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

Minutes of South Dublin County Council November 2023 County Council Meeting held on Monday 13 November 2023

### **PRESENT**

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

### **OFFICIALS PRESENT**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Chief Executive | C. Ward. |
| Directors | L. Maxwell, J. Frehill, M. Mulhern, T. Walsh, E. Leech |
| Head of Finance | R. FitzGerald. |
| Head of IT | T. Kavanagh |
| County Architect | C. Harte |
| Senior Executive OfficerAdministrative Officer | M. Murtagh.M. Reilly.  |
| Staff Officer | K. McLoughlin |
| Assistant Staff Officers | D. Murphy, L. Farrell |
| Sord | A. O’Brien. |
|  |  |

The Mayor, Councillor A. Edge, presided

Apologies were received from Councillors C. King, K. Mahon, and D. Richardson.

**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 A. Edge, 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 Chair.

At this point in the meeting The Mayor, Councillor A. Edge, proposed a minutes’ silence to recognise the 32 conflicts ongoing around the world and in particular the suffering of children involved, the Members AGREED.

**H1/1123 CONFIRMATION AND REAFFIRMATION OF MINUTES - FOR APPROVAL**

Minutes of the October Council Meeting held on 9th October 2023 which had been circulated were submitted and **APPROVED** as a true record and signed in the proposition of Councillor A. Edge seconded by Councillor D. Ó Brádaigh.

 [(a) October Council Minutes - 9th October 2023](http://www.sdublincoco.ie/sdcc/departments/corporate/apps/cmas/documentsview.aspx?id=80320)

**H2/1123 FILLING OF CASUAL VACANCY ON SOUTH DUBLIN COUNTY COUNCIL IN ACCORDANCE WITH S.19 OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 2001 FOLLOWING THE RESIGNATION OF COUNCILLOR C. BAILEY**

### [H2 (b) Letter of resignation from Councillor C. Bailey](http://www.sdublincoco.ie/sdcc/departments/corporate/apps/cmas/documentsview.aspx?id=80273)[H2 (c) Social Democrats Nomination - J. Sinnott](http://www.sdublincoco.ie/sdcc/departments/corporate/apps/cmas/documentsview.aspx?id=80223)[H2 (d) Social Democrats Nomination - J. Sinnott's Acceptance](http://www.sdublincoco.ie/sdcc/departments/corporate/apps/cmas/documentsview.aspx?id=80221)

### The following report by the Chief Executive, which had been circulated, was presented by Ms. L. Maxwell, Director of Corporate Performance and Change Management, and was **CONSIDERED**

As a result of the resignation of Councillor Carly Bailey on Friday 20th October 2023, a casual vacancy has occurred on South Dublin County Council (Rathfarnham - Templeogue Electoral Area).

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

Mr. Justin Sinnott has been duly nominated by the Social Democrat Party, being the registered political party who nominated Councillor Bailey for election, and in accordance with Section 19 (5) Mr. Sinnott’s written consent to his proposed co-option has been received.

Members are required to ratify the co-option of Mr. Sinnott at today’s meeting.

The report was **NOTED** and it was proposed by Councillor A. Edge and seconded by Councillor E. Ó Broin and **AGREED**:

“That Justin Sinnott be co-opted to fill the vacancy occurring as a result of the resignation of Councillor C. Bailey on the 20th October 2023.”

Former Councillor C. Bailey thanked management, staff, and her colleagues for their help during her time as Councillor and wished newly appointed Councillor J. Sinnott best wishes.

### Councillor J. Sinnott addressed the Members accepting his position as a Councillor.

Councillors A. Edge, L. Dunne, V. Casserly, P. Kearns, D. McManus, Y. Collins, L. Sinclair, L. Whelan, L. Hagin Meade, G. O’Connell, E. Ó Broin, M. Johansson, S. Moynihan, P. Gogarty, P. Kearns, and M. Lynch paid tribute to former Councillor C. Bailey and welcomed Councillor J. Sinnott

Mr. C. Ward, Chief Executive, thanked former Councillor Bailey on behalf of the management team and staff of South Dublin County Council and welcomed Councillor J. Sinnott.

**REPLY:**

A number of vacancies existed on the following committees/statutory bodies previously held by Councillor C. Bailey who resigned as Councillor on 20th October 2023 and subsequently disqualified from membership of these committees.

* **Social, Community & Equality SPC**
* **Joint Policing Committee**
* **Commemorations Committee**
* **Tallaght Community Arts Centre**

It is now before this Council for consideration.

It was proposed by Councillor A. Edge, seconded by Councillor P. Kearns, and **AGREED** that Councillor J. Sinnott be appointed to the **Social, Community & Equality SPC** to fill the vacancy occurring as a result of the resignation of Councillor C. Bailey on the 20th October 2023.

It was proposed by Councillor A. Edge and seconded by Councillor P. Kearns, and **AGREED**, that three remaining Committee Appointments be postponed to the next Council Meeting.

### **H3/1123 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.*

**H4/1123 STANDING COMMITTEES ORGANISATION, PROCEDURE & FINANCE - FOR APPROVAL**

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

**H5/1123 STRATEGIC POLICY COMMITTEES - FOR NOTING**

**a) Arts, Culture, Gaeilge, Heritage & Libraries SPC**
*It was* ***NOTED*** *that there was* ***NO*** *Business under this Heading.*

**b) Environment, Water, Climate Change & Biodiversity SPC**
*It was* ***NOTED*** *that there was* ***NO*** *Business under this Heading.*

**c) Economic, Enterprise & Tourism SPC**

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

**d) Housing SPC**

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

**e) Social, Community & Equality SPC**

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

**f) Land Use, Planning & Transportation SPC**

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

 **H6/1123 REPORTS REQUESTED BY AREA COMMITTEES - FOR NOTING**

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

**QUESTIONS:**

It was proposed by Councillor A. Edge, seconded by Councillor P. Kearns and **RESOLVED**:

“That pursuant to Standing Order No. 22, Questions numbered Q1 – Q36 be **ADOPTED** and **APPROVED.”**

### **Q1/1123**  **Councillor A. Hayes**

To ask the Manager how many issues were logged with the Council's Out-of-hours number during Storm Agnes and how many of these issues were dealt with before SDCC offices reopened on Thursday 28th September.

**REPLY:**

On the night of storm Agnes on 27th-28th September, records show there were 17 calls logged Out of Hours. 11 of these were answered at the time.  A Roads Maintenance report from the storm has 14 separate incidents responded to during the storm, consisting of downed trees and some flooding issues.

The Out-of-hours service is intended to resolve the issue if possible and if not to make the area safe. In the scenario of fallen trees these are often pushed to the side of the road during the night and arrangements are made to clear it the following day when better working conditions prevail

### **Q2/1123 Councillor T. Costello**

To ask the Chief Executive for a report on vandalism in the last 12 months relating to footpaths and roads. Report to include the number of incidents of staff being unable to carry out or redo work and the related costs.

**REPLY:**

We have four recorded instances of vandalism/anti-social on our sites in the last 12months, two occurred in the North of the county and two in the South.

Incidences included;

 - Repeated removal/theft of site material

 - Burning of site material

 - Damage to poured concrete

 - Abuse/threats to operatives

In most instances the remaining works were postponed or cancelled.

It is estimated that the material cost associated with these instances was approximately €3,000

### **Q3/1123 Councillor L. Guéret**

To ask the Chief Executive for a report on what enforcement measures are in place for those who carry out illegal dumping.

**REPLY:**

The Council appreciates and shares the concern expressed by the elected members and members of the public in relation to the illegal dumping and fly tipping throughout the county.

A number of initiatives and enforcement measures continue to be implemented through the Environment Water & Climate Change directorate.

The Council’s Litter Management Plan has committed to the deployment of innovative and emerging technology, including Programmable Audio Messaging Devices to tackle the problem of illegal dumping and fly tipping and these devices have been installed at various locations across the county. Requests for the installation of such technologies are assessed on a case-by-case basis, having regard to certain criteria, including site suitability and the repetitive nature of illegal dumping and fly tipping.

There is an increased and heightened visibility of the litter warden service. Areas which are prone to repeat incidents of illegal dumping/ fly tipping have been identified across the county and are patrolled on a regular basis.

All reports of illegal dumping and littering are investigated by the Council's Litter Warden Service and all dumped material is searched for evidence. Where evidence is found, the appropriate enforcement action is taken under the Litter Pollution Act 1997, as amended. Increasingly, it is found that no personal information relating to polluters is contained within the dumped material, with personal information having been removed or shredded.

Waste Enforcement Officers continue surveillance operations on illegal collectors resulting in the confiscation of vehicles by An Garda Siochana and prosecutions in the District Court of the operators and the householders/businesses who transfer waste to unauthorised collectors.

Village cleansing programmes are ongoing in all town and village centres daily Monday to Friday and also on Sundays.

Existing cleaning schedules are reviewed and modified regularly, planned and scheduled clean-ups of areas prone to repeated littering/dumping incidents is ongoing, and there is continuing liaison with community groups for Clean-Up collections.

Regard is taken of reports/survey findings e.g., IBAL and resources as available and appropriate, are applied.

An ongoing proactive anti-litter and anti-illegal dumping programme continues to be carried out as per the EMWR Waste Management Plan and the SDCC Litter Management Plan.

Some examples of the proactive initiatives that have been previously promoted/carried out and will continue to be, are the “tackle litter” adverts, the mattress amnesty and hazardous waste collections. These are all promoted through social media and radio.

Continued support is provided for the Green Schools Programme, which has a theme specially dedicated to litter and waste. Support is provided on an ongoing basis, to the green school’s programme through talks, workshops, competitions etc. In the 2022/2023 school year 26schools in South Dublin County received a green flag.

The Social Credit's Scheme (SCS) rewards community groups who improve their environment by carrying out pro-environmental actions such as community clean-ups. From January to October 2023 89 newapplications (approximately 2500 clean ups annually) have been received and assistance provided through the scheme. The following materials are available throughout the county, in the two Council offices and a number of community centres to successful applicants: litter pickers, bags, hi-vis vests, shovels, brushes, paint, paint brushes and native pollinator seeds. Groups who avail of the supports are requested to return the materials following their clean up so that other groups may avail of them.

Some other proactive initiatives carried out include the National Spring Clean, the PURE project, the Anti-Litter & Anti-Graffiti awareness grants, WEEE collection days and Eco-Week.

The council continues to examine all options available to it to improve the aesthetic appearance of the county and continues to update members on the Litter Management Plan Annual Action Plans.

As always, the public is encouraged to work with the Council in helping to identify culprits who engage in illegal dumping and to report any incidents observed.

### **Q4/1123 Councillor L. Guéret**

To ask the Chief Executive for a report on what measures are in place to deter people from dumping rubbish in scenic rural areas.

**REPLY:**

A number of initiatives and enforcement measures continue to be implemented through the Environment Water & Climate Change directorate for all areas in the county both rural and urban. All incidences of illegal dumping are investigated by our enforcement teams, and where evidence relating to specific households is gathered actions under the Litter Pollution Acts and Waste Management Acts, as amended are taken.

The Council’s Litter Management Plan has committed to the deployment of innovative and emerging technology, including Programmable Audio Messaging Devices to tackle the problem of illegal dumping and fly tipping and these devices have been installed at various locations across the county. Requests for the installation of such technologies are assessed on a case-by-case basis, having regard to certain criteria, including site suitability and the repetitive nature of illegal dumping and fly tipping.

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The council continues to examine all options available to it to improve the aesthetic appearance of the county and continues to update members on the Litter Management Plan Annual Action Plans.

As always, the public is encouraged to work with the Council in helping to identify culprits who engage in illegal dumping and to report any incidents observed.

### **Q5/1123 Councillor L. Guéret**

To ask the Chief Executive for a report on the roads which are the responsibility of South Dublin County Council. Report to include if there is a regular maintenance programme with regard to road line painting of white lines and yellow boxes.

**REPLY:**

In accordance with the Roads Act 1993, as amended, the Council as Road Authority, has responsibility for the maintenance of public roads over which a public right of way exists.

Road Maintenance carry out an annual road repair programme that includes the upgrade of roads, footpath, cycle tracks, QBCs, drainage and road markings.

With respect to road markings, these are not renewed on a routine basis but as they are required. Markings that need renewal are identified by roads inspectors/engineers and also reports from members of the public and elected members.

If there are road markings at a specific location causing concern please contact road maintenance with the details

### **Q6/1123 Councillor L. Guéret**

To ask the Chief Executive what facilities are currently provided in Playgrounds and SDCC Community Centres for children with sensory needs?

**REPLY:**

Since 2015 South Dublin County Council has built over 40 new play areas which are physically accessible, provide a range of universally accessible equipment and accommodate the needs of children with ADHD, sensory issues, speech and language difficulties and intellectual disabilities.

The Council uses the 7 principles of Universal Design: Equitable Use, Flexibility in Use, Simple and Intuitive Use, Perceptible Information, Tolerance for Error, Low Physical Effort, Size and Space for Approach and Use. Through extensive consultation and research, we learned that physical access was only part of making a play area accessible, so we targeted interventions to better accommodate children with ADHD and a range of other disabilities. This was achieved by maximising contact with nature, creating more free play areas with less rules to understand, providing both bright and shady spaces, providing quiet spaces and providing sensory rich environments using plants and natural materials. The playspaces are very natural in character, these environments are proven to improve the physical and mental wellbeing of all children but can be especially important to children with additional needs. The recent provision of Communications boards is another part of this design philosophy. The Council has worked closely with the Centre for Excellence in Universal Design and our work on natural and inclusive playspaces is regarded as best practice in this regard. SDCC co-operated with the Irish Association of Speech and Language Therapists to develop a board with the Irish sign language as well as English and Irish text.  We also design each board specifically for each playground to maximise its value to playspace users.

The following video was made to get feedback on our communications boards before we rolled them out to the rest of our larger playgrounds around the county, and to date we have Communications Boards in 16 playgrounds. [link](https://eur04.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.google.com%2Furl%3Fsa%3Dt%26rct%3Dj%26q%3D%26esrc%3Ds%26source%3Dweb%26cd%3D%26cad%3Drja%26uact%3D8%26ved%3D2ahUKEwiK6tjt88WBAxUOQEEAHfxnCIAQwqsBegQIDRAG%26url%3Dhttps%253A%252F%252Fwww.youtube.com%252Fwatch%253Fv%253D2PxHy3amz8I%26usg%3DAOvVaw2DAkVZCtWidelEu0UIAlQ0%26opi%3D89978449&amp;data=05%7C01%7Clmagee%40SDUBLINCOCO.ie%7C62929e0463644f39547108dbdb862777%7C6a3c00c019d0492da8de95fad8fda1d4%7C0%7C0%7C638345141455325146%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C3000%7C%7C%7C&amp;sdata=%2Bmo%2Fx%2F98%2BPOiaqD5kJg0R6158LGIsHDT%2FZ80uZKick4%3D&amp;reserved=0)

The relevant action in that regard for the Local Government Sector is:

* To make playgrounds inclusive, enjoyable, and accessible for all children, including Autistic children, we will expand the installation of Communication Boards in public playgrounds across all Local Authorities.

The efforts of SDCC in the creation of inclusive and supporting playspaces has recently been acknowledged by our natural playspace programme being shortlisted for the Europe-wide Access City Awards. It is now in the last 5 projects across Europe in the running for this award.

### **Q7/1123 Councillor L. Guéret**

To ask the Chief Executive for a report on the SDCC Road Safety Plan. Report to include if school cyclists are specifically targeted and if the plan is promoted and implemented in all schools in the SDCC area to increase the need for everyone who are road users to do so in the safest possible way.

**REPLY:**

South Dublin County Council (SDCC) launched the Road Safety Action Plan 2022 – 2024 on 6th December 2022.

This plan was informed by a review of the previous plan which supported specific cycling initiatives including but not limited to "Cycle Right" training for over 6,500 primary school students, the delivery of a pilot adult "Cycle Right" initiative with Go-Ahead Ireland employees, and the development of additional cycle tracks as part of  the Active Travel Cycle South Dublin Programme which is aimed at providing c 45 routes that would deliver approximately 263km of new and improved cycle lanes over the next ten years.

This Council recognises that, while a combined national approach is required to make a noticeable and long-lasting change to our roads, Local Authorities have a responsibility to work at the local level to bring about this change.

While this Council has a statutory obligation under the Roads Act 1993, we also have a social obligation to the people of South Dublin County and all those who traverse our roads network, including cyclists. Therefore creating the safest roads possible and raising awareness among road users of the risks associated with roads and promoting responsible behaviour when using them, is an extremely high priority for SDCC.

The Council's Road Safety Plan aims to identify areas to promote and improve road safety for all road users, including cyclist, within our County. There is an annual action plan to help support delivery of the 2022 – 2024 plan and there are 11 Safety Performance Indicators (SPIs) to help monitor our road safety performance as follows:

1. Delivery of Cycle Right training to primary school children within the County,
2. Increase the number of cycle totems and monitoring,
3. Cycling parking installations,
4. KM’s of cycling and walking infrastructure installed,
5. Use of Speed Display Signs to monitor speed limit compliance,
6. Improved junction safety/redesign of junction,
7. Speed limit review to commence in 2023,
8. HGV mobility policy review,
9. School Crossings Reviews and safety measures implemented outside schools,
10. Continuing collaboration with SDCC RSWTG on a quarterly basis in oversight of the strategic aspects of the Council’s Road Safety Strategy and Plan.
11. Continuing liaison with ASG in the analysis of collision data.

There is a recognised increase in appetite for cycling (and walking) to work, college, and school, and is very much supported through the Council's Transport Department's varied programme of works.

Those that cycle and walk are less protected than those that drive, and therefore require increased attention to improve the perception of safety associated with these modes.   Accordingly, the Road Safety team continues to work in collaboration with the Roads Maintenance, Traffic and Active Travel teams to ensure that ambitious programmes of work reflect the increasing importance of making cycling a realistic and integral part of mobility within the County.   Similarly, the Road Safety unit will continue to work with external agencies, including An Taisce Green Schools to promote the Green Flag for Travel or Global Citizenship Travel as part of the Green-Schools Programme.

There is also a particular focus on improving road safety in the vicinity of schools with programmes like "School Streets" and "Safe Routes To School" in hand at a number of our schools across the county, aimed at providing "front of school" safety treatments.

### **Q8/1123 Councillor L. Guéret**

Does the Chief Executive have plans to provide a printed booklet or some other method of outlining the local services provided by SDCC and Community Centres and the activities that are provided in them, for those people who do not have online access.

**REPLY:**

Both the Corporate Plan 2020 - 2024 and the annual Service Delivery Plans set out the Council's Principal Services as required under the Local Government Act 2001 (as amended). A visual summary of the service delivery plan is issued each year to every household in the County, and this is fulfilling a commitment made in the Corporate Plan. This statement of the Council's principal services is provided, for information, below.

At a more detailed level, the local government sector has identified approximately 1,100 services that are delivered by the local authorities. These have been catalogued and are publicly accessible through the [**Local Government National Services catalogue**](https://services.localgov.ie/en-ie/Home/intro). Not all local authorities will deliver all of the services listed, for example SDCC does not have any beaches for which there are three related services listed. But SDCC would deliver additional services that are not included in the national services catalogue but are specific to addressing the needs of South Dublin County.

The catalogue demonstrates the very extensive and all-encompassing range of services that are delivered by local authorities nationally and which because of the volume, can only be captured via online tools. Under the Council’s **Customer and Digital Services Transformation** strategy, SDCC is currently mapping this catalogue onto its A to Z of online services on the Council website and will use this as the key mechanism through which digital services are developed and made accessible online to local communities, residents, visitors and businesses and thus working to achieve the **Better Public Services Transformation** **target of delivering 90% of applicable public services online** by 2030.

In relation to Community Centres and the activities that are provided in them, there are a wide range and number of events held across our 33 community centres which are primarily organised locally by each centre. Each centre is responsible for promoting their events and do this across a range of information mediums. The Community Services department are not in a position to collate this information in hard copy as most of the events are organised locally and programmes change seasonally. The Community Department advertise any events in centres which they directly organise via digital and non digital formats.

The Council's Principal Services (as presented in the Corporate Plan 2020-2024 and the 2020 / 2021 / 2022 / 2023 Service Delivery Plans:

**1. Economic, enterprise and tourism development**

* Economic development and promotion of the county for investment
* Enterprise development and supports
* Asset management
* Library services, the arts office and cultural infrastructure
* County promotion and tourism development

**2. Land use, planning and transportation**

* Development management
* Forward Planning
* Roads construction and maintenance
* Traffic management
* Public lighting
* Building control
* Heritage and conservation promotion

**3. Housing, social and community development**

* Social housing programme
* Housing allocations, maintenance and refurbishment
* Social services, estate management and community development
* Age-friendly and social inclusion initiatives
* Sports programmes and health and wellbeing initiatives

**4. Environment, water and climate change**

* Climate change mitigation and adaptation
* Major emergency management
* Waste and enforcement
* Water and drainage services
* Veterinary services
* Public realm management and maintenance

**5. Organisational capacity and accountability**

* Corporate services
* Human resource management
* Financial management
* Information and communication technologies
* Architectural services
* Legal services

### **Q9/1123**  **Councillor M. Johansson**

To ask the Chief Executive what contracts the council currently has with Hewlett Packard and what the value of any contracts are?

**REPLY:**

South Dublin County Council do not have any live contracts with Hewlett Packard.

### **Q10/1123 Councillor M. Lynch**

To ask the Chief Executive why there is no reference to Community Gardens in the draft climate action plan considering the current policy is to "Maintain and expand community gardens and allotments for local food production"

**REPLY:**

The draft Climate Action Plan has been prepared in conjunction with other council strategy documents such as the Green Infrastructure Strategy, the Tree Management Strategy and the forthcoming Parks and Open Spaces Strategy,  all of which have objectives and actions that ensure that the public realm and South Dublin's environment is managed and developed in a sustainable manner.

Development of community gardens and allotments are seen as important deliverables in these plans.

The Citizen Engagement Action Area in the draft Climate Action Plan 2024-2029 recognises that to achieve transformative change we have to support community initiatives to take positive climate action.  While not explicitly referencing Community Gardens or allotments, it is proposed that actions such as CE22 Community Department to identify key opportunities to engage with communities throughout the county, working with the Climate Action Team, will incorporate activities like the provision of community gardens and support local food production. The community team are happy to meet with and support residents regarding community development proposals such as community garden provision.

### **Q11/1123 Councillor M. Lynch**Can the Chief Executive advise if the council and its contractors continues to use conventional acrylic (plastic based) paints.

**REPLY:**

South Dublin County Council to date has purchased their paints through a framework agreement that was drawn up by Dublin City Council.  The paints on this framework were conventional acrylic (plastic based) paints.

This framework is now finished, and South Dublin County Council are currently in the process of tendering for a new framework for the supply of paint products.  Under our Green Public Procurement responsibilities we have included a requirement that where possible an ecologically friendly paint should be supplied for use by the Council.

### **Q12/1123 Councillor M. Lynch**

Can the Chief Executive comment on whether the use of conventional acrylic (plastic based) paint in communal buildings such as schools, nursing homes, libraries, apartment blocks etc are putting these buildings outside of the building regulations when it comes to flame spread standards on walls and ceilings.

**REPLY:**

Part B of the Building Regulations 2020 deals with the rate of fire spread of linings in buildings, and sets out various standard classification types for the rate of fire spread to be achieved depending on the building type and the particular space within the building.  While paint is not considered a lining in itself, when applied to a lining, it can contribute to the classification of the lining.  The owners/operators/management of any type of communal building should seek the advice of a professional fire safety consultant regarding the use of any particular paint in any area of the building, having regard to any previously granted fire safety certificate.

### **Q13/1123 Councillor M. Lynch**

Can the Chief Executive confirm if the Council has plans to move to using ecological paints?

**REPLY:**

South Dublin County Council are currently in the process of tendering for a new framework for the supply of paint products.

As part of our Green Public Procurement responsibilities we have included a requirement that where possible an ecologically friendly paint should be supplied for use by the Council.

### **Q14/1123 Councillor K. Mahon**

To ask the Chief Executive to clarify the procedure related to blocked sewers and to clarify where boundaries exist and where responsibility for repairs lie?

**REPLY:**

Uisce Éireann owns and is responsible for the operation and maintenance of public wastewater sewers.  Any issues with a public wastewater sewer should be reported to Uisce Éireann, and their contact details are available on their website [www.water.ie](http://www.water.ie)

Operation and maintenance of private drains is the responsibility of the householder/s connected to the drain.

Where estates have not been taken in charge the pipework belongs to and is operated and maintained by the developer, or in some situations the developer may have arranged a property management company to take on that responsibility.

Uisce Éireann have useful information on their website on blockages, and guidance on pipe responsibilities.

[Blockages | Help | Uisce Éireann (formerly Irish Water)](https://www.water.ie/help/blockages/)

Members are reminded that Uisce Éireann have a Local Representative Support Desk, and that it can be contacted at localrepsupport@water.ie

### **Q15/1123 Councillor D. McManus**

To ask the Chief Executive the number of staff and work crews employed by SDCC involved in tree maintenance across the whole Council area, and if a statement is available?

**REPLY:**

Staff are currently assigned to 2 permanent tree crews, one operating on the north side of the county and a second operating on the south side.  These crews are made up of 4 or 5 staff each with the number being determined by the work to be undertaken at any given time.  Additional staff are also assigned to tree work on a seasonal basis to carry out basic tree maintenance tasks which require a lower level of training and expertise.  Staff are made available for this work once the pressures of grass cutting and bonfire clean up have eased, with the work generally taking place between December and February.  In addition to the direct labour tree maintenance operation the Public Realm Section also has in place three framework agreements for the outsourcing of work in the following categories with a total of 6 contractors appointed across the 3 frameworks

1. Maintenance of trees under ESB wires,
2. Maintenance work including removal of dangerous or high risk trees, and
3. General maintenance including remedial pruning, felling and stump removal.

### **Q16/1123 Councillor D. Ó Brádaigh**

To ask the manager to provide a report on the number of SME's that have applied for and / or been granted funding for business supports in the county in 2022 and 2023 YTD - Report to include total amounts separately for each LEA and the total number of SME's currently in operation IN SDCC.

**REPLY:**

In total, the Local Enterprise Office has approved grant funding/ funded consultancy for 383 businesses in 2022/ 2023 which you can see broken down into electoral areas below.

This is in addition to businesses receiving mentoring, training and networking to assist in starting and growing their business.

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Electoral Area | 2022 | 2023 |
| Clondalkin | 56 | 44 |
| Firhouse/ Bohernabreena | 15 | 8 |
| Lucan | 18 | 13 |
| Palmerstown/ Fonthill | 8 | 7 |
| Rathfarnham/ Templeogue | 67 | 46 |
| Tallaght Central | 38 | 29 |
| Tallaght South | 15 | 18 |
|   | 217 | 165 |

While historically, the Local Enterprise Office engaged with businesses from 1-10 employees, our remit has recently expanded to allow us to engage with businesses with 11- 50 employees if they are looking to grow their business internationally.

While we would not have the number of companies classified as SME’s (<250 persons ) I can confirm that there is currently 7,000 rateable properties within the County and nationally SME’s would account for approx. 99.8% of businesses.

### **Q17/1123 Councillor D. Ó Brádaigh**

To ask the CEO to outline what plans there are to expand the Integrated Wetlands Construction programme to all SDCC regional parks as an important response to mitigate and now adapt to the continuing decline in Ireland's biodiversity.

**REPLY:**

Three recently constructed integrated constructed wetlands (ICW's) were built as part of the Dublin Urban Rivers LIFE (DURL) project fulfilling a water treatment, biodiversity and construction demonstration purposes. With regard to the construction demonstration purpose, they will be used by South Dublin County Council to show private developers the ICW build possibilities of various shapes and sizes in South Dublin County, and expand on the information contained within the Council’s Sustainable Drainage Explanatory Design & Design Evaluation Guide 2022. The wetlands are also supporting the Council’s Green Infrastructure Strategy embedded in the Development Plan 2022-2028. A fourth ICW will be constructed as part of the Poddle Flood Alleviation Scheme which will commence construction in Q1 2024.

These will serve as best practice models for SDCC departments considering building an ICW as a separate project or to compliment a wider project brief, they will act as a template for the entire process of ICW building from site identification, Part 8 planning preparation and attainment, through to build and completion.

The DURL project will come to a close at the end of May 2024 and will be followed by an appraisal of the benefits of all aspects of the project including the ICWs and their performance under multiple headings including biodiversity at which stage opportunities to build additional ICWs can be considered. In the meantime, the Council will be progressing a fourth ICW build as part of the Poddle Flood Alleviation Scheme in 2024.

### **Q18/1123 Councillor D. Ó Brádaigh**

To ask the CEO for a list of Approved Housing Body dwellings that have been vacant for 6 months or more , as of 1st October, setting out, in each case: the address; the reason for the vacancy; the name of the Approved Housing Body; And the length of the vacancy.

**REPLY:**

There are currently 19 void properties with Approved Housing Body (AHB) which are vacant over 6 months as of 1st October 2023.  Reasons for vacancy include maintenance/refurbishment\*, difficult to let and medical adaptations. The table below provides further details:

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **AHB** | **Local Electoral Area** | **No. of Units** |
| Clanmil | Tallaght South | 1 |
| Clanmil | Clondalkin, Newcastle, Rathcoole, Saggart & Brittas | 1 |
| Oaklee | Tallaght South | 9\* |
| Circle | Clondalkin, Newcastle, Rathcoole, Saggart & Brittas | 1 |
| Tuath | Clondalkin, Newcastle, Rathcoole, Saggart & Brittas | 2 |
| Tuath | Lucan, Palmerstown, Fonthill | 2 |
| Tuath | Tallaght South | 3 |
| **Total** |   | **19** |

### **Q19/1123 Councillor D. Ó Brádaigh**

To ask the manager the following: What measures are in place to ensure that every effort will be made to contact the most vulnerable housing applicants and those that have no access to online services, have literacy challenges and, or are sleeping rough when contacting applicants, as part of the Council's Social Housing Assessment 2023?

**REPLY:**

As part of the Housing Needs Assessment 2023, housing applicants were contacted by letter dated 6th October and a reminder letter issued on the 23rd October 2023.

Information was provided on how to complete the assessment online and an option for those to complete manually was also provided. All replies were due back by the 31st October 2023, in order to complete the returns as per the deadline set out by the Department.  Every effort is being made to contact all applicants who the HNA is applicable to. Any applicant that has been unable to return the required details by the deadline should still return information requested to prevent their housing file from being cancelled.

Applicants with no access to online services or who have literacy challenges can contact a member of the allocations team by phone to make an appointment or alternatively they can post in their reply. Our Homeless Unit are also providing assistance to applicants that may be experiencing any issues with updating their information.

Applicants have also been advised of the appeals procedure in the case of non-return or late replies, which may result in a housing file being cancelled.

### **Q20/1123 Councillor D. Ó Brádaigh**

To ask the manager the following; Of the 1,000 letters written out to clients as part of the Social Housing Assessment 2023, what is the timeline before applicants that haven't completed the form, are removed from the list and will there be a period of grace ie. extension of this period to ensure more vulnerable clients that need to remain on the list are not removed during this process.

**REPLY:**

As part of the Housing Needs Assessments 2023, applicants were contacted by letter dated 6th October and a reminder letter issued on the 23rd October 2023.

Information was provided on how to complete the assessment online and an option for those to complete manually was also provided.  All replies were due back by the deadline of the 31st October 2023 in order to complete the returns to the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage.

Any applicant that has been unable to return the required details by the deadline should still return information requested to prevent their housing file from being cancelled. Applicants have also been notified of the appeals procedure in the case of non-return or late replies.

### **Q21/1123**  **Councillor E. Ó Broin**

To ask the manager for a breakdown of the number of households housing list broken down by time on the list for each bedroom requirement e.g. 1 Bed Requirement 1-5 years 1 Bed Requirement 5- 10 years 1 Bed requirement 10 - 12 years 1 Bed Requirement 12 years + etc?

**REPLY:**

There are currently 6,129 households on the social housing list.

The table below details the number of households on the housing list broken down by time on the list and housing need.

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Years on list** | **1 Bed** | **2 Bed** | **3 Bed** | **4 Bed** |
| 0-5 | 1901 | 1149 | 440 | 44 |
| 5-10 | 892 | 708 | 368 | 37 |
| 10-12 | 141 | 97 | 42 | 9 |
| 12 + | 184 | 54 | 49 | 14 |
| **Total** | **3118** | **2008** | **899** | **104** |

### **Q22/1123**  **Councillor E. Ó Broin**

### To ask the Chief Executive if there is a limit to how many waste collection trucks may enter any given estate per week?

**REPLY:**

The 2018 bye-laws do not limit the numbers of trucks or collectors that may enter an estate on any given week.

However, each operator must operate within the conditions of the individual Waste Collection Permit issued by the [National Waste Collection Permit Office (NWCPO)](https://www.nwcpo.ie/) who administers the waste collection permitting system on behalf of all the local authorities.

The waste may only be collected in accordance with the standard *Condition 6.6.12* (NWCPO) which states they can only collect between 6am and 10pm if the area is in a 60kph or lower speed limit zone. Waste can be collected at any time of the day or night if the speed limits is 80kph or higher so long as reasonable efforts are made to reduce noise and nuisance.

### **Q23/1123 Councillor C. O’Connor**

To ask the CEO to outline his plans to deliver Affordable Housing in 2024 and will he make a detailed statement?

**REPLY:**

Under the Housing Delivery Action Plan 2022-2026 the Council has committed to providing 80 dwellings for affordable purchase in 2024.

To date, 45 dwellings have been made available for purchase by eligible applicants in Kilcarberry Grange with a further 5 dwellings to be made available in this Development.

In addition, twenty-five three-bedroom houses will be offered for sale at Parkleigh, Seven Mills, Clonburris in November 2023. An additional 34 dwellings will be made available in Adamstown in 2024.

Negotiations are ongoing with Developers deemed to have 20% liability under Part V of the Planning and Development Act 2000 to provide affordable and social homes. Confirmation of delivery of these additional Affordable Housing Units in 2024 will be made available once negotiations are complete.

### **Q24/1123**  **Councillor C. O’Connor**

To ask the CEO to confirm actions being taken to encourage people to register for the new 2024/2025 Voting Register and will he make a statement?

**REPLY:**

South Dublin County Council continuously promotes awareness of the Register of Electors through the Council’s website and social media channels, we also carry out our annual September Bus Shelter campaign, and advertise in local newspapers and in our South Dublin County Today booklet, which is delivered to all households.

The Corporate team had a registration drive booth at the Community Services Fun Day, 22/7/2023 and the Student Event, 5/10/2023, in the Square Shopping Centre and also in TU Dublin, 28/09/2023 at Freshers Week, we are also liaising with Liffey Valley Shopping Centre in this regard, are in the process of contacting all Secondary Schools in the South Dublin administrative area and also liaise with the Council’s Community Department.

South Dublin County Council also joined with the other Dublin Local Authorities to carry out a very successful Dublin wide media campaign on Voter.ie which launched on 25th September 2023, rolled out across radio, outdoor, print and digital channels.

We are also supporting the national campaigns led by the Department to promote and to alert citizens to check the register to reach as wide a target audience as possible.

### **Q25/1123**  **Councillor C. O’Connor**

### To ask the CEO to detail his ongoing efforts to prevent flooding in areas at risk throughout our County; will he appreciate the concern of many and make a statement?

**REPLY:**

There are currently three Flood Alleviation Schemes (FAS) progressing, in partnership with the OPW, at varying stages in South Dublin, that will have a significant impact on reducing flood risk in the catchment areas of these rivers/ streams:

* Whitechurch Stream- At construction stage- scheduled for completion in Q4 2025.
* River Poddle- Planning Permission granted by An Bord Pleanala in June 2023 and currently scheduled to commence on site in Q1 2024, subject to the appropriate licencing being issued by National Monument Services.
* River Camac- At preliminary design stage.

Schemes that continue to provide protection against flooding were completed on the Griffeen River, The Ballycullen Stream (2017) and the improvements on the River Camac (2002).

The programme of Surface Water Minor Capital Works and Flood Alleviation Works will continue in 2024 for which a provision of €435,000 has been made.

A pipeline of works has been identified to include, but not limited to:

* Cloverhill Road / Palmerstown Woods Scheme – new surface water pipeline
* Old Lucan Road surface water drainage
* Tay Lane, Rathcoole surface water drainage
* Rathfarnham Castle Lakes supply
* Knocklyon Green surface water drainage
* Newcastle / Hazelhatch surface water drainage

Planned minor maintenance works will also be carried out as identified, and a programme of upgrades to various screens on watercourses will be undertaken.

A surface water drainage study to assess the surface water within the towns of Newcastle, Rathcoole and Saggart is currently underway.

General operations to prevent flooding include:

The annual programme of clearing vegetation from our rivers and streams. Trash screens at culvert inlets being regularly checked and cleared, are also inspected regularily and more frequently upon receipt of Met Éireann weather warnings.

Road gullies are cleaned by a contractor working on our behalf as part of the road sweeping contract annual programme. This includes an option to clear up to four times yearly on a portion of the gulley network, plus additional testing of connections, and cleaning/jetting, if necessary.

Reviews are carried out following significant rainfall events with a view to identifying potential future flood risk areas, and these feed into our records and are used to prioritize need for future investment in schemes and minor projects, or revise maintenance plans of channels and piped networks.

### **Q26/1123**  **Councillor C. O’Connor**

To ask the CEO to detail how many applications for HAP are currently being processed and if there are any delays in reaching decisions and may we have a statement?

**REPLY:**

There are currently 94 applications awaiting assessment for Housing Assistance Payment (HAP) with the current average waiting time at 10 weeks and the team are working to continuously improve turnaround times. However, delays can occur when further information is required from the tenant/landlord to complete an assessment.

### **Q27/1123 Councillor C. O’Connor**

To ask the CEO to confirm plans for the further provision of LED lighting throughout our County; will he give details and make a statement?

**REPLY:**

We have upgraded 2,039 PL columns to LED in the county this year to date.

A large proportion of our remaining stock of non-LED lighting can only be upgraded under a formal agreement we signed earlier this year with ESB Networks. These works are in progress but there is a resource issue on ESB Network's part that we are currently in discussion with them to resolve.

### **Q28/1123 Councillor C. O’Connor**

To ask the CEO if he has a programme in place to repair and restore Open Spaces damaged through Halloween Bonfires; will he outline the level of resources being made available to the exercise and will he make a statement?

**REPLY:**

The first stage of the bonfire clean-up programme commenced on November 1st with supervisors commencing the surveying and mapping of bonfire sites.   Any material left on open spaces which has not been burned is being cleaned up, in many cases however it is too soon to lift burnt material as it may reignite when disturbed and aerated.  Supervisors have reported that ground conditions are particularly wet and soft under foot this year due to exceptional rain in recent times and this may have an impact and may slow down the clean up programme.  All available resources will be assigned to the clean up programme in order to complete the work at the earliest date.  While clean up of sites and removal of both burnt and unburnt materials will be completed in November, it will not be possible to reinstate grass areas which have been badly damaged until the spring time when ground conditions become dry and firm enough to work on.  More information will be made available to the elected members in due course, as that information becomes available.

### **Q29/1123 Councillor S. O’Hara**

To ask the Chief Executive how many estates are waiting to be taken in charge and how many have been completed in the last 12 months.

**REPLY:**

There are currently 112 number estates awaiting Taking in Charge.

5 estates were Taken In Charge since 1st January 2022 as follows:

1. Aubrey Manor                        - April 2022
2. Wilkins View (Remainder)       - April 2022
3. Cloragh Mills (Part thereof)     - May 2023
4. Abotts Grove                         - May 2023
5. Wilkins Court                         - October 2023

### **Q30/1123**  **Councillor F. Timmons**

To ask the Chief Executive if there are plans to consider approaching the Dolly Parton Imagination Library with a view to expanding the service into other parts of SDCC, especially more disadvantaged areas ?

**REPLY:**

The Dolly Parton Imagination Library is affiliated with CDI (The Childhood Development Initiative), and while SDCC Libraries work with CDI to ensure recipients of books through the scheme are aware of the availability of library services in the area and our events programme, we have no involvement in the delivery of the scheme itself.

### **Q31/1123**  **Councillor F. Timmons**

To ask the Chief Executive if there are plans to introduce a drop off and take a book scheme promoted through council owned buildings that would reduce waste of books and encourage and promote learning through reading,? (Details of such a scheme to be worked out)

**REPLY:**

The type of scheme outlined is generally referred to as a “Little Free Library”. These schemes tend to work best when they are community, or user-led initiatives. South Dublin County Council will continue to promote and encourage our communities and staff to take out free membership in their local library. The very basis of public libraries is recycling, and the sustainable sharing of collections, with access to a wide range of materials including books, DVDs, magazines, online resources, languages and courses. Most importantly, we have trained, motivated staff with expert knowledge in the area of reading and learning supports.

### **Q32/1123 Councillor F. Timmons**

To ask the Chief Executive for a report on Housing construction developments to include SDCC powers to stop a developer leaving an unfinished development – commencing a new development before finishing an existing site?

**REPLY:**

The Planning Authority has no powers or authority to stop a developer leaving an unfinished development and commencing a new development before finishing an existing site under the Planning and Development Act 2000 (as amended).

There is a provision under Section 35 of the Act whereby permission can be refused on the basis of past failures to comply with planning permission on the part of an applicant. To use this provision, the Planning Authority are required to apply the High Court and would require strong evidence. Failure to comply with a planning permission is a criminal offence and as such the Courts are careful in making any determinations around these matters.

### **Q33/1123 Councillor F. Timmons**

To ask the Chief Executive for a detailed report into plans to hold Repair Cafes to include attendance and feedback at recently held Repair Café ?

**REPLY:**

South Dublin County Council in conjunction with Clondalkin Tidy Towns and The Rediscovery Centre ran a Repair Café in Aras Chronain on Saturday 30th September from 10am – 4pm.  Repair Cafés are free meeting places where people bring along broken items and work with one of the experts to help them repair their items.  At the event, there were experts in textiles, furniture, and bicycles.  People could reserve 45-minute timeslots through Eventbrite. There were 21 slots available across the 3 topics. On the day we had approximately a third of the appointments arrive and we had 3 walk ins.

The Mayor of South Dublin, Cllr Alan Edge spent an hour chatting with the public and the facilitators.  The event was promoted on SDCC social media channels, through adverts in the Echo and the Dublin Gazette and through Clondalkin Tidy Towns.

While attendance was poor, very bad weather on the day potentially added to the no shows.  Based on the poor attendance we do not propose to hold Repair Café’s as stand-alone events at this time but will programme them instead as part of an event.

### **Q34/1123 Councillor F. Timmons**

### To ask the Chief Executive for a detailed report into the arrangement that SDCC has with the Probation service in relation to Graffiti removal?

**REPLY:**

The Environment, Water and Climate Change directorate, has for some years now, been working with the Irish Probation Service who provide an additional support to the council's graffiti removal service within the county.  The engagement with the Probation Services stems from a Community Service Graffiti Removal Project which was an initiative of the Probation Services and forms part of community service for offenders.

This partnership involves the identification of specific public areas by the public, their elected representatives or Council staff of areas where graffiti has defaced property throughout the county.  These areas are then inspected by local Anti-Litter Wardens and subsequently referred to either the Council's Public Realm staff for removal or the Probation Services, depending on the specific location or type of graffiti/surface involved.

There are a number of significant benefits to this arrangement for all parties involved, including cost effectiveness, the project has the potential to offer significant savings for communities, it has a positive and visible benefit for communities, and it engages the offender in a disciplined and structured routine similar to regular employment improving their readiness for employment.

### **Q35/1123 Councillor J. Tuffy**

To ask the CEO for a report into grave plots in the county. Report to include how many grave plots are still available for future purchase in each of its municipal graveyards and plans for finding additional plots in the county.

**REPLY:**

The preparation of a Burial Grounds Strategy was commenced by the Environment, Water and Climate Change SPC, part of this process includes the examination of the provision of grave spaces with in the county.  The examination of related issues will look at the current and future provision of grave spaces in privately developed graveyards as well as Council owned ones.

There are 3 Council owned graveyards where graves are available for sale and these are Bohernabreena, Saggart and Newcastle graveyards.  There are currently 54plots available for sale in Bohernabreena with scope for the development of another 2,200 plots with the next 600 of these to be developed later this year.  There are also cremation plots and angels plots included in figure above, available in Bohernabreena and these are being developed in accordance with the need and demand for them.

The extension to Saggart graveyard in 2001 provided approximately 700 additional spaces with 305 of these remaining.  There is no scope for further development of additional plots in Saggart graveyard.

The Muslim graveyard at Newcastle currently has 76 plots available for both adults and children and this section will be further developed as required.  There is scope for the development of an additional 900 plots in the Muslim section.  In the non-denominational section of Newcastle graveyard there are 466 plots available with scope to develop a further 1,600 plots in the future.

There are no grave plots remaining in Esker graveyard however provision was made in the 2023 revenue budget for the development of a Columbarium Wall for cremation urns, and plans are being prepared for this and are progressing at the present time.  A new privately operated graveyard, Esker Lawns Cemetery, has opened recently in the area with 3,400 grave plots available there.

The privately operated graveyards at Newlands Cross, Mount Venus and Kilmashogue, continue to operate and the available capacity at these locations will be established through the review process and preparation of the burial grounds strategy.

### **Q35/1123 Councillor J. Tuffy**

To ask the CEO to give an update on the delivery of Western Dublin Orbital Route which is contained in the Six Year Road Programme Table 7.5 of Chapter 7 of the County Development Plan and in particular has there been any communication from TII in respect of its plans for a Western Dublin Orbital Route and if he will make a statement on the matter

**REPLY:**

The N7 to M81 link road is in the County development plan as an objective under the 6 year programme.  In the Function column of **Table 7.5 within the County Development Plan** it says:

*New Road to link between the N7 and the N4 Leixlip Interchange with a route by-pass function around Rathcoole and Saggart and the potential for a further extension of this route from the N7 to the N81. The function of this route would be primarily to provide resilience to the M50, recognising that this may also provide additional resilience to peripheral roads within the county, in particular between the N7 and N4. Further connections and possible alternative routes will be determined through the review of the NTA’s GDA Strategy and in consultation with TII and relevant local authorities.*

*SDCC has met with the NTA on this item and they referred us to the following measure within the GDA Transport Strategy 2022 to 2042:*

***Measure ROAD9 - Regional and Local Roads Policy***

1. *Enhance orbital movement between the N3, the N4 and N7 national roads, by improving existing roads and/or the development of new road links where deemed appropriate, for the purpose of providing resilience to the operation of the M50 and incorporating provision for sustainable transport;*

Progressing this strategic road project would have to be done by TII and NTA. SDCC is arranging a meeting with the TII in relation to their views on the need for this new link road.

When we have further definitive facts from TII on this matter we will report it to the members.

But in summary, this new link road from the N7 to the N81 will only get government financial support if it acts as link providing resilience to the operation of the M50 and it incorporates provision for sustainable transport. At this stage TII or the NTA have not started this project and no funding has been earmarked to commence it.

### **H7/1123 DECLARATION OF ROADS TO BE MADE PUBLIC ROADS - FOR APPROVAL**

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

**H8/1123 PROPOSED DISPOSAL OF PROPERTIES/SITES - FOR APPROVAL**

### The following report by the Chief Executive, which had been circulated, was presented by Mr. J. Frehill, Director of Economic, Enterprise and Tourism Development and was **CONSIDERED.**

**LD 1543 Proposed disposal of plot of land at 1A Hazelgrove, Tallaght, Dublin 24 to DHQ Investments Limited**

DHQ Investments Limited has made an application to regularise ownership of plot of land already contained within the curtilage of 1A Hazelgrove, Tallaght, Dublin 24. The subject area is highlighted in red on attached Drawing No. LR/27/22 – Council Folio DN118048F refers.

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

Accordingly, I now recommend that the Council disposes of the plot of land measuring 13.55 square metres or thereabouts at 1A Hazelgrove, Tallaght, Dublin 24 as outlined in red on attached Drawing No. LR/27/22 to DHQ Investments Limited in accordance with Section 211 & 212 of the Planning and Development Act, 2000 and subject to the provisions of Section 183 of the Local Government Act, 2001 subject to the following terms and conditions as recommended by the Council’s Valuer:-

1. That the subject plot of approximately 13.55 square metres or thereabouts is shown outlined in red on the attached Drawing No. LR/27/22.
2. That the disposal price shall be the sum of €8,000 (eight thousand euro) plus VAT (if applicable).
3. That the Applicant holds the freehold or equivalent interest in 1a Hazelgrove, Tallaght, Dublin 24.
4. That the Applicant pays the Council’s Valuer fee of €1,500 (one thousand and five hundred euro) plus VAT.
5. That the Applicant pays the Council’s legal fees of €1,500 (one thousand and five hundred euro) plus VAT.
6. That the Applicant shall be responsible for any VAT and stamp duty liability associated with this disposal.
7. That in the event of any name change to Applicant prior to formal completion of the legal transfer, the Applicant must provide documentary evidence to the Council proving that the new named party is one and the same as the named Applicant heretofore to enable the transfer to complete.
8. That each party shall use their best endeavours to complete the transaction within a reasonable timeframe following adoption of the disposal resolution.
9. That the Law Agent shall draft the necessary legal agreements and shall include any further terms deemed appropriate in Agreements of this nature.
10. That no contract enforceable at Law is created or intended to be created until such time as contracts have been exchanged.
11. That the disposal is subject to the necessary approvals and consents being obtained.

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

**Colm Ward**

**Chief Executive**

It was proposed by Councillor A. Edge and seconded by Councillor M. Lynch and **AGREED.**

**H9/1123 MANAGERS REPORT** - **FOR NOTING**

### The following reports by the Chief Executive, which had been circulated, were presented by Mr. C. Ward, Chief Executive and were **CONSIDERED.**

[HI 9 a) Chief Executive's Monthly Report November 2023](http://www.sdublincoco.ie/sdcc/departments/corporate/apps/cmas/documentsview.aspx?id=80289)
[HI 9 b) Finance Report](http://www.sdublincoco.ie/sdcc/departments/corporate/apps/cmas/documentsview.aspx?id=80290)
[HI 9 c) Statistics Report](http://www.sdublincoco.ie/sdcc/departments/corporate/apps/cmas/documentsview.aspx?id=80381)

A discussion followed with contributions from Councillors P. Gogarty, S. Moynihan, D. Ó Brádaigh, J. Tuffy, R. McMahon, B. Lawlor, and Y. Collins with queries raised in relation to Lucan Pool, Lucan House, Kilcarbery Affordable Housing Scheme, housing rent arrears, and the Dodder Greenway.

Mr C. Ward, Chief Executive, responded to the Members queries.

The report was **NOTED**.

**H10/1123 AUDIT COMMITTEE REPORT ON AUDITED AFS 2022 AND LG AUDITOR’S REPORT – FOR APPROVAL**

It was proposed by Councillor A. Edge and **AGREED** by the Members that Headed Item 10 be deferred to the December Council Meeting as the Chair of the Audit Committee was unable to attend.

**H11/1123 ROSEMOUNT DISTRICT CENTRE IMPROVEMENTS PART 8 – FOR APPROVAL**

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

### [1. Presentation to Council](http://www.sdublincoco.ie/sdcc/departments/corporate/apps/cmas/documentsview.aspx?id=80315)[2. Chief Executive Part VIII Report](http://www.sdublincoco.ie/sdcc/departments/corporate/apps/cmas/documentsview.aspx?id=80314)[3. Scheme Layout](http://www.sdublincoco.ie/sdcc/departments/corporate/apps/cmas/documentsview.aspx?id=80310)[4. Design Report](http://www.sdublincoco.ie/sdcc/departments/corporate/apps/cmas/documentsview.aspx?id=80313)[5. AA Screening Report](http://www.sdublincoco.ie/sdcc/departments/corporate/apps/cmas/documentsview.aspx?id=80311)[6. EIA Screening Report](http://www.sdublincoco.ie/sdcc/departments/corporate/apps/cmas/documentsview.aspx?id=80312)

Councillor D. McManus proposed, seconded by Councillor R. McMahon an amendment to the Part 8 report:

**"That the Chief Executive examines alternative traffic calming measures along with a trial period to examine the most effective measures available on Marian Road within the Rosemount District Centre Improvements Part 8"**

Councillor D. McManus proposed, seconded by Councillor R. McMahon an amendment to the Part 8 report:

**"That the Chief Executive considers sheltered seating to be installed outside the retail units in the Rosemount District Centre Improvements Part 8, as recently installed in Templeogue Village."**

Councillor D. McManus proposed, seconded by Councillor R. McMahon an amendment to the Part 8 as follows:

**"That the Chief Executive considers sheltered bike parking to be installed in the Rosemount District Centre Improvements Part 8."**

Councillor D. McManus proposed, seconded by Councillor R. McMahon an amendment to the Part 8 as follows:

**"That the Chief Executive examines alternative traffic calming measures along with a trial period to examine the most effective measures available on Marian Road within the Rosemount District Centre Improvements Part 8"**

At this point in the meeting Councillor A. Edge proposed and the Members **AGREED** to suspend Standing Orders to move the Item on the Agenda to allow the executive to consider 3 amendments that had been submitted for the Part 8.

A discussion followed with contributions from Councillors D. McManus, L. McCrave, Y. Collins, P. Kearns, M. Lynch, E. Ó Broin, R. McMahon and E. Murphy who commended the consultation process. Queries raised on traffic calming, car park spaces, the location of the play space, loading bay, and EV charging points.

Mr. M. Mulhern, Director for Land Use, Planning, and transport, responded to the Members’ queries.

The Rosemount District Centre Improvements Part 8 was proposed by Councillor A. Edge and seconded by Councillor E. Murphy and **AGREED.**

**H12/1123 ALL WEATHER ASTRO (KNOCKLYON PARK) PART 8  – FOR APPROVAL**

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

[HI 12(a) CE Part 8 Report on the Proposed Synthetic Grass Sports Pitch at Knocklyon Park](http://www.sdublincoco.ie/sdcc/departments/corporate/apps/cmas/documentsview.aspx?id=80359)
[HI 12(b) Appendix A](http://www.sdublincoco.ie/sdcc/departments/corporate/apps/cmas/documentsview.aspx?id=80360)
[HI 12(c) Appendix B](http://www.sdublincoco.ie/sdcc/departments/corporate/apps/cmas/documentsview.aspx?id=80361)

It was proposed by Councillor A. Edge and Seconded by Councillor B. Lawlor and **AGREED** that the All Weather Astro (Knocklyon Park) Part 8 be rejected.

**H13/1123 LITTER MANAGEMENT PLAN 2023-25 – 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.**

### [HI 13 (a) Litter Management Plan 2023-2025 Presentation](http://www.sdublincoco.ie/sdcc/departments/corporate/apps/cmas/documentsview.aspx?id=80385)[HI 13 (b) CE Report on Litter Management Plan 2023-2025](http://www.sdublincoco.ie/sdcc/departments/corporate/apps/cmas/documentsview.aspx?id=80366)[HI 13 (c) Draft Litter Management Plan 2023-2025](http://www.sdublincoco.ie/sdcc/departments/corporate/apps/cmas/documentsview.aspx?id=80367)

Councillor P. Gogarty then proposed and Councillor D. Ó Brádaigh seconded, an amendment to the Motion as follows:

**On page 7, after "To use technology as a tool to combat littering and illegal dumping", insert new bullet point:**

**“To provide a targeted focus on educating the public about the environmental damage caused by cigarette butt tossing, which makes up approximately half of all litter, and imposing penalties where appropriate”.**

Ms. T. Walsh,Director of Environment, Water and Climate Change proposed the term “discarded cigarettes” to replace “butt tossing” in all the relevant agreed amendments and the members **AGREED.**

Councillor P. Gogarty then proposed and Councillor R. McMahon seconded, an amendment to the Motion as follows

**Amend bullet point sentence in Objectives, page 8 to read as follows:**

**“To promote targeted anti-litter and litter prevention campaigns, including graffiti, dog, cigarette butts and general litter”.**

Councillor P. Gogarty then proposed and Councillor P. Kearns seconded, an amendment to the Motion as follows

**On page 11, Appendix 1 amend section to read:**

**“Issue Fixed Penalty Notices for breaches of environmental legislation, regulation, and byelaws, including littering, illegal dumping, dog fouling, cigarette butt tossing and unauthorised signage, where adequate evidence is available.”**

Councillor P. Gogarty then proposed and Councillor R. McMahon seconded, an amendment to the Motion as follows:

**On page 12 Communication and Awareness amend section to read:**

**“Promote Anti-Litter & Anti-graffiti promotional/media awareness schedule (dog fouling, anti-litter, illegal dumping, cigarette butt tossing, anti-graffiti radio and cinema advertisement campaigns)”**

A discussion followed with contributions from Councillors P. Gogarty, E. Ó Broin, M. Johannson, L. McCrave, P. Holohan and R. McMahon with queries raised in relation to Litter Wardens, chewing gum, dog fouling and cigarette butts.

Ms T. Walsh, Director for Environment, Water and Climate Change, responded to the Members’ queries.

The Litter Management Plan 2023-2025, as amended, was proposed by Councillor A. Edge, and seconded by Councillor P. Kearns and **AGREED.**

At this point in the meeting Headed Item 11 was discussed as above.

**H14/1123 PROPOSED EXTINGUISHMENT OF PUBLIC RIGHT OF WAY ON LANDS AT CASTLETYMON SHOPPING CENTRE, TALLAGHT, DUBLIN 24 - FOR APPROVAL**

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

An initial proposal to Extinguish the Public Right of Way (EPROW) on lands at Castletymon Shopping Centre, Tallaght, Dublin 24 was originally presented to a meeting of the Tallaght Area Committee held on **27th September 2021**, to request approval to initiate the EPROW process, which was agreed by the Councilors.

At that time a public notice was erected on site and an advertisement was placed in the local paper. No objections were received. There were no objections from the utility’s companies or other departments within the Council except for notification from the Water and Drainage section as follows:

***Please note that there is a public 100mm dia. Watermain in part of the extinguishment area. This would require a wayleave. Also note that there may be private drainage in the area that will need to be investigated on site. Services map does not show private drainage & no records of these are held.”***

Inadvertently, the matter was not subsequently progressed at that time, and the proposal was re-examined internally in September 2023. It was established that the proposal was still valid, and that there was no reason not to progress with the proposed Extinguishment of Right of Way.

On Monday, October 23rd, 2023, the Proposed Extinguishment was **RECONSIDERED** at the meeting of the Tallaght Area Committee.

The following report was circulated.

**PROPOSED EXTINGUISHMENT OF PUBLIC RIGHT OF WAY ON LANDS AT CASTLETYMON SHOPPING CENTRE, TALLAGHT, DUBLIN 24**

**MAP REF: LR 06 21**

This proposal was considered at the Tallaght Area Committee Meeting on Monday, 27th September 2021.

**“An application has been received requesting the extinguishment of the public right of way over the laneway which is adjoining Castletymon Shopping Centre. It is proposed to affect the closure by means of disposal. (map below).”**

Following consideration of the report, it was agreed to initiate the procedure.

The proposal to extinguish the public right-of-way was advertised in the Tallaght Echo and signs were erected on site in accordance with Section 73 of the Roads Act, 1993. No submissions were received in response to the public advertisement/notice.

There were no objections from the various Council departments who were contacted however the Senior Executive Technician from the Water and Drainage section has advised the following:

***“Please note that there is a public 100mm dia. Watermain in part of the extinguishment area. This would require a wayleave. Also note that there may be private drainage in the area that will need to be investigated on site. Services map does not show private drainage & no records of these are held.”***

The area required for a wayleave is hatched in Blue on Map no LR-06-21.

Following consideration of the reports received from utility providers and the technical reports received from internal departments, it is proposed to proceed with the extinguishment of public right of way at this location.

The decision regarding the extinguishment of a public right-of-way and the granting of an oral hearing is a reserved function of the Council. Accordingly, if this committee agrees to proceed, the recommendation of this Committee will be brought to full Council.

**End of Report to Tallaght ACM October 2023**.

At the Tallaght ACM, it was proposed by Councilor C. O’Connor, seconded by Councilor M. Duff, and **AGREED:**

**“That this Committee recommends to the Council that the public right of way on lands at Castletymon Shopping Centre, Tallaght, Dublin 24 (Highlighted on Map LR-25-23) be extinguished.”**

Accordingly, as the decision regarding the extinguishment of a Public Right-of-Way and the granting of an oral hearing is a reserved function of the Council,

If the Council agrees to the recommendation, the following resolution is required.

**“South Dublin County Council in pursuance of its power under Section 3 of the Roads Act, 1993 hereby orders that the public right-of-way on lands at Castletymon Shopping Centre, Tallaght, Dublin 24 (Highlighted on Map LR-25-23) be extinguished.”**

**In line with the conditions required by Water & Drainage.**



This matter is now before the Council.

A discussion followed with contributions from Councillors E. Ó Broin, T. Costello, J. Tuffy, M. Duff, C. O’Connor and R. McMahon, the members welcomed the report and raised queries in relation to various types of public rights of way, and disposal of the site.

Mr. M. Mulhern, Director for Land Use, Planning and transport responded to the Members queries.

It was proposed by Councillor M. Duff and seconded by Councillor T. Costello and **AGREED** that

 **“South Dublin County Council in pursuance of its power under Section 3 of the Roads Act, 1993 hereby orders that the public right-of-way on lands at Castletymon Shopping Centre, Tallaght, Dublin 24 (Highlighted on Map LR-25-23) be extinguished.”**

**H15/1123 SECTION 85 AGREEMENT WITH KILDARE – FOR APPROVAL**

### The following report by the Chief Executive, which had been circulated, was presented by Ms. E. Leech, Director for Housing & Community and was **CONSIDERED.**

**REPLY:**

Section 85 of the Local Government Act, 2001 allows for an agreement to be put in place regarding the carrying out of functions by one local authority on behalf of another.

Time to Move on from Congregated Settings – A strategy for Community Inclusion” was adopted as national policy in 2012. The policy recommends a person-centred approach where every person is enabled and supported to lead the life they want. This is line with international evidence, with new models of residential services now being developed so that people with disabilities will be supported to live “ordinary lives in ordinary places”. Under the policy, people living in congregated settings now have the opportunity and the right to move to a home of their choice in the community.

Cheeverstown is committed to moving towards full community integration and community-based supports. With the support of the HSE and County Council partnerships, Cheeverstown who are based in South Dublin County are actively seeking community-based homes that meet the needs the needs of persons with a disability.

An opportunity has arisen for Cheeverstown to partner with Co-Operative Housing Ireland (CHI) and four bungalows have been identified in a new housing development in Kill, Co Kildare. CHI have submitted a CAS application to Kildare County Council to acquire the four new homes.

This is a rare opportunity to influence the design of bungalows at an early stage so that the houses are fully accessible to meet the needs of persons with an intellectual disability who also require specific environmental adaptations to meet their physical needs. These houses will provide a long-term home to 6-7 persons currently on the South Dublin County Council housing list.

The Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage and the Housing Agency have been notified in relation to the application and have no objections. Given the nature of the housing need both South Dublin and Kildare County Council would also be supportive of facilitating the proposal.

As the making of an agreement under Section 85 of the Local Government Act 2001 is a reserved function, it will be necessary for the following motion to be passed by this Council:

“That South Dublin County Council enters into an agreement with Kildare County Council under Section 85 of the Local Government Act 2001, whereby Kildare County Council permits South Dublin County Council to allocate 4 social housing units provided under the Capital Assistance Scheme by Co-Operative Housing Ireland at Hillfort, Kill, Co. Kildare where both of the following criteria apply to nominees for the properties:

1.    Social housing applicants of South Dublin County Council

2.    Are residents of Cheeverstown House, Kilvare, Templeogue, Dublin 6W

When the criteria at 1 and 2 above cannot be met Kildare County Council will have nomination rights to the properties at Hillfort, Kill, Co. Kildare which are the subject of this Section 85 agreement."

A discussion followed with contributions from Councillors T. Costello and P. Holohan who welcomed the initiative.

It was proposed by Councillor A. Edge, seconded by Councillor T. Costello, and **AGREED** that

**“That South Dublin County Council enters into an agreement with Kildare County Council under Section 85 of the Local Government Act 2001, whereby Kildare County Council permits South Dublin County Council to allocate 4 social housing units provided under the Capital Assistance Scheme by Co-Operative Housing Ireland at Hillfort, Kill, Co. Kildare where both of the following criteria apply to nominees for the properties:**

**1.    Social housing applicants of South Dublin County Council**

**2.    Are residents of Cheeverstown House, Kilvare, Templeogue, Dublin 6W**

**When the criteria at 1 and 2 above cannot be met Kildare County Council will have nomination rights to the properties at Hillfort, Kill, Co. Kildare which are the subject of this Section 85 agreement."**

**H16/1123 COMMUNITY & SPORT DEVELOPMENT GRANTS - FOR NOTING**

### The following report by the Chief Executive, which had been circulated, was presented by Ms. E. Leech, Director for Housing & Community and was **CONSIDERED.**

**REPLY:**

The online rolling application process provides community and voluntary groups who are responding to locally identified needs within their communities with the opportunity to apply for assistance from the Council under the following categories:

* Community Development Grants
* Community Events Funding
* Sports Development Grants

Applications are assessed 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 and value for money projects with clear/accurate costings.
* Existing funds available to the group/alternative funding sources.

Following the assessment process and having regard to the available budget **24** grants totalling **€54,444.21** were approved for **16** local groups summarised as follows:

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Category** | **No:** | **Amount** |
| Community Development Grants | 9 | €10,520.21 |
| Community Events Funding | 7 | €18,760.00 |
| Sports Development Grants | 8 | €25,164.00 |
| **Total** | **24** | **€54,444.21** |

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

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Name of Group** | **Funding Category Applied For** | **Sub-Category of Grant** | **Amount** |
| Esker Woods Residents' Association | Community Development Grant | Running Costs | €500.00 |
| Esker Woods Residents' Association | Community Development Grant | Environmental Improvement Grant | €500.00 |
| Firhouse Active Age Group | Community Development Grant | Running Costs | €550.00 |
| Neilstown Community Centre | Community Development Grant | IT Infrastructure | €1385.21 |
| Neilstown Community Centre | Community Development Grant | Major Equipment | €3085.00 |
| North Clondalkin Community Choir | Community Development Grant | Start Up Cost | €500.00 |
| North Clondalkin Community Choir | Community Development Grant | Minor Equipment | €1500.00 |
| This Is Me Neurodiversity | Community Development Grant | Start Up Costs | €500.00 |
| This Is Me Neurodiversity | Community Development Grant | Minor Equipment | €2000.00 |
| Brookfield Community Centre | Community Events Funding | Family Fun Day | €4000.00 |
| North Clondalkin Community Safety Programme | Community Events Funding | Halloween Celebration | €1050.00 |
| North Clondalkin Community Safety Programme | Community Events Funding | Halloween Celebration | €4000.00 |
| Scholarstown Wood Residents Association | Community Events Funding | Halloween Celebration | €400.00 |
| Scholarstown Wood Residents Association | Community Events Funding | Christmas Community Celebration | €600.00 |
| St Brigid's Festival | Community Events Funding | Village / Community Festival | €5710.00 |
| The Unforgettable Women's Network - TUWN | Community Events Funding | Community Festival | €3000.00 |
| Adamstown Cricket Club | Sports Development Grant | Major Sports Equipment | €5000.00  |
| Collinstown FC | Sports Development Grant | Mobile Floodlight and Goalposts Grant | €5000.00 |
| LJays Elite Martial Arts | Sports Development Grant | Sports Coach Education Grant | €1000.00 |
| LJays Elite Martial Arts | Sports Development Grant | Major Sports Club Equipment | €5000.00 |
| Lucan Harrier & Athletic Club | Sports Development Grant | Major Sports Equipment | €4164.00 |
| Manortown Football Club | Sports Development Grant | Sports Coach Education Grant | €1000.00 |
| Manortown Football Club | Sports Development Grant | Minor Sports Equipment | €2000.00 |
| South Dublin Badminton Club | Sports Development Grant | Minor Sports Club Equipment | €2000.00 |

A discussion followed with contributions from Councillors E. Murphy, S. Moynihan and A. Edge who welcomed the report and raised queries in relation to recently received applications and demand of grants in 2023.

Ms E. Leech, Director Housing & Community responded to the Members queries.

The Item was **NOTED.**

 **H17/1123 ROADS WINTER MAINTENANCE PLAN – FOR NOTING**

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

[H17 (a) WSP](http://www.sdublincoco.ie/sdcc/departments/corporate/apps/cmas/documentsview.aspx?id=80214)
[H17 (b) WSP Presentation](http://www.sdublincoco.ie/sdcc/departments/corporate/apps/cmas/documentsview.aspx?id=80215)

A discussion followed, with contributions from Councillors T. Costello and P. Gogarty with queries regarding locations of salt bins.

Mr. M. Mulhern, Director of Land Use, Planning, and transport, responded to the Members queries.

The report was **NOTED.**

**H18/1123 FLAG POLICY**

The following report by the Chief Executive, which had been circulated, was presented by Ms. L. Maxwell, Director of Corporate Performance and Change Management, and was **CONSIDERED.**

**REPLY:**

In accordance with the Council’s Flag Policy it was agreed at the November 2023 Corporate Policy Group meeting to bring a request (see below) to fly the Palestinian Flag to full Council for consideration.

This is now before the Council for approval

**REQUEST: -**

Hi Alan, I hope you are well. You have probably heard the news tonight that hundreds or people were killed including many children by an Israeli air strike on a Hospital in Gaza. Regardless of sides, what is happening is amounting to Genocide of the innocent Palestinian population and they have no escaping it. I am requesting that in solidarity, we as a Council raise the Palestinian flag at our Council Building, to fly up to 29th November 2023, that date being the United Nations International Day of Solidarity with the Palestinian people.

Is that possible through yourself or should I follow another protocol? I look forward to hearing from you on what the best way forward is for this to happen.

Regards, Cllr Louise Dunne

[H18 (b) SDCC Flag Policy](http://www.sdublincoco.ie/sdcc/departments/corporate/apps/cmas/documentsview.aspx?id=80336)

A discussion followed with contributions from Councillors E. Ó Broin, M. Johannson, F. Timmons, D. Ó Brádaigh, L. Dunne, P. Holohan, L. Sinclair, D. McManus, L. Whelan, P. Kearns, E. O’Brien, W. Carey, R. McMahon, G. O’Connell, L. McCrave, S. Moynihan, J. Tuffy P. Gogarty, C. O’Connor, M. Lynch M. Duff, Y. Collins, and A. Edge.

The Mayor, Councillor A. Edge proposed, and the Members **AGREED** to a **ROLL CALL** vote:

**FOR: 20 (TWENTY)**

Councillors W. Carey, T. Costello, L. Donaghy, M. Duff, L. Dunne, A. Edge, A. Hayes, P. Holohan, M. Johannson, P. Kearns, E. Murphy, D. Ó Brádaigh, E. O’Brien, E. Ó Broin, C. O’Connor, D. Richardson, L. Sinclair, J. Sinnott, F. Timmons and L. Whelan.

**AGAINST: 10 (TEN)**

Councillors Y. Collins, P. Gogarty, B. Lawlor, L. McCrave, R. McMahon, D. McManus, G. O’Connell, S. O’Hara, B. Pereppadan and J. Tuffy.

**ABSTAIN: 5 (FIVE)**

Councillors L. Guéret, L. Hagin Meade, M. Lynch, S. Moynihan, and L. O’Toole.

The item was **AGREED.**

**C1/1123 REPLIES, ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS & CORRESPONDENCE**

**Replies**

1. [Reply from Minister for Rural and Community Development in relation to Motion 1 (Local Improvement Scheme) at the September 2023 meeting.](http://www.sdublincoco.ie/sdcc/departments/corporate/apps/cmas/documentsview.aspx?id=80259)

**Acknowledgements**

**Correspondence**

The correspondence was **NOTED**.

### **M1/1123 Domestic Violence**

Proposed by Councillor T. Costello and seconded by Councillor E. Murphy.

To ask SDCC that when a victim of domestic violence moves from one local authority to another that they are allowed carry over their time on the housing list rather than starting from the beginning.

**REPORT:**

The Council do not have a direct role in providing accommodation for victims of domestic violence. Tusla have carried out an audit and have published a 'Review of the Provision of Accommodation for Victims of Domestic Violence'. The Department of Justice is taking over responsibility for service delivery, in addition to its policy responsibility in the area of domestic, sexual and gender-based violence.

The Council however, remains committed to working fully with all relevant agencies and partners in responding to the needs of victims of domestic violence, within our budgetary and statutory abilities.

In accordance with the Allocation Scheme applicants must express interest in at least 1 area of choice within the Council's functional area.  They may also express interest in an area of choice in the other Dublin Local Authorities – Dublin City Council, Dun Laoghaire/Rathdown and Fingal. Overall they may only express interest in 3 areas of choice.

South Dublin County Council housing applicants will only be able to view and express an interest in properties advertised through the Choice Based Letting platform within this Council's administrative area.

The Mayor, Councillor A. Edge, proposed and the Members **AGREED** to suspend Standing Order No. 5 to extend the meeting to complete discussion on the Motion.

A discussion followed with contributions from Councillor T. Costello, L. Dunne, Y. Collins, M. Duff, E. Ó Broin, P. Kearns, E. Murphy, L. Hagin Meade, W. Carey, L. McCrave, S. Moynihan and A. Edge.

Ms. E. Leech, Director of Housing & Community, replied to the Members and requested that this issue be considered by Housing SPC.

The motion was **AGREED.**

### **M4/1123 Scramblers & Quads**

It was proposed by Councillor M. Duff and seconded by Councillor A. Edgeand **MOVED** without debate:

That this Council calls on the Chief Executive to initiate a Campaign, highlighting the "Scramblers and Quads, Know The Info" and the "Do It Right" campaign, and to work with all schools, Community Centres and Community & Voluntary Projects in our County to raise awareness.

**REPORT:**

The Council website has a dedicated page to  [Scramblers and Quads - Know The Info - SDCC](https://www.sdcc.ie/en/services/transport/road-safety/advice-and-guidance/scramblers-and-quads/scramblers-and-quads-know-the-info.html) and a leaflet produced in conjunction with An Garda Síochána and Motor Cycle Ireland. The Communications Office have been requested to promote the "Do It Right" campaign across the Council's news and social media platforms.

The Council works closely with An Garda Síochána in relation to scrambler and quad bikes in the area and will engage with community centres and community/voluntary projects to raise awareness. It is important to ensure that both parents and young people understand the legal and safety needs before and during the use of these vehicles and that the misuse of these vehicles can lead to fatalities and serious injuries. In addition, the Gardaí run a schools programme specific to this area.

### **M5/1123 Greenhouse Gas Targets**

It was proposed by Councillor D. Ó Brádaigh and seconded by Councillor E. Murphyand **MOVED** without debate:

This Council agrees to call on the Taoiseach and Minister for the Environment, Climate and Communications, as a matter of urgency to increase the pace of implementing imperative actions and critically examines any inactions which are contributing to missing legally-binding greenhouse gas targets for 2030 and beyond.

**REPORT:**

If this motion is passed, letters will be issued to the Taoiseach and Minister for the Environment, Climate and Communications. The responses, when received, will be circulated to the Members.

### **M6/1123 Housing Maintenance Portal**

It was proposed by Councillor L. Dunne and seconded by Councillor T. Costello and **MOVED** without debate:

As members of the public have raised issues with the limitations of the Housing Maintenance Portal this Council calls on the Chief Executive to reinstate the Customer Care Desk in the Council for the public to attend for advice & emergencies, to allow for walk-ins for maintenance requests and to allow maintenance requests over the phone to support tenants who are not IT literate/or for those who do not have access to the internet or for those who have a disability

**REPORT:**

As part of the Council's ongoing digital transformation to provide enhanced and optimal customer service, the Housing Online (HOL) portal provides an online, fully mobile responsive self-service area that allows housing customers to self-serve 24/7 on any device for various housing services. In this context, the online housing maintenance service facilitates the submission of maintenance requests straight into the system which will allow a more timely and responsive service.

A series of explanatory videos showing customers how to register and log a maintenance request online is available at: [**Housing Online - SDCC**](https://eur04.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.sdcc.ie%2Fen%2Fservices%2Fhousing%2Fhousing-online%2F&amp;data=05%7C01%7Camills%40SDUBLINCOCO.ie%7C97b91a0c91d044a8425c08dba93ba50b%7C6a3c00c019d0492da8de95fad8fda1d4%7C0%7C0%7C638289845859410211%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C3000%7C%7C%7C&amp;sdata=7bSzoR03QjTxyO1bLZZDydynx9cRQv0GxXFw2tlD7Wk%3D&amp;reserved=0) and to make a repair request at : [**Maintenance and Repairs - SDCC**](https://eur04.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.sdcc.ie%2Fen%2Fservices%2Fhousing%2Fmaintenance-and-repairs%2F&amp;data=05%7C01%7Camills%40SDUBLINCOCO.ie%7C97b91a0c91d044a8425c08dba93ba50b%7C6a3c00c019d0492da8de95fad8fda1d4%7C0%7C0%7C638289845859410211%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C3000%7C%7C%7C&amp;sdata=svHLI42j4Bm3z9YFRQcbEkYpr4Us3JYYoK%2FrgNXLNpU%3D&amp;reserved=0) while internet access is also widely available through the network of libraries and elsewhere in the County. Any tenants experiencing challenges with using HOL can e-mail **hol@sdublincoco.ie**for assistance.

Maintenance requests in the first instance should be submitted by the tenant directly through Housing Online where they are able to do as this will facilitate the swiftest categorisation and assignment of work to either our direct labour staff or an appropriate contractor. This will allow more efficient responses to address maintenance issues in tenants’ homes.

Already, almost half of tenants have registered on the new system which is straightforward to use and submit maintenance requests from any device at any time once registered. As we know, most people are digitally literate to a reasonable degree but where barriers to use of the system exist, a dedicated phone service is available for calls during office hours to report maintenance issues from tenants who are older, have additional needs or who have digital literacy/access issues and our maintenance staff are also providing assistance with user guides and step-by-step assistance to use the new system.

The Council’s new Housing Customer Centre at County Hall, Tallaght officially opened on 13th July 2023. This new facility consists of a public counter, online services portal, a number of private meeting rooms and a family-specific area. Members of the public can access the Housing Customer Centre by contacting the Council on 01-4149000 to request an appointment.

Dedicated frontline staff have been nominated to act as digital champions and are available to show customers how to operate on-line self-service processes for applying for housing, maintenance and repairs, rent account queries and housing grants.

### **M9/1123 Four Day Work Week**

It was proposed by Councillor L. Sinclair and seconded by Councillor A. Edge that the motion be **WITHDRAWN**:

That this council calls for the introduction of a four day work week, with no loss of pay, in the civil and public service. On passing a letter is issued to the Minister for Public Expenditure, National Development Plan Delivery and Reform.

***Meeting ended at 19:09***

**Motions Not Reached:**

### **(M2) Widening Footpaths**

Councillor E. Ó Broin

This council agrees that in line with Regional Policy Objectives and 2022-2028 SDCC County Development Plan, opportunities for widening of footpaths in urban cores presented by planning permission applications for lands bordering existing narrow footpaths in same urban cores will not be lost.

### **(M3) “3 Day Wait”**

Councillor R. McMahon

To ask the Minister for Health and the Government to ensure that the "3 Day Wait" period be retained in the Termination of Pregnancy Act and that promises made by the Government, during the 2018 Referendum to Repeal the Eighth Amendment, not to be reneged on now.

### **(M7) NTA**

Councillor K. Mahon

That the manager responds positively to the NTA's standing offer (to the previous CEO and previous Mayor) to address the full Council regarding Bus Connects and associated works, and that such a briefing be scheduled as soon as practical with sufficient time allowed for questions and discussion on what is an important infrastructural issue across communities.

### **(M8) Compulsory Purchase Orders**

Councillor M. Johansson

That the Chief Executive immediately initiate Compulsory Purchase Orders on all properties on the Derelict Sites Register (as published 14/07/2023).

Motion withdrawn.

### **(M10) Information Outreach Sessions**

Councillor F. Timmons

That this Council requests that SDCC Organise information outreach sessions so that ordinary people can understand and appreciate the SDCC's systems and also what the SDCC can do, cannot do, and why. (This could help to improve the public's understanding of SDCC's powers and obligations, and also SDCC's limitations)

### **(M11) UMAAP**

Councillor E. O'Brien

That this Council calls on the Minister with responsibility for mental health services and the HSE to permanently fund the UMAAP (understanding and managing adult ADHD programme) and to give increased provision to services provided to assist both Adults and Children with ADHD.

### **(M12) Single Use Plastics**

Councillor M. Lynch

That from the 1st January 2024, this Council bans the purchase, sale and distribution of single use plastic bottles and single use coffee cups in all the Council owned premises, including businesses and franchisees operating on Council property.

### **(M13) Audit on Footpaths**

Councillor P. Gogarty

That the Chief Executive carries out an audit and/or compiles from existing information a list trip hazards from cracked or jutting pavements in the county.

### **(M14) Derelict Properties**

Councillor Joanna Tuffy

This Council calls on the Chief Executive to identify and acquire protected, possibly derelict, structures in the County that were formally houses or hotels with the view of refurbishing for housing or hotel purposes.

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

Mayor

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