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

Minutes of South Dublin County Council September 2022 County Council Meeting held on Monday 12th September 2022

### **PRESENT**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Bailey, C. | McCrave, L. |
| Carey, W. | McMahon, R. |
| Casserly, V. | McManus, D. |
|  Collins, Y. | Moynihan, S. |
| Costello, T. | Murphy, E. |
|  Duff, M. | Ó Brádaigh, D. |
| Dunne, L. | O’Brien, E. |
| Edge, A. | Ó Broin, E. |
| Egan, K. | O’Connell, G. |
| Gogarty, P. | O’Connor, C. |
| Hagin Meade, L. | O’Donovan, D. |
| Hayes, A. | O’Hara, S. |
| Holohan, P. | O’Toole, L. |
| Johansson, M. | Pereppadan, B. |
| Kavanagh, P.Kearns, P.  | Richardson, D.Sinclair, L. |
| King, C. | Timmons, F. |
| Lawlor, B. | Tuffy, J. |
| Mahon, K. | Whelan, L. |
|  |  |
|  |  |

### **OFFICIALS PRESENT**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Chief Executive | D. McLoughlin.  |
| Directors/ Heads of FunctionHead of FinanceHead of I.T. | L. Maxwell, J. Frehill, M. Mulhern, C. Ward, T. Walsh. R. FitzGerald.T. Kavanagh |
| Senior Executive Officers | C. Hurson.  |
| Administrative Officers | M. Reilly, D. Healy. |
| Senior Staff OfficerStaff OfficerAssistant Staff OfficerSord | L. Abbey.A. Mallon.D. Murphy.A. O’Brien. |

The Mayor, Councillor E. Murphy, presided.

Apologies were received from Councillors L. Donaghy and T. Gilligan.

**WEBCASTING NOTICE**

This meeting may be filmed for live or subsequent broadcast via the Councils website. At the start of the meeting the Chair will confirm if all or part of the meeting is being filmed.

You should be aware that the Council is subject to the Freedom of Information Act 2014, the Data Protection Act 1988, General Data Protection Regulations (EU) 2016/679 and the Defamation Act 2009. Data collected during this webcast will be retained in accordance with the legislation.

Therefore, by entering the Council Chamber and using the seats around the meeting tables, public gallery etc. you are consenting to being filmed and to the possible use of those images and sound recordings for webcasting.

The Mayor, Councillor E. Murphy, welcomed everyone and informed the Members of the etiquette for Hybrid Meetings:

Members attending remotely must check that they can access the “Chat Function” before commencing the meeting

Members can indicate they wish to speak on an item through the chat function – using “Speak please”

Members must be able to be seen, specifically for roll call, when speaking and voting.

Mics to be on mute until invited to speak through the Chair.

Members attending in person can indicate they wish to speak by signalling to the Mayor.

Prior to the commencement of the meeting a minute’s silence was observed as a mark of respect on the recent deaths Lisa Cash, and Christy and Chelsea Cawley.

### **H1/0922 CONFIRMATION AND REAFFIRMATION OF MINUTES - FOR APPROVAL**

(a) Minutes of the July Council Meeting held on 11th July 2022 which had been circulated were submitted and **APPROVED** as a true record and signed in the proposition of Councillor E. Murphy seconded by Councillor F. Timmons.

[(a) July Council Minutes - 11th July 2022](http://www.sdublincoco.ie/sdcc/departments/corporate/apps/cmas/documentsview.aspx?id=75885)

### **H2/0922 REPORTS OF AREA COMMITTEES - FOR NOTING**

**a) Rathfarnham/Templeogue/Firhouse/Bohernabreena Area Committee**

Dealing with Public Realm, Water & Drainage, Housing, Community, Planning, Economic Development, Libraries & Arts, Corporate Support, Performance & Change Management

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

**b) Clondalkin Area Committee**

Dealing with Public Realm, Water & Drainage, Housing, Community, Planning, Economic Development, Libraries & Arts, Corporate Support, Performance & Change Management

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

**c) Tallaght Area Committee**

Dealing with Public Realm, Water & Drainage, Housing, Community, Planning, Economic Development, Libraries & Arts, Corporate Support, Performance & Change Management

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

**d)** **Lucan/Palmerstown/North Clondalkin Area Committee**

Dealing with Public Realm, Water & Drainage, Housing, Community, Planning, Economic Development, Libraries & Arts, Corporate Support, Performance & Change Management

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

### **H3/0922 STANDING COMMITTEES ORGANISATION, PROCEDURE & FINANCE - FOR APPROVAL**

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

### **H4/0922 STRATEGIC POLICY COMMITTEES - FOR NOTING**

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

### **H5/0922 REPORTS REQUESTED BY AREA COMMITTEES - FOR NOTING**

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

**QUESTIONS**

It was proposed by Councillor E. Murphy, seconded by Councillor Y. Collins and **RESOLVED**:

“That pursuant to Standing Order No. 22, Questions numbered Q1 – Q24 be **ADOPTED** and **APPROVED.”**

### **Q1/0922 QUESTION: Councillor Yvonne Collins**

To ask the Chief Executive to list the number of vacant houses/apartments in tabular form by Local Electoral Area, to confirm how many of these will be returning to available housing stock and to set out the timeframe for such return.

**REPLY:**

Our Housing Maintenance and Refurbishment section undertake re-let works on vacant housing stock throughout the County to ensure stock is brought back into productive use for letting as soon as possible.  In 2022, re-let works have been completed on vacancies arising in 123 Council-owned social homes up to the end of August, representing a 50% increase on the number of properties re-let for the same period in 2021.  The cumulative average time for these properties to be re-let to date in 2022 is almost 29 weeks, which represents an improvement of some 18% on the final overall re-let times for 2021.  While various measures are being implemented and explored to continue to improve this figure, it is particularly contingent on contractor resourcing/availability and acceptance of offers of accommodation following Choice Based Letting expressions of interest.

There are currently 110 vacant homes within our housing stock, representing 1.1% of our overall housing stock, which are at various stages of the re-letting process as follows:

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Area** | **Pre-Works** | **Works In Progress** | **Ready for Allocation** | **Total** |
| Clondalkin | 12 | 1 | 2 | **15** |
| Lucan | 3 | 0 | 0 | **3** |
| Rathfarnham-Templeogue | 0 | 0 | 1 | **1** |
| Palmerstown-Fonthill | 25 | 5 | 5 | **35** |
| Firhouse-Bohernabreena | 1 | 1 | 1 | **3** |
| Tallaght Central | 4 | 1 | 2 | **7** |
| Tallaght South | 30 | 4 | 12 | **46** |
| **Total** | **75** | **12** | **23** | **110** |

### **Q2/0922 QUESTION: Councillor Yvonne Collins**

To ask the Chief Executive to confirm that water supplies are sufficient to meet ongoing needs throughout the functional area given the recent good weather.

**REPLY:**

2022 has been a warm, dry year to date with mean temperatures consistently exceeding Met Eireann’s Long Term Averages (LTAs) and monthly total rainfalls generally less than LTA.

SDCC water demand has reflected the peak temperatures this year of 31.9oC (18th July) and 27.6oC (10th August), with corresponding demands of 92.9ML/day and 89.5ML/day which supply is sufficient to meet.

Seasonal fluctuations in demand, whether cold/hot weather related, are controlled by continual management of regional Water Treatment Plant production and Storage Reservoir capacities together with both Pressure and Leakage Management of the water distribution network.

Water demand in SDCC has, with domestic and commercial growth, increased from an LTA (2010-2022) of 75ML/day to it’s current 2022 average of 84.2ML/day.  Irish Water is responsible, since 2014, for the planning for future demand.  The National Water Resources Plan (2021) sets out a 25-year strategic plan to provide secure and sustainable water supply to cater for ongoing development.  <https://www.water.ie/projects/strategic-plans/national-water-resources/>.

### **Q3/0922 QUESTION:** **Councillor Yvonne Collins**

To ask the Chief Executive for an update in relation to the cost benefit analysis which I understand is currently being carried out in relation to the proposed use of big belly solar bins.

**REPLY:**

A cost benefit analysis was carried out in 2021 in relation to the proposal to provide 400 solar powered street litter bins across the county. This exercise has been re-examined in the context of rising inflation and in particular the excessive increases in the cost of fuel.  In summary over a 10 year payback period the following is an estimate of additional costs, projected savings and expected income relating to the proposal.

* Total repayments on a capital expenditure of €2.5m   €2.683m
* Telemetry costs                                                            €0.390m
* Bin maintenance contract costs                                    €0.922m
* Provision of bin servicing equipment                          €0.760m
* Total additional costs over a 10 year period                 €4.775m
* Labour cost savings                                                       €0.918m
* Machinery and fuel cost savings                                  €0.567m
* Potential income from advertising\*                               €1.440m
* Total combined cost savings plus advertising income    €2.997m

Total costs over the 10 year period exceed total savings plus income by €1.778m which make the proposal unviable from an economic perspective.

\*Note that the figure given here for potential income has been estimated based on information provided by the supplier of the bins for the Rathfarnham trial.  The information provided related to other similar contracts that they were engaged in, however there is no certainty that this level of income is achievable and could be realised here.

### **Q4/0922 QUESTION: Councillor Yvonne Collins**

To ask the Chief Executive for an update in relation to the Council's review of its roundabout sponsorship scheme and whether it is envisaged to put a new scheme in place

**REPLY:**

The Council has reviewed the Roundabout Sponsorship Scheme with a view to implementing a revised and improved scheme.  The aim of such schemes is to attract funding which will be invested in both roundabout improvements and ongoing maintenance.

The roundabout sponsorship scheme tendered in 2016 did not achieve it’s objectives.  In that scheme a minimum sponsorship amount was specified in the tender documentation, any offer above that amount was valid.  The minimum tender amounts specified were linked to average daily traffic at the location and these were set at 3 minimum amounts of €1,000 to €3,000.  The Council was not bound to accept the highest offer in relation to any of the roundabouts included. There was a total of 24 roundabout locations included for potential sponsorship arrangements however only 6 of these attracted sponsorship, the other 18 locations did not.

A proposal for a new scheme is being drafted and will be brought before the Environment SPC.  Some of the issues being considered are as follows –

* the removal of the linkage between tender amounts and average daily traffic counts,
* an examination of the true costs incurred in roundabout improvement schemes and ongoing maintenance,
* the requirements of that programme of ongoing maintenance,
* the potential to link roundabout improvement schemes to the Council’s Pollinator Plan objectives, and
* the introduction of a flexible approach in the scheme aimed at attracting an increased number of potentially interested parties.

### **Q5/0922 QUESTION:** **Councillor T. Costello**

To ask the Chief Executive how many Local Authority Mortgages have been approved in the past 6 months broken down by month

**REPLY:**

From 4th January 2022, a new Local Authority Home Loans Scheme (LAHL) replaced the previous Rebuilding Ireland Home Loan (RIHL) for the purchase of new or second-hand homes and self-builds, although applications for RIHL received prior to this date were also processed and assessed.

Since January 2022, a combined total of thirty-nine (39) mortgages totalling €8,709,904 have been approved under these schemes as follows:

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
|   | **RIHL** | **LAHL** |
| **Month** | **No. Approved** | **Amount** | **No. Approved** | **Amount** |
| January 2022 | 0 | €0 | 0 | €0 |
| February 2022 | 5 | €1,069,721 | 0 | €0 |
| March 2022 | 4 | €783,948 | 4 | €865,220 |
| April 2022 | 0 | €0 | 2 | €450,000 |
| May 2022 | 2 | €519,900 | 8 | €1,949,216 |
| June 2022 | 0 | €0 | 12 | €2,587,899 |
| July 2022 | 0 | €0 | 2 | €484,000 |
| **Totals** | **11** | **€2,373,569** | **28** | **€6,336,335** |

Further information on the LAHL scheme is available at [www.localauthorityhomeloan.ie](http://www.localauthorityhomeloan.ie)

### **Q6/0922 QUESTION:** **Councillor T. Costello**

To ask the Chief Executive for a report broken down by each local park in the county of incidences of anti social behaviour / damages during the months June, July and August.

**REPLY:**

The table below lists incidents of anti-social behaviour and damage due to vandalism in SDCC parks which have been reported during the months of June, July and August.  The list is compiled from reports received and therefore may not contain some incidents which occurred but were not reported.  A total of 24 incidents were reported during the 3-month period concerned.

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Date reported**  | **Park** | **Details of issue** |
| 01/06/2022 | Tandy's Lane Park | Broken fencing at playground |
| 08/06/2022 | Rathfarnham Castle Park | fire in wooded area |
| 13/06/2022 | Tandy's Lane Park | equipment broken |
| 13/06/2022 | Knocklyon Park | graffiti on walls, youths gathering drinking/drug taking & littering |
| 14/06/2022 | Waterstown Park | stolen life-ring |
| 14/06/2022 | Dodder Valley Park | broken tree & graffiti on a bench |
| 14/06/2022 | Collinstown Park | nitrous oxide cannisters strewn in park |
| 15/06/2022 | Willsbrook Park | fire lit near the pitch |
| 17/06/2022 | Waterstown Park | missing life-ring |
| 22/06/2022 | Greenhills Park | graffiti on stone plaque at entrance |
| 22/06/2022 | Rathcoole Park | teens being verbally abuse to an elderly lady |
| 25/06/2022 | Ballymount Park | injured swan |
| 28/06/2022 | Rathfarnham Castle Park | fire in wooded area |
| **June** | **Total** | **13** |
| 15/07/2022 | Corkagh Park | quad bike |
| 19/07/2022 | Rathfarnham Castle Park | fire in wooded area |
| 22/07/2022 | Ballycragh Park | dog owners allowing dogs soil the playground area |
| 29/07/2022 | St. Cuthbert's Park | teens gathering at entrance & intimidating park users |
| **July**  | **Total** | **4** |
| 03/08/2022 | St. Cuthbert's Park | teens intimidating park users at the entrance |
| 03/08/2022 | Dodder Valley Park | motor bikes causing disturbance |
| 05/08/2022 | Greentrees Park | graffiti on containers |
| 10/08/2022 | Kingswood Park | burnt out vehicle |
| 15/08/2022 | Sean Walsh Park | youths drinking in a tent |
| 22/08/2022 | St. Cuthbert's Park | youths hanging around front barrier & intimidating park users |
| 26/08/2022 | Griffeen Valley Park | fires set in the park |
| **August** | **Total** | **7** |

### **Q7/0922 QUESTION:** **Councillor T. Costello**

To ask the Chief Executive following on from the motion from Cllr Louise Dunne and Myself regarding a Halloween event aimed at teens in Tallaght Stadium can we get an update on what is planned

**REPLY:**

A tender process was recently completed by the County Arts Office to appoint an event company for the planned Halloween Event 2022. The plan is to host a music event for local teenagers at Tallaght Stadium, on the night of 31st October.

The details surrounding the event, including confirmed music acts, the event programme, start and finishing times etc. are being finalised and will be publicised in the coming weeks, with Elected Members fully informed of the final arrangements.

It should be noted that it was intended to have a firework display as part of the activities on the night, but that will not occur due to difficulties in sourcing a suitable promoter and supply for display at the event.

### **Q8/0922 QUESTION:** **Councillor K. Mahon**

To ask the Chief Executive for a report on the role that South Dublin County Council plays in the granting of permission for public events and concerts in the Counties parks and facilities. The report to include the measures taken to ensure that the correct organisational measures are in place, if the Council receives fees for the use of its facilities and to confirm where the responsibility lies to ensure proper and safe access and egress, including public transport.

**REPLY:**

Applications for events to be held in public parks and/or on public open spaces are administered by the Public Realm section of EWCC.   An application form must be completed and returned along with a copy of the organiser’s public liability insurance in the sum of €6.5 million specifically indemnifying South Dublin County Council.   Depending on the nature and size of the event, safety management, risk management and litter plans are requested and examined.  Applications are assessed in conjunction with outdoor staff to ensure the location requested is suitable for the proposed event.  When a full appraisal of all documents submitted is completed and location examined, permission is granted which has standard conditions attached as well as specific conditions tailored to each event, where required.  This process is for events where less than 5,000 are in attendance in parks and open spaces only. Most events held in parks are typically between 50 and 500 people attending. Fees are only charged where a commercial activity is taking place e.g., filming, photoshoots, exercise classes etc.

In instances where events are taking place in venues such as Tallaght Stadium there is a rigorous event management process in place, which requires the submission of an event management plan that deals with all logistical elements, including transportation, parking etc, as well as health and safety requirements and the appointment of an event controller, who will have direct responsibility for the event. Allied to this, all insurances and indemnifications need to be put in place, complete with direct engagement with the Gardai and the Civil Defence, as well as the HSE in certain instances. Fees for the hire of venues such as the Stadium are required and vary depending on the scale and nature of the event.

For events over 5,000 attendees, there is a comprehensive event licence process in place, which is statutorily set out under the Planning and Development Act that addresses all requirements associated with hosting an event, ranging from traffic management, operational hours, consultation and engagement. It the responsibility of the event controller to ensure adequate public transport arrangements are in place for an event following direct engagement and guidance from the licensing authority and the Gardai.

### **Q9/0922 QUESTION:** **Councillor K. Mahon**

With regard to upcoming developments on Council lands which could have been used for social housing but that are being used to facilitate private developers, proposed affordable housing schemes, or for affordable rental schemes, what limitations are there on investment trusts or other speculators buying up large numbers of these properties?

**REPLY:**

The current County Development plan for South Dublin County 2022-2028 provides the following objective in relation to housing strategy "To ensure where Local Authority public lands zoned Res/Res N or future zoned Res/Res N local authority lands are used to develop housing, that it is used exclusively for the delivery of social, affordable cost rental and affordable purchase homes" and the vast majority of all approved and proposed future developments on Council-owned lands are for social and affordable housing only.  The only exceptions are the developments at Kilcarbery and Killinarden, both of which include the proposed development of private homes for sale by the developer and which are subject to the terms previously approved by the Elected Members for the disposal of the land.

### **Q10/0922 QUESTION: Councillor Derren Ó Brádaigh**

To ask the Chief Executive to provide a report on the number of ringbouys in the County and to list their exact locations.

**REPLY:**

  There are 91 Ringbuoys on Rivers and Lakes in the County at the following locations

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Location | Number of Ring Buoys |
| Ballycragh Park - Lakes | 3 |
| Ballymount Park - Lakes | 3 |
| Corkagh Park - Lakes | 11 |
| Grange Castle Business park - Lakes | 5 |
| Rathcoole Park lakes | 5 |
| Rathfarnham Castle Park Lake | 2 |
| River Camac - Clondalkin Leisure Centre | 4 |
| River Dodder  - Balrothery Weir | 1 |
| River Dodder -  Lower Dodder Road | 1 |
| River Dodder -  O'Callahans  Bridge | 1 |
| River Dodder - Greenway Bridge | 1 |
| River Dodder - Waterfall Old Bawn | 1 |
| River Grifeen - Lucan Park | 2 |
| River Liffey - Lucan Bridge | 1 |
| River Liffey - Lucan Demense | 9 |
| River Liffey - Lucan Weir | 2 |
| River Liffey - Mill lane | 2 |
| River Liffey - Waterstown Park | 5 |
| River Liffey - Wrens Nest Weir | 2 |
| Sean Walsh Park Lakes | 13 |
| Tymon Park - Castletymon Lakes | 5 |
| Tymon Park - Wellington Lane Lakes | 4 |
| Tymon Park -  Limeklin Lakes | 7 |
| Vessy Park - Attenuation Pond | 1 |

### **Q11/0922 QUESTION:** **Councillor Derren Ó Brádaigh**

To ask the Chief Executive to provide a report detailing private rental inspections for 2020, 2021 and 2022 YTD. The report to include the number of improvement letters issued to landlords by SDCC and how many have been escalated to formal improvement notices for the same period.

**REPLY:**

The table below gives details of the total number of inspections carried out for the years requested along with the number of improvement letters and improvement notices issued:

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Year** | **No. Inspections** | **No. Improvement Letters** | **No. Improvement Notices** |
| 2020 | 3,126 | 181 | 7 |
| 2021 | 1,438 | 162 | 8 |
| 2022 (Jan to July) | 2,078 | 70 | 0 |

### **Q12/0922 QUESTION: Councillor C. O'Connor**

To ask the Chief Executive to detail plans to deal with the challenge of the forthcoming Bonfire Season at Halloween; will he confirm contacts he is making in the matter, will he give assurances and make a statement

**REPLY:**

The Council recognises 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 response to Halloween in recent years the Council has adopted a cross departmental approach utilising the services of Public Realm, Waste Enforcement, Environmental Awareness, Library Services, Housing and Community Services Departments to prevent damage and promote the “Safe Halloween” message. The Council's response to Halloween in 2022 will involve the following elements as it has done in other recent years:

* Various awareness measures to highlight the dangers associated with bonfires and the harm done to the environment.
* Funding of community based activities which are intended to divert children away from bonfires and other anti-social behaviour.
* Action by the Council's Environmental Licensing and Enforcement Section to deal with commercial premises and their obligations to properly store their waste including waste tyres and pallets (including aerial surveys of premises where necessary).
* The Public Realm response to remove stockpiles of bonfire materials has commenced and will continue throughout September and October and will intensify as Halloween approaches.
* The Public Realm Section will have operational staff on duty over the bank holiday weekend and the Halloween weekend collecting bonfire materials, in 2021 these collections captured in the region of 332 tonnes of materials and diverted it away from bonfires.
* 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 which is a reward provided through South Dublin County Council’s Social Credit Scheme. This initiative provides communities with flowers in the Spring instead of scarred open space throughout the year. In recent years the Council has spent approximately €2,500 per year on bulbs for this popular scheme and it is envisaged that a similar sum will be spent again this year on the 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.
* Provision has been made in the 2022 revenue budget for the holding of a public fireworks event in Tallaght Stadium this year.

**Electrical Recycling Collections for Halloween**

RecycleIT, in association with South Dublin Country Council and in partnership with WEEE Ireland hosted a series of free door to door electrical recycling collection days in residential areas across South Dublin prior to Halloween in both 2020 and 2021.  These collection days are now annual events and help ensure hazardous electrical equipment and batteries don’t find their way onto seasonal Bonfires.  This scheme helps residents to recycle all types of electrical, electronic and battery-operated equipment including old heaters, electronic toys, TV’s, washing machines, cookers, kettles, phones and computers, and any other item with a plug or battery (including batteries).  RecycleIT are in contact regularly with residents associations regarding this service and at present 3 such collections are arranged for the period prior to Halloween.

Recycle IT is very happy to work with community groups and resident’s associations to arrange free electrical recycling collections in September and October and throughout the year. Groups can call 01 4578321 or email info@recycleit.ie to learn more and take the first steps to arranging a FREE collection event for your estate or neighbourhood.

**Mattress Recycling**

South Dublin County Council intends running a mattress amnesty again this year in the month of October, in conjunction with our social enterprise partners [**RecycleIT**](http://www.recycleit.ie/).  Used mattresses will be collected, free of charge, at a number of designated collection points on dates during the course of October which will be notified to the public in due course.  This event ran very successfully in 2021 with close to 1,000 used mattresses collected.

The **Bulbs not Bonfires Scheme** continues to run annually as part of the Council's response to issues arising at Halloween.  This is part of the wider Social Credits Scheme which is operated by the Council's Environmental Awareness Section.  In response to the suggestion here, and to similar requests received, consideration is being given to changing the type of bulb provided to participants in the scheme.  To date the Council has issued daffodil bulbs only and these can continue to be provided to community groups who request these.  Where a group requests pollinator friendly bulbs it is proposed that crocus, muscari, snowdrop, allium and other bulbs can be supplied.  The Council policy is to map areas of biodiverse planting and in time this mapped information will be made available to the public.  The assistance of community groups who plant such areas will be requested in this mapping process, so that the Council's grass cutting programme can be organised to work around the areas which are planted by community groups. For more information please contact the office at envawareness@sdublincoco.ie

One change that occurred in both 2020 and 2021 was that due to Covid 19 restrictions the Gardai and the Council's environmental awareness staff were unable to visit schools to speak directly to students about the dangers associated with Halloween, and this led to these messages being promoted through social media.  It is expected that it will be possible for those school visits to resume this year as all Covid restrictions have been lifted.

A total of 180 bonfire sites were recorded around the County in 2021 and this was a substantial reduction from the 280 sites recorded in 2020.  There were a number of factors to which the reduction can be attributed and these include the vigilance and efforts taken by local residents to prevent bonfires in their areas.  The Council held meetings with Kilnamanagh Neighbourhood Watch as well as residents from Aylesbury and Tymon North this year in advance of Halloween to coordinate the efforts of the residents, the Council and the Gardai in identifying and removing material stockpiles and minimising the impact of bonfires on those areas.  A meeting was also held with Clondalkin area elected members on the same matter.  The pre-Halloween collections of the Council show an increase from 2020 in materials intercepted before Halloween with Council crews out collecting material on 13 of the 14 days prior to Halloween. It is also quite likely that the weather helped to reduce the number of bonfires held in 2021.  It is proposed that meetings with concerned residents groups as mentioned above will be arranged again this year.

The tonnage collected before Halloween in 2020 was 237 tonnes however this increased to 332 tonnes in 2021.  Public Realm crews collected 70 tonnes of bonfire material on Halloween weekend itself in 2021 and 33 tonnes of material on the bank holiday weekend prior to Halloween. The tonnage removed from bonfire sites after Halloween has reduced which is consistent with the number of fires held, this figure was 355 tonnes in 2020 and this has decreased to 276 in 2021.  The overall tonnage has increased slightly from 592 tonnes in 2020 to 608 tonnes in 2021, the cost figures below in the table below also reflect that increase.

The clean-up of bonfire sites was completed in November 2021, landscape reinstatement at sites where required took place in March/April of this year once ground conditions were suitable.  The cost information given previously and copied below does not include the final reinstatement costs which are not known as yet, however these are not expected to increase the total costs in a major way.  The measures to be taken in 2022 will be very similar to those taken in recent years, with one addition being the provision of a sum of €20,000 to hold a fireworks display for the benefit of the community this Halloween**.**

A comparison of statistics for 2020 and 2021 is set out below.

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
|   |  2021 | 2020  |
|  Number of bonfires |  180 | 280  |
|  Tonnage collected before Halloween |  332 |  237 |
|  Tonnage collected after Halloween |  276 |  355 |
|  Total tonnage collected |  608 |  592 |
|  Total costs |  €155,000 |  €150,000 |

### **Q13/0922 QUESTION:** **Councillor C. O'Connor**

To ask the Chief Executive to update members on his engagement in respect of matters relating to refugees from Ukraine; will he detail assistance being offered and will he make a statement

**REPLY:**

The South Dublin Community Response Forum, chaired by the Council's Chief Executive, continues to coordinate the community-led response to support Ukrainian refugees as they arrive in the County. The forum brings relevant statutory, community and voluntary agencies together at a local level to be an information source and signpost to services including local health, education, social and other integration needs as well as identifying and addressing issues arising for Ukrainian refugees in the County where possible. The Mayor of South Dublin County, Councillor Emma Murphy, also participates in this forum on behalf of the Elected Members of the Council.

The Government is currently providing accommodation to Ukrainian refugees through the International Protection Accommodation Service (IPAS) with the oversight of the Department of Children, Equality, Disability, Integration and Youth (DCEDIY).    Further information in this regard is available here:<https://www.gov.ie/en/campaigns/d9f43-international-protection-accommodation-services-ipas/>. Housing supports are not being directly provided by this Council at this stage, but this Council is supporting DCEDIY and IPAS as required in their ongoing work to provide accommodation.  This includes assessment and inspection of pledged vacant properties which are then passed to our implementing partner, the International Organization for Migration (IOM), for placement of households.  In addition, IOM are managing assessment of and placements to shared properties in the County.

Through the Forum, the Council is working with the range of statutory and voluntary partners, in particular South Dublin County Partnership and the South Dublin Volunteer Centre, to provide supports and address issues and challenges arising for Ukrainian households arriving and staying in the County.  There is also ongoing engagement between agencies to provide assistance with care, transport, recreation and other needs to ensure that these households continue to be welcomed and supported in the County.

### **Q14/0922 QUESTION:** **Councillor C. O'Connor**

To ask the Chief Executive how many Homeless cases are currently being dealt with by the Council; will he detail actions being taken and will he make a statement

**REPLY:**

At the start of August 2022, 515 households, comprising a total of 637 adults and 433 children, were registered as homeless with this Council with the following household breakdown:

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Household Composition** | **No.** |
| Single Male only | 261 |
| Single Female only | 62 |
| Couples | 23 |
| Families | 169 |
| **Total** | **515** |

The recently adopted Dublin Regional Homelessness Action Plan framework outlines the regional response to homelessness through the prevention of homelessness where possible, the supporting of households to progress to sustainable housing options within the shortest possible timeframe, and supporting Housing First as the preferred response to long-term single adult homelessness and rough sleeping.

Our Homeless Unit continues to provide assistance to those who find themselves homeless or at risk of becoming homeless.  Working in conjunction with the Dublin Region Homeless Executive, this unit operates an advice clinic in County Hall and provides outreach services across the County as well as detailing emergency accommodation options including central placement, self-accommodate, family hubs and other supported accommodation.  Staff in the homeless unit will organise emergency accommodation for those assessed as homeless through the Assessment and Placement Service.

There are three family hubs are in operation in South Dublin County at present as follows:

* High Street Family Hub (Abberley): a privately managed facility with 58 rooms (including 9 large family rooms) which is currently fully occupied with 54 households
* Firhouse Family Hub: managed by Respond Housing with 20 rooms and currently fully occupied by 20 households.
* Springfield Family Hub: also managed by Respond Housing and which is also fully occupied accommodating 12 households in 12 family rooms.

The Council's outreach service operates all year around for rough sleepers across the County, working with other agencies, including the HSE, in identifying rough sleepers and connecting them with appropriate accommodation and support services and this service will also play a vital role in assisting homeless rough-sleepers during the winter months.  In addition, the Council is also committed to the provision of housing first tenancies where appropriate.

Increasing housing supply is critical to meeting current housing need, including for homeless households, and the Council's Housing Delivery Action Plan 2022-2026 outlines our approach to meeting the social housing delivery targets set for the Council under the national housing plan, Housing for All along with a commitment to sustained allocation of available properties to homeless households or to prevent homelessness.

### **Q15/0922 QUESTION:** **Councillor C. O'Connor**

To ask the Chief Executive to confirm his actions to attract employment to our County; will he detail contacts with Government in respect of this important matter and will he make a statement

**REPLY:**

The continued attraction of employment to our County is central to the actions of the Economic  Enterprise and Tourism Development Department and is reflected as a key cross cutting theme in the Corporate Plan 2020-2024. In practice we work to facilitate investment and enterprise, which helps to create sustainable employment, which, in turn, supports our communities and contributes to the competitive urban economy within the wider metropolitan region. The expansion of Grange Castle Business Park is central to this and with the completion of the Grange Castle West Access Roads and utility corridor, the objective is to secure high employment yield businesses to develop there. Recent investment of €12.8m in the new Grange Castle West access road provides a platform for the creation of 10,000 jobs in this area, with the recent S.183 disposal in these lands to Lens Media supporting the creation of 1,500 jobs.

South Dublin County Council are investing €570m in the delivery of its capital programme, which will provide the physical and social infrastructure to support employment creation and investment in the county, examples of which include the development of the €13.7m Innovation Centre in Tallaght, which will support the creation of 1,200 jobs.

More than €80m is currently being invested in tourism related activities across the County in greenways, Corkagh Park, the Tallaght Heritage Centre, Lucan Destination Town, Rathfarnham Stables and Tallaght Stadium (to name but a few), which will support the creation of up to 4,800 jobs and annual tourism spend of €62m in the County as part of the implementation of the Council's Tourism Strategy

In addition and more generally, the Council continues to upgrade and enhance the aesthetic presentation of the County making it an attractive place to do business, e.g. Templeogue Village enhancement project, planned works for Lucan Village, the first district enhancement project at Tymon shopping centre, completion of second phase of the N81 landscaping project.

Forward planning is a key component of our Economic Development Strategy and the County Development Plan for the period 2022 – 2028, sets out the strategic framework for economic policy over the next 6 years and has involved engagement with all of the key national stakeholders and statutory bodies.

The “CITY EDGE” Strategy has involved engagement with all of the key national stakeholders and statutory bodies, including the IDA, Enterprise Ireland and Failte Ireland, and incorporates a significant focus on job creation in the longer-term with the potential creation of 75,000 jobs in this area. Allied to this, the Tallaght Town Centre Local Area Plan also provides a framework for the development of 15,000 jobs, which will build on the 25,000 jobs already in the area. This will be supported by the Local Area Plan's implementation, which is advancing at pace with the development of the Tallaght Innovation Centre, the town centre public realm project, including the development of the Innovation Quarter, the Tallaght District Heating Scheme, the Transport Mobility Hub, the Tallaght Heritage Centre, the Belgard Affordable Housing Scheme, as well as the €11.5m investment in Tallaght Stadium.

For the emerging and new business sectors the construction of the Innovation Centre in Tallaght town centre is very significant and will support and lead to job creation. The South Dublin Local Enterprise Development Plan which was launched last year highlights the focus on local enterprise support for job creation through the LEO which promotes entrepreneurship, fosters sustainable business start-ups, and develops existing micro and small businesses to drive job creation. The LEO in addition provides accessible high-quality supports for Business ideas, for Entrepreneurs and Businesses are supported to grow and prosper in the following ways:

* Increase exports
* Build resilience
* Increase productivity
* Prepare for the Low carbon economy
* Embrace the Digital economy
* Innovate
* Be managed by ambitious & capable individuals
* Fuel regional growth

### **Q16/0922 QUESTION:** **Councillor C. O'Connor**

To ask the Chief Executive to present a report on his endeavours to deal with the challenge of Climate Change and will he make a statement.

**REPLY:**

South Dublin County Council is continuing to progress and deliver projects identified in the Climate Change Action Plan 2019-2024. We are currently at the end of the third year of the CCAP and are preparing an annual report to be presented to Council and returned to the Department of Environment, Climate & Communications. In addition to progressing the CCAP, we are working to ensure that our policies and strategies align with the energy efficiency and carbon emissions targets outlined in the national Climate Action Plan 2021 and the Climate Action and Low Carbon Development (Amendment) Act 2021.
The Plan has been updated to reflect the council's progress and to include revised targets on energy efficiency and carbon emissions.
The Energy Efficiency target has been updated from 33% improvement by 2020, to 50% improvement by 2030. SDCC surpassed the 33% target by the end of 2019.
The target on carbon emissions has been revised from 40% reduction by 2030, to a 50% reduction by 2030 in line with national targets.
The Climate Change Action Plan originally had 130 actions across 5 Action Areas, this has been increased to 154 actions across 6 Action Areas.
From the 154 Actions in the CCAP
• 19 are Complete
• 107 are ongoing
• 4 have not yet started
• 24 new actions have been identified and are being progressed

An outline of the progress on CCAP actions made in 2022 is presented below;

ENERGY & BUILDINGS
• Dublin Regional Energy Masterplan has been completed and is hosted on CoDEMA’s GitHub
• Public Lighting upgrades are ongoing, target for end of year 2022 – 1,700 upgrades to LED
• SDCC County Development Plan has been adopted. Climate Change is fundamental to the plan
• Energy Audits were completed for Tallaght and Clondalkin Leisure Centre as part of progressing Energy Performance Contracts for both facilities
• SDCC Energy Review 2021 preliminary figures indicate a 39.5% improvement in Energy Efficiency over the baseline, this figure has to be confirmed by CoDEMA
• Tallaght District Heating – groundworks are nearing completion. The District Heating facility will be fully commissioned shortly and will reduce CO2 emissions by 1,500 tonnes / annum
• Phase 1,2 & 3 of the programme replacing office lighting with LEDs are complete. An average associated reduction in consumption of 68% has been achieved and a 53 tonnes of CO2 emissions have been avoided.
• The Home Energy Saving Kit scheme is continuing to operate successfully in South Dublin’s Libraries (Lucan, Ballyroan and Tallaght branches). 6 additional kits were received in 2022

TRANSPORT
• A review of fleet and facilities is currently underway, for the purpose of transitioning SDCC fleet to zero carbon alternatives.
• Dublin Regional EV Strategy has been published and actions are being progressed including a trial of EV public charging equipment across the Dublin region.
• Cycle South Dublin – Currently 21 projects are underway. Over €18M was received in allocations for SDCC schemes in 2022
• Over 400 bicycle parking spaces have been provided in 2022, it is expected that 800 will be installed by end of year
• SDCC Active Travel website launched Active Travel - SDCC
• SDCC is continuing to support Bus Connects developments
• SDCC facilitated the installation of an innovative public e-bicycle hire pilot project with ESB.

FLOOD RESILIENCE
• SDCC SuDS Guidance Documents were published including Main guidance documents, Taking in Charge Documents and Householders guide to SuDS
• SDCC Severe Weather and Flood Emergency Plans were updated
• The Strategic Flood Risk Assessment and Hydrological Assessment was completed and used to inform the new County Development Plan
• Integrated Constructed Wetland (ICW) was complete in Griffeen Valley, 2 ICWs are in development in Dodder Valley
• The national Weather Impact REgister (WIRE) App developed by CARO has been trialled by SDCC and is now in use.

NATURE BASED SOLUTIONS
• Workshops on Nature Based Solutions were delivered including SuDS guidance, CDP, Hydromorphological study and Greening Factor.
• Biodiversity Action Plan Complete, Actions are being implemented
• Green Infrastructure Strategy was completed and incorporated into CDP
• Natural play area programme completed
• 2,500 trees will be planted by end of year
• Approx 18,000 trees surveyed in 2022
• Invasive Alien Species video was produced and presented to Parks Supervisory Staff
• Green Roofs in development at Tymon park Intergenerational Centre, and Corkagh Park Pavilions
• SuDS projects implemented at Tymon park and Lucan demesne

RESOURCE MANAGEMENT
• Waste Enforcement officers carrying out inspections and warning/enforcement notices
• Promote the Stop Food Waste messages across our social media channels. SDCC support the EPAs campaigns including Summer Food Waste campaign.
• EPA Stop Food Waste will be at Climate Festival in Tymon Park as part DCAW
• Fast Fashion documentary produced with the other Dublin Local Authorities supported by the Climate Innovation Fund
• Arthurstown Landfill - solar array was suggested for the landfill to cover the base load. Additional 5MW commercial array is being assessed
• Investigating Anaerobic Digestor as an environmentally friendlier solution to disposing of grass cutting

New actions identified:

• Developing a Register of opportunities for Greening Tallaght Stadium
• Progression of the DeliveREE project with partners CoDEMA
• Procurement of Energy Audits on County Hall, Clondalkin Office
• Develop Implementation Plans for Clondalkin and Tallaght Decarbonising Zones
• Align the objectives of Clondalkin Decarbonising Zones with the LAP
• Develop Dublin Regional Air Quality Plan (Completed)
• Interim Urban Traffic Related Air Pollution (UTRAP) Report (Completed)
• Participate in an Taisce’s Clean Air Together pilot project
• Support School Streets projects (Safe Routes to Schools)
• Support WeCount/I-Change Air quality monitoring project
• Support South Dublin Sports Partnership on community active travel projects
• Include/Support active travel options for travelling for Work
• Implement actions from the Biodiversity Action Plan
• Carry out wetland surveys of lakes and ponds in South Dublin
• Investigate sustainable solutions to the management of grass cuttings
• Investigate option to replace fossil fuelled hand tools with battery powered alternatives
• Provide Climate Awareness training for all staff
• Establish Green Procurement working group
• Develop SDCC Climate Change website
• Produce Climate Action newsletters
• Support the SEAI Sustainable Energy Communities project
• Support GAA Green Clubs project
• Support/Participate with DLAs Climate Action Awareness Campaign Climate Action Week
• Support local schools and universities on Climate Change awareness projects and studies

Decarbonising Zones:
In February 2021 the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage issued a circular on Decarbonising Zones to enable Ireland to meet its EU targets of reducing carbon emissions by 30% between 2021 and 2030, and thereafter to achieve net zero carbon emissions by 2050.
Action 165 of the National Climate Action Plan requires identification of one location or area in each local authority that would be subject to a plan for a Decarbonising Zone.
Each LA was required to identify a DZ by 30th, April, 2021 with a broad outline of the main projects that could be implementable in the zone plus an indication as to potential outcomes deliverable in terms of reductions in carbon emissions. At a minimum, these outcomes were to be capable of meeting the Government’s targets for carbon emissions reductions set out below, specifically an average 7% per annum reduction in overall greenhouse gas emissions from 2021 to 2030 (a 51% reduction over the decade).
Decarbonising zones should, subsequent to initial baseline analysis and stakeholder mapping, set the chosen zones on a path to achieving the greenhouse gas emissions reductions required by Government by the year 2030.
SDCC submitted a proposal including Clondalkin and Tallaght as proposed Decarbonising Zones to the DHLGH.
The 4 DLAs engaged CoDEMA to develop Decarbonising Zone Implementation Plans. This project has commenced and by Q.1 2023 we expect to have an initial draft which will include
• Establish Baseline Data
• Project potential increases in CO2 emissions
• Gap to Target Analysis
• Register of Opportunities
• Cost Estimates

Dublin Climate Action Week (#DCAW22):
A range of events will be delivered throughout the week from 12th to 17th September. A guide to the events and online registration has been officially launched and is available at www.dublinclimateactionweek.ie.

The programme of events includes a mix of in-person and online events and presents a range of climate themes including energy, transport, flood resilience, nature-based solutions, resource management and citizen engagement.
From family-oriented biodiversity walks and business events to pop-up shops and climate festivals the programme is full of useful solution focussed events which will inform the people of Dublin on the actions their local authorities are taking and what they can do themselves to address climate change.
The week is being organised and delivered by the partnership of South Dublin County Council, Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown County Council, Dublin City Council, Fingal County Council, Codema – Dublin’s Energy Agency and the Dublin Climate Action Regional Office (CARO).
The overall vision of Dublin Climate Action Week 2022 is – ‘to highlight Dublin’s climate action progress to its citizens and demonstrate the leadership role of the four local authorities in conjunction with other partners’.

The agreed shared objectives of the initiative are:
• Demonstrate progress on the implementation of the four Dublin local authority Climate Change Action Plans, and a regional approach to climate action;
• Engage with a full range of partners to share knowledge on efforts and innovation across sectors;
• Make climate action a ‘reality’ allowing citizens to see what climate action looks like;
• Promote this initiative to fully engage with EU and international cities and our climate peers; and
• Create a legacy so that this initiative can carry forward to subsequent years in a variety of ways.
The DCAW22 Programme Promotional Video can be viewed at: https://buff.ly/3Avr5Ua

Climate Action Communications Strategy
The Climate Change Team has developed a Communications Strategy to document and promote the Council’s numerous actions being carried out through day-to-day work and the Climate Change Action Plan. The Communications strategy will inform elected members and members of the public of ongoing Climate Action related works and upcoming events.

Climate Action Newsletter
The Climate Change Newsletter is published throughout the year, each issue focussing on a different theme from the CCAP.
Our social media hashtag (#SDCCClimateAction) is being used on all South Dublin County Council climate action social media posts.

Climate Action Website
The SDCC Climate Action website was officially launched in 2022. The website provides citizens direct access to the Climate Change Action Plan and it’s actions. The website also provides information and resources to citizens on current Climate Action projects and events.

### **Q17/0922 QUESTION:** **Councillor Liam Sinclair**

To ask the Chief Executive to provide a report on Tenants in arrears broken down by LEA. The report to include the number of Tenants that have been advised they will be evicted if arrears aren't cleared and the number of Tenants evicted due to arrears?

**REPLY:**

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Local Electoral Area |  Arrears | No of Accounts |
| Clondalkin | €954,959 | 1,205 |
| Firhouse-Bohernabreena | €375,655 |   682 |
| Lucan | €238,815 |   398 |
| Palmerstown-Fonthill | €2,126,297 | 2,198 |
| Rathfarnham-Templeogue | €95,425 |   202 |
| Tallaght Central | €263,016 |   759 |
| Tallaght South | €4,540,186 | 4,372 |
| Grand Total | €8,594,353 | 9,816 |

The breakdown of the rent arrears by Local Electoral Area is as follows:

The Debt Management Unit contacts every tenant with over 3 weeks of arrears on their account and advises them that they are in an arrears situation and that a failure to address these arrears puts their tenancy at risk and may result in them losing their home. Of the 5,283 accounts currently in arrears, only 145 tenants have not yet had contact with SDCC about their arrears, due to the low value of the arrears on their account.

This year to date, no tenants have been evicted due to rent arrears. However, a number of accounts are currently in the legal process and may be subject to legal proceedings for possession of the property in the coming months if they do not engage with the Debt Management Unit and their arrears are not addressed.

### **Q18/0922 QUESTION:** **Councillor Liam Sinclair**

To ask the Chief Executive provide numbers of Tenants that have had their debt moved to a third party?

**REPLY:**

SDCC tenants, including those in Council properties, RAS properties or leased properties, that are managed by South Dublin County Council, do not have their arrears transferred to third parties. SDCC manages these arrears internally through housing teams and the debt management unit.

### **Q19/0922 QUESTION:** **Councillor F. Timmons**

To ask the Chief Executive for a detailed report into the end of the Fix My Street system. Report to include what way the public can now report issues to SDCC and how this is different from the Fix My Street system ?

**REPLY:**

Initially established by South Dublin County Council in 2011, the Fix Your Street service was rolled out to all local authorities in 2012 and this national service was moderated by SDCC throughout its operation.

When the service was terminated in July, the technical infrastructure on which the service was built was past its end of life. Technological developments over the past 11 years have meant that most local authorities now have customer relationship management systems in place that provide the public with similar mapping functionality directly through and integrated with their customer service portals on their websites.

While some individuals may like the concept of a national service, many others prefer to connect directly with their local authority, and this reflects the ethos of local government. An example of this is the recently developed website for all local government services [LocalGov](https://localgov.ie/), which creates a national catalogue of all local government services. However, in all cases the user will be asked to name their local authority to access that service.

In summary what was once an innovative service developed for national use by SDCC is now catered for by most local authorities through their own online customer services that replicate the fault reporting mapping facility. This means the FYS service had become largely redundant, and the decision taken to terminate the FYS service was in recognition of that progress made while also closing an unacceptable level of risk posed to SDCC by the continued use of the platform on which the FYS service was built.

All SDCC customers are now using the [Customer Care online form](http://www.sdublincoco.ie/CustomerCare/ContactUs), which includes a similar mapping facility, for reporting faults.

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### **Q20/0922 QUESTION:** **Councillor F. Timmons**

To ask the Chief Executive for a detailed report into how many are registered as needing housing under medical priority? Report to include the average waiting time for this and how medical priority is assessed.

**REPLY:**

There are currently 378 households on this Council's Housing List that have been awarded medical priority, of which 82 households specifically require wheelchair accommodation.

The breakdown of the households approved for medical priority by area of preference and bedroom size is as follows:

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Medical Priority Need** | **North of Naas Road** | **South of Naas Road** | **Total** |
| 1-bed | 52 | 80 | **132** |
| 2-bed | 34 | 45 | **79** |
| 3-bed | 59 | 54 | **113** |
| 4-bed | 19 | 35 | **54** |
| **Total** | **164** | **214** | **378** |

Since 2019, 246 households have been allocated accommodation based on medical priority, with an average time\* on list of just over 8 years as follows:

|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Year** | **2019** | **2020** | **2021** | **2022** | **Total** |
| No. of Medical Priority Allocations | 71 | 44 | 68 | 63 | **246** |

\*It should be noted that applicants for medical priority may have been on the housing list for significant periods before applying for/being approved for medical priority and, additionally, the average waiting time may also be affected by the need for specially adapted accommodation which may not be readily available within current housing stock necessitating the planning and construction of such properties to meet a household’s specific needs.

Following revised procedures introduced in 2021, approved applicants for social housing supports can apply for medical priority by completing the appropriate form (HMD Form 1) which must be supported by two medical practitioners.  All such forms received are assessed by the Council’s independent medical referee who, based on the information submitted, will determine whether the provision of accommodation by the Council is required to assist with or improve the household’s medical circumstances outlined.  Please see <https://www.sdcc.ie/en/services/housing/finding-a-home/medical-priority-housing/hmd-form-1-disability-and-or-medical-information-form.pdf> for further details.

The Council’s Housing Delivery Action Plan 2022-2026 commits to the provision of appropriate accommodation to meet the prevailing medical housing need and our construction and allocations teams continue to work on planning for new delivery of homes to meet the existing medical priority needs on our housing list and in particular wheelchair accessible/liveable and specially adapted units.

### **Q21/0922 QUESTION: Councillor F. Timmons**

To ask the Chief Executive for a report into Electronic Signs in our villages as ABP has ruled that such signs need planning approval. Report to include SDCC policy on this and to confirm the criteria for planning permission. [https://www.irishtimes.com/news/environment/election-candidates-warned-over-electronic-road-signs-1.2521118](https://eur04.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.irishtimes.com%2Fnews%2Fenvironment%2Felection-candidates-warned-over-electronic-road-signs-1.2521118&amp;data=05%7C01%7Cdanielmurphy%40SDUBLINCOCO.ie%7Cfb3c8314a8864d7da8f008da8022308b%7C6a3c00c019d0492da8de95fad8fda1d4%7C0%7C0%7C637963181579002101%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C3000%7C%7C%7C&amp;sdata=ljq9nlGae8qXvoRL4TtBzUBgYDABkVLA8HQrOzHCMjE%3D&amp;reserved=0)

**REPLY:**

The subject of this question relates specifically to Electronic Sings and a recent media article around the appropriateness, or otherwise, of  such signage as a means of electioneering  and the promotion of candidates using electronic signs similar to those used for traffic alerts for political purposes.

Election / Referendum / Public Meeting posters are governed by a suite of relevant legislation including:

1. Litter Pollution Act 1997, amended by the Electoral (Amendment) (No. 2) Act 2009
2. Protection of the Environment Act 2003
3. Planning and Development Regulations 2001-2013
4. European Parliament Elections Act 1997
5. Local Elections Regulations 1995
6. Referendum Act 1994
7. Electoral Act 1992
8. Road Traffic Act 1961

Similarly, general land use, planning and transport operations of Local Authorities are governed by a suite of legislation and regulation through the Planning & Development Acts and Regulations, the Roads Act 1993 and Road Traffic Acts and Road Regulations.  These cover matters including but not limited to exemptions and authorising of advertising material (on both private and public property), traffic management and road safety, including dangerous structures and hazards.

Accordingly, all election signage, whether by traditional (postering) or Variable Messaging Signs (VMS) must accord to the relevant legislation and regulation, and the Council is mandated through these statutes to take appropriate action to ensure compliance.

In summary in relation to advertising:

Permanent advertising signs on public roads require a licence under section 254 of the Planning Act 2000 while advertising structures on private lands generally require planning permission, irrespective of whether it is visible from a public place or not.

The Planning and Development Regulations, 2001 exempts certain types of temporary advertisements as long as they:

* Do not exceed 1.2 square meters in area,
* Are erected no more then 2.5 meters from the ground and
* Are removed within 7 days of the event taking place.

### **Q22/0922 QUESTION:** **Councillor F. Timmons**

To ask the Chief Executive for a detailed report into what an ACA means? Report to include what protection is given to ACA areas and how is this enforced in regards to ACAs in SDCC.

**REPLY:**

The purpose of an Architectural Conservation Area (ACA) designation is to define the boundaries of an area that merits protection and to use appropriate controls over development in order to protect and enhance the special character of the Architectural Conservation Area.

The carrying out of exterior works to structures within an ACA are exempt from planning permission only where the works would not materially affect the character of the area and where the works would be consistent with the appearance of the structure itself and neighbouring structures.

The Council seeks to ensure that new development and works within ACAs and village areas respect the historic status of the area and demonstrate an awareness of the historic surroundings on the part of designers, developers, building occupiers and owners. This will serve to protect and enhance the historic built environment of the area and will ensure that new development adds to the character of the area and reinforces its sense of place.

There are specific policies objectives in the County Development Plan (CDP) 2022-2028 under Chapter 3, Policy NCBH20 seeks to preserve and enhance the historic character and visual setting of Architectural Conservation Areas and carefully consider any proposals for development that would affect the special value of such areas under the following objectives;

**NCBH20 Objective 1**: To avoid the removal of distinctive features that positively contribute to the character of Architectural Conservation Areas including building features, shop fronts, boundary treatments (including walls), street furniture, landscaping, and paving.

**NCBH20 Objective 2**: To prohibit demolition of a structure that positively contributes to the architectural character of an ACA.

**NCBH20 Objective 3:** To ensure that new development, including infill development, extensions and renovation works within or adjacent to an Architectural Conservation Area (ACA) preserves or enhances the special character and visual setting of the ACA including vistas, streetscapes and roofscapes.

**NCBH20 Objective 4:** To address dereliction and to welcome, encourage and promote appropriate and sensitive reuse and rehabilitation of buildings, building features and sites within Architectural Conservation Areas.

**NCBH20 Objective 5:** To reduce and prevent visual and urban clutter within Architectural Conservation Areas including, where appropriate, traffic management structures, utility structures and all signage.

**NCBH20 Objective 6:** To promote and support the reimagining of public spaces and places within Architectural Conservation Areas as part of improving positive placemaking (refer to Section 3.6.2 subsection Placemaking and the Historic Built Environment).

**NCBH20 Objective 7:** To ensure proposals for shopfronts and retail signage within ACAs adhere to best practice and achieve high quality designs which respect the character of the area. In this regard, applicants shall be required to have regard and adhere to the principles laid out in South Dublin’s Shopfront Design Guide.

**NCBH20 Objective 8:** To ensure that all planning applications for new developments within or immediately contiguous to an ACA include an Architectural Impact Assessment and Design Rationale addressing design considerations such as urban structure and grain, density and mix, scale, height, materials, landscape, views and landmarks and historic development.

Planning Applications that are submitted to the Planning Authority are assessed in accordance with the CDP and legislation pertaining to Architectural Conservation Areas and are also referred to the Councils Architectural Conservation Officer to formally assess to ensure that the proposed development does not materially affect the character of the ACA.

Where unauthorised development is deemed to have been carried out within an Architectural Conservation Area the Planning Enforcement Section will investigate claims in accordance with Part IV of the Planning and Development Act, 2000 (as amended) and will liaise with the Councils Architectural Conservation Officer in seeking recommendations.

### **Q23/0922 QUESTION:** **Councillor F. Timmons**

To ask the Chief Executive for a detailed report into Gas cannister sniffing in SDCC, what role the local authority could play in the education around this and are there plans for this to be raised at the Policing forum meeting as an issue of huge concern in SCCC?

[297883110\_10158842610374150\_664126138154116316](http://www.sdublincoco.ie/sdcc/departments/corporate/apps/cmas/documentsview.aspx?id=75771)

**REPLY:**

While specific local statistical and other data is not readily available in relation to this issue, the matter has been regularly raised at various Joint Policing Committee, Local Policing Forum, Drugs Task Force and other meetings.  Local Dáil representatives on the South Dublin JPC have also been pursuing the potential for legislative change surrounding the sale of gas cannisters that are mainly manufactured for use in the catering industry, but which are generally and readily available online at low cost.

The Council previously supported an awareness initiative in this regard by Clondalkin Drugs and Alcohol Task Force and further potential educational and public health initiatives will be considered by the JPC Drugs Subcommittee to highlight the dangers of using these cannisters.  In conjunction with both local Drugs and Alcohol Task Forces, the sub-committee will also examine what data is available and other explore ways to mitigate the ongoing environmental issues in some open spaces and parks.

### **Q24/0922 QUESTION: Councillor Joanna Tuffy**

To ask the Chief Executive for a list of all businesses in the County that received shop front grants, and or grants for outdoor furniture, from July 2019 to date, and the amount of the grant in each instance.

[List of shopfront grant and outdoor dining businesses](http://www.sdublincoco.ie/sdcc/departments/corporate/apps/cmas/documentsview.aspx?id=75785)

### **H6/0922 DECLARATION OF ROADS TO BE MADE PUBLIC ROADS - FOR APPROVAL**

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

### **H7/0922 PROPOSED DISPOSAL OF PROPERTIES/SITES - FOR APPROVAL**

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

### **H8/0922 MANAGERS REPORT** - **FOR NOTING**

The following reports by the Chief Executive, which had been circulated, were presented by Mr. D. Mc Loughlin, Chief Executive and were **CONSIDERED:**

[HI 8 a) Chief Executive's Monthly Report](http://www.sdublincoco.ie/sdcc/departments/corporate/apps/cmas/documentsview.aspx?id=75817)

[HI 8 b) Statistical Report - July](http://www.sdublincoco.ie/sdcc/departments/corporate/apps/cmas/documentsview.aspx?id=75860)

HI 8 c) Finance Report



A discussion followed with contributions from Councillors L. Dunne, K. Mahon, D. Ó Brádaigh, L. O'Toole, M. Johansson, W. Carey, R. McMahon, C. Bailey, S. Moynihan, G. O’Connell, and P. Gogarty. Councillors commended the rate of rent collection and the “Better Block” Balgaddy initiative. Queries were raised regarding car parking facilities in the Clonburris housing development, the allocation process of cost rental properties, RAS tenancies, homelessness, and the Lucan swimming pool.

Mr. D. McLoughlin, Chief Executive responded to the members queries and informed that Lucan swimming pool will not be com

pleted by year end due to supply chain issues and a further update will issue to Members shortly.

The reports were **NOTED**

### **H9/0922 PART 8 - WHITESTOWN STREAM IMPROVEMENT SCHEME - FOR APPROVAL**

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

South Dublin County Council have carried out a Part 8 for the development and upgrade of the Whitestown Stream Local Park, the development will consist of:

* Upgrade of existing boundaries and access points
* Provide new footpath at Cloonmore to complete footpath loop.
* Overlay existing footpaths
* Upgrade existing bridge linking Bawnlea Avenue and Cloonmore Road and provide with 2 new bridges one at either end of the stream.
* Remove graffiti as required from boundary walls and other locations, with the enhancement of existing service gates.
* Removal low-level wall on the Southeast boundary of the park and incorporate landscape design into the recently completed N81 cycle scheme.
* Construction of new boundary with access point at Cloonmore Ave & Gort lar.
* Re-position boundaries (hidden corners) with possible future land ownership transfer from SDCC to 3rd parties (any land ownership transfer will be subject to a separate decision by the council).
* Existing public lighting to be upgraded and proposed installation of new lighting columns
* Planting of tree, shrubs, and wildflowers/bulbs and other plants.
* ­Play/exercise trail every 100m.
* Installation of natural play area adjacent Cloonmore Rd.
* All associated landscape design including furniture and planting.
* All ancillary works.

The proposal has undergone Appropriate Assessment Screening under the Habitats Directive (92/43/EEC) and screening for Environmental Impact Assessment. The Planning Authority has made a preliminary examination of the nature, size and location of the proposed development.  The authority has concluded that there is no real likelihood of significant effects on the environment arising from the proposed development and a determination has been made that an Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) is not required. The  drawings and particulars of the proposed development underwent public consultation between the period from **22nd July 2022 to 3nd September 2022**. Submissions and observations with respect to the proposed development dealing with the proper planning and sustainable development of the area in which the proposed development will be situated, were made in writing up to **5.00pm on the 3rd September 2022.**

A total of 9 submissions were received. These have been summarised and responded to in the Chief Executive's Part 8 report.

**Recommendation:**

Following consideration of the submissions, the Chief Executive is of the view that the issues raised by way of the submissions can be satisfactorily addressed at the detailed design stage, operational stages and as outlined in the Chief Executive's Part 8 report.

It is recommended that, as the proposal is consistent with the County Development Plan and the proper planning and sustainable development of the area, that the Council proceed with the Part 8 proposal for the upgrade of Whitestown Stream Local Park.

[01 Whitestown Stream Upgrade - Part 8 Report Presentation](http://www.sdublincoco.ie/sdcc/departments/corporate/apps/cmas/documentsview.aspx?id=75841)
[02 CE Part 8 Report - Whitestown Stream Upgrade](http://www.sdublincoco.ie/sdcc/departments/corporate/apps/cmas/documentsview.aspx?id=75902)
[03 Public Notice](http://www.sdublincoco.ie/sdcc/departments/corporate/apps/cmas/documentsview.aspx?id=75842)
[04 EIA signed](http://www.sdublincoco.ie/sdcc/departments/corporate/apps/cmas/documentsview.aspx?id=75843)
[05 AA signed](http://www.sdublincoco.ie/sdcc/departments/corporate/apps/cmas/documentsview.aspx?id=75844)
[06 AA Screening Report](http://www.sdublincoco.ie/sdcc/departments/corporate/apps/cmas/documentsview.aspx?id=75846)
[07 EIAR Screening Report](http://www.sdublincoco.ie/sdcc/departments/corporate/apps/cmas/documentsview.aspx?id=75848)
[08 EcIA](http://www.sdublincoco.ie/sdcc/departments/corporate/apps/cmas/documentsview.aspx?id=75847)
[09 Part 8 Designers Report](http://www.sdublincoco.ie/sdcc/departments/corporate/apps/cmas/documentsview.aspx?id=75849)
[10 Site extents](http://www.sdublincoco.ie/sdcc/departments/corporate/apps/cmas/documentsview.aspx?id=75850)
[11 Location Map](http://www.sdublincoco.ie/sdcc/departments/corporate/apps/cmas/documentsview.aspx?id=75851)
[12 Overall Layout Plan](http://www.sdublincoco.ie/sdcc/departments/corporate/apps/cmas/documentsview.aspx?id=75853)
[13 Detailed-LayoutPlan-1-f](http://www.sdublincoco.ie/sdcc/departments/corporate/apps/cmas/documentsview.aspx?id=75852)
[14 Detailed-LayoutPlan-2-f](http://www.sdublincoco.ie/sdcc/departments/corporate/apps/cmas/documentsview.aspx?id=75854)
[15 Typical-Components-f](http://www.sdublincoco.ie/sdcc/departments/corporate/apps/cmas/documentsview.aspx?id=75855)
[16 Photomontages-f](http://www.sdublincoco.ie/sdcc/departments/corporate/apps/cmas/documentsview.aspx?id=75856)

A discussion followed with contributions from Councillors E. Ó Broin, P. Holohan, L. Dunne, K. Mahon, T. Costello, A. Edge, and L. Sinclair. The Members welcomed the report and raised queries regarding access points and playspace surface.

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

It was proposed by Councillor E. Murphy, seconded by Councillor L. Dunne, and **AGREED:**

“That this Council **APPROVES** the proposed Whitestown Stream Improvement Scheme.”

### **H10/0922 TALLAGHT STADIUM BRANDING PROCURMENT UPDATE REPORT - FOR NOTING**

The following reports by the Chief Executive, which had been circulated, were presented by Mr. J. Frehill, Director of Economic, Enterprise & Tourism Development and were **CONSIDERED**:

[H10 Tallaght Stadium Branding Procurement Update](http://www.sdublincoco.ie/sdcc/departments/corporate/apps/cmas/documentsview.aspx?id=75804)

A discussion followed with contributions from Councillors P. Kavanagh, P. Kearns, P. Holohan, K. Mahon, Y. Collins, V. Casserly, E. O'Brien, G. O'Connell, R. McMahon, C. Bailey, L. Dunne, D. Richardson, C. O'Connor, W. Carey, T. Costello, and C. King. The Members welcomed the report. Queries were raised regarding use of funds raised, retention of ‘Tallaght Stadium’ within the branding and approval of same.

Mr. J. Frehill, Director of Economic, Enterprise & Tourism Development responded to the members confirming retention of ‘Tallaght Stadium’ in the name, a report will be brought to Councillors for approval and that funding raised will assist in the running and continuing investment in the Stadium

The report was **NOTED**

### **H11/0922 COMMUNITY AND SPORTS GRANTS - FOR NOTING**

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

On 19th April 2022, the Community Department opened the online application process  whereby community and voluntary groups responding to locally identified needs within their communities could apply for assistance from the Council under the following categories:

* Community Development Grants
* Community Events Funding
* Summer Projects Funding
* Sport Development Grants

To date, one-hundred and fifty-one (151) applications have been received in 2022, all of which undergo a thorough assessment by the Community Development team under the following criteria:

* Impact on local community and local community involvement.
* Proven track record of project delivery and non-duplication of activities in the local area.
* Sustainable & value for money projects with clear/accurate costings.
* Existing funds available to the group/alternative funding sources.

At the June Council meeting, members noted the approval of an initial thirty-two (32) community and sports grants totalling €69,635 for twenty-eight (28) local groups.  Following the latest assessment process and having regard to the available budget, forty-seven (47) grants for thirty-nine (39) local groups, totalling €84,682, are now being approved, summarised as follows:

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Category** | **No.** | **Amount** |
| Community Development Grants\* | 20 | €22,905 |
| Community Events Funding | 9 | €21,105 |
| Summer Projects Funding | 3 | €5,000 |
| Sport Development Grants | 15 | €35,672 |
| **Total** | **47** | **€84,682** |

(\*includes Running Costs, Start Up, Environmental Improvement, Major and Minor Equipment Grants)

The final list of approved grants at this time together with their respective approved grant amounts is as follows:

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Group** | **Category** | **Amount** |
| Adamstown Community Summer Camp | Summer Project | €1,500 |
| Bawnogue Youth & Community Centre | Summer Project | €1,500 |
| Bodearg Residents Association | Start Up Grant | €295 |
| Brookfield Ladies Group | Running Cost Grant | €500 |
| Bros Pearse Athletic Club | 2 x Sport Development | €5,250 |
| Clondalkin St Patricks Day Parade | Community Event Funding | €5,000 |
| Daletree Residents Association | Community Event Funding & Environment Improvement Grant | €1,020 |
| Dominic's Community Centre | Major Equipment Grant | €3,320 |
| Eanna Basketball Club | 2 x Sport Development | €2,673 |
| Esker Woods Residents Association | Running Costs Grant & Environment Improvement Grant |  €1,000 |
| Firhouse Community & Leisure Club | Minor Equipment Grant | €680 |
| Friends of the Camac | Community Development | €500 |
| Greenhills Boys Football Club | Sport Development | €1,425 |
| JADD Project CLG | Community Development | €500 |
| Jobstown Community & Youth Centre | Community Event Funding | €1,000 |
| Killinarden Community Council | Community Event Funding & 2 x Community Development  | €2,600 |
| Kingswood Football Club | Sport Development | €4,500 |
| Knocklyon Men's Shed | Minor Equipment Grant | €1,250 |
| Lucan Festival | Community Event Funding | €9,000 |
| Lucan Harriers Athletic Club | Sport Development | €1,778 |
| Manortown Football Club | Sport Development | €1,900 |
| North Clondalkin Community Development Programme | Community Event Funding | €1,555 |
| Peamount Football Club | Sport Development | €1,000 |
| Quarryvale Community & Youth Centre | Minor Equipment Grant | €2,000 |
| Rathcoole Boys Football Club | Sport Development | €1,700 |
| Rathfarnham Wood Residents' Association | Community Event Funding | €450 |
| Retired Active Men's Social (RAMs) | Community Development | €500 |
| Russell Square Residents Assoc | Community Event Funding | €800 |
| St Kevins Family Resource Centre | Summer Projects | €2,000 |
| St Marks GAA Club | 2 x Sport Development | €5,500 |
| St Mark's Youth & Family Centre | Major Equipment Grant | €5,000 |
| St Francis' Football Club | 2 x Sport Development | €5,446 |
| Street Feast South Dublin | Community Event Funding | €1,000 |
| Templeogue Community Men's Shed | Running Cost Grant | €500 |
| The WEB Project | Minor Equipment Grant | €2,000 |
| Thomas Davis GAA Club | Sport Development | €4,500 |
| WASP Community Education Programme | Minor Equipment  Grant | €640 |
| Women's Collective Ireland - Tallaght( formerly Women Together Tallaght Network) | Minor Equipment  Grant | €900 |
| YMCA Soulworks Youth Music Programme Ardmor | Minor Equipment  Grant | €2,000 |
| **Total** |   | **€84,682** |

The 2022 online community and sports grants application process remains open and available to local community, voluntary and sporting groups until further notice.  Applications will continue to be assessed as they are received and further notifications of grant approvals will be brought to the attention of the Elected Members at subsequent Council meetings over the course of the remainder of the year.

A discussion followed with contributions from Councillors V. Casserly, M. Johansson, S. Moynihan, C. O'Connor, and C. Bailey, who raised queries regarding the application process and funding.

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

The report was **NOTED**

### **C1/0922 REPLIES & CORRESPONDENCE**

**Replies**

[(a) Reply from Department of Social Protection re. Basic Income for the Arts](http://www.sdublincoco.ie/sdcc/departments/corporate/apps/cmas/documentsview.aspx?id=75818)
[(b) Reply from the Minister for Justice re. Decriminalisation of Drug Use](http://www.sdublincoco.ie/sdcc/departments/corporate/apps/cmas/documentsview.aspx?id=75820)
[(c) Reply from Minister for Transport re. Scrambler Legislation](http://www.sdublincoco.ie/sdcc/departments/corporate/apps/cmas/documentsview.aspx?id=75821)
[(d) Reply from Minister for Children, Equality, Disability, Integration Youth re. Mother and Baby Homes](http://www.sdublincoco.ie/sdcc/departments/corporate/apps/cmas/documentsview.aspx?id=75822)
[(e) Reply from Minister for Housing, Local Government and Heritage re. Large-Scale Residential Developments](http://www.sdublincoco.ie/sdcc/departments/corporate/apps/cmas/documentsview.aspx?id=75823)

**Correspondence**

[(f) Correspondence from Donegal County Council re. TÃºs Scheme for Ukrainian Nationals](http://www.sdublincoco.ie/sdcc/departments/corporate/apps/cmas/documentsview.aspx?id=75824)
[(g) Correspondence from Donegal County Council re. Culture Weekend](http://www.sdublincoco.ie/sdcc/departments/corporate/apps/cmas/documentsview.aspx?id=75825)
[(h) Correspondence from Limerick City and County Council re. Housing Emergency](http://www.sdublincoco.ie/sdcc/departments/corporate/apps/cmas/documentsview.aspx?id=75826)
[(i) Correspondence from Limerick City and County Council re. Long Covid](http://www.sdublincoco.ie/sdcc/departments/corporate/apps/cmas/documentsview.aspx?id=75827)

The replies and correspondence were **NOTED**.

### **M1/0922** [**LEARN TO CYCLE PARK**](http://intranet/Cmas/documentsview.aspx?noinc=true&id=75803)

**It was Proposed by Councillor E. Murphy and seconded by Councillor L. Sinclair**

That South Dublin County Council consider the installation of a Learn to Cycle track in one of our parks in South Dublin, similar to the track recently installed by Waterford County Council in Dungarvan. A Learn to Cycle track is a specific space which will allow young children to learn to cycle on a ‘real life’ road structure with lines, signs and pedestrian crossings without the traffic.

**REPORT:**

LUPT in partnership with EWCC intend installing a Learn to Cycle track in one of our parks in South Dublin. We have been in contact with the team in Waterford County Council and are currently considering the design for a similar facility in this county. The Learn to Cycle park will include appropriate surfacing, road markings, signage and crossings and will give people who are learning to cycle, good experience in a less trafficked environment. The Council is at site selection and budget estimate stage and the project proposal will be brought to the relevant area committee in Q4 2022.

Councillors E. Murphy, C. Bailey, V. Casserly and S. Moynihan spoke in support of the Motion.

The motion was **AGREED.**

### **M2/0922** [**AUTOMATED EXTERNAL DEFIBRILLATORS**](http://intranet/Cmas/documentsview.aspx?noinc=true&id=75750)

**It was Proposed by Councillor D. Ó Brádaigh and seconded by Councillor F. Timmons and MOVED without debate.**

That this Council agrees to work with others to develop and maintain an active database for the location of all Automated External Defibrillators (AED's) in the County, whilst promoting information on maintenance, training and registration on the exact location of these life saving devices.

**REPORT:**

Defibrillators are installed in County Hall, Tallaght and the Clondalkin Civic Offices, and at all Public Libraries. These are provided and maintained by the Council and can be accessed by the public during opening hours of that building.

There are numerous AED's provided throughout the County by a wide variety of groups from local community groups, sports organisations, large shopping centres, individual pharmacies and private commercial companies. The installation, upkeep and maintenance of defibrillators is the responsibility for the relevant committees/management, or company, within their respective community centres and clubs.

### **M3/0922** [**TRANSGENDER COMMUNITY**](http://intranet/Cmas/documentsview.aspx?noinc=true&id=75751)

**It was Proposed by Councillor L. Whelan and seconded by Councillor F. Timmons**

That this council reaffirms its commitment to protect and uphold the rights of the transgender community locally and enshrines its commitment to stand in solidarity and campaign alongside the trans community for access to education, healthcare and resources, especially as we approach Trans Pride (July 16th).

**REPORT:**

South Dublin County Council demonstrates a strong commitment to LGBTQ+ equality and the LGBTQ+ community through a variety of ongoing actions and initiatives including:

* The Transgender Pride Flag is flown at County Hall and Civic Offices Clondalkin for one month from 31 March each year in recognition of International Transgender Day of Visibility.
* The Transgender Pride Flag is flown on 20 November each year in recognition of International Transgender Day of Remembrance.
* The inclusive Pride Flag is flown at County Hall and Civic Offices Clondalkin in recognition of Pride Week each June.
* SDCC Elected Members and staff joined Dublin City Council colleagues in the Dublin Pride parade in Saturday, 25 June 2022.
* Council policies, plans, recruitment documents and staff forms are equality and gender proofed on an ongoing basis.
* The South Dublin LGBT+ Network was set up through South Dublin County Council Social Inclusion Unit and the South Dublin Public Participation Network to create a safe space and to ensure the LGBT+ community have a voice across the County.
* The South Dublin County Council LGBTQ+ Staff Network, (founded in October 2017), partnered with the Dublin City Council LGBT+ Staff Network to hold the ‘Trans Pride at Work’ webinar in March 2021. The Network has continued to provide a staff LGBTQ+ information page through the Council’s Intranet. The Council’s Equality Officer supports the Executive of the Network.
* The LGBTI+ Inclusion Strategy 2019 – 2021 was considered in the assessment of equality and human rights issues as part of the development of the SDCC Equality and Human Rights Framework to meet our responsibilities under Section 42 of the Irish Human Rights and Equality Commission (IHREC) Act 2014.
* South Dublin Libraries provides information, resources and materials for the LGBTQ+ community all year round, with Pride displays and events in branches throughout the County during the month of June

Councillors L. Whelan, F. Timmons, A. Edge, S. Moynihan, P. Kavanagh, C. Bailey, K. Mahon, M. Duff, M. Johansson, and E. Murphy spoke in support of the Motion and requested an invitation to present to the Council be made to a representative group.

Ms. L. Maxwell, Director of Corporate Performance and Change Management replied to the Members.

Mr. D. McLoughlin, Chief Executive, agreement to a presentation to the Members from a representative group was noted.

The motion was **AGREED.**

### **M4/0922** [**COST OF LIVING**](http://intranet/Cmas/documentsview.aspx?noinc=true&id=75752)

**It was Proposed by Councillor C. King and seconded by Councillor L. Dunne**

That this Council calls on the Taoiseach to immediately implement a set of measures to tackle the Cost of Living Crisis that is Devastating Families across the State from both Working and Middle Class Demographics, which has seen 70% increases in Heating Oil, 30% increase in Gas, 25% increase in Electricity, 8% Increase in Rents and €1,200 average increase in petrol prices for the average driver along with increases in Groceries and other Essential Goods. This has resulted in the Highest inflation rates in 20 years of more than 5,5% and that's without the Governments scandalous proposed increases in Carbon Tax at a time of crisis. These measures at the least should include: The introduction of a living wage, the introduction of a cost of living payment based on annual income, the scrapping of Carbon Tax Increases, a ban on Rent increases for 3 years, Increase in Fuel allowance criteria, Removal of VAT on Energy Bills during winter Months, the Establishment of a discretionary utility debt Fund. These measures should form a base for tackling the crisis for struggling Families across the State.

**REPORT:**

If this motion is agreed, a letter will be issued to An Taoiseach. The response, when received, will be circulated to the Members.

A discussion followed with contributions from Councillors C. King, A. Edge, E. O'Brien, S. Moynihan, C. Bailey, P. Holohan, L. Sinclair, D. Ó Brádaigh and M. Johansson.

The following amendment was proposed by Councillor K. Mahon and seconded by Councillor L. Sinclair:

“That this Council calls on the Taoiseach to immediately implement a set of measures to tackle the Cost-of-Living Crisis that is Devastating Families across the State from both Working and Middle Class Demographics, which has seen 70% increases in Heating Oil, 30% increase in Gas, 25% increase in Electricity, 8% Increase in Rents and €1,200 average increase in petrol prices for the average driver along with increases in Groceries and other Essential Goods.

This has resulted in the Highest inflation rates in 20 years of more than 5,5% and that's without the Governments scandalous proposed increases in Carbon Tax at a time of crisis.

These measures at the least should include: The introduction of a living wage, the introduction of a cost of living payment based on annual income, the scrapping of Carbon Tax Increases, an increased and rapid shift to renewable energy, a ban on Rent increases for 3 years with a reduction of current rent to affordable levels, Increase in Fuel allowance criteria, Removal of VAT on Energy Bills during winter Months, the Establishment of a discretionary utility debt Fund.

These measures should form a base for tackling the crisis for struggling Families across the State and should be financed through the implementation of a wealth tax on the assets, excluding the family home, of millionaires, increases in Irelands Corporate Tax Rate and nationalisations of key sectors of the economy such as energy provision.”

A further discussion followed with contributions from Councillors L. Dunne, R. McMahon, J. Tuffy, W. Carey, and P. Gogarty.

The Mayor Councillor E. Murphy proposed, and the Members **AGREED** to a ROLL CALL vote on the amendment proposed by Councillor K. Mahon, the result of which was as follows:

**FOR: 9 (NINE)**

**Councillors C. Bailey, M. Duff, M. Johansson, P. Kavanagh, K. Mahon, E. Ó Broin, L. Sinclair, F. Timmons, L. Whelan.**

**AGAINST: 16 (SIXTEEN)**

**Councillors W. Carey, Y. Collins, T. Costello, L. Dunne, A. Edge, C. King, L. McCrave, R. McMahon, S. Moynihan, E. Murphy, D. Ó Brádaigh, E. O'Brien, C. O'Connor, S. O'Hara, D. Richardson, J. Tuffy.**

**ABSTAIN: 2 (TWO)**

**Councillors P. Gogarty, L. Hagin Meade**

The Amendment to the Motion **FELL**.

The Mayor Councillor E. Murphy then proposed, and the Members **AGREED** to a ROLL CALL vote on the original Motion proposed by Councillor C. King, the result of which was as follows:

**FOR: 12 (TWELVE)**

**Councillors C. Bailey, W. Carey, L. Dunne, M. Johansson, C. King, K. Mahon, D. Ó Brádaigh, E. Ó Broin, D. Richardson, F. Timmons, J. Tuffy, L. Whelan.**

**AGAINST: 13 (THIRTEEN)**

**Councillors Y. Collins, T. Costello, M. Duff, A. Edge, L. Hagin Meade, P. Kavanagh, L. McCrave, R. McMahon, S. Moynihan, E. Murphy, E. O'Brien, C. O'Connor, S. O'Hara.**

**ABSTAIN: 2 (TWO)**

**Councillors P. Gogarty, L. Sinclair.**

The Motion **FELL**.

### **M5/0922** [**COMMUNITY SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS**](http://intranet/Cmas/documentsview.aspx?noinc=true&id=75753) **ITEM**

**It was Proposed by Councillor Lyn Hagin Meade and seconded by Councillor Y. Collins and MOVED without debate**

That this Council supports the development of Community Sustainable Development Goals Dashboards throughout SDCC to provide a data driven response to collecting and celebrating our communities' actions and progress in working towards the 2030 Sustainable Development Goals.'

**REPORT:**

South Dublin County Development Plan 2022-2028 sets out the land use framework to guide future development within the County with a focus on the places we live, the places we work, and how we interact and move between these places while protecting our environment.

The Development Plan must be consistent with the National Planning Framework and the Eastern and Midland Regional Spatial and Economic Strategy 2019 – 2031 (RSES). There is significant alignment between the UN Sustainable Development Goals and the National Planning Framework’s 10 National Strategic Outcomes (NSOs) in areas such as climate action, clean energy, sustainable cities and communities, economic growth, reduced inequalities and innovation and infrastructure, as well as education and health. The Eastern and Midland Regional Spatial and Economic Strategy 2019 – 2031 has sixteen Regional Policy Objectives (RPOs) which are also aligned with the UN Sustainable Development Goals.

In this way, the vision, core strategy, policies and objectives of the new South Dublin 2022 -2028 County Development Plan are fully aligned with the regional and national planning framework and the UN SDG’s.

This alignment with the UN SDG’s is further reinforced by the extensive monitoring framework set out in the County Development Plan. This monitoring framework is comprised of an extensive range of indicators and associated measures that will form an important evidence-based input and integrate with the review process of the subsequent County Development Plan 2028 – 2034. This framework is also designed to assist the Planning Authority in preparing reports in meeting its statutory requirements, including:

* The 2 Year Review of the 2022 – 2028 County Development Plan.
* Report to the Regional Assembly setting out progress made in supporting objectives of the RSES.

As a result of the extensive work of the executive and the members in developing and agreeing the South Dublin 2022-2028 County Development Plan over the last two years, the measurement of the UN SDGs in an evidence-based monitoring framework is already in place and will be developed over the lifetime of the plan.

Nationally, the Department of the Environment, Climate and Communications have just closed the final consultation on the draft of the Second SDG National Implementation Plan 2022-2024 for Ireland, which includes a range of proposed measures for local government to lead on in recognition of the important role of the sector at the local level. Publication of the outcome of this consultation is awaited but the draft Implementation Plan is available [here.](https://www.gov.ie/en/consultation/b1f2b-final-consultation-on-the-draft-of-the-second-sdg-national-implementation-plan-2022-2024/)

There are a number of national AED databases already in place, and publicly available such as at <https://rescue.ie/>, and <https://helpinghearts.ie/pages/aed-map-for-ireland> that provide detailed information on locations of AEDs nationally. There is an App available on Google Playstore and Apple called AED Locator Ireland that shows your nearest AED based on your current location and whether it is a 24 hr one or not.

<https://irishheart.ie/what-is-cpr/cpr-courses/aedsdefibrillators-save-lives/> also provide detailed information on what is an AED, purchasing and setting up an AED, Budgeting requirements, suppliers, guidelines and maintenance.

The Council will continue to promote the importance of defibrillators in saving lives with local community centres and sports centres on an ongoing basis.

### **M7/0922** [**DR. NOEL BROWNE**](http://intranet/Cmas/documentsview.aspx?noinc=true&id=75755)

**It was Proposed by Councillor K. Mahon by and seconded by Councillor P. Kavanagh and MOVED without debate.**

Following on from the Motion passed at April 2021 Council Meeting

“In recognition of Dr Noel Browne, and the men and women who fought for the eradication of tuberculosis in Ireland that a commemorative stone be provided on the Grass Verge in proximity to Peamount Hospital”

That this Council writes to Dublin City Council informing them of the recent commemoration by South Dublin County Council of Dr. Noel Browne and express our support for a memorial or commemorative piece in Dublin City. We believe such a project would be merited and have public support.

**REPORT:**

If this motion is agreed, a letter will be issued to Dublin City Council. The response, when received, will be circulated to the Members.

### **M8/0922** [**VACCINE TRIALS**](http://intranet/Cmas/documentsview.aspx?noinc=true&id=75756)

**It was Proposed by Councillor F. Timmons and seconded by Councillor A. Edge and MOVED without debate.**

That this Council commits to writing to the Minister for Children, Equality, Disability, Integration and Youth to ask him when the state will act on the Vaccine Trials, does the state intend apologizing for the trials that were carried out in Many institutions while innocent children were in the care of the state and religious orders and were carried out without parental consent, and to ask what he, as Minister intends to do for survivors of the Vaccine Trials and to give details of the State’s position on these illegal trials?

**REPORT:**

If this motion is agreed, a letter will be issued to the Minister for Children, Equality, Disability, Integration and Youth. The response, when received, will be circulated to the Members.

### **M6/0922** [**IRISH NEUTRALITY**](http://intranet/Cmas/documentsview.aspx?noinc=true&id=75754)

### As Councillor L. Donaghy was absent from the Chamber the following motion **FELL** in accordance with Standing Order No. 28:

That this Council confirms its pride in, and continued support for, Ireland's traditional policy of military neutrality, and writes to the Taoiseach to declare these views.

### **M9/0922** [**ROAD WORKS**](http://intranet/Cmas/documentsview.aspx?noinc=true&id=75757)

**It was Proposed by Councillor Peter Kavanagh and seconded by Councillor E. Murphy**

This County Council agrees to prioritise vulnerable road users when engaging in road works throughout the county, ensuring that, where possible, cycle lanes are accommodated, and footpaths are unobstructed.

**REPORT:**

The Roads Department assesses Road Opening Licences and Traffic Management Plans for all proposed works on the SDCC Road Network. Where possible a requirement is included to retain cycle lanes. If that is not possible in a particular location, signage is erected advising the cyclists to dismount and use the footpath facilities which must be provided. It is a requirement of licenses issued to contractors that diversion routes are kept unobstructed.

Councillor P. Kavanagh spoke on the Motion and welcomed the Managers report.

The motion was **AGREED.**

### **M10/0922** [**LITTER BIN AND CLEANSING SERVICES**](http://intranet/Cmas/documentsview.aspx?noinc=true&id=75758)

**It was Proposed by Councillor P. Gogarty and seconded by Councillor Y. Collins**

That the Chief Executive, noting concerns raised by residents and businesses in relation to the quality of bin collections, cleansing and litter picking (in village areas), undertakes to investigate ways of improving service provision for the citizens of south Dublin; and if a statement can be made on the matter.

**REPORT:**

The Council’s Public Realm Section provides a variety of cleansing services across the County as follows –

1. The servicing of on-street litter bins on a daily basis, the service consists of full time operatives servicing litter bins on dedicated routes each day and this includes servicing of bins on Sundays and bank holidays.
2. Daily cleaning of town and village centres in Tallaght, Clondalkin, Lucan, Palmerstown, Rathcoole, Rathfarnham, Templeogue and Walkinstown.  This service is also provided on Sundays and bank holidays.
3. Daily cleaning of parks and servicing of park litter bins on a daily basis.
4. The operation of mobile cleansing crews dealing with the cleaning and litter picking of parks and estate open spaces, including the response to illegal dumping and collections from Tidy Towns and community clean up events.
5. The road sweeping service provided under contract to the Council by Oxigen Environmental Ltd.
6. Graffiti removal which is provided by Public Realm painting staff and also by specialist contractor where chemical removal of graffiti is required.
7. These services are considered to be priority services within Public Realm, and in this regard they are the first tasks to be assigned to staff each day.  What this means in effect is that where a regular operative is not available on a given day a replacement is assigned to their task as a priority, before any other tasks are assigned.
8. The total provision for all of the above services in the 2022 revenue budget is €8.2m.

Information relevant to the provision of these services is included in the reports on the Litter Management Plan which are presented to the area committees on a twice yearly basis.  Any issues raised by elected members through this process are taken into consideration and responded to in an appropriate manner.

Cleansing services are kept under constant review and as issues come to light through area committee business, membersnet and customer care items or through ongoing monitoring and supervision they are responded to in a timely manner.  Where certain changes or improvements to a service are required then these have always been acted on and this will continue to be the case.  For example the need to provide daily cleaning and servicing of litter bins in park locations which arose during the pandemic has now become a permanent feature of the cleaning services provided by this Council.

Issues such as the provision of additional street litter bins arise from time to time as area committee agenda items and where possible these are responded to in a positive manner with additional bins provided as requested by elected members.  Similarly where locations of persistent littering or illegal dumping are raised by elected members then these are factored in to the regular response by public realm operations, with illegal dumping incidents being responded to within a 24 hour time frame where possible.  As the county grows and new urban centres, public parks and residential areas become established then the services provided will have to expand accordingly.

A review has been carried out of litter and cleansing issues which have been brought to the attention of public realm staff through CMAS, membersnet and customer care.  The results of the review suggest that there have been no major issues in recent times that would require any substantial change to the configuration of cleansing services as they are currently.  One recent issue with regard to a number of litter bins not being serviced in the Lucan area has been resolved, this issue came to light during the week commencing June 13th and action was taken in the following days to address the matter.

Councillor P. Gogarty suggested numbering of public bins for ease of reporting and to carry out street sweeping during 4 or 5am.

Ms. T. Walsh, Director of Environment, Water and Climate Change, responded stating the bins can be photographed and GPS tagged, a bin identification system will be examined. In relation to road sweeping at 4am she also stated that parking would be at a maximum at this time so there was no benefit to be gained by a 4am start, it may also present Health & Safety issues.

The motion was **AGREED.**

### **M11/0922** [**AN BORD PLEANÁLA**](http://intranet/Cmas/documentsview.aspx?noinc=true&id=75760)

**It was Proposed by Councillor Liam Sinclair and seconded by Councillor F. Timmons**

That this Council declares that, given recent revelations, it has no confidence in An Bord Pleanála. Current members of the board should step down or be removed, and replacements sourced via an independent recruiter. Should the motion be agreed a letter issues to An Taoiseach, the Minister for Housing, Local Government and Heritage, and Minister of State, with special responsibility for Local Government and Planning.

**REPORT:**

If this motion is agreed, letters will be issued to An Taoiseach, the Minister for Housing, Local Government and Heritage, and Minister of State, with special responsibility for Local Government and Planning. The responses, when received, will be circulated to the Members.

A discussion followed by contributions from Councillors L. Sinclair, C. Bailey, P. Kavanagh, L. Dunne, S. Moynihan, K. Mahon, M. Duff, J. Tuffy, M. Johansson, E. Murphy, E. O'Brien, W. Carey, C. King, and F. Timmons.

The Mayor, Councillor E. Murphy, proposed, and the Members **AGREED** to a ROLL CALL vote on the proposed by Councillor L. Sinclair, the result of which was as follows:

**FOR: 15 (FIFTEEN)**

**Councillors C. Bailey, W. Carey, M. Duff, L. Dunne, A. Edge, L. Hagin Meade, M. Johansson, P. Kavanagh, C. King, K. Mahon, D. Ó Brádaigh, E. Ó Broin, L. Sinclair, F. Timmons, L. Whelan.**

**AGAINST: 3 (THREE)**

**Councillors Y. Collins, L. McCrave, R. McMahon.**

**ABSTAIN: 7 (SEVEN)**

**Councillors T. Costello, S. Moynihan, E. Murphy, E. O'Brien, C. O'Connor, S. O'Hara, J. Tuffy.**

The motion was **AGREED.**

Meeting ended at 19:11

**Motions not reached**

### **(M12)** [**PUBLIC TOILETS**](http://intranet/Cmas/documentsview.aspx?noinc=true&id=75761)

**Councillor Eoin Ó Broin**

The regressive response to Question 12 from the council of March 2022 that asked for an update on the feasibility study on the installation of public toilets is noted. To begin to resolve this situation in a progressive manner this council agrees to have one self cleaning one person outdoor public toilet installed in each of the four local areas of SDCC. <http://www.sdublincoco.ie/Meetings/ViewDocument/74389>

### **(M13)** [**COMMUNITY CHILDCARE ASSESSMENTACILITIES**](http://intranet/Cmas/documentsview.aspx?noinc=true&id=75830)

**Councillor Joanna Tuffy**

To ask the Chief Executive to undertake an examination of the extent to which the Council is currently involved in supporting childcare within the South Dublin County Council area, with a view to seeing if this support can be enhanced. This would include an audit of childcare services in its own properties, including Council owned community, youth and leisure centres. (Details of a similar examination being carried out by another local authority is attached)

### **(M14)** [**RELETS**](http://intranet/Cmas/documentsview.aspx?noinc=true&id=75833)

**Councillor C. O'Connor**

That this Council calls for effective action to deal with boarded up Council houses and return them to the housing stock for reletting.

### **(M15)** [**AHB ENGAGEMENT**](http://intranet/Cmas/documentsview.aspx?noinc=true&id=75814)

**Councillor T. Costello**

To ask South Dublin County Council to develop a protocol whereby Councillors can make representations on behalf of constituents to Approved Housing Bodies to ensure that AHB's will have a pathway to communicate with Councillors when they contact them on behalf of their constituents. Given the growing number of tenancies in the County which are being managed by AHBs this protocol will ensure that tenants get the necessary support and level of representation which they are entitled to.

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

Mayor

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