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

Minutes of South Dublin County Council February 2024 Rathfarnham / Templeogue / Firhouse / Bohernabreena Area Committee Meeting held on Tuesday 13th February 2024 through Microsoft 365 Teams and in Person in the Council Chambers. Today’s Area Committee Meeting was webcast as the Council has extended webcasting to all Area Committee meetings from January 2023. The extension of webcasting Area Committee meetings demonstrates our commitment to promoting transparency and supporting understanding and participation in local democracy.

### **Councillors Present**

### Lyn Hagin Meade

### Brian Lawlor

### Ronan McMahon

### David McManus

### Lilian Guéret

### Lynn McCrave

### Yvonne Collins

### Mark Lynch

### Emma Murphy

### Justin Sinnott

### Alan Edge

### Pamela Kearns

### **Officials Present**

### Senior Executive Officer Sharon Conroy

### Senior Engineer Leo Magee, Gary Walsh, John Hegarty

### A/Senior Engineer Michael McAdam

### Administrative Officer Susan Sinclair, Ralph McGarry

### Senior Community Officer Paul McAlerney

### Senior Executive Parks &

### Landscape Officer Brendan Redmond

### Senior Executive Librarian Laura Joyce

### Executive Engineer Ronan Carroll, Mbakure Johnson

### Executive Librarian Sarah McHugh

### Senior Staff Officer Adrienne McGee

### Active City Dublin Project

### Lead / Sports Services Darragh Conway

### Staff Officer Eimear O’Sullivan

### Assistant Staff Officer Eduardo de Oliveira

### Clerical Officer Vikki Cryan, Sharayu Mishra, Anne Marie Hudson

The Cathaoirleach, Councillor Pamela Kearns, presided.

### **RTFB/47/H1/0224 Item ID:82247 – Minutes**

Minutes of South Dublin County Council Minutes of Rathfarnham / Templeogue / Firhouse / Bohernabreena Area Committee dealing with Housing, Community, Transportation, Planning, Economic Development, Libraries, Corporate, Performance & Change Management, Public Realm, Environment, Water & Drainage held on 9th January 2024 which have been circulated, were submitted, and **APPROVED** as true record and signed.

It was proposed by Councillor P Kearns, seconded by Councillor L Hagin-Meade, and **RESOLVED** “That the recommendations contained in the minutes of 9th January 2024 be **ADOPTED** and **APPROVED**.”

[H1 Minutes of January 2024 RTFB ACM](http://www.sdublincoco.ie/sdcc/departments/corporate/apps/cmas/documentsview.aspx?id=81567)

## **RTFB/48/0224 – Questions**

It was proposed by Councillor P Kearns, seconded by Councillor L Guéret and **RESOLVED** “That pursuant to Standing Order No. 13 that Questions 1 - 14 be **ADOPTED** and **APPROVED.**

## **Libraries & Arts**

### **RTFB/49/Q1/0224 Item ID:82100 – Mobile Libraries**

Proposed by Councillor L. Guéret

To ask the Manager if future consideration might be given to the Mobile Library making a weekly stop at a location in Greenhills?

**REPLY:**

South Dublin mobile library service operates across the County, serving a catchment population of around 10,000 people through the public stop timetable. In addition, the mobile library service delivers housebound services and visits to schools, creches, nursing homes, and other facilities.

Public stops across the County are constantly evaluated to establish viability with consideration given to factors such as the number of people using the stop and the proximity to the nearest library service. A previous mobile stop in Greenhills was cancelled as the number of people using it was so low, it was no longer viable. Also in 2021, a new library was opened in Castletymon.

The mobile library service has recently introduced a new stop at Hillsbrook Avenue in Perrystown near Greenhills, on Monday afternoons at 2.30pm to 3.20pm.

### **RTFB/50/Q2/0224 Item ID:81849 - Neurodiverse South Resource Catalogue**

Proposed by Councillor J. Sinnott

To ask the Manager is the new Library "Toys Technology and Training" catalogue fully finalised and operational? If not, when is it anticipated that this will happen? The new catalogue has been under development for some time and the old catalogue is no longer in place, and whether all the items in the Libraries new "Toys Technology and Training" catalogue is fully stocked and available for users?

**REPLY:**

The “Toys, Technology and Training" catalogue has been rebranded to Neurodiverse South Resource Catalogue. It is finalised and fully operational. There were three Toy Roadshows, one in Ballyroan, Tallaght and North Clondalkin Libraries throughout December and January to promote the new collection. It has been available for borrowing since the last Toy Roadshow in Tallaght on 4th January. The full collection can be viewed on the library website at [Neurodiverse South - SDCC](https://eur04.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.sdcc.ie%2Fen%2Fservices%2Fsport-and-recreation%2Flibraries%2Flibrary-projects%2Fneurodiverse-south%2F&amp;data=05%7C02%7Cljoyce%40SDUBLINCOCO.ie%7Cf26353c786814fef380f08dc231123be%7C6a3c00c019d0492da8de95fad8fda1d4%7C0%7C0%7C638423803718578887%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C0%7C%7C%7C&amp;sdata=rvLUiYrUoCT%2BVX%2BZ67q0EbQ2aVTJ1SdS2xYZQULGWO4%3D&amp;reserved=0).

### **RTFB/51/Q3/0224 Item ID:81852 - Neurodiverse South Resource Catalogue**

Proposed by Councillor J. Sinnott

To ask the Manager to clarify whether library members can peruse the "Toys Technology and Training" catalogue online, request items online to their local SDCC library by themselves without assistance from the librarian, and average wait time for an item requested on the Library "Toys Technology and Training" scheme?

**REPLY:**

The Neurodiverse South catalogue can be viewed on the library website at [Neurodiverse South - SDCC](https://eur04.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.sdcc.ie%2Fen%2Fservices%2Fsport-and-recreation%2Flibraries%2Flibrary-projects%2Fneurodiverse-south%2F&amp;data=05%7C02%7Cljoyce%40SDUBLINCOCO.ie%7Cf26353c786814fef380f08dc231123be%7C6a3c00c019d0492da8de95fad8fda1d4%7C0%7C0%7C638423803718578887%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C0%7C%7C%7C&amp;sdata=rvLUiYrUoCT%2BVX%2BZ67q0EbQ2aVTJ1SdS2xYZQULGWO4%3D&amp;reserved=0). It is free to any individual who lives, works or goes to school in South Dublin County. To register, users show a letter of referral or need from an Occupational Therapist, Medical Practitioner such as Public Health Nurse or GP, Resource Teacher or other professional working with them. Two items can be borrowed at a time.  The loan period is three weeks.  The items can be reserved online or in branch. It is not possible to give the average waiting time for an item as it depends on whether an item has already been reserved or is on loan by another borrower. If it is an item that hasn’t been reserved and it is showing as available in a South Dublin Library branch, then the wait time should only be a few days. The catalogue is available for reference purposes in our libraries.

### **RTFB/52/H2/0224 Item ID:81916 – New Works**

New Works (No Business)

### **RTFB/53/H3/0224 Item ID:81896 – Applications for Arts Grants**

Application for Arts Grants – (No Business)

### **RTFB/54/H4/0224 Item ID:81910 – Library News & Events**

The following report was presented by Sarah McHugh Executive Librarian.

**Library News & Events**

[H4 (i) Ballyroan library report Feb 24](http://www.sdublincoco.ie/sdcc/departments/corporate/apps/cmas/documentsview.aspx?id=81493)
[H4 (ii) Library Stats](http://www.sdublincoco.ie/sdcc/departments/corporate/apps/cmas/documentsview.aspx?id=81504)

Following Contributions from Councillors L Hagin Meade, L Guéret, Y Collins, E Murphy, L McCrave, R McMahon and P Kearns, Sarah McHugh Executive Librarian Responded to queries raised and the Report was **Noted**.

### **RTFB/55/C1/0224 Item ID:81903 – Correspondence**

Correspondence (No Business)

## **Economic Development**

### **RTFB/56/Q4/0224 Item ID:81871 – Templeogue House**

Proposed by Councillor M. Lynch

To ask the Manager to provide a report on the status of Templeogue House and plans for the amenity?

**REPLY:**

The Council holds a lease on Templeogue House and a Right of Way to the House but does not hold title to the car parking areas, which are used by St Michael's House, Templeogue Bridge Club and to a lesser degree by Cheeverstown.

The Council are in discussions with St. Michael's House in relation to the future use of the property.

### **RTFB/57/H5/0224 Item ID:81913 – Rathfarnham Castle & Stables**

The following report was presented by Ralph McGarry Administrative Officer.

**Rathfarnham Castle & Stables**

[H5 Rathfarnham Castle Courtyards Update](http://www.sdublincoco.ie/sdcc/departments/corporate/apps/cmas/documentsview.aspx?id=81593)

Following Contributions from Councillors M Lynch, Y Collins, L McCrave, L Guéret, J Sinnott, P Kearns and E Murphy, Ralph McGarry Administrative Officer Responded to queries raised and the Report was **Noted**.

### **RTFB/58/C2/0224 Item ID:81901 – Correspondence**

Correspondence (No Business)

## **Performance & Change Management**

### **RTFB/59/H6/0224 Item ID:81917 – New Works**

New Works (No Business)

### **RTFB/60/C3/0224 Item ID:81904 – Correspondence**

Correspondence (No Business)

## **Corporate Support**

### **RTFB/61/H7/0224 Item ID:81912 – New Works**

New Works (No Business)

### **RTFB/62/C4/0224 Item ID:81900 – Correspondence**

Response from Dublin Bus

[C4 (i) Response from Dublin Bus re Item 81549](http://www.sdublincoco.ie/sdcc/departments/corporate/apps/cmas/documentsview.aspx?id=81583)

### **RTFB/63/M1/0224 Item ID:81893 – Letter to Dublin Bus, NTA & Department of Transport**

Proposed by Councillor A. Edge, seconded by Councillor P. Kearns

That this Area Committee supports the campaign of Firhouse residents to keep the 49 bus route and contacts Dublin Bus, the NTA and the Department of Transport to express our concern about the impact of removing this service, particularly on older residents.

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

If this Motion is agreed, letters will be issued to Dublin Bus, the NTA and the Department of Transport in this regard.  The responses, when received, will be circulated to the Members.

Following Contributions from Councillors A Edge, L H Meade and E Murphy, Susan Sinclair Administrative Officer Responded to queries raised and the Motion was **Agreed**.

## **Environment**

### **RTFB/64/Q5/0224 Item ID:82130 – Laneway Cleansing**

Proposed by Councillor D. McManus

To ask the Chief Executive to ensure a public laneway adjacent to (Address) is part of a cleaning programme, along with the laneway stairs from Ballytore Road to Dodder Park Road and the laneway connecting to Lower Dodder Road?

**REPLY:**

The laneway at Crannagh Road and the steps from Ballytore Road to Dodder Park Road which are referred to here have been inspected recently and were found to be clean with very little litter evident.  There is a build up of dead vegetation and leaves at both locations which needs to be removed and arrangements will be made to have this work carried out in due course.

### **RTFB/65/H8/0224 Item ID:81914 – New Works**

New Works (No Business)

### **RTFB/66/C5/0224 Item ID:81898 - Correspondence**

Correspondence (No Business)

### **RTFB/67/M2/0224 Item ID:81783 – Laneway Cleansing**

Proposed by Councillor D. McManus, seconded by Councillor P. Kearns

To ask the Chief Executive to arrange cleaning of the three laneways on Ballyroan Road that connect to Orchardstown Drive, Old Orchard and Anne Devlin Park in Rathfarnham as weeds, litter and moss covers part of the laneways.

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

The three pedestrian walkways referred to here which connect Ballyroan Road with Anne Devlin Park, Orchardstown Drive and Old Orchard have been inspected recently and were found to be clean and free from litter.  There is a build of dead vegetation and leaves from last year at each location which needs to be removed.  There is also the beginning of some new weed growth at each location.  Arrangements will be made to have the dead vegetation and leaves removed from these walkways.  It is proposed that the treatment of the new weed growth will be carried out at a later date as to do so now at this time of year would not be effective in controlling the weed growth.

Following Contributions from Councillor D McManus this Motion was **Agreed**.

### **RTFB/68/M3/0224 Item ID:81865 – Graffiti Removal**

Proposed by Councillor J. Sinnott, seconded by Councillor P. Kearns

This Committee acknowledges and greatly appreciates the work done by the Council in keeping our communities clean and tidy. However there has been a notable increase in graffiti and stickers across public spaces including lamp posts and traffic lights. To address this anti-social behaviour the Committee requests the following is done: 1) A central portal is established for members to send in pictures and locations where stickers and graffiti are. 2) The Council arrange for the removal and cleaning of areas identified in a timely fashion.

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

There is a central portal already established for reports of graffiti which is publicrealm@sdublincoco.ie. This email inbox is monitored by the team on a daily basis. We do ask that when reports are made, as much detail as possible is given, such as exact location (address), if it's a utility box, which type as in which utility company is responsible and to provide photos if at all possible. This information helps us to improve our response times in removing the graffiti or requesting others to remove same. Any other reports of graffiti made to the council through the info email **info@sdublincoco.ie** is referred through the customer care system to us and dealt with as other reports received. Reports can also be made by phoning Public Realm on 01 4149000. Members of the public can send reports of graffiti, including location details and photos to **publicrealm@sdublincoco.ie**, while the elected members can submit their reports via the members net system on Customer Care.

All reports of graffiti are dealt with by our removal crews as they are reported. Other staff remove graffiti also, including the painter and other construction staff. We continue to take immediate action to remove or cover offensive or politically motivated graffiti as a priority once a report is received. The Environment, Water and Climate Change (EWCC) 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.

SDCC has a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the ESB and a number of other utility companies, who have agreed to remove graffiti from their premises/assets once reported to them. EWCC are currently working with the ESB in reviewing and updating this MOU and will do the same with the other utility companies.

Following Contributions from Councillors J Sinnott, E Murphy, Y Collins, A Edge, L Guéret, L McCrave and P Kearns, Sharon Conroy Senior Executive Officer Responded to queries raised and the Report was **Noted**.

### **RTFB/69/M4/0224 Item ID:82091 – Control of Dogs**

Proposed by Councillor M. Lynch, seconded by Councillor L.H. Meade

That this area committee calls on the Manager to organise a number of full day static checkpoints / information points held by the dog wardens in Dodder Valley Greenway, Tymon Park, St. Enda's Park and other necessary locations to combat the increasing instances of dogs off leads resulting in dog fouling and dangerous instances with cyclists and children.

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

South Dublin County Council currently employs two full time Dog Wardens within the administrative area. The Dog Warden's role is the enforcement of the Control of Dogs Act 1986 as amended.  This includes:

* responding to complaints relating to dogs not under effectual control and/or dangerous dogs
* carrying out of licence checks and the initiation of enforcement proceedings where possible
* seizure and collection of unwanted/stray dogs and removal to the dog pound.

The Dog Wardens can be contacted on 01 414 9000.

The Bye-Laws for Parks and Open Spaces 2011 came into force on the 1st August 2011 and are for the use, operation, protection, regulation and management of Parks and Open Spaces owned, controlled and managed by, or in the charge of South Dublin County Council.

Section 4 of the Bye-Laws deals specifically with the control of dogs, while Section 8 and 9 deal with enforcement, penalties and fixed payment notices in relation to the contravention of any of the provisions of the Bye-Laws.

Park Rangers as employees of the Council are authorised to enforce the SDCC Bye-laws. The duties of the park ranger are centred around engagement with the public and monitoring of the usage of the park and its facilities by park users, the ranger is in general the first point of contact for members of the public whenever an issue of a serious nature arises in the park. In the event that a member or members of the public fails to co-operate with an instruction or direction of a Park Ranger, the next step, depending on the severity of the breach of the Bye-laws is to seek the assistance of An Garda Siochána to enforce the Bye-law. They are empowered to direct the public to comply with the Bye-laws and a frequent activity in this regard is to request members of the public to put dogs on a leash.

There are 4 park rangers based in Tymon Park depot who cover the areas of Dodder Valley Park & Greenway, Tymon Park, Rathfarnham Park as well as some of the smaller parks. St Enda’s Park is not under the remit of South Dublin County Council.

The main parks are patrolled on a daily basis by the rangers with other parks visited as required but at a minimum on a weekly basis. The recent introduction of e-bikes into the service on a trial basis has shown that rangers can be more mobile around the larger parks and can move more easily between parks and it is hoped that more of these can be provided for use by the rangers in the future.  There is a total of 14 rangers spread across the county. The service is provided on a 7-day week basis with rangers rostered on duty to cover weekends as well as weekdays.

Park Rangers and Dog Wardens will increase their monitoring of the above listed areas over the coming weeks.

Following contributions from Councillors M Lynch, E Murphy, L McCrave, L H Meade, L Guéret and P Kearns, Sharon Conroy Senior Executive Officer Responded to queries raised and the Report was **Noted**.

## **Water & Drainage**

### **RTFB/70/Q6/0224 Item ID:82095 – River Poddle Flood Alleviation Scheme**

Proposed by Councillor L. Guéret

To ask the Manager for an update on the plans to place the Compound in Tymon Park at Limekiln Road for the duration of the Poddle Flood Alleviation Scheme Works?

**REPLY:**

The Site Compound for the River Poddle FAS is currently being placed in the location set out in the Part 10 Planning Application to An Bord Pleanala in February 2020. The compound will remain in place for the duration of the Tymon Park works and its suitability will be assessed when the works in Tymon Park are completed.

As the works are being completed in Tymon Park the required size of the compound will be continuously reviewed and when the scenario arises where it can be reduced in size, this will be considered by the project team.

The construction works in Tymon Park are to commence in April 2024 and are currently expected to take 18 months to complete.

### **RTFB/71/H9/0224 Item ID:81921 – New Works**

New Works (No Business)

### **RTFB/72/C6/0224 Item ID:81908 – Correspondence**

Correspondence (No Business)

## **Public Realm**

### **RTFB/73/Q7/0224 Item ID:81652 – Tree Maintenance Schedule**

Proposed by Councillor E. Murphy

Can the Council please provide details on the tree maintenance schedule for Glenmore Park, Pearse Brothers Park and Palmer Park?

**REPLY:**

Tree maintenance works were carried out in both Pearse Brothers Park and Palmer Park in 2015, while maintenance works were carried out in Glenmore Park in 2020.   The three year tree maintenance programme for the period 2023 to '25 includes Glenmore Park and those works are planned to be carried out in 2025.  The programme does not currently include Pearse Brother Park or Palmer Park however these will be examined again to determine if they should be added to the current programme.  If it is deemed necessary to add these areas to the current programme, then notification of this will be issued to the local elected members.

### **RTFB/74/H10/0224 Item ID:81919 – New Works**

New Works (No Business)

### **RTFB/75/C7/0224 Item ID:81906 – Correspondence**

Correspondence (No Business)

### **RTFB/76/M5/0224 Item ID:82099 – “Box Up” Dispenser**

Proposed by Councillor P. Kearns, seconded by Y. Collins

**Cathaoirleach's Business**

That this committee calls on the Manager to install a "Box Up" dispenser at the recently installed Basketball hoop in Tymon Park. I believe this would encourage more people to use this excellent facility.

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

Active Cities have fully funded Box Up units in South Dublin County Council. For this project to be sustainable we are going to adopt a co-funded strategy going forward. We will investigate both internal and external funding opportunities to fund this and we are confident in funding at least 1 "Box Up" unit per year.

Following Contributions from Councillors P Kearns, Y Collins and E Murphy, Darragh Conway Active City Dublin Project Lead / Sports Services Responded to queries raised and the Motion was **Agreed**.

### **RTFB/77/M6/0224 Item ID:81831 – Allenton Maintenance**

Proposed by Councillor A. Edge, seconded by Councillor P. Kearns

That the area of public realm adjacent to Allenton Lawns, Avenue and Drive along the R114 be cleared of rubbish and debris and properly maintained to improve the appearance of the area

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

Some unauthorized tree pruning was conducted within the estate where green waste and debris (branches etc) were left on site. The branches that arose from the unauthorized tree pruning have subsequently been removed by the Council. The estate undergoes regular litter picking and during the growing season litter picking is carried out before the grass is cut on a two-week cycle. Additional maintenance will be conducted in the estate to improve the area for residents and this will include additional litter picking and strimming where appropriate. The Council encourages residents who experience or witness illegal tree pruning, dumping and/or littering activities to report these to the Council.

This Motion was **Unanimously Agreed and Moved without Debate**.

### **RTFB/78/M7/0224 Item ID:81847 – Butterfield Avenue**

Proposed by Councillor J. Sinnott, seconded by Councillor P. Kearns

To ask the Manager to arrange for the replacement of the three bins adjacent to Bus Stops on Butterfield Avenue, Rathfarnham.

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

Arrangements will be made to replace the three litter bins which are adjacent to Bus Stops on Butterfield Avenue as is requested here.  There is a further litter bin on Butterfield Avenue which will also be replaced by Public Realm staff.

[M7 Butterfield Photo (i)](http://www.sdublincoco.ie/sdcc/departments/corporate/apps/cmas/documentsview.aspx?id=81198)
[M7 Butterfield Photo (ii)](http://www.sdublincoco.ie/sdcc/departments/corporate/apps/cmas/documentsview.aspx?id=81199)
[M7 Butterfield Photo (iii)](http://www.sdublincoco.ie/sdcc/departments/corporate/apps/cmas/documentsview.aspx?id=81200)

This Motion was **Unanimously Agreed and Moved without Debate**.

### **RTFB/79/M8/0224 Item ID:82127 – Tree Maintenance**

Proposed by Councillor M. Lynch, seconded by Councillor P. Kearns

That the Manager will organise tree pruning, prior to the growing season, for the tree outside (Address) which was omitted during the most recent pruning due to a parked car, and has not been attended to since.

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

Tree Maintenance works were last scheduled for Grange Road as part of the Tree Maintenance Programme in 2021. The tree outside no. 217 was listed for a crown raise and records show that works were completed on 19th May 2021. Grange Road is not on the current three year Tree Maintenance Programme for the period 2023 to 2025 however the tree in question will be listed for an individual inspection to assess requirements in the coming weeks.

[M8 (ii) Photo](http://www.sdublincoco.ie/sdcc/departments/corporate/apps/cmas/documentsview.aspx?id=81384)

This Motion was **Unanimously Agreed and Moved without Debate**.

### **RTFB/80/M9/0224 Item ID:82080 – Willbrook Estate Tree Maintenance**

Proposed by Councillor Y. Collins, seconded by Councillor E. Murphy

That this Council arranges to inspect and carry out appropriate works on the trees at or near (Address), as per attached photographs, which have become very overgrown and are towering over the houses such that residents are gravely concerned that branches or indeed the trees themselves could come down during storms or high winds potentially causing property damage/injury.

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

Willbrook Estate is not on the current Tree Maintenance Programme for 2023-2025 which was presented to and agreed at the area committee meetings late in 2022.  The trees in question however will be listed for inspection following which any works which are deemed as urgent will be tended to accordingly.  If urgent action is not considered to be necessary then the estate will be scheduled as part of the 2026-28 Tree Maintenance Programme.

As per Section 6.16 of SDCCs ‘Living with Trees’ policy, the Council will not prune or fell a Council owned / managed tree because it is considered to be ‘too big’ or ‘too tall’. Residents may feel apprehensive about the size of a tree and consider it dangerous. However, trees are not dangerous just because they are perceived as tall, too big for their surroundings or move in the wind. Tree movement in high winds is natural and one of the ways they can withstand strong winds. Other problems would need to be shown for the Council to consider the tree to be dangerous.

[M9 (ii) Willbrook Trees](http://www.sdublincoco.ie/sdcc/departments/corporate/apps/cmas/documentsview.aspx?id=81360)
[M9 (iii) Willbrook Trees](http://www.sdublincoco.ie/sdcc/departments/corporate/apps/cmas/documentsview.aspx?id=81361)

Following Contributions from Councillor Y Collins, Brendan Redmond Senior Executive Parks & Landscape Officer Responded to queries raised and the Report was **Noted**.

### **RTFB/81/M10/0224 Item ID:82125 – Tymon Park Mental Health Trail**

Proposed by Councillor P. Kearns, seconded by Councillor E. Murphy

That this committee calls on the Manager to install a positive mental health trail in Tymon Park with a view to promoting a culture of open and honest debate in relation to mental health. Details of the design to be agreed with SDCC and Aware or another relevant body.

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

The Council is committed to enhancing the quality of life for residents and visitors alike in public parks by providing various activities and amenities that promote mental wellbeing. Parks such as Tymon Park offer a diverse range of walking trails and recreational facilities designed to support the mental health and overall wellbeing of park visitors. The Council are willing to engage in discussions with mental health support groups regarding the establishment of an official mental health trail.  The Council is also due to meet soon with the HSE in relation to their national suicide reduction strategy 'Connecting for Life' to discuss how the Council might get involved in initiatives to assist in this area.

Following Contributions from Councillors P Kearns, E Murphy, Y Collins, L H Meade, L McCrave, L Guéret and M Lynch, Brendan Redmond Senior Executive Parks & Landscape Officer Responded to queries raised and the Report was **Noted**

### **RTFB/82/M11/0224 Item ID:81844 – Allenton Drive Maintenance**

Proposed by Councillor A. Edge, seconded by Councillor P. Kearns

To request Public Realm to replace the ugly row of stumps which are overgrown and a magnet for litter with something more visually appealing and better maintained at the perimeter of Allenton Drive and Ballinascorney Rd.

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

The stumps that are referred to here at the perimeter of Allenton Drive and Ballinascorney Road appear to have been installed a number of years ago to protect the open space, by preventing vehicles from driving from Ballinascorney Road across the open space to enter Allenton estate.  It is considered necessary to keep a barrier in place at this location and it is therefore not proposed to remove these stumps at this time. The Council plans to enhance the area by planting a native Irish hedge in a double row on either side of the stumps which will improve the visual appearance of the area, improve local biodiversity and screen the estate from the main road.  If this fails to improve the visual amenity of the area then the location will be considered for installation of a railing under the public realm improvement works programme for 2025, and this would enable the stumps to be removed at the same time.

This Motion was **Unanimously Agreed and Moved without Debate.**

### **RTFB/83/M12/0224 Item ID:81862 – Barton Road Tree Maintenance**

Proposed by Councillor J. Sinnott, seconded by Councillor P. Kearns

To ask the Manager to arrange for an assessment of overgrown trees on the Barton Road Extension, Rathfarnham and its impact on the light/solar panels on the houses opposite including number 75.

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

Barton Road Extension is scheduled for tree maintenance works in the second half of 2024 prior to which a detailed tree inspection/survey is scheduled to be conducted.  As per the Council's tree management policy ‘Living with Trees’ section 6.19 of the policy states the following - The Council will not prune or fell a Council owned/managed tree to facilitate installation or improve natural light to a solar panel. Whilst the Council appreciates that there is a need to provide renewable energy resources, trees have an important role in maintaining and improving local amenity, in addition to contributing to local and national targets in tackling climate change. The presence of existing trees and how these trees will grow in the future must be fully appreciated when considering a suitable location for the placement of solar panels.

[M12 (ii) Barton Extension Photo](http://www.sdublincoco.ie/sdcc/departments/corporate/apps/cmas/documentsview.aspx?id=81239)

This Motion was **Unanimously Agreed and Moved without Debate.**

## **Community**

### **RTFB/84/H11/0224 Item ID:81911 – New Works**

New Works (No Business)

### **RTFB/85/H12/0224 Item ID:82132 – Deputations for Noting**

Deputations for Noting (No Business)

### **RTFB/86/C8/0224 Item ID:81899 – Correspondence**

Correspondence (No Business)

### **RTFB/87/M13/0224 Item ID:81651 – Whitechurch Sports Facility**

Proposed by Councillor E. Murphy, seconded by Councillor P. Kearns

That the CEO provides a detailed presentation to this ACM on the development of the shared sports facility in Whitechurch including details of plans, drawings and timescales.

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

An SDCC architect has been appointed to manage the Whitechurch Sports Facility project and has begun the process of engagement with stakeholders.

On completion of engagement the final designs will be agreed and will go to Part 8 before end of Q2.

Following a tender process to engage a contractor it is envisaged that the contractor will be on site Q1 2025 with an expected construction period of 15 months.

Following Contributions from Councillor E Murphy, Paul McAlerney Senior Community Officer Responded to queries raised and the Report was **Noted**.

## **Housing**

### **RTFB/88/Q8/0224 Item ID:82094 – Age Friendly Housing in Dublin 12**

Proposed by Councillor L. Guéret

To ask the Manager if there are any age friendly housing developments currently in progress or being planned for the Dublin 12 area that is in South Dublin County Council Area?

**REPLY:**

Details of Age-Friendly units in progress or planned for Dublin 12 are included in the table below:

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Development  | Number of Units | Delivery Type | Status  |
| Walkinstown House, Dublin 12 | 16 | AHB | Under Construction |
| Cromwellsfort Road, Dublin 12 | 20 | AHB | Under Construction |
| Whitehall Road, Perrystown  | 13 | AHB  | Under Construction  |

### **RTFB/88a/Q9/0224 Item ID:81867 – Vacant Housing**

Proposed by Councillor M. Lynch

To ask the Manager to present an update on vacant / boarded up housing and will they list the number of such properties in Rathfarnham / Templeogue Estates and outline the action being taken?

**REPLY:**

The following is the current status of vacant properties within the County’s housing stock.

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Electoral Area | Survey Stage | In Progress | Ready | TOTAL |
| Lucan | 3 | 2 | 1 | 6 |
| Clondalkin | 2 | 3 | 1 | 6 |
| Palmerstown-Fonthill | 4 | 7 | 10 | 21 |
| Tallaght South (N) | 2 | 12 | 7 | 21 |
| Tallaght South (S) | 1 | 9 | 3 | 13 |
| Tallaght Central | 2 | 2 | 2 | 6 |
| Firhouse-Bohernabreena | 0 | 2 | 1 | 3 |
| **Rathfarnham-Templeogue** | **0** | **0** | **0** | **0** |
| **TOTAL** | **14** | **37** | **25** | **76** |

There are currently no vacant properties within the Rathfarnham-Templeogue Electoral area. The vacancy turnaround time countywide at 31st of January 2024 was 27.7 weeks.  The Council continues to strive to reduce this turnaround time to a maximum of 16-20 weeks.

### **RTFB/89/H13/0224 Item ID:81915 – New Works**

New Works (No Business)

### **RTFB/90/C9/0224 Item ID:81902 – Correspondence**

Correspondence (No Business)

## **Planning**

### **RTFB/91/H14/0224 Item ID:81918 – New Works**

New Works (No Business)

### **RTFB/92/C10/0224 Item ID:81905 – Correspondence**

Correspondence (No Business)

## **Transportation**

### **RTFB/93/Q10/0224 Item ID:82101 – Traffic Survey**

Proposed by Councillor L. Guéret

To ask the Manager if future consideration might be given to carrying out a survey on traffic behaviour at the new road layout at the Templeville Road/ Glendown Road junction?

**REPLY:**

The works at the Templeville Road/Glendown Road junction are now complete (subject to minor snagging) and a Road Safety Audit has been arranged. Issues identified by the independent road safety auditor will be acted upon on receipt of their report.

### **RTFB/94/Q11/0224 Item ID:81833 – Ellensborough Roundabout**

Proposed by Councillor B. Lawlor

To ask the Council to carry out maintenance works at the roundabout at the main entrance to Ellensborough?

**REPLY:**

Road Maintenance inspected the area and did not identify any area requiring works. If additional detail can be provided, we will be happy to re-inspect.

### **RTFB/95/Q12/0224 Item ID:81866 – Footpath Repair**

Proposed by Councillor M. Lynch

Can the Manager confirm when the footpath between Orchardton and Willbrook Drive will be repaired as agreed at the October 2023 meeting in motion 11, Item ID 80151 as the works were not completed either during the Halloween or Christmas school holidays?

**REPLY:**

It was decided to increase the scope of works done and repair additional footpaths in this area. The scheme has been listed for inclusion in this year’s roadworks programme

### **RTFB/96/Q13/0224 Item ID:82128 – Traffic Light Sequence**

Proposed by Councillor D. McManus

To ask the Chief Executive to review the recent change in the traffic light sequence for right-turning vehicles from Ballyboden Road onto Whitechurch Road - as the time given for right-turning traffic has reduced considerably causing unnecessary delays in the morning, and if a statement is available?

**REPLY:**

The Traffic Section will look at the timings for the right turning movements in the morning at Ballyboden Road onto Whitechurch Road.

An engineer will assess the traffic light timings at the junction and make any appropriate adjustments necessary.

### **RTFB/97/Q14/0224 Item ID:81863 – Public Lighting**

Proposed by Councillor J. Sinnott

To ask the Manager to provide an update on steps being taken by the Council to address the delays in the replacement of public lighting in the Rathfarnham / Templeogue / Firhouse / Bohernabreena Area.

**REPLY:**

These repairs are all the older type orange low pressure sodium (SOX) fittings. The replacement lamps for these fittings are no longer available

If the lamps were available, the turnaround time between reporting of the outage to our maintenance contractor and the repair of the fitting is contractually 14 working days or less. As stated above, there are no lamps available on the open market.

Under the current conditions referred to above, we are carrying out maintenance works

By using old lamps harvested from estates in the county that are being upgraded to LED. For regulatory reasons, these estates must be programmed for upgrade in liaison with ESB Networks.  Due to resource issues within ESB Networks, the rollout of this upgrade programme has been seriously impeded. This has resulted in very few harvested lamps being made available for reuse in order to repair outages.

And by replacing the old fitting with a new LED fitting in order to repair the outage. Due to the serious back log of outages and the shortage of harvested lamps, this is the only realistic option currently available to us. We are trying to work through the list of outages by prioritising the repair of the oldest reported outages first. We are also prioritising streets with more than one outage reported. We are currently upgrading approximately eight of these old light fittings per day, which is the limit of our current resources. We are discussing the possibility of increasing these resources with our maintenance contractor.

Note that if we had replacement lamps available, we would be repairing 20 of these older lights per day.

### **RTFB/98/H15/0224 Item ID:81920 – New Works**

New Works (No Business)

### **RTFB/99/H16/0224 Item ID:82220 – Declaration of Roads To Be Made Public**

Declaration of roads to be made public (No Business)

### **RTFB/100/C11/0224 Item ID:81907 – Correspondence**

Correspondence (No Business)

### **RTFB/101/M14/0224 Item ID:82124 – Rossmore Road Safe Routes to School Trial Review**

Proposed by Councillor P. Kearns, seconded by Councillor Y. Collins

**Cathaoirleach's Business**

'That this committee calls on the Manager to conduct a review of the Rossmore Road Safe Routes to School trial and that a comprehensive traffic management scheme be designed with a full consultation of all the stakeholders in the local community. In addition that the unsafe aspects of the scheme as listed below are removed with immediate effect due to the urgent safety concerns of residents. 1: The unnecessary and excessive junction tightening at the corner of Rossmore Drive, Rossmore Grove and Rossmore Crescent while retaining the junction tightening at the corner of the Watercourse where it is needed as part of a safe School zone. 2: The removal of the overly intrusive and potentially dangerous Bus ramps which were not included in the original plan for the area. 3: The installation of a sign at the parking bays at the top of Rossmore Road advising 30 mins maximum parking to stop the current park and ride situation.'

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

The Rossmore Road Trial is now substantially complete, and we have been monitoring the scheme. No significant safety issues have been observed to date. An independent safety audit of the scheme will be carried out once the scheme is complete.

The red surfacing on the newly installed cycle track is expected to be installed at junctions at the end of March / beginning of April 2024. This work can only be carried out at this time of the year because it needs dry warm weather for the installation to last. Once the red surfacing at junctions and around the school is in place the monitoring and evaluation of the scheme will commence in April. A number of parameters will be observed and measured, and these will be compared with base figures (before measurements). The parameters to be evaluated will include vehicle speeds on Rossmore Road, number of cyclists and pedestrians, roadside interviews of users, parking surveys etc. This evaluation and assessments of these parameters will determine whether the scheme is successful or not.

The two-way cycle track has been constructed to encourage more cycling in this general area and also to provide a safe facility for children cycling to and from school. The ‘junction tightening’ at Rossmore Drive, Rossmore Grove and Rossmore Crescent has been undertaken to reduce the turning speed of vehicles as they cross over the new cycle facility. The tightening of the junctions will also improve the safety of pedestrians using these junctions as the crossing distance is shorter and the vehicles making the turn are doing so at much reduced speeds.  The reduced junction radii are in line with current design guidance such as the Design Manual for Urban Roads and Streets and the Cycle Design Manual. The point to retain the new traffic calming at The Watercourse is noted.

Regarding corner radii at junctions, it is worth noting the requirements in DMURS Section 4.3.3 which states as follows: "Reducing corner radii will significantly improve pedestrian and cyclists safety at junctions by lowering the speed at which vehicles can turn corners and by increasing inter-visibility between users (see Figure 4.42) Reduced corner radii also assist in the creation of more compact junctions that also align crossing points with desire lines and reduce crossing distances." The junctions were designed as per the current guidelines, DMURS (Design Manual for Urban Roads and Streets). The key to negotiating these junctions correctly and safely is to do it at a slow speed. The junctions were tightened in order to slow down traffic as there is a lot of school children and cyclists using these junctions. These junctions are close to two busy schools and other amenities in the area.

Two new modular bus stops have been constructed along the route of the new cycle track as part of the trial works. The bus stop has been designed to give pedestrians priority over cyclists allowing them to cross over the cycle track without having to step onto the road. Signage and road markings are provided to alert cyclists to the presence of pedestrians. This type of bus stop has been installed elsewhere in Dublin such as the Phoenix Park and Carysfort Avenue and to date, no safety issues have been identified at these locations.

We acknowledge the size of the first bus stop (nearer to schools) and this bus stop is being monitored with the view of reducing it to the size of the second bus stop which is smaller. These modular bus stop cannot be removed completely as this could compromise the safety of both pedestrians and cyclists.

Supplementary Plate P 057 Time Limit (Clause 5.17.17 Chapter 5 of the Traffic Signs Manual) can be erected to prevent the new parking bays being used for long term parking. It is important to note that enforcement of these parking restrictions will require a revision of the Parking Bye-Laws. Even with the bye laws in place it will still be a challenge for the council to maintain presence of personnel to enforce the bye law.

We note that the trial has been monitored since construction commenced in Q4 2023 and, based on feedback, significant changes have already been made to improve the functionality and safety of the scheme. This has included addressing feedback already received from Councillors, local residents and other road users such as Dublin Bus. When the works are complete and the facilities open to the public, South Dublin County Council and the Design Team will continue to assess and monitor the usage of the new cycle facilities and road layout, reviewing all feedback received from the public over the forthcoming months.

Following Contributions from Councillors P Kearns, L McCrave, Y Collins, L Guéret, and M Lynch, Michael McAdam A/Senior Engineer and Mbakure Johnson Executive Engineer Responded to queries raised and the Report was **Noted** with Councillor P Kearns reiterating her views on DMURS and its inappropriateness to this location and an apparent lack of consultation on this element of the project. Michael McAdam noted the multiple stages and extensive public consultation on the Wellington Lane scheme, of which this is a part.

### **RTFB/102/M15/0224 Item ID:81848 – Hedge Pruning on Calmount Road**

Proposed by Councillor J. Sinnott

To ask the Manager to arrange for the cutting back of overgrown branches and hedges on Calmount Road in Ballymount, Dublin 12.

In the absence of Councillor J Sinnott, this Motion **falls**.

### **RTFB/103/M16/0224 Item ID:81853 – Pedestrian Crossing Request**

Proposed by Councillor L. Hagin Meade, seconded by Councillor P. Kearns

To ask that a signalled pedestrian crossing be considered to facilitate safe road crossing for elderly and infirm residents accessing the bus stop 2547 on the Firhouse Road/Knocklyon Avenue, which serves residents of the Delaford and Knocklyon estates.

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

The traffic section will investigate the feasibility of installing a traffic controlled pedestrian crossing at the junction of the Firhouse Road and Knocklyon Avenue.

The Firhouse road is a very wide, busy and fast stretch of roadway.  The safety of installing a pedestrian crossing at this location will have to be carefully considered.  If this location is considered safe and their significant existing footfall measured and the potential for growth of future footfall, a design for the pedestrian crossing can be progressed.

**Pedestrian Crossing Delivery 2024:**

The traffic section will prioritise a list of all requested pedestrian crossing locations in Rathfarnham EA in terms of need.  We will come to the members of this committee at a workshop to finalise a pedestrian crossing delivery list for 2024 and reserve list should additional funding materialise later in the year.

If this location features high on the agreed delivery list and there is sufficient budget available, the installation of a traffic controlled pedestrian crossing can progress.

This Motion was **Unanimously Agreed and Moved without Debate**.

### **RTFB/104/M17/0224 Item ID:82079 – QR Code Posts on Dodder Greenway**

Proposed by Councillor Y. Collins, seconded by Councillor P. Kearns

That this Council reinstates and/or replaces the 10 posts with QR codes which were installed by the Council in conjunction with Knocklyon Network on the Dodder Greenway, but which were subsequently removed by the Council

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

A comprehensive signage strategy and wayfinding solution has been worked on by our colleagues in the Public Realm section.

The Project Manager for the Dodder Greenway has been closely liaising with them to ensure that the wayfinding for the Dodder Greenway is fully considered in that process and also that the QR codes are incorporated into that strategy. The first element of that was the erection of the corten steel frames at locations in the Dodder Valley Park, which will subsequently have information and wayfinding signage attached to by a Public Realm contractor (yet to be procured).

Unfortunately, due to procurement and other issues that have arisen, that last element has been significantly delayed.

We can arrange to meet a Knocklyon Network representative on site to discuss possible re-instatement of the timber posts whilst awaiting permanent signage installation. Following closing out of any actions from this meeting, this will conclude the Roads department involvement in the project.

I anticipate that if requested these posts will be installed by March/April 2024.

Following Contributions from Councillors Y Collins, L Hagin Meade, A Edge, L Guéret, L McCrave, M Lynch and P Kearns, Ronan Carroll Executive Engineer Responded to queries raised and the Motion was **Agreed**.

### **RTFB/105/M18/0224 Item ID:82111 – Grit Boxes**

Proposed by Councillor D. McManus, seconded by Councillor L. McCrave

That this area committee asks the Chief Executive to review recent changes to the locations of grit boxes, to engage with elected members and residents’ groups to find best possible locations?

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

SDCC are still in the early phases of implementing this new strategy. In the coming days we hope to have our salt bin locator map on the website and this is a major part of the strategy as this is how we will inform members of the public.

While we are willing to engage with elected members on this we intend to give sufficient time for the strategy to be fully implemented so that the current weaknesses can be properly identified.

Following Contributions from Councillors D McManus, Y Collins, E Murphy, L Guéret and L McCrave, Gary Walsh Senior Engineer Responded to queries raised and the Report was **Noted**.

### **RTFB/106/M19/0224 Item ID:82081 – Rathfarnham Public Lighting**

Proposed by Councillor Y. Collins, seconded by Councillor P. Kearns

That this Council reviews the public lighting in Rathfarnham Village and repairs and/or replaces same as appropriate, in particular, the light fitting attached to Pole Number 22 which came down during recent storms as per the attached photographs, and also the nearby light fitting at the end of the village which is no longer operative, again as per attached photo as the village is poorly lit as a result

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

Poles 22 and 23, as shown in the photos attached, were damaged in recent storm activity. Both poles have double brackets and are designed to carry two fittings per pole. They are currently only carrying one fitting per pole, but there is still some light output at these PL points.

The public lighting scheme is a heritage-style installation and as such, we don't carry replacement parts for them on an as-needed basis. They must be ordered in. The required parts have already been ordered. However due to the bespoke nature of the fittings, we cannot expect delivery for at least another eight weeks.

The wall mounted fitting shown at the gift shop in the third photograph attached has never been operational. It was installed in error as part of the overall scheme in the late 1990's/early 2000s. The facade it is mounted on is in private hands and as such cannot be either supplied or maintained by SDCC. We have requested our contractor to arrange for its removal. The location is already lit to the correct standard by the PL column located opposite the gift shop.

[M19 (ii) Rathfarnham village light fitting](http://www.sdublincoco.ie/sdcc/departments/corporate/apps/cmas/documentsview.aspx?id=81362)
[M19 (iii) Rathfarnham village light fitting 2](http://www.sdublincoco.ie/sdcc/departments/corporate/apps/cmas/documentsview.aspx?id=81363)
[M19 (iv) Rathfarnham village light fitting 3](http://www.sdublincoco.ie/sdcc/departments/corporate/apps/cmas/documentsview.aspx?id=81364)

Following Contributions from Councillors Y Collins and L McCrave, Gary Walsh Senior Engineer Responded to queries raised and Motion was **Agreed**.

The meeting concluded at 17:41

Siniú \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Dáta \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

An Cathaoirleach