are over 65 years of age and who apply for it.

**(M10) Councillor L. Kinsella-Colman**

That this Council calls for the establishment of a dog pound/cat and dogs home that is within this Council's control.

What funding is available for this?

The Chief Executive to bring a report on the feasibility of achieving this

**(M11) Councillor P. Gogarty**

That the Chief Executive organises, at the appropriate time, a separate event similar to the Community Endeavour Awards to recognise the front line workers and especially and distinctly those ordinary people from our communities who stood up when it mattered during the Covid-19 crisis to assist vulnerable members in our County in various ways, with a nominations procedure being initiated in advance of such a gathering - subject to medical guidelines in place permitting such events; and if a statement can be made on same.

**(M12) Shirley O'Hara**

That this Council requests that the Chief Executive erects communications boards in public playgrounds and play spaces. An example of which was rolled out at Min Park by Wexford County Council (photo attached). This initiative is designed to help children with communication difficulties and sends out a clear message of inclusion from an early age.

**(M14) Councillor E. Murphy**

That South Dublin County Council amends its policy on responses to queries by elected members to Housing List position requests. This change would follow the policies of other local authorities in Dublin by providing the list position and would provide clarity to applicants who are seeking housing support.

**(M15) Councillor C. O'Connor**

That this South Dublin County Council, recognising the contribution of CE Supervisors for their years of dedication to our communities and noting the findings of the Labour Court ruling, calls on the Government to engage, consult and honor the commitment of a fair gratuity scheme and resolve the pension entitlements for all the Supervisors and Assistant Supervisors who have put in the years of service and deserve their due recognition and will the Chief Executive bring this motion to the attention of Heather Humphreys TD, Minister for Social Protection and Community and Rural Development.

**(M16) Councillor Teresa Costello**

That this Council ( cognizant of the current Garda investigation) calls on the Chief Executive for a full detailed report on the contractual operation arrangement between SDCC and Ashton Pound, and following on from the detailed report that this urgent issue be listed as a headed item for the next full Council meeting

**(M17) Councillor M. Johansson**

That this Council agree that income limits for access to social housing should be removed to allow for a greater social mix in public housing.

**(M19) Councillor Liam Sinclair**

Following reports of cruelty in Ashton Dog Pound, this Council calls for an immediate investigation of their activities and review of our relationship with them.

**(M20) Councillor Sandra Fay**

During the massive struggle that has been waged by ex- Debenhams workers across the companies 11 stores in Ireland the deficit of workers protection in liquidations has again been sharply exposed. This Council calls for the immediate implementation of the Duffy/Cahill Report, compiled in 2016 in the aftermath of The Clerys dispute- as one way of strengthening workers rights and tackling the legal outs provided to major corporations who engage in tactical liquidations in order to avoid their obligations under hard won workers’ rights. If passed this Council communicates such in writing to Government, to all Local Authorities and to the ICTU offering its support for implementation.

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

Mayor

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