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

Minutes of South Dublin County Council Tallaght Area Committee Meeting held on Monday 25th January 2021

### **PRESENT**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Costello, Teresa  | King, Cathal |
| Duff, Mick | O’Connor, Charlie |
| Dunne, Louise | Mahon, Kieran  |
| Fay, Sandra | Holohan, Patrick |
| Sinclair, Liam |  |

### **OFFICIALS PRESENT**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Senior Engineer | L. Magee & W. Purcell  |
| Senior Planner | J. Frehill |
| Senior Executive Officer | C. Hurson & E. Leech |
| Senior Executive Planner | J. Johnston  |
| Senior Executive Librarian | L. Joyce  |
| Administrative Officer | S. Kelly  |
| Senior Staff Officer  | J. Sweeney  |
| Staff Officer | B. Carroll |
| Assistant Staff Officer  | A. Ryan |
| Clerical Officer  | S. Hope |

Councillor L. Sinclair, presided

### **T/01/21 H1/0121 Item ID:68364**

Minutes of Tallaght Area Committee Meeting held on 17th December 2020 which had been circulated, were submitted and **APPROVED** as a true record and signed.

It was proposed by Councillor L. Sinclair, seconded by Councillor M. Duff and **RESOLVED:**

"That the recommendations contained in the Minutes of the Tallaght Area Committee Meeting held on 17th December 2020 be **ADOPTED** and **APPROVED**."

[H-I (1) Minutes from Tallaght Area Committee Meeting 17th December 2020](http://www.sdublincoco.ie/sdcc/departments/corporate/apps/cmas/documentsview.aspx?id=68781)

**QUESTIONS**

It was proposed by Councillor L. Sinclair, seconded by Councillor M. Duff and RESOLVED: "That pursuant to Standing Order No. 1, Question Nos. 1 to 17 be ADOPTED and APPROVED.”

## **Transportation**

### **T/02/21 Q1/0121 Item ID:68428**

Proposed by Councillor M. Duff

"In light of the recent announcement of the South Dublin County LCDC, Community Enhancement Funding 2020 and the awarding of €1000 to a local Community Charity for four heritage, iron signs, for Tallaght Village, can the Chief Executive advise this Committee if these signs will meet the requirements of the SDCC Directional Sign Strategy and will they conform to the standard signage for the nine Villages of the County, as indicated in the DSS presentation and will Planning Permission be required by the Community Charity to erect these proposed signs? Can the Manager also make a statement as to why South Dublin County Council are not erecting Heritage signage, where required, in Tallaght Village or to indicate if there are plans in place to do so."

**REPLY:**

Details have been sought as to the proposed construction, content and locations of the signs. When these are available a report will be issued.

It is proposed, at a later date, to implement a Heritage Signing scheme when the scope and range of the scheme have been fully considered and developed.

### **T/03/21 H2/0121 Item ID:68377**

Proposed by Transportation

New Works (No Business)

### **T/04/21 C1/0121 Item ID:68389**

Proposed by Transportation

Correspondence (No Business)

### **T/05/21 M1/0121 Item ID:68776**

Proposed by Councillor L. Dunne Seconded by Councillor L. Sinclair

"This Area Committee calls on the Chief Executive to install traffic calming measures such as a high reinstated roundabout or an island on Kiltalown Road, at the cross road between Kiltalown Road/Kiltalown Crescent/Kiltalown Path as a matter of urgency as this is a hotspot for stolen cars."

**REPORT:**

 The area will be inspected and if a roundabout is seen as a suitable solution then this work can be added to the Traffic Crew list of works for the coming months.

W. Purcell made a presentation.

A discussion followed with contributions from Cllrs. L. Dunne, C. King, K. McMahon, M. Duff & T. Costello.

W. Purcell replied to the Member’s queries.

A commitment was given to keep in touch with Cllr. Dunne on the item – W. Purcell.

The motion was **AGREED**.

### **T/06/21 M2/0121 Item ID:68779**

Proposed by Councillor L. Sinclair Seconded by Councillor M. Duff

"That a car parking space in Tallaght Village, ideally on or near Main St, is given over to cycle parking (such as those seen in Templeogue etc)."

[Cycle Parking](http://www.sdublincoco.ie/sdcc/departments/corporate/apps/cmas/documentsview.aspx?id=68563)

**REPORT:**

 If this item is carried the matter will be reviewed.

In considering the matter, you are advised that:

1. there is already very little traffic in Tallaght Village

2. That the existing businesses and their customers use the parking spaces that exist as there is a high occupancy level and

3. Would the Members like to take the views of their constituents before voting on the matter

A discussion followed with contributions from Cllrs. L. Sinclair, M. Duff, C. King, T. Costello, L. Dunne & P. Holohan.

S. Kelly replied to the Member’s queries.

A commitment was given to contact Cllr. Sinclair when the Lidl proposal is agreed. – S. Kelly.

The motion was **AGREED**.

### **T/07/21 M3/0121 Item ID:68849**

Proposed by Councillor L. Dunne Seconded by Councillor L. Sinclair

"This Area Committee calls on the Chief Executive to install ramps on Bawnlea Avenue that is being used as a hot spot for stolen cars."

**REPORT:**

 An application form for Ramps is required to be submitted in order for a location to be considered for Ramps.

A discussion followed with contributions from Cllrs. L. Dunne.

W. Purcell replied to the Member’s queries.

The motion was **AGREED**.

## **Planning**

### **T/08/21 Q2/0121 Item ID:68775**

Proposed by Councillor L. Dunne

"CSO 2019 figures state that there are 57.630 HAP households across the state. With Tallaght Central being in the top five Electoral Areas having the highest percentage of HAP properties. The National Planning Framework requires local authorities to deliver 50% of all new homes in infills and brown field sites & with the current statistics in mind, I am asking the Chief Executive has a detailed study been carried out on how many of these future developments within the Tallaght Area are predicted to be build to rent? How will this impact on existing communities, Transport, Economic Development, infrastructure & Transport? How this will impact on the Council's vision to create sustainable communities?"

**REPLY:**

The Tallaght Town Centre Local Area Plan envisages that there may be between 3,500 – 5,000 residential units delivered in the lifetime of the LAP and sets out key projects and phasing requirements to facilitate this growth, such as the Transport Interchange, Belgard north link road, Innovation Centre, schools and public realm improvements. These projects will enhance public services, accessibility and economic activity in the area, catering for a growing population. Many of these projects are being spearheaded by the Council and the Council has recently been awarded an increase of funding from €14.58m to €31.9m for projects in Tallaght under the Government’s Urban Regeneration and Development Fund.

The LAP includes objectives to achieve mixed-tenure and mixed types of housing in the interests of building stable and mixed communities. Build to rent (BTR) developments are provided for under the 2018 Apartment Guidelines and assessed under specific criteria. The planning authority acknowledges that the BTR model, if applied, operated and managed as it is intended, should achieve the objective of attracting and retaining a less transient population with centralised, professional and dedicated management structures for these developments. In terms of length and security of tenure, this is not a planning function and is provided for under separate legislation.

A specific requirement on a site by site basis to preclude BTR would be contrary to national planning policy, would not be implementable and would not provide the flexibility to respond to evolving housing requirements and the ability of homebuilders to respond to housing demands. The LAP did identify the need to provide more family sized homes in the Tallaght Town Centre area and, in this regard, the LAP includes a policy requirement for 3-bed homes which does not discriminate between the type or tenure of home.

While a detailed breakdown of tenure in future planning permissions is not for the planning authority to determine, the planning authority monitors ongoing planning and construction activity. In this regard, of the Strategic Housing Developments (SHDs) granted planning permission in the last two years in this area, 1,464 apartments have been permitted (all before the LAP was adopted), of which 196 apartments were permitted as BTR. Construction has not yet commenced on any of these SHDs. Unless permission is specifically sought for a BTR development as per the Apartment Guidelines, the planning authority has no remit to restrict the sale/rent of other houses or apartments.

### **T/09/21 Q3/0121 Item ID:68801**

Proposed by Councillor C. O'Connor

"To ask the Chief Executive to confirm plans for Tallaght Village under the Village Enhancement Scheme and will he make a statement"

**REPLY:**

Approximately €500,000 has been spent to date on paving repairs throughout the village (2015) and improvement works at Old Greenhills Road and Old Bawn Road/Main Street (2017).

There are no proposals for the inclusion of any further works in Tallaght Village at this time. We are currently undergoing detailed design of Castletymon Shopping Centre under our District Centre Enhancement Programme and it is planned that we will be going to tender on this scheme later on in the year.

### **T/10/21 Q4/0121 Item ID:68802**

Proposed by Councillor C. O'Connor

"To ask the Chief Executive to confirm actions being taken in respect of the mast at Sylvain Drive which was the subject of business at the December meeting of our committee will he detail contacts he has made in the matter and will he make a statement"

**REPLY:**

The Land Use Planning and Transportation Department have commenced a process review in relation to Section 254 Licences. Actions out of the process review will include preparing an application form, including S254 on the weekly lists, a new S254 page on the website and the mapping of S254s on the planning register.

In addition, the planning enforcement section have opened an enforcement file number S8618 in relation to alleged unauthorised development occurring at Sylvan Road, Kingswood.
A warning letter issued to Cignal Infrastructure Ltd and Jason Redmond & Associates dated 11th December 2020. The company/agent may make submissions or observations in writing to the Planning Authority regarding the alleged unauthorised development (which, if true, would constitute an offence under the Planning & Development Acts, 2000 (as amended) not later than four weeks from the date of the service of the Warning Letter, i.e. 12th January 2021. Following the expiration of the submission date, a site inspection will occur.

### **T/11/21 H3/0121 Item ID:68846**

Proposed by Jim Johnston

Strategic Housing Development Stage 3, Lands at Cooldown Commons and Fortunestown, Citywest.

[Hi (3)SHD3](http://www.sdublincoco.ie/sdcc/departments/corporate/apps/cmas/documentsview.aspx?id=68926)

J. Johnston made a presentation.

A discussion followed with contributions from Cllrs. C. King, L. Dunne, P. Holohan, M. Duff & T. Costello.

J. Johnston took note of the Member’s queries.

The report was **NOTED**.

### **T/12/21 H4/0121 Item ID:68375**

Proposed by Planning

New Works (No Business)

### **T/13/21 C2/0121 Item ID:68387**

Proposed by Planning

Correspondence (No Business)

### **T/14/21 M4/0121 Item ID:68427**

Proposed by Councillor M. Duff Seconded by Councillor L. Sinclair

"This Area Committee, in recognition of the many years of Voluntary service in the Community and on SPCs, calls for the pedestrian and cycle bridge over the Dodder that links Bawnville and Kilininny to be named the Jim Lawlor Bridge. This motion is presented with the full support of Jim's family and local community activists. If this motion is accepted by the TAC members, can it be forwarded to the Mayor, for him to bring it to the attention of the Infrastructure Naming Committee, without delay."

**REPORT:**

As previously outlined in response to Motion 8 of the agenda for the September 2020 Tallaght ACM:

A motion was passed in June 2020 (Motion 1 Tallaght ACM) proposal to name the sports pavilion in Dodder Valley Park after the late Jim Lawlor, and in line with the Naming of Infrastructure Policy, normally an individual or event can only be commemorated with one plaque or memorial.

In accordance with Standing Orders No 16 & 17 any matter decided by resolution cannot be revoked / reopened within six months.

As more than 6 months has elapsed the initial motion should be rescinded in order to give priority to the sentiments of this motion so that if passed, this motion can be validated by the Director of Service, before referral to the Naming Infrastructure Committee.

Councillor C. King proposed that item 66365 be rescinded. Seconded by Councillor L. Sinclair.

The motion was **AGREED**.

### **T/15/21 M5/0121 Item ID:68429**

Proposed by Councillor M. Duff Seconded by Councillor C. O’Connor

"This area committee calls upon the Chief Executive to apply for funds from the Built Heritage Investment Scheme 2021 or the Historic Structures Fund 2021 for the restoration of Tynan's Cross which is at the junction of the Belgard Road and Ballymount Road. The structure badly needs restoration, as the writing on the Cross is badly faded and is now almost illegible."

**REPORT:**

The request is noted and please be advised that there is ongoing cross departmental communication in relation to the funding opportunities under the BHIS & HSF, including this structure and its management in SDCC.
With regard to applying for BHIS it would be up to the relevant Council dept/section who has responsibility for the maintenance of the structure to apply to the architectural conservation section in Planning under the scheme and submit all prepared required details under the terms and conditions i.e. method statement with regard to proposed works.
The deadline for applications to be submitted to the Department for both grant schemes (BHIS & HSF) has now been extended due to current lock down restrictions. Therefore, the architectural conservation section in Planning has extended the deadline for applications to Wednesday 24th February 2021.

A discussion followed with contributions from Cllrs. M. Duff, C. O’Connor, C. King, T. Costello & L. Sinclair.

J. Frehill replied to the Member’s queries.

The motion was **AGREED**.

## **Economic Development**

### **T/16/21 Q5/0121 Item ID:68772**

Proposed by Councillor L. Dunne

"To ask the Chief Executive, in respect of Employment within the Employment/Mixed Use Growth area of Cookstown, how many jobs will be retained and what are the predictions for Economic Growth in this area under the context of the National Planning Framework? Will the Council be supporting the needs of the existing community while implementing the strategy for economic growth within the Cookstown area and to make a statement on this?"

**REPLY:**

As part of the preparation for the Pre-Draft Development Plan, analysis in the context of the National Planning Framework will be undertaken and the issues you raise in the question will be best dealt with through the pre-draft process which is scheduled for April/May of this year.

Cookstown is a designated neighbourhood in the Tallaght Local Area Plan (LAP), which provides a new urban structure and a series of specific policies and objectives to support the area in realising its full potential as an economic driver in the region. Within the LAP, *‘‘it is a policy of the Council to promote and support the consolidation or relocation of existing employment uses in Regeneration ‘REGEN’ zone areas, such as Cookstown and to upgrade these areas to create further opportunities for regeneration and employment’’.* This will be achieved through investment in the delivery of new infrastructure and the regeneration of the area creating a mixed-use environment home to more intensive forms of economic activity, innovation and public services.

This is already happening, with the private sector advancing the development of privately owned sites in the Cookstown area via the planning process, whilst SDCC has taken a lead role in helping to regenerate and improve the image of the Cookstown area. To date, a total of €14.58m of URDF funding is being invested in the Cookstown and central Tallaght area as SDCC is developing a significant public realm project, an innovation centre, a transport mobility hub and the Airton road extension, whilst the Belgard Road North link road is almost fully constructed, which will enhance access and permeability to the area. With a further c.€15m URDF funding recently secured for development in the area, coupled with the fact that SDCC will commence construction of the affordable apartment scheme (133 apartments) at a cost of c.€30m in the Cookstown neighbourhood, it is very clear to see that the image of the Cookstown area is being actively improved and the objectives of the Tallaght LAP are being met.

### **T/17/21 Q6/0121 Item ID:68799**

Proposed by Councillor C. O'Connor

"To ask the Chief Executive to confirm the schedule now being followed in respect of the new stand and other developments at Tallaght Stadium; will he give details of the works involved and make a statement"

**REPLY:**

 The new North Stand and associated developments at Tallaght Stadium received approval under the Part 8 process at the October 2020, Council meeting.  Detailed design work on the development is being undertaken by the Design Team, with the tender for the construction work anticipated to be published during Q2 2021. The work will consist of a new North Stand, modifications to the Corporate areas of the Main Stand, modifications to the wheelchair accessible seating area of the South Stand, as well as a Changing Places Facility that will be located within the South Stand.

A tender was advertised in Q4 of 2020, for Design Build contract for the precast concrete structure for the proposed North Stand. The preferred bidder from this tender process will be novated as a specialist sub-contractor to the Main Contractor, following a separate tender process due to take place in Q2 2021.

It is anticipated that following the tender process, for the Main Contractor, that construction work will commence at Tallaght Stadium in Q4 of 2021. it is anticipated that the development will take approx 15 months to complete, with all works completed during Q1 2023.

It is hoped that the situation regarding Covid will not result in changes to this timetable.

### **T/18/21 Q7/0121 Item ID:68800**

Proposed by Councillor C. O'Connor

"To ask the Chief Executive to present an update on efforts to improve the image of Cookstown Industrial Estate noting the widespread view that everything possible continues to be done to attract employment to the estate"

**REPLY:**

Cookstown is a designated neighbourhood in the Tallaght Local Area Plan (LAP), which provides a new urban structure and a series of specific policies and objectives to support the area in realising its full potential as an economic driver in the region. Within the LAP, *‘‘it is a policy of the Council to promote and support the consolidation or relocation of existing employment uses in Regeneration ‘REGEN’ zone areas, such as Cookstown and to upgrade these areas to create further opportunities for regeneration and employment’’.* This will be achieved through investment in the delivery of new infrastructure and the regeneration of the area creating a mixed-use environment home to more intensive forms of economic activity, innovation and public services.

This is already happening, with the private sector advancing the development of privately owned sites in the Cookstown area via the planning process, whilst SDCC has taken a lead role in helping to regenerate and improve the image of the Cookstown area. To date, a total of €14.58m of URDF funding is being invested in the Cookstown and central Tallaght area as SDCC is developing a significant public realm project, an innovation centre, a transport mobility hub and the Airton road extension, whilst the Belgard Road North link road is almost fully constructed, which will enhance access and permeability to the area. With a further c.€15m URDF funding recently secured for development in the area, coupled with the fact that SDCC will commence construction of the affordable apartment scheme (133 apartments) at a cost of c.€30m in the Cookstown neighbourhood, it is very clear to see that the image of the Cookstown area is being actively improved and the objectives of the Tallaght LAP are being met.

### **T/19/21 H5/0121 Item ID:68370**

Proposed by Economic Development

New Works (No Business)

### **T/20/21 C3/0121 Item ID:68382**

Proposed by Economic Development

Correspondence (No Business)

## **Libraries & Arts**

### **T/21/21 Q8/0121 Item ID:68432**

Proposed by Councillor M. Duff

"Could the Chief Executive make a report as to the progress of the Fitting Out of the new Castletymon Library and could she confirm if the opening is still on track for 1st Quarter 2021"

**REPLY:**

"Castletymon Library is in the final stages of construction completion. A significant number of snags remain outstanding. We expect that these will take approximately one month to complete once Covid-19 restrictions are lifted. During level 5 lockdown, the contractor will be working on completing BCMS certification and other paperwork required to support completion.

Based on the above, if restrictions are lifted at the end of January, as per the tentative Government Plan, we would expect substantial completion to be issued at the end of February. If the restrictions are extended beyond the end of January, the date of substantial completion will correspondingly be delayed by the additional time.

The furniture for the library was ordered before Christmas and we are awaiting a programme for delivery. We expect the delivery to be approximately 8-10 weeks with a projected date for delivery by the middle of March. It is anticipated that the library will open in Q2."

### **T/22/21 H6/0121 Item ID:68365**

Proposed by Libraries & Arts

Application for Arts Grants

**REPLY:**

No Business

### **T/23/21 H7/0121 Item ID:68367**

Proposed by Libraries & Arts

Library News & Events

[H-I (8) (i) Library Report](http://www.sdublincoco.ie/sdcc/departments/corporate/apps/cmas/documentsview.aspx?id=68689)
[H-I (8) (ii) Online Programme of Events](http://www.sdublincoco.ie/sdcc/departments/corporate/apps/cmas/documentsview.aspx?id=68691)

L. Joyce made a presentation.

A discussion followed with contributions from Cllrs. L. Dunne, M. Duff, P. Holohan & C O’Connor.

L. Joyce replied to the Member’s queries.

The report was **NOTED**.

### **T/24/21 H8/0121 Item ID:68373**

Proposed by Libraries & Arts

NEW WORKS (No Business)

### **T/25/21 C4/0121 Item ID:68384**

Proposed by Libraries & Arts

Correspondence (No Business)

## **Corporate Support**

### **T/26/21 H9/0121 Item ID:68369**

Proposed by Corporate Support

New Works (No Business)

### **T/27/21 C5/0121 Item ID:68381**

Proposed by Corporate Support

Correspondence (No Business)

## **Performance & Change Management**

### **T/28/21 H10/0121 Item ID:68374**

Proposed by Performance & Change Management

New Works (No Business)

### **T/29/21 C6/0121 Item ID:68386**

Proposed by Performance & Change Management

Correspondence (No Business)

## **Environment**

### **T/30/21 Q9/0121 Item ID:68778**

Proposed by Councillor M. Duff

"Would the Chief Executive inform this Committee if permission is required for artists to paint murals on Utility Boxes or can they be invited by Community Groups to so in certain areas, such as Tallaght Village etc?"

**REPLY:**

The 2020 - 2022 Litter Management Plan was adopted the Members at the March 2020 Council Meeting, the proposal to continue the Dublin Canvas project was included and approved.

The South Dublin Canvas project uses SDCC traffic light control boxes to exhibit high quality, creative artwork to the public. Traffic light control boxes make perfect canvases to showcase community art as they are always naturally located in high footfall – high traffic areas. The artwork can be enjoyed by pedestrians, cyclist and motorists as they wait for the traffic light to turn green.

A Memoranda of Understanding (MoUs) in place between South Dublin County Council and the Utility Companies sets out procedures to be applied to the reporting of litter and graffiti incidents by SDCC to the relevant utility in respect of their premises and structures. The MoUs are due for review; as part of this process, each utility will be provided with information in relation to the Dublin Canvas Project and encouraged to engage and co-ordinate with the project in respect of their premises and structures. However, the utility boxes are the property of the relevant utility boxes and permission from them, in the first instance, would need to be obtained in advance of considering them for murals.

### **T/31/21 H11/0121 Item ID:68371**

Proposed by Environment

New Works (No Business)

### **T/32/21 C7/0121 Item ID:68379**

Proposed by Environment

Correspondence (No Business)

## **Water & Drainage**

### **T/33/21 H12/0121 Item ID:68378**

Proposed by Water & Drainage

New Works (No Business)

### **T/34/21 C8/0121 Item ID:68390**

Proposed by Water & Drainage

Correspondence (No Business)

## **Public Realm**

### **T/35/21 Q10/0121 Item ID:68796**

Proposed by Councillor T. Costello

"To ask the Chief Executive to give details of costs associated to the repair of green spaces due to the damage caused by scrambler in the Tallaght area in the past 12 months"

REPLY:

It is not possible to isolate all costs relating to these repairs in the Councils accounting system.  While some of the repairs to parks and open spaces are carried out by the Council's own staff, some of the areas of more extensive damage to playing pitches have been repaired by a specialist contractor who deals with the care of pitch surfaces.  It is estimated that this type of repair costs on average €5,000 to €10,000 per year in the Tallaght area.

### **T/36/21 Q11/0121 Item ID:68299**

Proposed by Councillor K. Mahon

"Can the Chief Executive update regarding any planning applications or representations regarding any potential sports hub or upgraded sports facilities at the green at Kingswood Heights tennis courts? Can management assure residents that any proposals will include full community discussion and public consultation?"

REPLY:

The Council has no plans to develop a sports hub at Kingswood Heights and no planning applications have been received for the development of such a facility privately.  The Council gave a commitment to the Kingswood Heights Residents Association in 2019 to carry out refurbishment works to the tennis courts in the estate.  This project was put on hold early in 2020 due to Covid 19 restrictions, however it is proposed that these works will proceed at the earliest opportunity in 2021.

### **T/37/21 Q12/0121 Item ID:68792**

Proposed by Councillor C. O'Connor

"To ask the Chief Executive to confirm plans for the further improvement of facilities at Butler/McGee Park as provisionally raised and in reporting will he say when he plans to meet local stakeholders as previously agreed and will he make a statement."

REPLY:

The fencing around Butler McGee Park was completed in 2020 with the installation of the 500m section of new fence along Cookstown Road.  Approximately 1,000m of fencing had already been installed at Drumcairn Avenue and Parade.  In addition to this the footpaths throughout the park were overlaid in their entirety at the end of 2019.  While there are no plans at the present time for further works in the park the Council's Public Realm Section is happy to meet with local stakeholders to discuss any issues they want to raise or projects they might wish to discuss.  Unfortunately, it has not been possible to hold such a meeting to date, nor will it be possible to do so during the current Covid 19 restrictions.  Contact will be made with local groups however to explore the possibility of holding a remote meeting with stakeholders to discuss current issues.

### **T/38/21 Q13/0121 Item ID:68793**

Proposed by Councillor C. O'Connor

"To ask the Chief Executive if he appreciates the continued concerns of communities in respect of the menace of scramblers; will he confirm contacts and actions made in respect of the matter and will he make a statement."

**REPLY:**

In 2017 South Dublin County Council convened a taskforce consisting of SDCC, Dublin City Council, Fingal County Council, Dept of Justice, An Garda Siochana, the Road Safety Authority and Motocross Ireland to examine the issue of scramblers being driven in public parks and open spaces. Some of the issues which arose at meetings of the task force in 2017 and 2018 were that the Gardai do not currently have the power to pursue scrambler bikes, to stop them, to impound them, to pursue them to other locations and to question the owners and drivers about their movements. It was felt that these issues needed to be addressed by new legislation. Equally the Council has been unable to date to identify the drivers of these vehicles and to hold them responsible for damage caused to parks and open spaces. SDCC has contacted the Department of Justice seeking an update on the current position which will be provided to Members when received.

In parallel to the Council’s taskforce the Government put in place a cross departmental group to examine the issues at hand and in particular to examine the legal position with regard to existing legislation, with the assistance of the Attorney General’s Office. The legal advice provided by the Office of the Attorney General indicated that, in the main, current road traffic and public order legislation appears to provide sufficient means to police this issue. This view is shared by both the Department of Justice and the Department of Transport, Tourism and Sport. The Department of Justice reconvened the cross-agency group in March to discuss this legal advice with members of An Garda Síochána (AGS); meeting with the Garda National Roads Policing Bureau (GNRPB), the Dublin Metropolitan Region (Tallaght District) and the Youth Diversion, Community Engagement & Public Safety Bureau and the general consensus was that new legislative powers are not required. In the absence of a need for new legislation, it is envisaged that an effective response to this anti-social behaviour will be informed by a combination of targeted enforcement measures, awareness raising, and youth engagement programmes. These measures will be progressed in conjunction with the relevant Departments and agencies. We have been assured by the Dept of Justice that both ministers and the Garda Commissioner remain committed to finding a workable solution to this problem and in this regard we have been informed that there have been some recent seizures/prosecutions under the Road Traffic Acts which included seizures of scramblers in a public park.

The council continues to liaise with the Department of Justice and has provided them with background information and data to assist them in formulating a response. We recently met a local garda Superintendent, who is agreeable to using whatever powers are currently at his disposal to deter scrambler use, SDCC will fully co-operate with these initiatives and have agreed to further meetings and support in this regard.

In addition to the work of the taskforce as outlined above the Council has completed a programme of boundary improvement works at locations where scramblers, quad bikes and stolen cars were gaining access to public parks. Substantial boundary improvement works have been carried out at Bancroft Park, Butler McGee Park, Jobstown Park, Tymon Park/Basketball Arena Road and at Dodder Valley Park.  The construction of a reinforced concrete wall at the boundary of Killinarden Park and Knockmore Crescent and Drive was completed in 2020, as was he construction of a similar wall at St Cuthbert’s Park in Clondalkin.  It is planned to complete the fencing around Jobstown Park in the current year.

In September 2020, the Minister for Justice responded to Dáil Question No. 744, which sets out the Government position with regard to possible legislative changes to address the issue of Quads and Scramblers. <https://www.oireachtas.ie/en/debates/question/2020-09-29/744/>.  The most recent information available would seem to indicate that the government intends to address the issue of legislation required in this regard in the coming months, and that new legislation will be introduced which will make the use of scramblers and quads on public roads illegal and will strictly regulate their use in off-road locations.

The Council supports An Garda Síochána's and the Road Safety Authority's Christmas public awareness campaign to highlight the dangers quad bikes and scramblers pose to children. [www.rsa.ie](https://rsa.ie/ga-IE/Utility/Nuacht/2020/Parents-urged-not-to-gift-children-quad-bikes-or-scramblers-for-Christmas/)

### **T/39/21 H13/0121 Item ID:68847**

Proposed by Leo Magee

Draft Public Realm Improvement Works Programme 2021.

**REPLY:**

The following is the list of improvement works proposed for the Tallaght area for 2021.  These proposals have been compiled from issues raised as agenda items at area committee meetings throughout the course of 2020, undertakings given in response to members representations throughout the year as well as works that have been identified by staff.  It should be noted that the list provided does not include those works which have already been included in the Council's three year rolling capital works programme, it includes only those works of a small scale which are to be funded from the revenue budget.

This list of schemes, along with lists of schemes for the other electoral areas, will be presented to the meeting of the County Council in February 2021 for the approval of the elected members. The new Covid 19 restrictions which came into place recently allow only work of an essential nature to take place and in these circumstances it will only be possible to commence work on the schemes listed below after those Covid restrictions have been lifted, and subject to the programme of works being approved by the Council.

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| **TALLAGHT IMPROVEMENT WORKS PROGRAMME 2021** |
| **No** | **Location** | **Description of Works** |
| 1 | Kingswood Crescent | Path between Kingswood Crescent and Kingswood Dale along the desire lines |
| 2 | Ballymount Park pitch 94 (GAA) | Drainage Works |
| 3 | Ballymount Park | Lake edge erosion protection |
| 4 | Ballymount Park | Upgrade benches |
| 5 | Bolbrook, Scoil Santain | Overlay footpaths as required |
| 6 | Lios na Sidhe, Old Bawn Estate | Public Lighting scheme along open space |
| 7 | Dodder Valley Park | Footpath connecting Aylesbury to Seskin View |
| 8 | Kilnamanagh to Greenhills Road | Public lighting scheme along new footpath |
| 9 | De Selby/N81 access | Install pedestrian barrier |
| 10 | Dodder Valley Park | Overlay footpath adjacent to the river |
| 11 | Tallaght Village | Pollinator planting scheme in large planter on Main St |
| 12 | Dodder Valley Park | Pollinator planting scheme adjacent to pavilion |
| 13 | Sean Walsh Park | Plant pollinator friendly hedge |
| 14 | Belgard Square North/East junction | Upgrade roundabout with pollinator planting scheme |

L. Magee made a presentation.

A discussion followed with contributions from Cllrs. L. Dunne, C. King, C. O’Connor, T. Costello & K. Mahon.

L. Magee replied to the Member’s queries.

A commitment was given come back to the committee with further details regarding the pollinator programs, planting at Whitestown Stream and N. 81 access – L. Magee.

The report was **NOTED**.

### **T/40/21 H14/0121 Item ID:68376**

Proposed by Public Realm

New Works (No Business)

### **T/41/21 C9/0121 Item ID:68388**

Proposed by Public Realm

Correspondence (No Business)

### **T/42/21 M6/0121 Item ID:68771**

Proposed by Councillor T. Costello Seconded by Councillor L. Sinclair

"To ask that the long requested removal of weeds from the green area to the back of Tymon Crescent be completed and a date of completion be agreed"

**REPORT:**

The issue at the rear of Tymon Crescent was first raised with the Public Realm Section by way of a members rep in August last year.  It was understood at the time that the issue related to the standard of grass cutting in the area and an undertaking was given to monitor grass cutting in the area and to keep the issue under review.  In late October it was pointed out that the issue was not with grass cutting, but with a strip of long grass and weeds to the rear of the Tymon Crescent houses which was not being cut at all and which was thought to provide a nesting ground for rodents.  The area was inspected and found to be badly overgrown, and to contain dumped material including dumped green waste.  A commitment was given to clean the area, and this work was started and largely completed before the end of November.  The completion of the job was put on hold due to heavy rain at the time which had caused the ground to become soft, if work had continued it would have damaged the open space.  The work resumed during the week commencing Monday January 21st and the clean up is now completed.  Unfortunately while the ground had firmed up to some extent in the recent cold weather the machinery used on the job has damaged the ground and the area will need to be repaired.  While further work is being carried out at the present time, it will not be possible to carry out final reinstatement works and reseeding of the area until ground conditions have improved and the ground becomes dry and firm enough to carry machinery.  It should be noted that while the area is unsightly as the present time the works which have been carried out will greatly improve the area when they have been completed.

The motion was proposed by Councillor T. Costello, seconded by Councillor L. Sinclair and unanimously agreed (without debate).

### **T/43/21 M7/0121 Item ID:68848**

Proposed by Councillor L. Dunne Seconded by Councillor C. King

"This Area Committee calls on the Chief Executive to narrow the wall gaps on the Jobstown River that drivers of stolen cars are managing to get through and making it at times impassable for pedestrians."

**REPORT:**

This issue has been examined in the past and it was established that stolen cars are accessing the green space on both sides of the Jobstown stream by crossing the low stub wall which separates the housing estate roads from the green space, as well as through the gaps in the stub wall as mentioned.  The wall is being crossed using timber boards as ramps on either side of the low stub wall, which is approximately 0.5m high and can be easily crossed in this manner.  In order to close this means of access off to stolen cars it would require either a reinforced concrete wall or a railing installed on top of the existing wall, over the entire length of the stream.  This would involve the construction of a wall or installation of a railing which would be approximately 1.6km (or one mile) in length, and regrettably the cost of such works would be prohibitive.  The matter will however be looked at in detail to determine what works can be carried out that will prevent access at some of these locations and improve the situation for pedestrians who are using the area for legitimate purposes.

A discussion followed with contributions from Cllrs. L. Dunne, S. Fay, C. King, P. Holohan, K. Mahon, M. Duff & C. O’Connor.

L. Magee replied to the Member’s queries.

A commitment was given to look at the proposal in detail and return to the committee as a Headed Item in March – L. Magee.

A commitment was given to discuss the issue of access from the N.81 with S. Furlong – L. Magee.

The report was **NOTED**.

## **Housing**

### **T/44/21 Q14/0121 Item ID:68774**

Proposed by Councillor L. Dunne

"To ask the Chief Executive how many residential properties are there in total in the Tallaght South & Tallaght Central areas. To additionally ask how many of these properties are privately rented, HAP, RAS and any other state supported schemes with a break down of each?"

**REPLY:**

According to the 2016 Census, there were 14,509 residential units in Tallaght South and 14,760 residential units in Tallaght Central.

In 2020, the Residential Tenancies Board (RTB) reported over 5,000 properties in the greater Tallaght area, as registered private rental properties.

There is 1,738 live HAP tenancies in these areas. The tenancies are a combination of HAP and Homeless HAP where the applicant is on SDCC housing list. In some cases, there could be more than one tenancy at the same address where applicants are receiving a shared rate of HAP.

There is a total of 1,123 RAS properties.  These are not categorised into local electoral areas.  It is estimated that 420 of these properties are in the Tallaght South and Tallaght Central areas.

There are approximately 6000 local authority social housing units in the Tallaght South and Central areas.

### **T/45/21 Q15/0121 Item ID:68790**

Proposed by Councillor C. O'Connor

"To ask the Chief Executive to confirm that regular contact is being maintained with Fettercairn Estate Management Group in respect of the ongoing issues of concern in the estate and will he also state if in the absence of regular meetings he is in contact with Tallaght Gardai ensuring that action is being taken on matters within their remit and will he make a statement."

**REPLY:**

The Allocation Support Unit liaise with An Garda Siochana on matters relating to anti-social behaviour within our housing estates and take appropriate action where necessary.

Due to COVID-19 restrictions it has not been possible to meet with the Fettercairn Estate Management Committee in a group setting. The Allocation Support Officers for the area have been liaising with group members individually on a regular basis. Consultation is also taking place with the members of the committee with regard to facilitating this meeting through an online forum.

### **T/46/21 H15/0121 Item ID:68426**

Proposed by Elaine Leech

Anti-social Quarterly Statistics 2020

**REPLY:**

**The following is a statistical analysis of anti social behaviour reported to the Council in respect of Council tenanted properties in the Tallaght Area Committee area.**

|  |
| --- |
| **STATISTICAL ANALYSIS OF ANTI SOCIAL BEHAVIOUR REPORTED TO COUNCIL IN THE TALLAGHT ACM AREA** |
| **Incidents** | **2019 TOTAL**  | **1st Qtr 2020** | **2nd Qtr 2020** | **3rd Qtr 2020** | **4th Qtr 2020** | **2020 TOTAL**  |
| **CATEGORY A** |  |   |   |   |   |  |
| Drugs Activity reported to SDCC | 48 | 21 | 28 | 23 | 29 | **101** |
| Criminal Activity reported to SDCC | 18 | 2 | 9 | 6 | 7 | **24** |
| Joyriding reported to SDCC | 1 | 3 | 2 | 2 | 2 | **9** |
| Violence/intimidation/ harassment reported to SDCC | 54 | 18 | 54 | 26 | 26 | **124** |
|   |   |   |   |   |   |  |
| **CATEGORY B** |  |   |   |   |   |  |
| Squatters/illegal occupiers reported to SDCC | 32 | 7 | 16 | 8 | 10 | **41** |
| Vandalism reported to SDCC | 15 | 6 | 3 | 6 | 6 | **21** |
| Physical condition of property reported to SDCC | 29 | 4 | 4 | 7 | 15 | **30** |
| Physical condition of Garden reported to SDCC | 31 | 24 | 16 | 14 | 15 | **69** |
| Racism reported to SDCC | 6 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 2 | **2** |
| Vacant House reported to SDCC | 14 | 10 | 11 | 7 | 10 | **38** |
| Neighbour Dispute (including parking)reported to SDCC | 6 | 2 | 1 | 2 | 2 | **7** |
|   |   |   |   |   |   |  |
| **CATEGORY C** |  |   |   |   |   |  |
| Noise/disturbance reported to SDCC | 17 | 10 | 31 | 20 | 9 | **70** |
| Pets/animal nuisance reported to SDCC | 7 | 2 | 4 | 2 | 1 | **9** |
| Children Nuisance reported to SDCC | 3 | 1 | 3 | 7 | 2 | **13** |
| Selling alcohol | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | **1** |
|   |   |   |   |   |   |  |
| **Total Incidents reported to SDCC** | **282** | 111 | 182 | 131 | 136 | **560** |
|   |   |   |   |   |   |  |
| **Total Complaints reported to SDCC** | **275** | 110 | 199 | 150 | 149 | **608** |
|   |   |   |   |   |   |  |
| **Total Actions taken by Allocations Support Unit Staff  - Main actions listed below** | **3365** | 1231 | 827 | 937 | 951 | **3946** |
|  |   |   |   |   |  |
| Housecall / Inspection | 1241 | 448 | 14 | 32 | 59 | **553** |
| Demand for Possession Section 15 & 17 | 22 | 1 | 0 | 1 | 0 | **2** |
| Abandonment notice served | 4 | 3 | 2 | 0 | 1 | **6** |
| Surrenders Obtained (including Termination of Tenancy under Section 15) | 40 | 7 | 7 | 9 | 16 | **39** |
| Warnings issued | 98 | 45 | 42 | 35 | 44 | **166** |
| Interviews held (formal office and by phone) | 703 | 255 | 432 | 449 | 408 | **1544** |
| Pre-Tenancies (includes following up Tenancy Checks) Group Tenancies were held in respect of new developments. | 572 | 213 | 3 | 6 | 1 | **223** |

A discussion followed with contributions from Cllrs. C. King, L. Dunne, T. Costello & P. Holohan.

E. Leech replied to the Member’s queries.

The report was **NOTED**.

### **T/47/21 H16/0121 Item ID:68372**

Proposed by Housing

New Works (No Business)

### **T/48/21 C10/0121 Item ID:68383**

Proposed by Housing

Correspondence (No Business)

## **Community**

### **T/49/21 Q16/0121 Item ID:68797**

Proposed by Councillor T. Costello

"To ask the Chief Executive, how many calls to date requiring assistance have been received by the South Dublin for the Tallaght area Covid 19 Community Response Forum.  If possible, can it be broken down by requests received or a brief overview of requests outlined.  Can you also confirm how many volunteers have signed up to offer assistance".

**REPLY:**

Numbers of calls to the Community call helpline and broken down into various categories since its establishment on the 30th March 2020 to the 17th of January 2021 are contained in the table below. These responses are county wide.

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Community Check-In Helpline**  | **Total** |
| **Total Calls** | **2269** |
| 4A.1 Collection and Delivery – Food, essential household items, fuel, medication in line with guidance | 838 |
| 4A.2 Collection and Delivery-medication (done by SDCP staff) | 87 |
| 4B Transport to: Community testing centres | 52 |
| 4C Social Isolation, supports, engagement | 107 |
| 4D Meals and their delivery | 89 |
| 4E Garda-related | 9 |
| 4F Other medical/health needs | 482 |
| 4G Public wanting to Volunteer | 183 |
| 4H Organisations looking for and sharing info | 98 |
| 4I Social Welfare/Business/Pension supports | 174 |
| other | 150 |

Calls to the Helpline are directed to a number of contacts depending on the category of call. Calls in relation to the Collection and Delivery of Food, Prescriptions, essential household items and fuel are directed to the Community Garda for the area.

Calls in relation to Social Isolation, supports, engagement are directed to befriending services offered by Alone, Aware, Barnardo’s, Carers Support.

Callers looking for transport to Testing Centres are advised to contact their GP.

Food Banks, St Vincent De Paul and Meals on wheels respond to calls in relation to the collection and Delivery of Meals and other medical and Health Needs are directed to the HSE Helpline, Women’s Aid, Saoirse Women’s Refuge and the Samaritans

The Local Social Welfare office and Revenue Commissions can deal with any queries in relation to Pension or social welfare queries.

At the start of the local a large number of people registered with the South Dublin Volunteer Centre to Volunteer. A number of Local GAA clubs also volunteered to deliver and collect shopping.

### **T/50/21 Q17/0121 Item ID:68791**

Proposed by Councillor C. O'Connor

"To ask the Chief Executive to confirm further plans to provide grant aid to community groups to allow them continue to provide services and assistance in these difficult times and will he make a statement"

**REPLY:**

Provisions have been made within the Council's 2021 adopted Budget for the funding of the Council's Community Development Grants Programme and this will be rolled out later in the Spring of this year.

Covid 19 Emergency Round 2 Funding has been also been received by the Council from the Department of Rural and Community Development and this will be advertised within the next 2-3 weeks.

### **T/51/21 H17/0121 Item ID:68366**

Proposed by Brian Carroll

Deputations for Noting (No Business)

### **T/52/21 H18/0121 Item ID:68368**

Proposed by Community

New Works (No Business)

### **T/53/21 C11/0121 Item ID:68380**

Proposed by Community

Correspondence (No Business)

**Meeting concluded at 6pm.**