



April 2022

## Chief Executive's Report

Innovation Centre Sod Turning



# About the Chief Executive's Report

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

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

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# Land Use, Planning and Transportation



## Dodder Road Lower

Alongside securing Part 8 planning approval for an Active Travel scheme along Dodder Road Lower, the Council agreed to trial alternative traffic calming measures. The detailed design of this trail has now been completed and has included engagement with local Councillors and residents.

The Council has completed the tender process for the implementation of a traffic calming trial. The contractor is now appointed and works are set to commence in April. Works will consist of various traffic calming measures including a combination of chicanes and vehicular ramps with cycling bypasses. There will also be alterations to the existing road signage.

During the trial, multiple performance indicators will be monitored to ascertain if vehicular speeds and volumes have been reduced to make the route safer for cyclists and pedestrians. The trial is to inform the permanent works to Dodder Road Lower as part of the overall Dodder Greenway.



## Bridge Inspections

There are approximately 160 bridges and culverts on public roads across the County and the Council has a responsibility for ensuring that these bridges are safe and well maintained. The Council is currently at tender stage to appoint a consultant to carry out primary inspections on these bridges and culverts within the County. Based on this information a bridge repair programme will be drawn up.

## Delivery of Bus Connects ramps up

In March 2022, the government approved the Bus Connects Preliminary Business Case. This has given the National Transport Authority (NTA) permission to progress the scheme and to submit planning applications for all of the routes identified on the network. The NTA is now finalising its designs for the first set of routes and intends to progress the submission of the planning consent applications for all of the twelve Core Bus Corridors during 2022.

The NTA intends to submit the schemes on a phased basis with the first six schemes starting with the application for the Clongriffin to City Centre CBC scheme. As each

scheme is submitted for approval to An Bord Pleanála the process of public notifications in newspapers and online will be repeated along with full public consultations.

The first planning application set to be submitted within South Dublin County will be the Liffey Valley to City Centre route in late June 2022. Planning applications for the other routes in the County include;

- Lucan to City Centre,
- Clondalkin to Drimnagh,
- Greenhills to City Centre,
- Tallaght to Terenure and,
- Rathfarnham to City Centre,

are set to be submitted later in 2022.



## Bus Connects

The Bus Connects initiative is set to progress in South Dublin County in 2022.

## Cycle Survey

There is approximately 210km of existing cycle lanes across the County, which have been delivered over many years. As part of the agreed Cycle South Dublin Programme, the Council has committed to surveying all existing cycle lanes across the County and the Council has now appointed a consultant team to carry out these surveys. The survey will assess the quality of the design of our existing infrastructure and also the condition of the cycle tracks. Upon receipt of the survey road maintenance will prepare a works programme that identifies resurfacing priority locations and re-design priority locations.



A Cycle Survey is being carried out



# Housing, Social and Community Development



## Better Block Partnership

Balgaddy estate has been selected for an innovative community empowerment project in conjunction with Better Block, a non-profit foundation based in Dallas, Texas. This follows a collaboration between the Council and Microsoft to invite Better Block representatives to visit South Dublin County to explore the potential for their first project outside the United States.

Better Block educates, equips, and empowers communities and their leaders to reshape and reactivate built environments supporting healthy and vibrant neighbourhoods. The process will see local surveys, collaboration and design work to shape a local community engagement project to develop and transform a space chosen by local Balgaddy residents over a three-to-four-month period.

For more information please see [www.betterblock.org](http://www.betterblock.org).



## Pilot Caravan Loan Scheme

Fifteen local Traveller households have been approved for loans of up to €30,000 to purchase a new caravan/mobile home under the Council's pilot caravan loan scheme. This follows €450,000 in funding being provided to the Council from Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage. 47 applications were received through an open application process.

## Work Starts on New Social Housing Scheme in Clondalkin

Mayor Peter Kavanagh, Daragh O'Brien, Minister for Housing and the Council's Chief Executive Daniel McLoughlin turned the sod on the recently commenced development of 93 new social homes at New Nangor Road, Clondalkin. The scheme, which received Part 8 approval from the Elected Members of the Council following public consultation, comprises 12 one-bed, 29 two-bed and 52 three-bed homes in a mix of houses, duplexes and apartments.

Cunningham's Contracts Limited have been awarded the contract to construct the project with the homes being constructed to

NZEB (Near Zero Energy Building) standard with a minimum Building Energy Rating (BER) of A2 combining high standards of insulation with sustainable energy-efficient heating and ventilation systems. The development will also feature two new play areas and enhanced landscaping throughout the site and is scheduled for completion in late 2023.

Grant funding of €29.3 million has been approved by the Department of Housing, Heritage and Local Government for the project which is part of the Council's Housing Delivery Action Plan 2022-2026 to provide almost 6,500 social and affordable homes under the national housing plan, Housing for All.



## Clondalkin Housing

The sod was turned on 93 new social homes in Clondalkin.

## Education Scholarships

The Student Access Office in Technological University Dublin (TUD) Tallaght Campus recently hosted the annual South Dublin County Council Education Scholarship Awards which saw several local students awarded bursaries of €5,000. The scholarships are awarded to students from local DEIS schools based on Leaving Certificate or equivalent exam results.

The Council's Community Department has been awarding bursaries for the last fifteen years to encourage students from disadvantaged areas of the County to progress to third-level education in TUD with 96 bursaries awarded to date.



Education Scholarship Awards have taken place



# Economic, Enterprise and Tourism Development



## Local Enterprise Awards

A family business based in Tallaght, BiaBelle, scooped the top award at the South Dublin Local Enterprise Awards. Along with the overall winner, eight category winners were announced:

- The Start-Up Award went to Keith O'Grady of Sensory,
- The One to Watch Award went to Deirdre Casey founder of Bond Hair Health,
- The Export Award went to Emma Hedderman of Stride Boot Wear,
- The Innovation award went to Mark Sweetman of Botfiler.
- The Green award went to Stuart Montgomery, Michael Clarke, and Gerry Whelan of GreyFox Design,
- The Entrepreneurial Spirit award went to Lily Ramirez Foran of Picado Mexican,
- The Food and Drink award went to Nicola Kearns,
- Resilience in Business went to Jim Dunne of Smart Studios.

All of the winning businesses are supported by Local Enterprise Office South Dublin and will share a €13,000 investment fund.



## Cultural Diversity Programme

The Council's Arts Office has identified cultural diversity as a key area for strategic development. As part of this, an Intercultural Network of Artists has been created, to identify the needs of migrant and minority ethnic artists in the County. The Cultural Diversity Programme addresses some of the barriers to participation by adapting policies, programmes and models of engagement of our arts offerings.

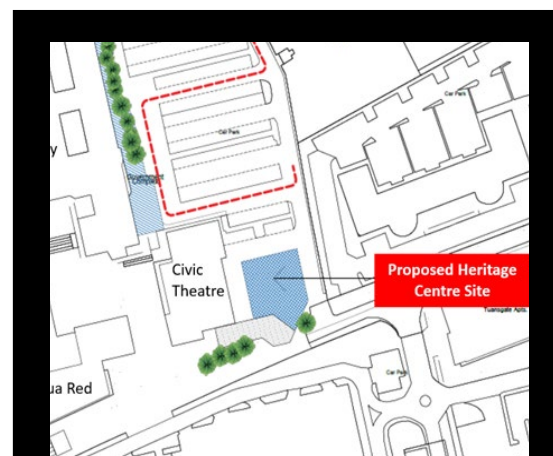
## Tallaght Heritage Centre

South Dublin County Council is delighted to announce that the proposed Heritage Centre is to be located adjacent to the Civic Arts Centre to further contribute to the creation of a vibrant cultural quarter incorporating the Civic, Rua Red, the County Library and the new civic plaza, which recently received planning approval.

Centrally located within the new town centre, the new Heritage Centre will be close to the Tallaght Luas station and the proposed new Tallaght mobility hub, thereby ensuring that this new public amenity will be accessible from a public transport perspective. The delivery of the Heritage Centre at this location will also compliment the current investment of over €80m in

other infrastructure projects underway in the area such as the delivery of an innovation centre, the completion of Tallaght Stadium, major public realm enhancement, a new affordable rental housing scheme and the district heating project.

As well as identifying the location for the Heritage Centre, the Council has also appointed interpretative consultants to develop the visitor attraction's heritage themes, storylines and their visual presentation. Now that the location has been agreed upon by the Elected Members, consultant architects will be appointed to design the building in the coming weeks.



### Tallaght Heritage Centre

Consultant architects are expected to be appointed for the Heritage Centre in the coming weeks.

## Mobile Libraries

There are currently nine mobile library stops in the Tallaght area. With the opening of new libraries in Castletymon and North Clonalkin, some of the stops close to the library were replaced with stops that are further away from a library. We have restructured our mobile stops to ensure that we reach the less serviced areas and launched new timetable on 7 March. We have already seen an increase in the numbers using the new stops since then. The Library at Home service operates from mobiles and continues to support people who cannot physically use a library or a mobile library, with 111 people currently availing of this service.



Winning businesses at the Local Enterprise Awards



# Corporate Performance and Change Management



## Council meetings are now being webcast!

The Council meeting held on Monday 12 April marks the first meeting that will be webcast live to the public.

From the April meeting, anyone wishing to view a Council meeting live can log in from the Council meetings page on [www.sdcc.ie](http://www.sdcc.ie) and watch along. Video cameras at our Council meetings will capture the live information and send it to a central server, which in turn sends it to anyone that would like to view the meeting.

The service allows greater access to Council proceedings, and decisions and eliminates barriers that prevent some people from attending meetings. Should you

miss a meeting, or would like to view a section of the meeting again, the Council microsite will contain archived Council meetings and access to any document or presentation displayed during the webcast. The archives allow you to view the meeting at your leisure and, through the use of the index points, allow you to jump to specific agenda points. Archived versions are available within 48 hours of broadcast. They remain online for twelve months.

Through the webcasting of full Council meetings, we hope to promote transparency, understanding and participation in local democracy. Meetings will be streamed in high definition and will work on all mobile devices.



**Council Meetings**  
Monday 12 April sees the first webcast Council meeting in South Dublin County.

## Staff Health Screening

The Council is carrying out a Staff Health Screening Programme throughout April. The health screening is made up of a combination of measurements, blood tests and questionnaires that provide a valuable overview of each individual's current health status. The screening looks for pre-existing issues, assesses possible risk factors and provides recommendations on a person's lifestyle to help promote a longer and healthier life. The basic health screening is strictly confidential and offered for free to all members of staff who can then choose to upgrade their package if they so wish.

## €300k Have Your Say

The Mayor of South Dublin County, Cllr Peter Kavanagh, launched €300k Have Your Say for the Rathfarnham – Templeogue local electoral area at an event in Ballyroan Library on Wednesday 6 April.

€300k Have Your Say is a participatory budgeting initiative that has been run by South Dublin County Council since 2017. €300k Have Your Say allows residents to develop project proposals for their local area and then vote on shortlisted proposals to select winning projects to be funded up to the value of €300,000. There are no age barriers to taking part and every proposal is treated with respect. Simply put, €300k Have Your Say is about helping to create community-led projects that directly benefit you, your neighbours, friends and family.

The submissions portal is now open on [www.sdcc.ie/haveyoursay](http://www.sdcc.ie/haveyoursay) and you can also find details of upcoming workshops and information on previous winning projects.



## County Hall Lit Up

The Council lit up County Hall, Tallaght in yellow on 25 March to celebrate Daffodil Day, the annual awareness and fundraising event organised by the Irish Cancer Society. The Council also powered down all non-essential lights for Earth Hour on 26 March. Earth Hour is a global annual worldwide movement that began in Australia that seeks to raise awareness of environmental issues.



€300k Have Your Say has been launched



# Environment, Water Climate Change



## National Spring Clean

The National Spring Clean takes place in the month of April. Over the last 23 years, the campaign has been delivered by South Dublin County Council alongside An Taisce and an army of volunteers who have played a vital role in creating a cleaner environment and improving the quality of life for people in our area. The campaign has enjoyed immense success during this period. The key to solving our litter problem is to continue to foster a public attitude that takes pride in a clean environment and looks upon littering as unacceptable behaviour.

In 2021, 94 groups in South Dublin County signed up for National Spring Clean and we are hoping for a similar turnout in 2022. All clean up groups registering with the National Spring Clean campaign receive a free clean-up kit comprising information, refuse sacks, protective gloves to keep participants clean! Groups can register at [www.nationalspring-clean.org](http://www.nationalspring-clean.org)



## Climate Action Open Data

South Dublin County Council, working with the other Dublin local authorities, SMART Dublin, CARO and Codema is delivering the Climate Action Open Data Challenge. The Challenge is seeking new innovative data-based proposals with the potential to contribute to climate action in the Dublin region. Full details on the challenge, prizes and a copy of the application form can be found on [www.smartdublin.ie](http://www.smartdublin.ie).

## World Water Day

To mark World Water Day, a public event was held showcasing the work that the Council is doing to protect and manage water in the County. Taking place in the lobby of County Hall, we hosted the Local Authorities Water Programme (LAWPRO), the Dublin Urban Rivers Life project, the Sustainable Drainage Systems team, and the Flood Alleviation Schemes team.

Local authorities in Ireland play a significant role in ensuring that adequate drainage systems are in place to effectively channel large volumes of water. We are increasingly taking inspiration from nature to develop solutions for drainage and for removing pollutants, and recently published our Sustainable

Drainage Systems (SuDS) Design and Evaluation Guide for engineers, planners, and developers.

The Council is working with LAWPRO to achieve good or high-water quality in our rivers, lakes, transitional and ground water, as required by the European Union Water Framework Directive. LAWPRO are currently drafting the River Basin Management Plan 2022 – 2027.

World Water Day presented an opportunity to acknowledge water as a valuable resource, that can often be taken for granted, and a forum to acknowledge the task we have in front of us to preserve and protect our water supply into the future.



### World Water Day

The Council held a public event to mark World Water Day.

## Managing Rainfall

Sustainable Drainage Systems (SuDS) is a way of managing rainfall that mimics drainage processes found in nature and address the issues with traditional surface water drainage. The Council's SuDS Householder's Guide is a short document to show examples to householders on how to apply SuDS at a domestic level through the use of sustainable drainage solutions for example installing water butts, green roofs, porous driveways, rain gardens and planter boxes. This guide will be launched in April and will be available to view and download on the Council's website.



National Spring Clean 2022



# Eco Week 2022



**Eco Week 2022 was held in the final week of March with 185 virtual and classroom based events taking place.**

**E**co Week, which ran this year from 28 March – 1 April is one of the biggest events in the South Dublin County Council's annual calendar of environmental awareness events and aims to engage schools in South Dublin County on a range of environmental issues.

Through Eco Week 2022, the Council offers schools around the County a fantastic opportunity to attend events,

seminars, talks and workshops which will educate them on the environment and climate change, biodiversity and become part of the solution to environmental needs.

This year we worked with facilitators to deliver a fun and educational experience and offered 185 virtual and classroom-based events to schools. All activities and events held during the week were free with places allocated

## Citizen Engagement

Eco Week is just one citizen engagement initiative that makes up a core element of the Council's Climate Change Action Plan.

A new website will soon be launched detailing information and events open to the public around climate action. The Council launched a new climate action newsletter in 2021 and events such as National Spring Clean, Dublin Climate Week and more are ongoing all year round to raise public awareness around climate change.

on a first-come, first-served basis.

Eco Week 2022 was launched by the Mayor of South Dublin County, Cllr Peter Kavanagh and the fourth class pupils and Múinteoir Aisling of Gaelscoil Naomh Padraig Lucan on Monday 28 March. Both the Mayor and the pupils were treated to an intriguing workshop from Dale Threadwell of Naturally Wild. During the workshop, pupils learnt all about the importance of creepy crawlies and biodiversity.

Speaking at the launch, Mayor Peter Kavanagh explained, "Eco Week is an important time of year for South Dublin County Council, now more than ever. Faced with the challenge of climate change, we all have a role to play."

Fionnghuala Ryan, Climate Change and Environmental Awareness Officer for South Dublin County Council added, "We are delighted to be able to bring Eco Week back to schools in 2022. Eco Week is a very important and unique week for South Dublin County and for the environment. It is a week packed full of events that draw our attention to the needs of the environment and how we can help."



**Launching Eco Week 2022**



# Events and Festivals Grant



## Applications are now being sought for the Tourism Events and Festivals Grant 2022.

**T**he Tourism Events and Festivals Grant is targeted at organisations and organisers who plan to hold a public event or festival within South Dublin County Council's administrative area.

The aim of the scheme is to fund innovative events or festivals to add value to the County's tourism product and grow the visitor economy across key priority areas including

culture, food, sports and activity. The maximum grant available is €7,500 and directly linked to the number of spectators from outside the county or overseas.

Recent years have been particularly challenging for events and the tourism industry. The scheme aims to support event organisers to develop events in the County, attracting both domestic and overseas visitors.

## Dublin Outdoors

Make Dublin's Outdoors your destination by escaping to nature on the city's edge with Dublin's Outdoors guide to great things to see, eat and do on [www.dublinsoutdoors.ie](http://www.dublinsoutdoors.ie)

Unlock the treasures, places and stories of Dublin's Outdoors and experience Dublin's attractions. Don't be content to explore Dublin's Outdoors at surface level – there's so much more waiting to be discovered. We would love to share Dublin's Outdoors with you.

Follow Dublin's Outdoors on social media to find out what's happening in #DublinsOutdoors.

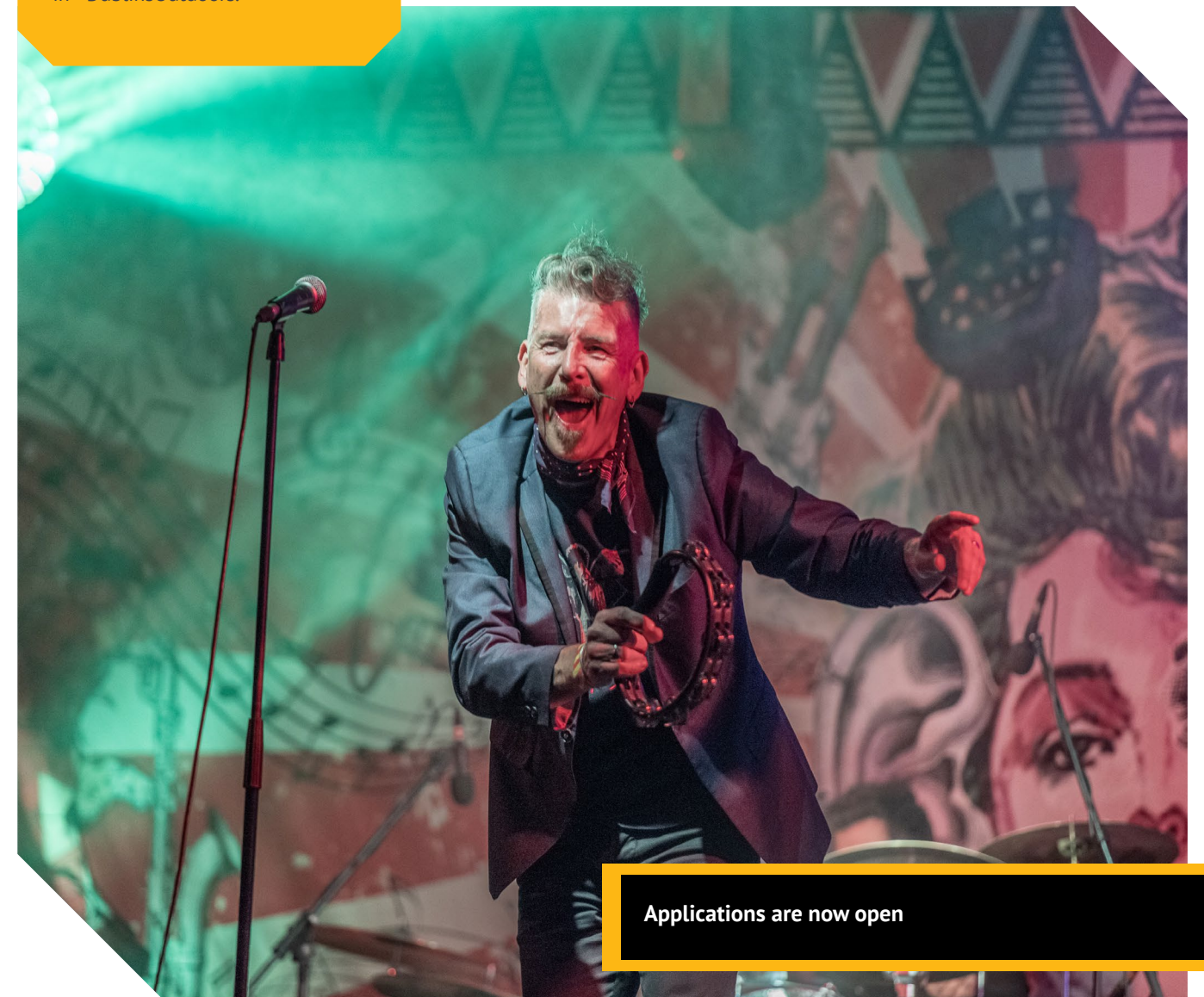
Since 2018 the scheme has provided almost €95,000 in funding supports to events taking place across the County.

Sean O'Brien, President of Wado Martial Arts Ireland and grant recipient said,

"WMAI were approved an offer of assistance under their Tourism Event and Festival Grant 2021. The funding received enabled us to put in to place the infrastructure needed to compete internationally and host a world class event. I would like to thank South Dublin County Council and Dublin's Outdoors for their belief and support in this event. We continue to receive very good feedback and comments following on from the event, and I think this is all due to the support

and back up we had in the form of the Tourism Events and Festivals Grant"

Up to €40,000 has been allocated for this year's scheme and applications are now being accepted. Additional information and details on how to apply for the scheme can be found by visiting [www.sdcc.ie/en/services/sport-and-recreation/tourism](http://www.sdcc.ie/en/services/sport-and-recreation/tourism). Queries in relation to the scheme should be emailed to [econdev@sdblincoco.ie](mailto:econdev@sdblincoco.ie).



Applications are now open



# North Clondalkin Bike Hub



**A new bike hub which will allow people of all ages and abilities to become physically active through cycling has been launched in North Clondalkin.**

Located on the grounds of Collinstown Park Community College, beside the Sports Complex, the new North Clondalkin Bike Hub will look to provide a centralised base to welcome and engage the local community in cycling, be they school aged or adults. The Bike Hub is part of the Active Cities project which is funded by Sport Ireland through the Dormant Accounts Fund (DAF).

As transport accounts for approximately 20% of Ireland's greenhouse gas emissions and the Council is currently building up to 260km of a connected cycle network in the County.

South Dublin County Sports Partnership (SDCSP), working with the SDCC Climate Action Team and other partners including Cycling Ireland, Dublin and Dun Laoghaire Education and

## First Programme

The first programme delivered in the new North Clondalkin Bike Hub was Cycling Ireland's Trail-Cycling for Transition Years.

This six week certified programme taught students all the skills needed to mountain bike on trails. They also learned about all the functions of the bike and basic bike mechanic skills. The programme was piloted with Collinstown Park Community College and St. Kevins Community College with a total of nineteen TY students completing the course using the Bike Hub facilities.

and Training Board (DDLETB), Ronanstown Youth Service and local schools have come together to establish the Bike Hub. The SDCC Climate Action Team provided grant assistance of €30,000 which will allow for the purchase of bikes and equipment required that will benefit to its success.

A wide range of cycling programmes will be facilitated by local bike leaders trained up to deliver from the Bike Hub including, Learn To Cycle programmes for young people 5-13 years of age, teenager BMX/Trail programmes, primary school cycle safety training, adults community bike rides and more.

A bike workshop will be available at certain times of the week for bike repairs and to upcycle unwanted

bikes so that they can be provided to people in need. Two local people are being trained up as Level 2 City & Guilds Bike Mechanics, including a staff member of Ronanstown Youth Service. This will ensure that we engage with young people encouraging them to cycle more and that their bikes are working efficiently and safely.



**A new bike hub has been opened.**





Showing the Innovation Quarter



Minister Burke with Council staff

On Tuesday the 22 March, South Dublin County Council turned the sod on a new state of the art €14m Innovation Centre in Tallaght Town Centre.

The Minister of State for Planning and Local Government, Peter Burke TD, joined Cllr Alan Edge, deputising as Mayor and the Chief Executive of South Dublin County Council at a sod-turning event in March to mark the beginning of this exciting Council-led initiative.

The Innovation Centre is set to be completed in 2023 and will be a 4-storey 2,980msq building of significant architectural merit that provides three floors of flexible office accommodation to support start-up enterprises. The Innovation Centre can accommodate up to 60 businesses and within the building, there will be a public area on the ground floor with town hall space and a café, complete with co-working space and

lettable offices in various sizes on the upper floors of the building, with the Innovation Centre fronting directly onto a new urban plaza.

The development is strategically located on Council owned land in the Cookstown regeneration area of Tallaght Town Centre. The Innovation Centre is one part of a new urban district called Innovation Quarter Tallaght that is being developed by the Council that also includes a new Affordable Housing Scheme, Innovation Square, as well as Tallaght District Heating network.

The delivery of the Innovation Centre will also complement the current investment of over €80m in infrastructure projects underway in Tallaght, such as the delivery

## A Focus on the Innovation Centre



Partners with Oxford Innovation



Turning the sod

of a new Heritage Centre, the completion of Tallaght Stadium bringing it to a 10,000-seater capacity and a major public realm enhancement programme for Tallaght Town Centre.

The Innovation Centre is a significant addition to the support and development infrastructure in the County and will play a major role in developing Micro and start-up enterprises and contributing to the Dublin economy. It will provide cutting edge facilities, that will support the creation of over 700 jobs, which will be worth €80m to the economy and form a core part of the progression pathways for start-up and growing businesses in South Dublin County.

South Dublin County Council has partnered with Oxford Innovation, who will manage the Innovation Centre on the Council's behalf once it has been completed. Oxford Innovation has vast experience and manages over 26 innovation centres internationally and lists Universities, and private and public sector bodies among their clients. South Dublin County Council's Local Enterprise Office will work closely with Oxford Innovation in developing the Innovation Centre, supporting businesses, and driving their development and scalability, thereby creating more opportunities for the citizens of South Dublin County.



# Images of the Month



Diversity Festival

# Images of the Month



Ceremony of Remembrance



Tree planting in Corkagh Park



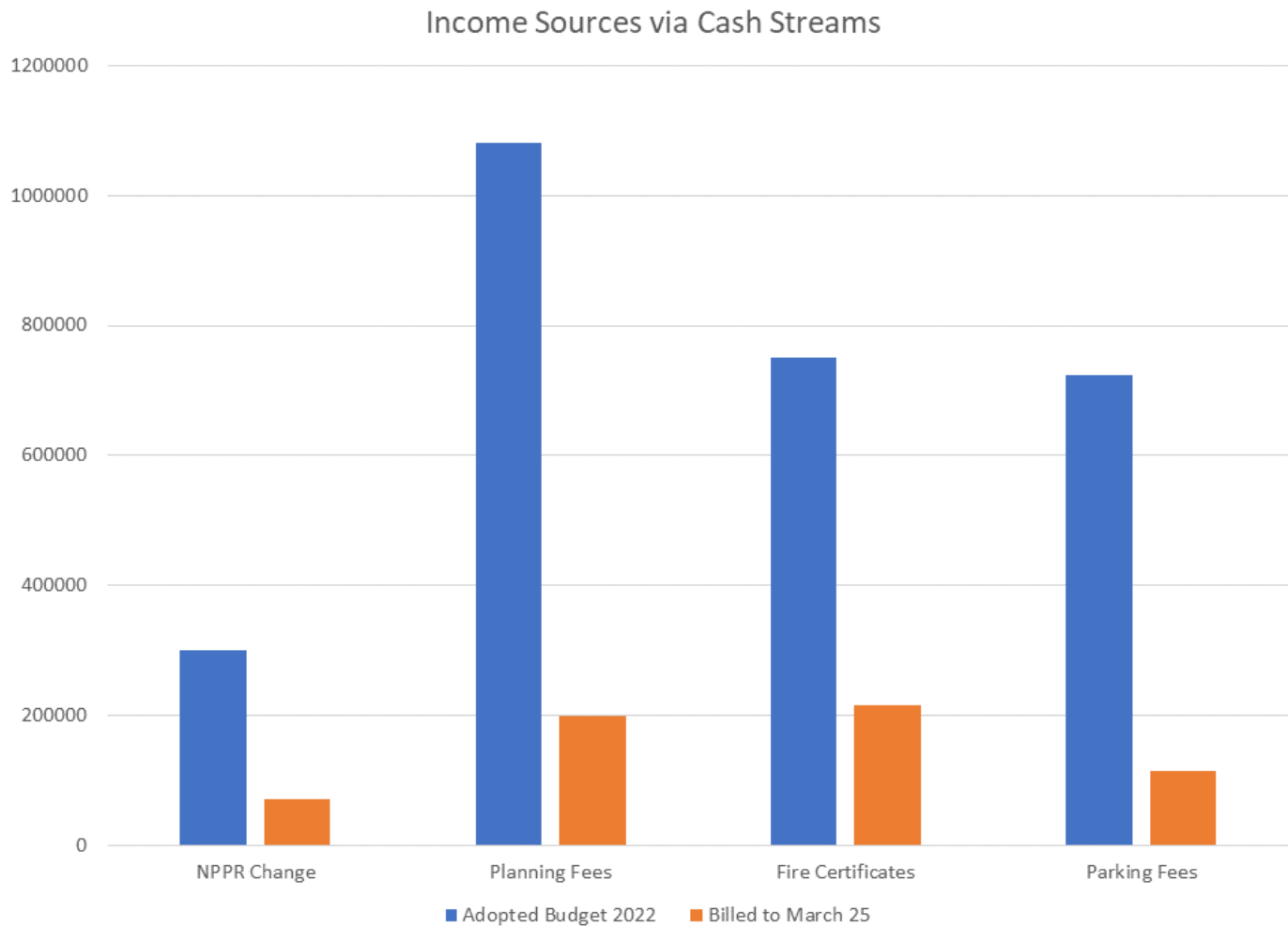
Virtual Reality at the Big Picture



Finance

# Report

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

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