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

Minutes of South Dublin County Council May 2023 Rathfarnham / Templeogue / Firhouse / Bohernabreena Area Committee Meeting held on Tuesday 9th May 2023 through Microsoft 365 Teams and in Person in the Council Chambers. Today’s Area Committee Meeting was webcast as the Council has extended webcasting to all Area Committee meetings from January 2023. The extension of webcasting Area Committee meetings demonstrates our commitment to promoting transparency and supporting understanding and participation in local democracy.

### **Councillors Present**

### Lyn Hagin Meade

### Alan Edge

### Pamela Kearns

### Ronan McMahon

### David McManus

### Carly Bailey

### Lynn McCrave

### Yvonne Collins

### Mark Lynch

### Emma Murphy

### **Officials Present**

### Senior Executive Officer Mary Maguire

### Senior Engineer John Hegarty, Leo Magee

### Acting Senior Engineer Michael McAdam

### Senior Staff Officer Adrienne McGee

### Executive Librarian Sarah McHugh

### Staff Officer Eimear O’Sullivan

### Clerical Officer Ciara Brennan

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The Cathaoirleach, Councillor Lyn Hagin Meade, presided.

### **RTFB/185/H1/23 Item ID:79198**

Minutes of South Dublin County Council Rathfarnham/Templeogue/Firhouse/Bohernabreena Area Committee dealing with Housing, Community, Transportation, Planning, Economic Development, Libraries, Corporate, Performance & Change Management, Public Realm, Environment, Water & Drainage held on 18th April 2023 which have been circulated, were submitted, and **APPROVED** as true record and signed.

It was proposed by Councillor L Hagin Meade, seconded by Councillor M Lynch, and **RESOLVED** “That the recommendations contained in the minutes of 18th April 2023 be **ADOPTED** and **APPROVED**.”

[H1 Minutes of April 2023 ACM](http://www.sdublincoco.ie/sdcc/departments/corporate/apps/cmas/documentsview.aspx?id=78719)

**RTFB/186/23 - Questions**

It was proposed by Councillor L Hagin Meade, seconded by Councillor A Edge and **RESOLVED** “That pursuant to Standing Order No. 13 that Questions 1 - 11 be **ADOPTED** and **APPROVED**

## **Housing**

### **RTFB/187/Q1/23 Item ID:78974 - Domestic Violence Services**

Proposed by Councillor L. Hagin Meade

To ask the Manager about the domestic violence services and supports, including contact numbers, for those living in the Rathfarnham/Templeogue/Firhouse/Bohernabreena Area.

**REPLY:**

Responsibility for the development and provision of services to support victims of domestic violence rests with the Minister for Children and Youth Affairs and the delivery of such services is managed through the Child and Family Agency, Tusla.

 Sonas are a Domestic Violence Agency and work in the Rathfarnham / Templeogue / Firhouse / Bohernabreena areas.

Their website is available here [https://www.domesticabuse.ie/](https://eur04.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.domesticabuse.ie%2F&amp;data=05%7C01%7Cfhendley%40SDUBLINCOCO.ie%7C860b83b0b1d04821dc3508db4c9e7531%7C6a3c00c019d0492da8de95fad8fda1d4%7C0%7C0%7C638188015671955174%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C3000%7C%7C%7C&amp;sdata=fGrGzgQYO6hgm1WQGeGvYPFGfUx2jkMgPQa3a6x4SYk%3D&amp;reserved=0) .

Emergency help numbers; 1800 222 223 / 01 866 2015

For Advice, Outreach, Court Accompaniment; 087 952 5217

Sonas Refuge; 01 866 2015.

### **RTFB/188/C1/23 Item ID:79043 - Correspondence**

Correspondence (No Business)

### **RTFB/189/H2/23 Item ID:79054 – New Works**

New Works (No Business)

## **Community**

### **RTFB/190/C2/23 Item ID:79040 - Correspondence**

Correspondence (No Business)

### **RTFB/191/H3/23 Item ID:79050 – New Works**

New Works (No Business)

### **RTFB/192/H4/23 Item ID:79065 - Deputations**

Deputations for Noting (No Business)

## **Transportation**

### **RTFB/193/Q2/23 Item ID:79029 – TIC Process for Village Green, Rathfarnham**

Proposed by Councillor Y. Collins

To ask for an update in relation to the TIC process for Village Green, Rathfarnham

**REPLY:**

The Council does not commence a TIC procedure until and unless an official TIC application is received from the developer.

To date SDCC has not had an official application to take this estate into the charge of the Council.

### **RTFB/194/Q3/23 Item ID:78692 – Speed reduction of cars at Cypress Drive, Templeogue**

Proposed by Councillor D. McManus

To ask the Chief Executive to examine measures to reduce the speed of cars turning from Glendown Road onto Cypress Drive, Templeogue - given there are no speed ramps at the start of Cypress Drive, and if a statement is available?

**REPLY:**

This is a signal controlled junction. The radius of the kerbs and alignment of the line marking is such to facilitate emergency vehicles and utility vehicles (e.g., bin trucks) navigating the turn. There are existing traffic calming measures, in the form of ramps on Cypress Drive.

### **RTFB/195/Q4/23 Item ID:78693 – Condition of public footpath**

Proposed by Councillor D. McManus

To ask the Chief Executive to examine the condition of the public footpath (address provided) and arrange repairs as necessary, and remove any trip hazards?

**REPLY:**

This location will be inspected and if repairs are required it will be added to the list

### **RTFB/196/C3/23 Item ID:79048 – Correspondence**

Correspondence (No Business)

### **RTFB/197/H5/23 Item ID:79059 – New Works**

New Works (No Business)

### **RTFB/198/H6/23 Item ID:79062 – Declaration of Roads to be Public Roads**

Proposed Declaration of Roads to be Public Roads (No Business)

### **RTFB/199/M1/23 Item ID:78980 – Dodder Valley Greenway App Development**

Proposed by Councillor L. Hagin Meade Seconded by Councillor A Edge

**Cathaoirleachs Business**

That SDCC will develop a map or add to an SDCC APP to show the Dodder Valley Greenway, to include entry points, cycle parking, water fountains, electric bike charging, trishaw operating locations, accessible parking, seating, refreshment facilities, playgrounds, nature and biodiversity interest spots and other points of interest.

**The Following Report from the Chief Executive was Read:**

The Active Travel team has recently developed a dedicated website to provide information on active travel projects and the Cycle South Dublin Programme.

The website can be accessed at this weblink; [Active Travel - SDCC](https://www.sdcc.ie/en/active-travel/)

The mapping on the website shows the Dodder Valley Greenway. The locations of the bike parking stands across the county are being added to the mapping.

 All Public Realm facilities are mapped (playground, entrances, basketball/tennis courts, teen spaces, etc.). They are stored in GIS format and are also available to the organisation through ArcGIS online (a type of GIS cloud database). Anyone creating a map can access and use these files.

Public Realm facilities are mapped online and can be found here: [Community Facilities - Ag teacht le chéile (arcgis.com)](https://sdublincoco.maps.arcgis.com/apps/instant/minimalist/index.html?appid=d3b507aa199a483f8203b0acec37454d)

This map also includes paths and routes within Parks, such as the Dodder Greenway.

Following Contributions from Councillors L H Meade, Y Collins, M Lynch, A Edge, P Kearns, L McCrave and R McMahon, Michael McAdam Acting Senior Engineer Responded to queries raised and the **Motion was Agreed**

### **RTFB/200/M2/23 Item ID:78982 – Road Safety at Firhouse Educate Together Secondary School**

Proposed by Councillor L H Meade, Seconded by Councillor A Edge

That the Manager urgently provides road safety, such as a school warden for Firhouse Educate Secondary School at Hunters Road, as more permanent road plans are in process to prevent accidents from teenagers crossing the street on the way to and from school.

**The Following Report from the Chief Executive was Read:**

Currently, the SDCC School Warden service does not provide crossing cover for secondary schools, so the provision of an assisted crossing for this location is not an option at this point in time.

There are proposals for more long-term road crossing measures, which will be provided through compliance with planning permission conditions.

The Road Safety Officer (RSO) and Gardaí visit secondary schools during the academic term.  The primary target audience in second level is Transition Year (TY) or Leaving Cert Applied (LCA) classes.

Special hard-hitting programmes were delivered to 6th Year (Leaving cert) students at the beginning of the school term in September. The following is a list of second level programmes.

* **Streetwise**
This RSA based program is delivered to the Junior Cert cycle.  It focuses on Pedestrians, cyclists, motorcyclist, safety belts and speeding.
* **It won’t happen to me!**
This Garda based program is hard hitting, graphic and very effective.
* **‘Your Road to Safety’**
The RSO links in with TY & LCA Coordinators to deliver this RSA led program.
* **‘Drive 4 Life’**

Following Contributions from Councillor L H Meade, Mary Maguire Senior Executive Officer Responded to queries raised and the **Motion was Agreed**

### **RTFB/201/M3/23 Item ID:78984 – “Hidden Disability” Parking Spaces**

Proposed by Councillor L H Meade, Seconded by Councillor R McMahon

That South Dublin County Council trial "hidden disability" parking spaces in the Rathfarnham/Templeogue/Firhouse/Bohernabreena area to accommodate those with hidden disabilities (such as autism or sensory issues who do not have a blue badge). Hidden disability spaces will allow for parking next to community facilities and parks run by the council. A similar 'Sunflower Spaces' scheme runs in Waterford City and County Council.

**The Following Report from the Chief Executive was Read:**

The Council is aware of their initiative and has discussed this matter with Waterford City and County Council.

While it is intended to pilot for 1 such space at an appropriate location, the space will be subject to normal pay and display criteria and cannot be enforced legally.  Therefore, compliance will be based on a courtesy arrangement.

Following Contributions from Councillors L H Meade, R McMahon and L McCrave, John Hegarty Senior Executive Engineer Responded to queries raised and the **Motion was Agreed**

## **Planning**

### **RTFB/202/Q5/23 Item ID:78975 – Aquatic & Invertebrate life in River Dodder**

Proposed by Councillor L. Hagin Meade

To ask the Manager to describe the aquatic and invertebrate life in the Dodder River running through South Dublin County Council?

**REPLY:**

The river Dodder is rich in a range of plant, animal, bird, and insect life.  Many of these species are directly related to the river and its aquatic habitat, while others are generalists that are associated with the grassland and woodland habitats that occur along the River Dodder Linear Park.

Aquatic native mammals such as the otter are known to occur along the river, while the non-native and invasive American Mink is also known to range along the river and its associated habitats.  Fox and badger are also sometimes seen.

A range of different species of waterbirds occur, including Dipper, Grey Heron, Mallard, Kingfisher, Grey Wagtail, Moorhen and Coot, while larger birds like Swans and Cormorant will also occur in places.

The river supports a stock of wild brown trout which is complemented by additional stocking of farmed trout.  Lamprey, an unusual aquatic fish, occurs at points along the river.  These ancient family of fish are jawless, having an oral sucker pad instead of a mouth with jaws.

The range of aquatic insect life depends on water quality, but in places where water quality is good species such as Water Boatman, Pond Skater, Whirlygig Beetle, May Fly, Caddis Fly, and Stone Fly can occur.  These provide food for fish and water birds, while they also support local populations of bats like the Daubenton bat which is particularly associated with riverine habitats.

Wet woodland grows in sections along the river at Old Bawn, and studies indicate that this habitat is particularly important for ground and water beetles.  Beetles are recorded in association with the gravel-bed habitats and muddy ground which floods between the trees.  Rare beetle species which were first recorded here only once before over a century ago have recently been re-recorded in these wet woodlands.  72 different species of beetle were identified, making the Dodder a site of great importance for both aquatic and terrestrial beetle conservation.

### **RTFB/203/C4/23 Item ID:79046 - Correspondence**

Correspondence (No Business)

### **RTFB/204/H7/23 Item ID:79057 – New Works**

New Works (No Business)

## **Economic Development**

### **RTFB/205/C5/23 Item ID:79042 - Correspondence**

Correspondence (No Business)

### **RTFB/206/H8/23 Item ID:79052 – New Works**

New Works (No Business)

## **Libraries & Arts**

### **RTFB/207/C6/23 Item ID:79044 – Correspondence**

Correspondence (No Business)

### **RTFB/208/H9/23 Item ID:79055 – New Works**

New Works (No Business)

### **RTFB/209/H10/23 Item ID:79063 – Library News & Events**

### The Following report was presented by Sarah McHugh Executive Librarian

**Library News & Events**

[H10 Libraries Report](http://www.sdublincoco.ie/sdcc/departments/corporate/apps/cmas/documentsview.aspx?id=78680)
[H10(i) Libraries Events Stats](http://www.sdublincoco.ie/sdcc/departments/corporate/apps/cmas/documentsview.aspx?id=78681)

Following Contributions from Councillors A H Meade and A Edge, the **Report was Noted**

### **RTFB/210/H11/23 Item ID:79064 - Application for Arts Grants**

Application for Arts Grants (no business)

## **Corporate Support**

### **RTFB/211/C7/23 Item ID:79041 – Correspondence**

Correspondence (No Business)

### **RTFB/212/H12/0523 Item ID:79051 – New Works**

New Works (No Business)

## **Performance & Change Management**

### **RTFB/213/C8/23 Item ID:79045 - Correspondence**

Correspondence (No Business)

### **RTFB/214/H13/23 Item ID:79056 – New Works**

New Works (No Business)

## **Environment**

### **RTFB/215/Q6/23 Item ID:78973 – River Dodder Water Quality**

Proposed by Councillor L. Hagin Meade

To ask the manager to detail the water quality results for the Dodder River in South County Dublin 2020-2023?

**REPLY:**

Water quality of rivers is determined using a combination of chemical, physical and ecological results along a river's length. The best summary description of the large water environmental data set for the R. Dodder is summarised by the EPA's ecological status description for all water bodies in Ireland. The ecological status range that can be assigned by the EPA are High status for pristine waters, proceeding through Good, Moderate, Poor and Bad status. The status of a river, or a length/segment of river, is calculated every three years by the EPA with the last national status calculation determined in 2021 which included information for the R. Dodder.

The R. Dodder is relatively long and is split into segments called waterbodies so each waterbody can be assigned a status. There are several waterbodies above the Glenasmole lakes which are assigned High and Good status. The water body from the Lower Glenasmole Lake to Old Bawn is assigned Good status and the remainder of the river length in South Dublin County is assigned Moderate status. The Upper Lake is assigned Good status which is a drinking water source, and the Lower Lake is assigned Poor status - but is not a drinking water source.

The Council monitors phosphate and ammonia on a monthly basis in rivers which are two important nutrient chemicals and give a strong indication of the health of a river. The upper R. Dodder to Old Bawn showed phosphate and ammonia were consistently very low and ammonia concentrations have seen some further decreases since 2020 to 2023 which is welcomed. The lower the concentration of the nutrients the better the river status is likely to be. The same can be said of the length of river from Old Bawn to Balrothery Weir. As the river flows from Balrothery Weir to the Dublin City boundary there is a gradual increase in these nutrients, and this is reflected in a moderate decline in the ecological quality of the river.

The main source of pollution to the R. Dodder is that of domestic misconnections which is reflected in the status change as the river flows into and through the urban area. The Council is currently implementing the Dublin Urban Rivers LIFE project which aims to identify misconnection houses in a fast and efficient way. The outputs from that project will be applicable to the R. Dodder in the future.

### **RTFB/216/Q7/23 Item ID:78977 – Provision of Bottle Banks in Firhouse / Bohernabreena**

Proposed by Councillor L. Hagin Meade

To ask the manager to comment on the progress of the provision of bottle banks and recycling services for residents of the Firhouse and Bohernabreena area.

**REPLY:**

The nearest bring bank sites which are available to residents of the Firhouse and Bohernabreena areas are listed below along with details of materials accepted at these sites:

1. Firhouse Community Centre, Ballycullen Drive (glass and textiles accepted)
2. Firhouse Shopping Centre (textiles only accepted)
3. Aherns Public House Car Park, Old Bawn Road (glass only accepted)
4. Bohernabreena Bus Terminal (glass only accepted)

The provision of an additional site in the area is being considered at the Dodder Valley Park car park which is opposite the Speaker Connolly pub. If this proposed site passes the suitability assessment it is hoped that it will be operational by the third quarter of this year.

Up to date information (including a map) in relation to the Council's bring bank network is available at the following link:

[https://www.sdcc.ie/en/services/environment/recycling-and-waste/bring-banks/](https://eur04.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.sdcc.ie%2Fen%2Fservices%2Fenvironment%2Frecycling-and-waste%2Fbring-banks%2F&amp;data=05%7C01%7Clmagee%40SDUBLINCOCO.ie%7C64f29fe8b9944d74a18e08db4d75e144%7C6a3c00c019d0492da8de95fad8fda1d4%7C0%7C0%7C638188940948071732%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C3000%7C%7C%7C&amp;sdata=1yC%2B3kYpFwuusvhUjabTMQUnUfjYB14i10vWVG2o0EY%3D&amp;reserved=0)

Additional recycling facilities are also available at the Council's Civic Amenity Recycling Centre in Ballymount Industrial Estate. Please see the link below for information on all the materials accepted at this site.

[https://www.sdcc.ie/en/services/environment/recycling-and-waste/recycling-centres/](https://eur04.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.sdcc.ie%2Fen%2Fservices%2Fenvironment%2Frecycling-and-waste%2Frecycling-centres%2F&amp;data=05%7C01%7Clmagee%40SDUBLINCOCO.ie%7C64f29fe8b9944d74a18e08db4d75e144%7C6a3c00c019d0492da8de95fad8fda1d4%7C0%7C0%7C638188940948071732%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C3000%7C%7C%7C&amp;sdata=YjmSUov0HIFBLeZof3mpXZEY%2B%2FmQKcfViuEuUjHgOiA%3D&amp;reserved=0)

### **RTFB/217/Q8/23 Item ID:78941 – Remedial Action at County Tip Head, Bohernabreena**

Proposed by Councillor R. McMahon

To ask the Manager if any remedial action has been undertaken on the disused County Tip Head located at Bohernabreena and to give a report on same with regard to Soil Testing and Drainage Water from the area. And does the Council have any plans to re-plant trees on the site which were removed when the site opened.

**REPLY:**

The site in question at Bohernabreena and adjacent to the Dodder River was used for the disposal of domestic waste by Dublin County Council in the 1960s and early 1970s.  The Council has had a full environmental risk assessment carried out at this site by a specialist environmental consultant who has recommended that the site should be capped with a layer of soil and that a surface water attenuation pond should also be installed, to control the discharge of surface water from the site to the Dodder.  Arrangements are currently being made to tender for these works which it is hoped will take place later in the year.   There is no information available regarding removal of trees from the site in the past, and the planned works do not include for the planting of replacement trees at this time.

### **RTFB/218/C9/23 Item ID:79039 – Correspondence**

Correspondence (No Business)

### **RTFB/219/H14/23 Item ID:79053 – New Works**

New Works (No Business)

## **Public Realm**

### **RTFB/220/Q9/23 Item ID:78976 – Planned Sculpture installations in parks**

Proposed by Councillor L. Hagin Meade

To ask the Manager about planned sculpture installations in parks in the area?

**REPLY:**

A member of staff in the Public Realm maintenance depot in Tymon Park has created a number of sculptures by upcycling tree trunks and these sculptures are on display in Tymon Park, Sean Walsh Park and along the Dodder Valley Greenway.  The Council will continue to install this type of sculpture however this will be subject to suitable tree trunks becoming available.

### **RTFB/221/Q10/23 Item ID:78978 – List of public access sensory gardens in Firhouse / Bohernabreena**

Proposed by Councillor L. Hagin Meade

To ask the Manager to list the public-access sensory gardens that are open or planned in the Firhouse/Bohernabreena area?

**REPLY:**

A universal accessible sensory garden was installed in Firhouse village in 2019, this was installed in conjunction with the Central Remedial Clinic. In addition to this as part of the 300k Have Your Say there is a proposal to have a health and wellbeing garden installed in Firhouse Community Centre this would include sensory features and planting. This is being delivered by the Community Section of SDCC.

It should be noted that public parks can be considered to provide sensory landscapes with benefits for all to enjoy with features, surfaces, objects and plants that stimulate the senses through touch, sight, scent, taste and hearing.

### **RTFB/222/Q11/23 Item ID:78958 - New tree planting or hedging along a public wall (Address provided)**

Proposed by Councillor D. McManus

To request the Chief Executive to arrange new tree planting or hedging along a public wall (address provided), as this location was recently cleared of hedging, and if a timeline may be available?

**REPLY:**

A site inspection has been conducted at the location in question here on Ballyroan Road.  It was found that vegetation including hedging and trees has been removed from along the boundary of one private property, this has not been done by Council staff and unfortunately it is not known by whom this clearance has been done as they did not have the permission of the Council.  The Council has no plans at the present time to carry out replacement tree or hedge planting at this location.

### **RTFB/223/C10/23 Item ID:79047 – Correspondence**

Correspondence (No Business)

### **RTFB/224/H15/23 Item ID:79058 – New Works**

New Works (No Business)

### **RTFB/225/M4/23 Item ID:78979 – New Litter Bin at St Colmcilles National School**

Proposed by Councillor L. Hagin Meade, Seconded by Councillor M Lynch

**Cathaoirleachs Business**

That a new litter bin be installed at the front of St Colmcilles National school on Idrone Avenue.

**The Following Report from the Chief Executive was Read:**

The proposal to install a litter bin in front of St Colmcille's National School on Idrone Avenue has been examined.  The Council's Public Realm Section will arrange for a new bin to be installed there in the coming weeks.

Following Contributions from Councillor L H Meade, the **Motion was Agreed**

### **RTFB/226/M5/23 Item ID:78951 -Laneway cleansing at (address provided)**

Proposed by Councillor Y. Collins, Seconded by Councillor L H Meade

That the Council clears and cleans the laneway between (address provided)

**The Following Report from the Chief Executive was Read:**

The laneway in question here which links Ballyroan Road and Orchardstown Drive has been inspected recently and was found to be clean, however there is heavy weed growth on the lane.  The Council's Public Realm Section will arrange for removal of the weeds from this laneway in the coming weeks.

Following Contributions from Councillor Y Collins, the **Motion was Agreed**

### **RTFB/227/M6/23 Item ID:79030 – Playground Resurfacing at Rathfarnham Castle Park**

Proposed by Councillor Y. Collins, Seconded by Councillor L H Meade

That this Council carries out works to resurface the ground at the playground in Rathfarnham Castle Park

**The Following Report from the Chief Executive was Read:**

The two playgrounds in Rathfarnham Castle Park are inspected weekly by Council staff, in addition to this the Council has engaged an independent playground inspection firm to assess all playgrounds across the county on a quarterly basis and this includes the playgrounds in Rathfarnham Castle Park. Following a recent inspection, the report received by the Council identified that there were areas of minor shrinkage in the playground surface.  These defects are identified in the inspection report as low risk however the Council has engaged a contractor to carry out the repairs necessary to these areas of shrinkage, there is no safety requirement for the playground to be fully resurfaced.

Following Contributions from Councillor Y Collins, Leo Magee Senior Engineer, responded to queries raised and the **Motion was Agreed**

## **Water & Drainage**

### **RTFB/228/C11/23 Item ID:79049 – Correspondence**

Correspondence (No Business)

### **RTFB/229/H16/23 Item ID:79060 – New Works**

New Works (No Business)

The meeting concluded at 15:30

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An Cathaoirleach