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

Minutes of South Dublin County Council March 2024 County Council Meeting held on Monday 11 March 2024

### **PRESENT**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Carey, W. | McCrave, L. |
| Casserly, V. | McMahon, R. |
| Collins, Y. | McManus, D. |
| Costello, T. | Moynihan, S. |
| Donaghy. L | Mulhall, V. |
| Duff, M. | Murphy, E. |
| Dunne, L. | Ó Brádaigh, D. |
| Edge, A. | O’Brien, E. |
| Egan, K. | Ó Broin, E. |
| Gilligan, T. | O’Connell, G. |
| Gogarty, P. | O’Connor, C. |
| Guéret, L. | O’Hara, S. |
| Hagin Meade, L. | O’Toole, L. |
| Hayes, A. | Pereppadan, B. |
| Holohan, P. | Richardson, D. |
| Johansson, M. | Sinnott, J. |
| Kearns, P. | Timmons, F. |
| King, C. | Tuffy, J. |
| Lawlor, B. | Whelan, L. |
| 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 Planner | | H. Craigie |
| Administrative Officer | M. Reilly |
| A/Senior Staff Officer | K. McLoughlin |
| Communications Manager | D. Healy |
| Assistant Staff Officer | D. Murphy, L. Farrell |
| Sord | A. O’Brien |

The Mayor, Councillor A. Edge, presided

Apologies were received from Councillor K. Mahon.

**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.

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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.

**H1/0324 CONFIRMATION AND REAFFIRMATION OF MINUTES - FOR APPROVAL**

Minutes of the February Council Meeting held on 12th February 2024 which had been circulated were submitted and **APPROVED** as a true record and signed in the proposition of Councillor A. Edge and seconded by Councillor F. Timmons

[H1 (a) February Council Minutes - 12th February 2024](http://www.sdublincoco.ie/Meetings/ViewDocument/82404)

**H2/0324 REPORTS OF AREA COMMITTEES - FOR NOTING**

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

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

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

**b) Clondalkin Area Committee**

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

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

**c) Tallaght Area Committee**

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

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

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

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

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

**H3/0324 STANDING COMMITTEES ORGANISATION, PROCEDURE & FINANCE - FOR APPROVAL**

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

**H4/0324 STRATEGIC POLICY COMMITTEES - FOR NOTING**

The following reports by the Chief Executive, which had been circulated, were presented by the SPC Chairs, and were **CONSIDERED**

**a) Arts, Culture, Gaeilge, Heritage & Libraries SPC**

Councillor G. O’Connell reported on the Arts, Culture, Gaeilge, Heritage & Libraries SPC

[H4(a) (i) Report of ACGHL SPC Meeting held on 7th February2024](http://www.sdublincoco.ie/sdcc/departments/corporate/apps/cmas/documentsview.aspx?id=81997)  
[H4(a) (ii) Minutes of ACGHL SPC Meeting held on 1st November 2023](http://www.sdublincoco.ie/sdcc/departments/corporate/apps/cmas/documentsview.aspx?id=81995)

**b) Environment, Water, Climate Change & Biodiversity SPC**

Councillor D. McManus reported on the Environment, Water, Climate Change & Biodiversity SPC

[H4(b) (i) Report of the EWCC SPC held on the 6th February 2024](http://www.sdublincoco.ie/sdcc/departments/corporate/apps/cmas/documentsview.aspx?id=81993)  
[H4(b) (ii) Minutes of the EWCC SPC December 2023](http://www.sdublincoco.ie/sdcc/departments/corporate/apps/cmas/documentsview.aspx?id=81994)

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

Councillor C. King reported on the Economic, Enterprise and Tourism SPC.

[H4(c) (i) Report of EETD SPC held on 14th February, 2024](http://www.sdublincoco.ie/sdcc/departments/corporate/apps/cmas/documentsview.aspx?id=81949)  
[H4(c) (ii) Minutes of the EETD SPC held on 8th November 2022](http://www.sdublincoco.ie/sdcc/departments/corporate/apps/cmas/documentsview.aspx?id=81950)

**d) Housing SPC**

Councillor C. O’Connor reported on the Housing SPC

[H4(d) (i) Report of the Housing SPC held on 8th February 2024](http://www.sdublincoco.ie/sdcc/departments/corporate/apps/cmas/documentsview.aspx?id=82006)  
[H4(d) (ii) Minutes of the November 2023 Housing SPC](http://www.sdublincoco.ie/sdcc/departments/corporate/apps/cmas/documentsview.aspx?id=81984)

A discussion followed with a contribution from Councillor W. Carey in relation to the Tenant Purchase Scheme and Mixed Tenant Development.

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

Councillor T. Gilligan reported on the Social, Community & Equality SPC

[H4(e) (i) Report of the SCE SPC held on 20th February 2024](http://www.sdublincoco.ie/sdcc/departments/corporate/apps/cmas/documentsview.aspx?id=82008)  
[H4(e) (ii) Minutes of the November 2023 SCE SPC](http://www.sdublincoco.ie/sdcc/departments/corporate/apps/cmas/documentsview.aspx?id=81985)

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

Councillor L. Hagin Meade reported on the Land Use, Planning & Transportation SPC

[H4(f) (ii) LUPT SPC - Nov 2023 Mins](http://www.sdublincoco.ie/sdcc/departments/corporate/apps/cmas/documentsview.aspx?id=81956)

The reports were **NOTED.**

**H5/0324 REPORTS REQUESTED BY AREA COMMITTEES - FOR NOTING**

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

**H6/0324 JPC REPORT – FOR NOTING**

The following report by the Chief Executive, which had been circulated, were presented by JPC Chair, Councillor S. Moynihan, and was **CONSIDERED**.

[JPC Feb Report](http://www.sdublincoco.ie/sdcc/departments/corporate/apps/cmas/documentsview.aspx?id=82045)

The report was **NOTED**.

**QUESTIONS**

It was proposed by Councillor A. Edge, seconded by Councillor M. Duff and **RESOLVED**:

“That pursuant to Standing Order No. 22, Questions numbered Q1 – Q37 be **ADOPTED** and **APPROVED.”**

### **Q1/0324 Councillor W. Carey** To ask the Chief Executive to list council estates under the local authority of SDCC to list by proportion or number the percentage of houses remaining in council ownership and those in private ownership

**REPLY:**

The Council does not have records relating to the percentage of homes in private ownership in local authority estates. Detailed below is the breakdown of our current housing stock by electoral area:

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Local Electoral Area | % of LA Housing Stock |
| Clondalkin | 14.48 |
| Firhouse-Bohernabreena | 7.20 |
| Lucan | 4.94 |
| Palmerstown-Fonthill | 21.35 |
| Rathfarnham-Templeogue | 2.10 |
| Tallaght Central | 7.61 |
| Tallaght South | 42.32 |
| Total | 100.00% |

Since the introduction of the 2016 Incremental Tenant Purchase Scheme, the Council has sold the following number of local authority properties each year:

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Year | No. of Properties |
| 2017 | 4 |
| 2018 | 1 |
| 2019 | 3 |
| 2020 | 2 |
| 2021 | 4 |
| 2022 | 6 |
| 2023 | 10 |
| Total | 30 |

### **Q2/0324 Councillor W. Carey**

To ask the Chief Executive what proportion of construction projects undertaken over the past 10 years have been of mixed Tenure

**REPLY:**

The following housing construction developments are mixed tenure developments:

Kilcarbery Grange, Dublin 22

Clonburris Phase 1 (Canal Extension), Dublin 22

In addition, the Council have supported mixed tenure homes in the wider community through Part V, Turnkey, Acquisitions, Affordable Purchase and CALF applications from Approved Housing Bodies.

### **Q3/0324 Councillor W. Carey**

To ask the Chief Executive what proportion of future house construction projects are likely to be of mixed tenure?

**REPLY:**

Mixed tenure/mixed income developments are a key characteristic of sustainable communities and recognised in Irish Housing Policy. Sustainable Communities should include the widest possible mix of tenure types and house/apartment sizes. Mixed tenure developments can include a combination of social, affordable purchase/ affordable sale and cost rental homes to reflect the income mix in our communities and will be a key strand of our housing delivery programme going forward. The following is a list of mixed tenure housing developments currently under construction/planned:

1. Clonburris Phases 1, 2, 3, 4 and 5- Dublin 22
2. Killinarden Foothills- Dublin 24
3. Kilcarbery (Old School Site)- Dublin 22
4. Oldcastle Park- Dublin 22
5. Castlefield- Dublin 16
6. Rathcoole- Co. Dublin

In addition, the Council supports wider mixed tenure developments through Part V, Turnkey, Acquisitions, Affordable Purchase and support for CALF applications from Approved Housing Bodies.

### **Q4/0324 Councillor W. Carey**

To ask the Chief Executive, if he envisages SDCC building exclusively local authority housing estates in the future for council tenancy?

**REPLY:**

The following housing developments, either planned or under construction are local authority social housing specific developments:

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Development | Number of Units | Status |
| Old Nangor Road, Dublin 22 | 93 | On-site / 33 units delivered |
| Lindisfarne, Dublin 22 | 19 | On-site |
| Balgaddy, Dublin 22 | 69 | On-site / 20 Units delivered |
| Homeville, Dublin 16 | 16 | On-site |
| St. Ronan's Crescent, Dublin 22 - Age Friendly | 9 | Tender Evaluation |
| St. Aongus' Green, Dublin 24 - Age Friendly | 12 | Tender Evaluation |
| Pearse Brothers Park, Dublin 16 - Age Friendly | 10 | Tender Evaluation |
| Rossfield, Dublin 24 | 16 | Design Stage |
| Deansrath/Melrose, Dublin 22 - Age Friendly | 24 | Design Stage |
| Alpine Heights, Dublin 22 - Age Friendly | 13 | Design Stage |
| Sarsfield Park, Co. Dublin - Age Friendly | 5 | Design Stage |
| Stocking Lane, Dublin 16 | 32 | Design Stage |
| Fonthill, Co. Dublin- Traveller Specific | 7 | On-site |
| Owendoher Haven, Dublin 16- Traveller Specific | 9 | Design Stage |
| Kishogue Park, Co. Dublin- Traveller Specific | 15 | Design Stage |

### **Q5/0324 Councillor T. Costello**

To ask the Chief Executive how many nursing homes is there within the county

**REPLY:**

The number of nursing homes is not a dataset which the Council maintains. It is noted however that the HSE provide information in regard to Private and Public/Voluntary Nursing Homes. Please refer to

<https://assets.hse.ie/media/documents/HSE_Section_40_List_192_Published.pdf> for details relating to private and voluntary nursing homes and <https://assets.hse.ie/media/documents/Cost_of_Care_Public_Nursing_Homes2023.pdf>

for details relating to Public Nursing Homes. It would appear from both of these documents that there are 10 private /voluntary nursing homes and 2 Public Nursing Homes within the County.

### **Q6/0324 Councillor L. Guéret** To ask the Chief Executive if consideration has been given to displaying more information in South Dublin County Council owned buildings regarding sustainability and practical measures all users and workers could implement to reduce waste in our buildings in the County.

**REPLY:**

Both the new National Waste Plan for a Circular Economy and the SDCC Climate Action Plan have actions that aim to prevent the generation of waste not only across all SDCC departments and properties, but also in wider society.

Previously, projects delivered included working with our caterers to eliminate single use coffee cups from the staff canteen in County Hall and we continue to work with them to identify opportunities to further reduce plastics.

A number of actions in the Circular Economy and Resource Management and Citizen Engagement Action Areas of the new Climate Action Plan aim to highlight practical measures to reduce waste. As projects are identified and delivered an awareness/communications campaign highlights the benefits of the programme.

SDCC held an Energy Awareness information day on Wednesday 28th February in the foyer in County Hall, which included energy information displays from the OPW and the Energy Saving Kits we have in our libraries, to help homeowners better understand and improve energy usage, as well as the opportunity to engage with energy practitioners with queries.

SDCC will bring the SEAI ISO 50001 (Energy Management System) Implementation Accelerator in March 2024. With the formation of an Energy Team, as required under ISO 50001, Energy Awareness communications and campaigns will improve across SDCC owned buildings, as we move towards certification.

Furthermore stakeholders can use our dedicated climate action website, [**www.southdublinclimate.ie**](http://www.southdublinclimate.ie), to keep up to date on our climate actions and latest news. Citizen engagement via the website is complemented by a quarterly citizens climate newsletter, which details current Council climate action on a specific, rotating thematic area. The Climate Team works with the Communications Unit to promote our website news articles and newsletters via our social channels.

### **Q7/0324 Councillor L. Guéret**

To ask the Chief Executive what training opportunities are provided by LEO South Dublin for small and medium businesses in 2024.

**REPLY:**

Dear Councillor Guéret,

The Local Enterprise Office South Dublin is committed to offering a diverse range of training opportunities tailored to meet the specific needs of small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) throughout the South Dublin region in 2024. Our comprehensive programme encompasses various critical aspects of business development and management.

To access our current lineup of training events, you can visit our dedicated Online Bookings platform at [Online Bookings - SouthDublin (localenterprise.ie)](https://www.localenterprise.ie/SouthDublin/Training-Events/Online-Bookings/) which covers essential topics such as strategic research, trading online, business identity building, social media strategies, export practices, artificial intelligence (AI), financial management, SEO optimization, and risk management.

In 2023, we successfully delivered more than 110 training courses including our flagship Start Your Own Business course, reaching out to over 1600 participants. Recognising the ever-changing business requirements, we conducted a thorough tender process in 2023 to onboard new trainers. This ensures that we will continue to provide businesses with the most up-to-date and relevant training resources available.

In addition to our standard training programmes, we currently undertake a Leadership Management Skills Development course where businesses that successfully complete the programme are awarded and Advanced Certificate in SME Management.

Moreover, our networking events provide valuable opportunities for businesses to connect, collaborate, and forge meaningful relationships within the local business community.

Regards

Peter Connolly

Senior Enterprise Development Officer

### **Q8/0324 Councillor L. Guéret**

To ask the Chief Executive the procedure regarding the payment of rates to South Dublin County Council for this year.

**REPLY:**

Following the enactment of the Local Government Rates and Other Matters Act 2019, commercial rates are due and owing on the 1st January 2024. Commercial Rates customers have been requested to arrange prompt payment of any amounts due, including arrears, on receipt of their annual rates bill.

The Council also have a direct debit facility available, to allow rates customers to spread payment of the amounts due across the year. Direct debit mandate forms are available to download at sdcc.ie, alternatively the customer can contact the rates department at [ratesdept@sdublincoco.ie](mailto:ratesdept@sdublincoco.ie%20) or by phone at (01) 4149099.

Any customer anticipating difficulty with paying their outstanding rates, should contact the Council to discuss a payment plan. The debt management unit can be contacted at [dcu@sdublincoco.ie](mailto:dcu@sdublincoco.ie%20) or by phone at (01) 4149336 to agree same.

### **Q9/0324 Councillor L. Guéret**

To ask the Chief Executive if there is currently a Scheme available for Window Replacement operated by South Dublin County Council.

**REPLY:**

The Council has a planned maintenance programme which includes window and door replacements. The properties deemed eligible for the programme are informed by the outcome of property condition surveys. This programme complements progress under the Council’s Energy Efficiency Retrofit Programme which also provides for the replacement of windows and doors in Social Housing Stock.

The following is the current position of works under the Windows and Doors and the ERP Programmes by electoral area:

Window & Doors

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Local Electoral Area | Tender Stage | Contractor Stage | Complete | Total |
| Tallaght South | 157 | 49 | 103 | 309 |
| Tallaght Central | 33 | 2 | 31 | 66 |
| Firhouse /Bohernabreena | 6 | 0 | 8 | 14 |
| Rathfarnham Templeogue | 35 | 2 | 7 | 44 |
| Clondalkin | 17 | 0 | 38 | 55 |
| Palmerstown Fonthill | 12 | 2 | 56 | 70 |
| Lucan | 6 | 0 | 5 | 11 |
| Total | 266 | 55 | 248 | 569 |

ERRP

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Local Electoral Area | Tender Stage | Contractor Stage | Complete | Total |
| Tallaght South | 10 | 0 | 89 | 99 |
| Tallaght Central | 55 | 5 | 18 | 78 |
| Firhouse/ Bohernabreena | 0 | 0 | 54 | 54 |
| Rathfarnham Templeogue | 8 | 4 | 8 | 20 |
| Clondalkin | 4 | 52 | 23 | 79 |
| Palmerstown Fonthill | 59 | 0 | 44 | 103 |
| Lucan | 0 | 4 | 12 | 16 |
| Total | 136 | 65 | 248 | 449 |

### **Q10/0324 Councillor L. Guéret**

To ask the Chief Executive for an update on development and plans for the City Edge Project.

**REPLY:**

Following preparation of the long term strategic vision for City Edge, th Council continues to work closely with DCC to progress a statutory plan for the City Edge area. As part of this the team are currently progressing work on a Variation to the County Development Plan (2022 - 2028). The planning team last briefed the SPC on this work in February 2024. The intention is to commence the first round of a statutory public consultation on this plan in September 2024 and to brief full Council in advance of commencing this consultation. The final plan would then come to Council for decision in early 2025.

### **Q11/0324** **Councillor P. Holohan**

How many kilowatts does it take to charge council EV vans, trucks ,machinery etc, could a list per vehicle be provided.

**REPLY:**

South Dublin County Council currently has 5 EV vans in operation since 2018, with an additional 3 EV vehicles being delivered in the coming 2-3 weeks. The electricity required to charge the vehicles depends on the range of the vehicle and the local environmental conditions. The current vehicles in operation are

* 5no. 2018 Citroen Berlingo Electric LX SWB. Due to the battery technology available at that time, the range of the vehicle is approximately 130km. The van requires 50kwh of electricity to fully charge.
* 3no. 214 Peugeot eExpert Long Prof 75kwh, with a range of approximately 300km, requiring 75kwh of electricity to fully charge.

Additional EV vehicles will be purchased as part of the Fleet Renewal and Decarbonisation plans. At the time of purchase, the appropriate fuel type will be determined based on vehicle type, size and daily usage. At this point in time, it is not possible to provide the likely charging requirement for future vehicles.

### **Q12/0324** **Councillor P. Holohan**

What percent of energy used to charge EV vehicles is from renewable sources.

**REPLY:**

The council fleet is currently charged off electricity from the nation grid. Based on recent reports from EirGrid, 42% electricity generated in Ireland in 2023 came from renewable sources.  This figure will increase over time with the expanded availability of renewable source power generation.  Ireland has set a target of up to 80% renewable electricity by 2030.

### **Q13/0324 Councillor M. Johansson**

To ask the Chief Executive what the funding allocation is for 2024 for tenant-in-situ, and if there is any funding outstanding from 2023?

**REPLY:**

South Dublin County Council's target under the tenant-in-situ scheme is to buy 150 properties in cases where tenants generally in receipt of HAP/RAS payments and are facing eviction when the landlord is selling the property. There is no specific funding amount allocated instead we are provided with acquisition cost guidelines by the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage. These guidelines apply to houses and apartments in the South Dublin Administrative area and are reflective of current market values.

Applications for recoupment funding are then submitted to the DHLGH upon completion of individual property sales.

### **Q14/0324 Councillor M. Johansson**

To ask the Chief Executive for a report on all homes that have been reported as vacant in the county and what actions are being taken to restore them to use.

**REPLY:**

There are currently fifty-nine homes listed the Council’s Vacant Homes Register.

A number of initiatives are in place with the aim of encouraging and enabling privately owned vacant homes to be brought back into use whether to the social housing or private rented market, these include:

* Repair and Leasing Scheme
* Buy and Renew Scheme
* SEAI energy efficiency grants
* Long- Term Leasing
* RAS
* HAP
* Croí Cónaithe Vacant Homes Refurbishment Grant

To date, 68 vacant homes grant applications have been assessed and inputted onto the Vacant Homes App, the status of applications is set out below:

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Approved | 36 |
| Approved in Principle | 4 |
| Declined | 5 |
| In progress | 23 |

The Council's primary objective is to encourage property owners to engage with us and find solutions for the vacant home units without having to resort to an acquisition process. The Council also has a range of legislative powers available to deal with under-utilised and derelict properties including through Compulsory Purchase and Derelict Sites legislation where necessary.

The Council has a dedicated Vacant Homes Officer who acts as central advisory point for property owners in terms of providing advice, assistance and information on the schemes which are available to bring vacant properties back to use. They investigate reports of vacant homes, establish ownership and ascertain whether the property is in fact vacant. Properties can be reported via [**http://vacanthome.ie**](http://scanmail.trustwave.com/?c=6600&amp;d=jJOE2wL3y_Q1YXrxCkROYD7gW2g0XOuP_9rvhS5U8Q&amp;s=344&amp;u=http%3a%2f%2fvacanthome%2eie%2f) or directly to the Council by emailing [vhu@sdublincoco.ie](mailto:vhu@sdublincoco.ie). Vacancy data locally can be monitored and assessed through utilisation of CSO/GeoDirectory data. The CPO Activation Programme provides for a planned, systematic, and proactive approach by local authorities to bringing vacant and derelict properties into use. Seven properties have been identified and targeted for acquisition/refurbishment under the Urban Regeneration Development Fund (URDF) Round 3 funding to activate long term vacant and derelict buildings.  These properties have been submitted to the Department of Housing Local Government and Heritage for approval.

258 properties were identified in a county-wide survey of 632 potential vacant properties which took place during 2023 in conjunction with the Department of Housing Local Government and Heritage. Further investigation is necessary to determine whether additional properties can be added to the Vacant Homes Register as a result of these investigations.

### **Q15/0324 Councillor M. Johansson**

To ask the Chief Executive how many staff members are currently assigned to work on tenant-in-situ?

**REPLY:**

Tenant-in-Situ applications are managed and assessed by the Housing Procurement team, which consists of 8 staff members. In addition there is further support provided by our Law Department, Dublin City Valuers Office and technical advice from the Clerk of Works in our Housing Maintenance and Refurbishment team.

### **Q16/0324 Councillor M. Lynch**

To ask the manager for a progress report on actions taken to date on implementing the motion to ban single use plastic bottles and single use beverage cups as agreed at the January Council meeting.

**REPLY:**

Since the agreement of the Motion at the January meeting in relation to the banning of purchase, sale and distribution of single use plastic beverage bottles and single use cups from June 1st 2024, the Council has contacted our caterers in County Hall to commence implementing the motion.

Single use beverage cups have been eliminated from the staff canteen for some years. Beverage cups used in the Coffee Dock, which are mainly used by visitors to the Council offices, are compostable with a recyclable option used only as necessary.

A meeting will shortly take place to further explore single use plastic bottle alternatives and we continue to work with our caterers to identify opportunities to further reduce plastics.

While we cannot ban plastic bottles, the Irish Deposit Return Scheme which was launched on February 1st will improve recycling rates. The Minister of State with responsibility for Communications and Circular Economy, Ossian Smyth, has appointed the Deposit Return Scheme Ireland CLG, trading as Re-turn to operate the scheme. Now when you buy a drink in a plastic bottle, aluminium or steel can that features the Re-turn logo, you pay a small deposit in addition to the price of the drink. On returning your empty, undamaged container to any retail outlet, you get your deposit back in full. There are return points all across Ireland. <https://re-turn.ie/>

South Dublin County Council has installed 23 public drinking water stations to date in various locations around the county as listed below, one additional unit is currently being installed and a further 14 more units are proposed to be installed under various projects in the near future.  To date the Council's public drinking water stations have distributed a total of 168,103 litres of water and have effectively kept 336,206 single-use plastic bottles from being disposed of and going on to be recycled, recovered or landfilled.

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Area: | Location: | Details: |
| Lucan Village | Main Street | in place |
| Lucan Village | Main Street | proposed |
| Lucan Village | Dublin Road adjacent to McDonalds | proposed |
| Lucan Village | Main Street | proposed |
| Rathcoole Village | Main Street | in place |
| Tymon Pk 1 Nth | Limekiln Road Car Park | in place |
| Tymon Pk 2 (Rangers Station) | Adjacent to Tymon Depot | in place |
| Kiltipper Park | Adjacent to Ellensborough Downs | proposed |
| Clondalkin Village | Adjacent to Clondalkin Civic Offices | in place |
| Rathfarnham Castle | Within Rathfarnham Castle park | in place |
| Waterstown Pk | Within the park | in place |
| Corkagh PK Nth | Within the park | in place |
| Corkagh PK Sth | Within the park | in place |
| Dodder Valley Pk | Adjacent to Sports Pavilion | in place |
| Clondalkin Community Centre | Adjacent to swimming pool | in place |
| Collinstown Pk | N/A | proposed |
| Ballycragh Park | Ballycragh Pk Teen Space | in place |
| Tallaght | Belgard Extension Project - Tallaght Luas Stop | Under construction |
| Tallaght | Rua Red | in place |
| Tallaght | Belgard Extension Project - Park beside Innovation Centre | proposed |
| Tallaght | Belgard Extension Project - Park beside Innovation Centre | proposed |
| Tallaght | Belgard Extension Project - Park beside Innovation Centre | proposed |
| Adamstown | Tandys Lane Park SDZ | in place |
| Adamstown | Tandys Lane Park SDZ | in place |
| Adamstown | Tandys Lane Park SDZ | in place |
| Adamstown | Airlie Park | In place |
| Adamstown | Airlie Park | In place |
| Adamstown | Airlie Park | In place |
| Rathfarnham | Dodder View Rd Car Park | in place |
| Rathfarnham | Beechfield Park | in place |
| Rathfarnham | Between Barton Rd Ext + Hermitage Estate | in place |
| Saggart Village | Saggart Plaza | In place |
| Rathcoole | Rathcoole Park near MUGA | Proposed |
| Lucan | Griffeen Valley Pk Playground | Proposed |
| Lucan | Griffeen Valley Pk Haydens Lane | Proposed |
| Firhouse | Carrigmore Park | Proposed |
| Jobstown | Jobstown Park | Proposed |
| Quarryvale | Quarryvale Park | Proposed |

### **Q17/0324 Councillor K. Mahon**

To ask the manager to clarify where responsibility lies regarding maintenance issue in AHB properties?

**REPLY:**

Maintenance of properties that are in the ownership of the Approved Housing Body are the responsibility of the individual AHB.

Where a Local Authority (LA) property or scheme is managed and maintained by an Approved Housing Body (AHB) on behalf of the Council there will be a service level agreement between the LA & AHB detailing maintenance responsibilities and response times.  A service level agreement will include the following:

* The AHB will be responsible for all internal day-to-day repairs to the property
* If the AHB manages a multi -unit complex on behalf of the Council they have responsibility for the upkeep of communal areas
* SDCC, as owners, are responsible for all structural and major repairs
* The AHB will respond to all repair requests within its published response times depending on the classification of the repair ( Emergency, Urgent, Routine or Cyclical)

If there is failure on the part of the AHB to discharge its obligations regarding maintenance and repair in accordance with the Service Level Agreement, reports can be forwarded to the Council for follow up with the relevant AHB.

### **Q18/0324 Councillor K. Mahon**

To ask the Chief Executive to produce figures on the number of homeless individuals in SDCC, in table form, for the period from 2019 to present?

**REPLY:**

The table below details the number of households that were on the Council’s homeless register at the 1st January for each year requested.  A further breakdown of adults and children for the years 2021 to 2024 is also provided, note this data is not available for years previous to this.

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | 2019 | 2020 | 2021 | 2022 | 2023 | 2024 |
| Households | 628 | 589 | 508 | 474 | 495 | 607\* |
| Adults |  |  | 611 | 580 | 623 | 753 |
| Children |  |  | 445 | 424 | 434 | 645 |

 \* Please note the DRHE carried out a review of the PASS system bookings in late November/December 2023 which identified a number of additional SDCC clients who were placed by the DRHE and which has resulted in an increase in the number of clients on our Homeless Register.

### **Q19/0324 Councillor V. Mulhall**

To ask the Chief Executive how much money has been spent on active travel projects during the term of this council and if he could list past and present and further projects?

**REPLY:**

SDCC works closely with the National Transport Authority (NTA) on the identification and delivery of Active Travel projects across the county.

Each year Local Authorities receive an allocation for the delivery of projects. A copy of the 2024 Allocation is attached.

The list of projects is extensive, full details of the projects to be delivered under the Cycle South Dublin (CySD) Programme can be found on our dedicated Active Travel website; [Active Travel - SDCC](https://www.sdcc.ie/en/active-travel/)

The list of completed, Now, Soon and Later projects are appended to this question response.

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Year | NTA | SDCC | Total |
| 2019 | €1.74 Million | 150K | €1.74 M |
| 2020 | €8.57 Million | €200k | €8.77 M |
| 2021 | €10.9 Million | €250k | €11.15 M |
| 2022 | €15.5 Million | €400k | €15.9 M |
| 2023 | €22.3 Million | €500k | €22.8 M |
| 2024 (Budget Allocation) | €22.4 Million | €5 M | €27.4 M |

[Q19 (b) 2024 NTA Allocation](http://www.sdublincoco.ie/sdcc/departments/corporate/apps/cmas/documentsview.aspx?id=81990)  
[Q19 (c) CySD Projects](http://www.sdublincoco.ie/sdcc/departments/corporate/apps/cmas/documentsview.aspx?id=81991)

### **Q20/0324 Councillor E. Ó Broin**

To ask the Chief Executive what timeline they envisage for the implementation of QDP 12 SLO 1 from the 2022-2028 County Development Plan?

**REPLY:**

The County Development Plan includes the following objective:

QDP12 SLO 1:  
‘To support Brittas as a sustainable community and rural village of outstanding natural beauty and to prepare a planning study and study boundary for Brittas Village, in consultation with local residents, landowners and local representatives, having regard to the implications of the proposed Natural Heritage Area designations, the future population and enhancement of the village and to development of a tourist and leisure facility to include accommodation, associated services and activities at Brittas Ponds and surrounding lands with a view to maintaining and protecting existing assets and the long-term viability of the local community. The planning and tourism study shall be commenced within 12 months of the adoption of this County Development Plan and shall include an analysis of population and housing data.’

Some early analysis has been conducted on population and housing data following the release of the small area population statistics from Census 2022. Other relevant data from the Census, around travel to / from work, known as POWSCAR, is still awaiting release from the CSO.

The Design Manual for Urban Roads and Streets (DMURS) includes a section on the Treatment of Transition Zones to Towns and Villages on National Roads. TII have made contact with the transport section of LUPT following a review they carried out on potential public realm improvements to the N81 at Brittas. The intention of such improvements would be to slow traffic down at this entrance to the village through the use of enhanced public realm features such as tree planting, differentiated pavement and road materials and improved visibility of village signage. Any progression of proposed public realm improvements along the N81 would be subject to public consultation.

The Planning Department has the planning study on its work programme for later in 2024, subject to the necessary resources being available.

### **Q21/0324 Councillor E. Ó Broin**

That the Chief Executive report on the situation whereby some Approved Housing Bodies ban pets from their social housing units; & whether this is in line with the rights of social housing tenants?

**REPLY:**

It is at the landlord’s discretion (Approved Housing Body or the Local Authority) whether they allow pets in a property. Reasons why pets are refused include inadequate space to hold a pet, the possibility of the pet becoming a noise nuisance to neighbours and damage to the property. The Council will always advise prospective tenants whether pets are permitted or not in a property to enable applicants to make an informed decision.

It should be noted that exceptions to this can be made in the case of tenants with a disability that require an assistance or guide dog.

### **Q22/0324 Councillor E. Ó Broin**

To ask the Chief Executive when the Council's Town Regeneration Officer, as set out in the Government's Town Centre First policy, will be appointed?

**REPLY:**

26 towns were identified for funding under the national Town Centre First policy in 2022. More details on the government policy are available [gov - Town Centre First Policy (www.gov.ie)](https://www.gov.ie/en/publication/473d3-town-centre-first-policy/), and full details of the towns included in the policy are available here [Explore – Town Centre First](https://towncentrefirst.ie/explore/)

Unfortunately, no towns in South Dublin County were included within the policy and so SDCC has not received any sanction or funding for the appointment of a Town Regeneration Officer.

### **Q23/0324 Councillor E. Ó Broin**

To ask the chief executive how many applications there have been by LEA for the Vacant Properties Refurbishment Grant since its introduction?

**REPLY:**

The number of Vacant Property Refurbishment Grants received by local electoral area is detailed in the table below:

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Local Electoral Area | No. of Applications |
| Clondalkin | 10 |
| Lucan | 11 |
| Palmerstown/Fonthill | 0 |
| Tallaght South | 1 |
| Tallaght Central | 7 |
| Rathfarnham – Templeogue | 31 |
| Firhouse/Bohernabreena | 8 |
| Total | 68 |

### **Q24/0324 Councillor E. Ó Broin**

To ask the Chief Executive for a timeline with stages for the processing of a typical application for the Vacant Properties Refurbishment Grant to from receipt of application to payment of grant?

**REPLY:**

On receipt of grant application and associated relevant required documentation, the Council will arrange for a first inspection to be carried out by a Clerk of Works within two weeks. Successful applicants are then sent a letter of approval and notified that works can commence.

On completion of approved works, and on receipt of relevant RTG and Electrical Certificates, a second inspection is carried out. Grant payment times will vary depending on completion of inspections and submission of required documents and certificates.

In addition, an agreement (comprising of the signed Application Form, signed Letter of Approval and signed Charge document) must be concluded between the local authority and the applicant which contains the clawback agreement, including a charge on the property, which shall be binding on the applicant upon drawdown.

Further information is available at [scheme-outline-vacant-property-refurbishment-grant.pdf (sdcc.ie)](https://www.sdcc.ie/en/services/housing/vacant-homes/scheme-outline-vacant-property-refurbishment-grant.pdf)

### **Q25/0324 Councillor C. O’Connor**

To ask the Chief Executive to detail his latest efforts to deal with the Relets issue and will he list numbers in respect of each electoral area and make a statement?

**REPLY:**

Current Relets Status:

|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| VACANT PROPERTIES | Electoral Area | Survey | In Progress | Ready | TOTAL |
| Lucan | 0 | 2 | 5 | 7 |
| Clondalkin | 2 | 7 | 1 | 10 |
| Palmerstown-Fonthill | 4 | 11 | 7 | 22 |
| Tallaght South | 3 | 22 | 9 | 34 |
| Tallaght Central | 1 | 5 | 1 | 7 |
| Firhouse-Bohernabreena | 0 | 2 | 1 | 3 |
| Rathfarnham-Templeogue | 1 | 0 | 0 | 1 |
| TOTAL | 11 | 49 | 24 | 84 |

Five re-let contractors and the Council's direct labour crews actively work to bring vacant properties up to standard for allocation in the shortest possible  timeframe. In February, 17 properties were re-let with an average turnaround time of 22 weeks.  The recent increase in the number of dwellings being returned to stock is in part due to the Council's right-sizing policy which provides for the allocation of age friendly homes through transfers of existing tenants. There has been a 34% increase in the number of properties surrendered in 2024 to date compared to the same period in 2023.

### **Q26/0324 Councillor C. O’Connor**

To ask the Chief Executive to confirm what funding and assistance he has made available to each of the St Patrick's Day parades planned for the County and will he make a statement?

**REPLY:**

Community development and Event funding streams have been available to community groups since the 6th of February. Thus far we have received and approved two applications for St. Patrick's Day Parades.

The Lucan and Clondalkin, St. Patrick's Day Parade committees have each secured funding of €8000 for their respective parades. The expectation is that we will receive applications from the remaining groups who have traditionally delivered local parades in the coming weeks. The Community team have been in contact with all the groups who provided parades last year to provide guidance and assistance with the application process. Most committees are in the process of finalising their applications for funding.

### **Q27/0324 Councillor C. O’Connor**

To ask the Chief Executive if he has had any contact from Tennis Ireland in respect of what they see is the need for tennis facilities; will he furnish details and make a statement?

**REPLY:**

The Council actively engages with Parks Tennis to promote tennis locally as well as providing facilities including the recent delivery of three new tennis court facilities in Airlie Park, Lucan. These new courts are also supported by the provision of the adjacent changing room pavilion and coffee shop in the park. The Council have also upgraded existing tennis facilities at Dodder Valley and Beechfield Parks, both of which were requested by members of the local community and have been well received. The provision of box up facilities at these locations also supports the storage of equipment and facilities use.

The following are the existing indoor and outdoor tennis court facilities in South Dublin County:

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| SDCC Public Courts | Private |
| Beechfield Park / Cherryfield x 6 | Tallaght Sports Complex x 4 |
| Dodder Valley Park x 3 | Templeogue Tennis club x 12 outdoor and 3 indoor courts |
| Kingswood Heights x 2 |  |
| Weston Estate Lucan x 1 |  |

In addition to this, there are various schools within South Dublin County with dual tennis/basketball courts.

### **Q28/0324 Councillor C. O’Connor**

To ask the Chief Executive to give details of his plans for the roll out of further Teen Spaces; will he give details in respect of each electoral area and will he make a statement?

**REPLY:**

Following consultation and engagement with teenagers and stakeholders in South Dublin the council agreed and implemented the Teenspace Programme which is being rolled out across the county. Each location is subject to consultation with local teenagers and, in 2022, a review of the programme was carried out, showing the successful delivery of several projects at that stage.  Additional teenspace locations were agreed by the council at that stage:

Teenspace 1st phase:

* Ballycragh (Rathfarnham / Templeogue / Firhouse / Bohernabreena): Complete
* Avonbeg (Tallaght Central) : Complete 2023
* Collinstown (was in Clondalkin LEA when first proposed, now Palmerstown/Fonthill): Complete
* Kingswood (Tallaght Central): Complete 2023.
* Esker (Lucan area): consultants appointed; draft designs done; operator advice being compiled.

Teenspace 2nd phase:

St. Cuthberts Park: (Clondalkin area) construction to commence in coming weeks (March 2024)

* Esker Phase 2 (Lucan area): Complete 2023
* Bancroft (Tallaght Central): Complete 2023
* Templeogue area, Limekiln (Rathfarnham / Templeogue Area): Complete 2023

Teenspace 3rd Phase:

* Carrigmore Park ( Tallaght South Area ): Tender stage
* Rathcoole Park (Clondalkin Area): Tender stage
* Clondalkin (Clondalkin Area): Tender stage
* Griffeen Valley Park (Northern Section) (Lucan Area): not commenced as yet
* Sean Walsh Park ( Tallaght Central): Tender Stage
* Dodder Valley Park, Western Section (Tallaght Central Area ): not commenced as yet
* Dodder Valley Park, Eastern Section ( Firhouse Bohernabreena ): not commenced as yet
* Whitechurch Open Space (Rathfarnham / Templeogue Area): initial consultation completed.

These projects are at various stages of delivery as set out above, with a number successfully completed and well received by the local teenagers and their communities.

### **Q29/0324 Councillor C. O’Connor**

To ask the Chief Executive if he has had advice from the Minister for Transport in respect of the spending of the grant of €22,400,000 for further Active Travel works and will he make a statement?

**REPLY:**

We are delighted to announce that Active Travel has received funding from the NTA for 2024 of €22.4 Million. This funding will enable the Council to continue to deliver our agreed Cycle South Dublin programme and our shared vision for South Dublin to be one of Ireland’s most cycle friendly counties.

The delivery of a safe and connected network across the County will take time, but the Council has been making steady progress with this and we are beginning to see a new network taking shape. In 2023 the Council had a highly successful year with a spend of €22.5 Million which is seeing us deliver Active Travel infrastructure across all of the constituencies of South Dublin County Council. Some of the schemes that were progressed in 2023 and completed or close to completion are as follows,

* Grange Road Phase 2 complete (0.7Km of Scheme)
* Avonbeg Road Cycling and Walking Scheme complete (2km of Scheme)
* Templeville Road Scheme Phase 1 complete (2.6km of Scheme)
* Dodder Greenway Phase 3 and Phase 4 complete (3.4km of Scheme)
* D24 Neighbourhood Scheme Phase 1 on-site. (Full scheme will be 11km)
* Castletymon Road active travel scheme complete (500metres)
* Killinarden Park and Greenway Scheme on site
* D12 Bike Bus Network on-site (1.28Km of Scheme)
* Active Travel Schools St Marks, Oval Palmerstown and Clondalkin on-site
* Light Segregation Schemes completed at Firhouse Road, Ballyowen Road, Tallaght Main Street and Cypress Grove Road

Looking ahead to 2024 the team have secured €22.4m of funding from the NTA and the Council has agreed to supplement this with a further €5m of funding from our own Capital Programme. This funding will enable the team to progress several schemes including,

* Grand Canal to Lucan Urban Greenway works will start on site.
* Firhouse Road Scheme works to start on site.
* Wellington Lane (Whitehall Road) Active Travel Scheme works to start on site
* Dodder Greenway Section 5- Firhouse and Butterfield Road works to start on site.
* D24 Neighbourhood Scheme Phase 2 works to start on site.
* Templeville scheme phase 2 works to start on site.
* Castletymon Active Travel Scheme phase 2 - Part 8 decision
* Knocklyon to Ballyboden scheme – Part 8 decision

These Active Travel Schemes are pivotal to building a strong network of connected walking and cycling routes for South Dublin Commuters and will make a difference in giving people viable options to walk or cycle to work, school and for leisure. Increasing our efforts in getting Children Walking and Cycling to School again in a safe environment is also pivotal in both reducing traffic on our roads, improving carbon emissions, and adding to their overall health and wellbeing. As part of that programme we have been working hard with Schools and have delivered Safer Routes to School interventions at Palmerstown St Lorcan’s Boys National School, St Brigids National School, St Marks Primary School in Springfield, St Maelruains Junior National School, Gael Scoil Chluain Dolcain and we have a Trail Safe Schools zone running at Bishop Shanahan and Bishop Galvin Schools on Rossmore Road part of the wider Wellington Lane Active Travel Scheme.

### **Q30/0324 Councillor J. Sinnott**

To ask the Chief Executive what the criteria is for the replacing and the redoing of road markings and road lining in South County Dublin.

**REPLY:**

 Line marking and Road markings will be replaced based on the following priority basis:

1.Condition of the current line and road marking at the location in question.

2. The road classification of the road which is strongly related to the vehicle per hour usage.  Normally, regional roads first, due to higher vehicle usage, higher general speed limit and therefore the higher risks associated with poor line and road marking.

3. Busy junctions.  The particular importance of Stop and Yield lines.

4. High Risk Locations.  High pedestrian counts, schools and hospitals.

Regular audits of road line marking are carried out and priority lists for renewal are generated each year.

It is important to say that line marking must be carried out when the road surface is dry in order to ensure full line coverage and longevity of new road lining or marking.

### **Q31/0324 Councillor J. Sinnott**

To ask the chief executive for an estimate of the spending by South Dublin County Council on pothole repairs in 2023 and to date in 2024.

**REPLY:**

In 2024 the Council is planning to spend over 8m of road and footpath repairs across the County, which includes works to damaged roads and footpaths such as larger potholes. It is not possible to define that cost alone from within the overall repairs.

However, in addition to the road works programme, the Council also carries out repairs to small potholes, referred to as a 'patching programme'. In 2023 there was €190,000 was spent on patching roads in the county.

### **Q32/0324 Councillor J. Sinnott**

To ask the chief executive what the criteria is for tree pruning or tree removal in the public realm in the South Dublin County Council area?

**REPLY:**

The Council's first Tree Management Strategy 'Living with trees' which was adopted by the Council in 2016 and a comprehensive review which included public consultation was approved by the Council in 2021. The current Tree Management Policy provides a framework to inform and support decisions made by the Council on the management and development of a sustainable tree population in the County.  Regular updates on its progress are given at Area Committees. It deals comprehensively with all issues relating to tree management and maintenance including tree felling and pruning policies and these can be found under sections 2, 4 & 6 of the strategy document which is available on the Council's website at the following location [SDCC Tree Management Policy 2021 - 2026](https://www.sdcc.ie/en/services/environment/tree-management/tree-management-policy/).

Section 4.3 of the document deals with reasons for tree pruning and felling as follows -

The Council will wherever possible try to avoid removing a tree or undertaking unnecessary pruning works where there is no good arboriculture reason. It has a duty to manage the tree population for the benefit of the wider community and in accordance with good arboriculture practices.

The Council will undertake tree works to fulfil its legal obligations to ensure the safety of the public and properties. Tree works will be undertaken:

* Where an inspection has identified visible decay, fungal brackets indicating possible root and trunk decay or any other defect that would lead to the tree failing.
* A tree is dead or visibly in decline.
* To abate an actionable nuisance, where branches are touching buildings, for example, physical contact with walls, windows and gutters.
* Where road signs, traffic signals, street lights, and sightlines for vehicles and pedestrians are obscured.
* Evidence has been provided that the tree is a contributing factor in causing structural damage that cannot be reasonably addressed by an alternative solution and proactive tree management has had no mitigating effect.

Tree removal or pruning will not be undertaken where:

* Trees are perceived to be too large.
* Satellite dish TV reception is interrupted.
* Sunlight may be blocked from reaching properties or gardens.
* Views are obstructed.
* Seasonal or naturally occurring events happen, for example, falling leaves, fruit, seeds or berries, honeydew sap, bird droppings, pollen allergies.
* Insects or other non-hazardous wildlife are present.

Section 4.3.1 states the following in relation to tree pruning -

The type of pruning works undertaken depends on the tree’s location and its species. Bad or unnecessary pruning can do more harm than good since each cut has the potential to change the growth of a tree, cause damage or allow the entry of wood decaying organisms, therefore no branch should be removed without a good reason. Older trees do not tolerate pruning as well as younger trees and substantial pruning can be very damaging. The effect of pruning also varies between species and some are not naturally tolerant of cutting. In general, minimal pruning works will be undertaken in order to sufficiently manage a tree. This may often only involve removing the lower branches to increase clearance for pedestrians and vehicle traffic and / or cutting back the branches from adjacent buildings.

Section 4.3.2 of the document states the following in relation to formative pruning -

Young immature trees, particularly in an urban setting, can benefit from pruning in their formative years. This should be carried out in accordance with British Standard BS 3998: 2010 Tree Work – Recommendations as required throughout the early years of a tree’s life in the landscape. It involves removing crossing branches and potentially weak forks to encourage a good natural shape, reduce health issues and reduce the need for major pruning when the tree is mature.

Section 4.3.3 states the following in relation to the 'topping' of trees -

Topping of trees (reduction in height) causes large wounds, exposing trees to decay pathogens and causing their long term decline, as well as being unsightly and potentially unsafe. Topping is therefore only considered where trees have serious defects, that cannot be reasonably addressed otherwise, and their short-term retention is essential or highly desirable. It is often the view of residents that removing the crown or ‘topping’ a tree or trees will improve light levels or views or improve reception to TVs, satellites and so on. Whereas this may be true in the short term, any pruning, but especially ‘topping’, will cause decline in some species or rapid growth in others. Regrowth resulting from ‘topping’ will often be denser than the original crown and be weakly attached to the branches it develops from. Wounds associated with topping are often large and are more likely to be colonised by wood decaying fungi. ‘Topping’ is not good practice and can lead to dangerous trees in the future. For these reasons the Council will not ‘top’ trees.

Section 4.3.4 states the following in relation to the removal of trees -

Trees are removed only when necessary as a last resort. The criteria for tree removal are:

* The tree is dead, dying or is considered hazardous due to its poor structural or biological condition. Hazardous conditions may exist above and / or below ground and may include significant root, trunk or crown decay, split trunks and crotches, and large dead limbs.
* The tree has declined beyond the point of recovery and is no longer meeting the functional or aesthetic requirements of a street tree. Typically, a tree with 30 percent or less of its foliage remaining would meet this criterion.
* Fatally diseased trees (for example, Ash dieback, Fireblight Disease) may be removed before they reach the primary threshold in order to prevent the spread of disease to healthy trees.
* To allow space for development of nearby trees that may be more desirable for retention
* To allow space for new planting
* To make way for any approved engineering or building works when unavoidable construction work will immediately compromise the stability or viability of the tree.
* Tree proven to be causing significant structural damage that cannot be reasonably addressed by an alternative solution and proactive tree management has had no mitigating effect.
* To abate actionable nuisance
* Where a tree is located in close proximity to a public lighting column

### **Q33/0324 Councillor F. Timmons**

To ask the Chief Executive what specific plans have SDCC to eliminate graffiti from Public places and Private property.

**REPLY:**

South Dublin County Council is responsible for ensuring that public roads are kept litter free (including graffiti) in so far as it is practically possible and the prevention of the creation of litter through the following measures:

* Enforcement and Regulation
* Public Realm operations programmes
* Delivery of Communication, Education & Awareness programmes
* Development of protocols for response to service requests

SDCC removes graffiti as it arises around the County, using staff and probation services to respond urgently to any graffiti that is considered offensive due to its content.

To assist in combatting Graffiti, The Anti-Litter and Anti-Graffiti Awareness Grant is made available to community groups and schools through the Environmental Awareness Section. In addition, the South Dublin Canvas project continues to be delivered and is used to discourage graffiti on traffic light boxes.

It is a criminal offence to deface property, and it is a requirement of Section 20 of the Litter Pollution Act 1997 for property owners to remedy defacement.

The purpose of this protocol is to set out clearly the basic principles for the Council’s management of graffiti, and to provide consistency in approach to graffiti removal across the county:

* If the graffiti is on public property, the Council will arrange for its removal. Depending on the type of surface, chemicals or paint will be used.
* It is the responsibility of all property owners to remove graffiti from their premises.  Where graffiti is on private property the Council will request the property owner to remove the graffiti in the first instance. Depending on the location, and if the property faces onto a strategic public place, the Council will endeavour to have the defacement removed. The Council will require indemnity from the property owner or an agent of the property owner to enter onto the property for the purpose of removal of the defacement. The property owner or an agent of the property owner will sign an indemnity, and, in all cases, there will be a fee involved. No works will take place on private property in the absence of such indemnity and no chargeable work will be carried out until such charges are agreed by both parties.
* If the graffiti is on utility boxes belonging to utility companies, the company concerned will be contacted and requested to remove the graffiti. There is currently a formal Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) in place with four utility providers. These are currently under review. Public Realm senior staff are meeting with the ESB to review their MOU in the first instance and meetings will be arranged with other utility companies also.

In a limited number of circumstances, it may not be possible to remove the graffiti owing to difficulties accessing sites.

There is continuous assessment of benefits and rewards available under the Social Credits Scheme and as groups develop and engage in the Social Credits Scheme more requests are being received and approved for assistance with removal of Graffiti.

### **Q34/0324 Councillor F. Timmons**

To ask the Chief Executive, as the majority of SDCC litter bins are not suitable for takeaway packaging particularly pizza boxes, how does SDCC plan to address this issue of excessive waste on our streets?

**REPLY:**

The litter bin type used by South Dublin County Council has a small opening to prevent the disposal of household waste in the bin. These street litter bins can be used for the disposal of takeaway packaging once the user has broken the waste packaging down to a size that is suitable for placing through the opening.  However, takeaway pizza boxes are generally not disposed of in this way but are instead discarded and not disposed of in a litter bin.  In response to this the Council is in the process of purchasing purpose made litter bins with wide openings which are suitable for the disposal of pizza boxes.  A number of locations around the county will be identified for the installation of these bins based on their proximity to the locations where takeaway pizzas are being sold.  Takeaway premises which are selling these will also be contacted by the Council's litter wardens to remind them of their responsibilities to deal with waste originating on their premises, as required under the litter pollution act.

### **Q35/0324 Councillor F. Timmons**

To ask the Chief Executive, that as GDPR regulations allow release of information relating to companies within South Dublin, can SDCC issue a report listing businesses and companies fined for litter and dumping for 2023. Report to include details of regularity of fines and notices.

**REPLY:**

South Dublin County Council issued a total of 363 fines in 2023 for littering and dumping offences under Sections 3, 4 and 6 of the Litter Pollution Act 1997, of which 37 were issued to commercial entities.

Fines issued under the Act are issued to alleged offenders and payment of same is an alternative to engaging in legal action. It is our opinion, that any further circulation of this information or any records provided should clearly indicate that fines are issued to and paid by alleged offenders. These files are currently under review to ensure any release of data is in compliance with the Freedom of Information Act 2014.

In accordance with Section 30 and Section 32 of the  Freedom of Information Act,  information relating to ongoing processes shall not be provided as it may prejudice ongoing investigations and or prejudice or impair the prevention, detection or investigation of offences, the apprehension or prosecution of offenders or the effectiveness of lawful methods, systems, plans or procedures employed for the purposes of the matters aforesaid, and/or the enforcement of, compliance with or administration of any law.

This matter will be referred to the Environment SPC for further examination.

### **Q36/0324 Councillor F. Timmons**

To ask the Chief Executive for a report on Fire safety in the county that gives an update on extension ladders in Tallaght Fire Station for use in case of fire in higher buildings?

**REPLY:**

The Chief Fire Officer has been contacted in respect of Fire safety in the county and the update on extension ladders in Tallaght Fire Station for use in the case of fire in high rise buildings. His response is as follows:

Dublin Fire Brigade’s (DFB) Bravo District (District responsible for the fire cover South Dublin County Council) is the area covered by Dolphins Barn and Tallaght Fire stations. Depending on the nature and location of an emergency, crews from any one of these stations will respond. Resources that are specifically assigned to South Dublin County Council Functional Area are two Class-B Water Tenders at Tallaght Fire Station. These are appliances crewed by an officer and four/five firefighters, one firefighter acting as the driver/pump operator. They are equipped with a pump and a variety of firefighting and road traffic collision rescue equipment.

**The following are resources in DFB Bravo District:**

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Station | Location | Appliances / Vehicles | **Personnel** |
| No 2 District Station | Dolphins barn | Water Tender Class B    x2  Ambulance                      x 1  Emergency Rescue Tender x 1  District Officers Command Vehicle x 1 | District Officer x 1  Station Officer x 1  Sub Officer x 2  Firefighters x 13 |
| No 7 Station | Tallaght | Water Tender Class B  x 2  Ambulance                      x 1 | Station Officer      x 1  Sub Officer            x 1  Firefighters           x 11 |

Additionally, any resources required to augment these resources will be sent from adjoining districts / stations as would specialised fire appliances required. Specialist fire appliances include, turn-table-ladders, emergency tenders, foam tenders etc.

Turntable Ladder appliances are on the pre-determined attendance for high-rise developments for all areas of the city and county.  These appliances can be in attendance in the Tallaght area within the national guideline travel times for Special Aerial Appliances.  However, the Aerial Appliance deployment model for the city is currently being reviewed, which may see these appliances being redeployed to other station areas in the future. The Minister announced that Dublin will be getting 4 new appliances and one of these appliances will be for Tallaght Fire Station.

A new 42 metre ladder has come into service in DFB with a second 42m ladder on order with expected delivery in the first quarter of this year. As part of ongoing fire service familiarisation, visits (each station undertakes a programme of pre-fire planning and familiarisation visits) and exercises for dry riser and hydrant inspection and testing takes place.

### **Q37/0324 Councillor F. Timmons**

To ask the Chief Executive to report on Energy points for electric cars - report to include future plans for installing more electric energy points, plans to ensure that the present ones work, and how many are currently in the county.

**REPLY:**

Current publicly hosted EV charging portals indicate that there are circa 40 publicly available EV charge points in South Dublin at 17 locations. These are a mix of fast (50-150kW) charging and regular (22kW) charging points. Additional charging points are also available at privately operated facilities with restricted or curtailed services. As per the information on the council web site, members of the public are redirected to a third party website ([www.zap-map.com](http://www.zap-map.com)), that allows the registering of charging points and provides real time information in relation to charger locations, charger numbers, charger type and their current use status. The charging points listed are provided by third parties, on private land, for public use. At this point in time, South Dublin County Council does not manage public EV charging points within the county.

Looking at future provision of EV charging infrastructure in public areas, South Dublin County Council, in collaboration with the other three Dublin LAs published the Dublin Regional EV Charging Strategy. The strategy will ensure a uniform approach is adopted in identifying and providing a range of types of EV charging services required across the County to keep up with demand up to 2030. SDCC and the three DLAs, working with Codema (the Dublin Energy Agency), have recently gone out to tender for the delivery of public EV charging equipment at publicly owned and accessible locations. SDCC has identified a number of suitable locations at our parks, offices, libraries and sports facilities, for phase one of this project.

The tender includes.

* Installation of underground ducting and groundworks, which once complete will remain in the ownership of the council.
* Installation and operation services by private sector operators to deliver overground EV charging equipment, electricity supply, and account management software for a fixed term of operation.

The complexity of developing new contracts and the financial implications for the operation of public EV charging in the public realm, has necessitated this tender to be a pilot scheme to test the proposed strategy. A 10-year concession framework agreement will be signed with the successful contractor, to allow for design, install and operate destination charge points across the entire county of Dublin.

The tendering process is at final assessment stage, with award of contract expected March 2024. The initial installations at 50 project locations (14 within SDCC Area), which were used for the tendering process, will be advanced and completed in the coming 12 months. Further sites will be developed and procured through the established agreement.

**H7/0324 DECLARATION OF ROADS TO BE MADE PUBLIC ROADS - FOR APPROVAL**

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

**H8a/0324 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 for Economic Enterprise and Tourism Development, and was **CONSIDERED**.

**LD 1584 Proposed disposal of substation site to ESB to facilitate power supply to social housing development at Balgaddy Road, Lucan, Co. Dublin**

Part VIII Public Consultation Process for the 69 social housing units and community centre at Balgaddy Road, Lucan, Co. Dublin was approved at Council meeting on 8th April 2019 – Certified Minute No. H16/0419 refers.

In order to facilitate power supply to this housing development, the ESB have made an application to acquire the freehold interest in a plot of land for a substation at the above address. The subject plot is outlined in red on attached Drawing No. LR-ASD-2022-18034-01 – Council Folio DN118055F refers.

Accordingly, I recommend that the Council disposes of its freehold interest in the plot of land outlined in red on Drawing No. LR-ASD-2022-18034-01, to the ESB 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: -

That the Council disposes of its freehold interest in the plot of land outlined in red comprising 5.72 square metres or thereabouts, on Drawing No. LR-ASD-2022-18034-01.

That the total consideration shall be the sum of €1 (one euro) plus VAT (if applicable). The consideration figure is exclusive of accommodation works, fees and reinstatement costs.

That the ESB shall have access to inspect, repair, and maintain the underground cables. They shall provide satisfactory advance written notice to the Council of any intended works to the cables and shall complete reinstatement works to the satisfaction of Council.

That the works are carried out in an efficient and reasonable timeframe once entry is made on site. All works to be carried out with minimum disruption to the Council and members of the public. All works and work procedures shall comply with Health and Safety regulations.

That the ESB shall pay a contribution in respect of the Council’s legal fees in the amount of €750.

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.

That each party shall use their best endeavours to complete the transaction within a reasonable timeframe following adoption of the disposal resolution.

That the Law Agent shall draft the necessary documents and include any further terms deemed appropriate in Agreements of this nature.

That no contract enforceable at law is created or intended to be created until such time as contracts have been exchanged.

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

[H8 (b) Map](http://intranet/cmas/documentsview.aspx?id=81872)

The disposal of substation site to ESB to facilitate power supply to social housing development at Balgaddy Road, Lucan, Co. Dublin was proposed by Councillor A. Edge, seconded by Councillor M. Duff, and **AGREED**.

**H9/0324 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 Report](http://www.sdublincoco.ie/sdcc/departments/corporate/apps/cmas/documentsview.aspx?id=82033)  
[HI 9 b) Statistics Report](http://www.sdublincoco.ie/sdcc/departments/corporate/apps/cmas/documentsview.aspx?id=82040)  
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A discussion followed with contributions from Councillors M. Johannson, T. Costello, J. Tuffy, E. Ó Broin, P. Holohan, F. Timmons, S. Moynihan, P. Gogarty, C. O’Connor, P. Kearns, V. Casserly, D. Ó Bradaigh, C. King, L. O’Toole, L. McCrave and A. Edge. Queries were raised in relation to homeless figures, the Tenant in Situ scheme, work experience programme, the Register of Electors, road repairs, pitch allocation, Lucan swimming pool, Saggart School House, Old Schoolmasters House, Airlie House, public lighting Local Enterprise Awards, the and the recent Women of South Dublin event.

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

The report was **NOTED**.

**H10/0324 ANNUAL REPORT 2023 - FOR APPROVAL**

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**

[H10 Annual Report 2023](http://www.sdublincoco.ie/sdcc/departments/corporate/apps/cmas/documentsview.aspx?id=82034)

Councillor F. Timmons raised a query in relation to 300K Have Your Say.

Ms. L. Maxwell, Director for Corporate Performance and Change Management, responded to the Member’s query.

The report was proposed by Councillor A. Edge, seconded by Councillor F. Timmons, and **AGREED**.

**H11/0324 AUDIT COMMITTEE’S ANNUAL REPORT 2023 FOR NOTING**

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**

[H11 Annual Report of the Audit Committee 2023](http://www.sdublincoco.ie/sdcc/departments/corporate/apps/cmas/documentsview.aspx?id=81893)

The report was **NOTED**.

### **H12/0324 HOUSING LOANS ALLOCATION FOR 2024 FOR APPROVAL**

The following reports by the Chief Executive, which had been circulated, were presented by Mr. R. FitzGerald, Head of Finance, and were **CONSIDERED**.

**RAISING OF LOANS FOR PUBLICLY FUNDED HOUSING**

The Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage has provided a Capital Allocation for Publicly Funded Housing Loans in the sum of €13,830,000.

The County Council is empowered to borrow from the Housing Finance Agency for the purpose of carrying out its functions under the Housing Acts.

Approval is now sought for authority to raise loans to a limit of €13,830,000 from the Housing Finance Agency plc for the Local Authority Home Loan (LAHL) schemes.

[H12 (b) South Dublin 2024 Allocation Letter](http://www.sdublincoco.ie/sdcc/departments/corporate/apps/cmas/documentsview.aspx?id=81915)

Councillor R. McMahon raised a query in relation to interest rate.

Mr. R. FitzGerald, Head of Finance, responded to the query.

The report was proposed by Councillor A. Edge and seconded by Councillor F. Timmons and **AGREED**.

**H13/0324 BRINE FACILITY PALMERSTOWN PART 8 – FOR APPROVAL**

The following reports by the Chief Executive, which had been circulated, were presented by Mr. M. Mulhern, Director for Land Use, Planning and Transportation, and were **CONSIDERED.**

[H13 (a) Part VIII Report](http://www.sdublincoco.ie/sdcc/departments/corporate/apps/cmas/documentsview.aspx?id=81960)  
[H13 (b) Part VIII Presentation](http://www.sdublincoco.ie/sdcc/departments/corporate/apps/cmas/documentsview.aspx?id=81964)  
[H13 (c) EIA Screening Report](http://www.sdublincoco.ie/sdcc/departments/corporate/apps/cmas/documentsview.aspx?id=81963)  
[H13 (d) EIA Determination](http://www.sdublincoco.ie/sdcc/departments/corporate/apps/cmas/documentsview.aspx?id=81976)  
[H13 (e) AA Screening Report](http://www.sdublincoco.ie/sdcc/departments/corporate/apps/cmas/documentsview.aspx?id=81962)  
[H13 (f) Site Location and Drawing](http://www.sdublincoco.ie/sdcc/departments/corporate/apps/cmas/documentsview.aspx?id=81961)  
[H13 (g) AA Determination](http://www.sdublincoco.ie/sdcc/departments/corporate/apps/cmas/documentsview.aspx?id=81978)

A discussion followed with contributions from Councillors D. Ó Brádaigh, C. King and R. McMahon with queries raised in relation to the location and cost of the facility, future savings, possible modifications to Council vehicles and use of Brine by other local authorities.

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

It was proposed by Councillor A. Edge and seconded by Councillor R. McMahon and **AGREED**.

**H14/0324 TAKING IN CHARGE OF BAWNOGUE SHOPPING CENTRE CAR PARK - FOR APPROVAL**

The following reports by the Chief Executive, which had been circulated, were presented by Mr. M. Mulhern, Director for Land Use, Planning and Transportation, and were **CONSIDERED.**

[H14 (a) TIC Report](http://www.sdublincoco.ie/sdcc/departments/corporate/apps/cmas/documentsview.aspx?id=81965)  
[H14 (c) TIC Map](http://www.sdublincoco.ie/sdcc/departments/corporate/apps/cmas/documentsview.aspx?id=81966)  
[H14 (c) TIC Presentation](http://www.sdublincoco.ie/sdcc/departments/corporate/apps/cmas/documentsview.aspx?id=81970)  
[H14 (d) Observations Report](http://www.sdublincoco.ie/sdcc/departments/corporate/apps/cmas/documentsview.aspx?id=81969)  
[H14 (e) TIC Schedule](http://www.sdublincoco.ie/sdcc/departments/corporate/apps/cmas/documentsview.aspx?id=81968)

A discussion followed with contributions from Councillors F. Timmons, P. Holohan, W. Carey and E. Ó Broin with queries raised in relation to local businesses, timeframe for development and traffic management.

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

It was proposed by Councillor A. Edge and seconded by Councillor F. Timmons and **AGREED**.

**H15/0324 TAKING IN CHARGE OF TULLYHALL ESTATE - FOR APPROVAL**

The following reports by the Chief Executive, which had been circulated, were presented by Mr. M. Mulhern, Director for Land Use, Planning and Transportation, and were **CONSIDERED.**

[H15 (a) Tullyhall Phase 3 TIC Report](http://www.sdublincoco.ie/sdcc/departments/corporate/apps/cmas/documentsview.aspx?id=81945)  
[H15 (b) Tullyhall Estate TIC Map](http://www.sdublincoco.ie/sdcc/departments/corporate/apps/cmas/documentsview.aspx?id=81928)  
[H15 (c) Tullyhall Estate TIC Schedule](http://www.sdublincoco.ie/sdcc/departments/corporate/apps/cmas/documentsview.aspx?id=81931)

A discussion followed with contributions from Councillors P. Gogarty and D. Ó Brádaigh with queries raised in relation to timeframe for taking in charge and grass cutting.

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

It was proposed by Councillor A. Edge and seconded by Councillor E. Murphy and **AGREED**.

**H16/0324 ROAD TRAFFIC (R 136 KISHOGUE TRAIN STATION SPECIAL SPEED LIMIT) BYELAW 2024 – FOR APPROVAL**

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

[H16 R136 (Kishogue Train Station) Special Speed Limit](http://www.sdublincoco.ie/sdcc/departments/corporate/apps/cmas/documentsview.aspx?id=82055)  
[H16 R136 (Kishogue Train Station) Special Speed Limit - Map](http://www.sdublincoco.ie/sdcc/departments/corporate/apps/cmas/documentsview.aspx?id=81955)

A discussion followed with contributions from Councillors F. Timmons, M. Johannson, E. Ó Broin and W. Carey. Queries were raised regarding signage, speed limits in the area.

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

It was proposed by Councillor A. Edge, seconded by Councillor F. Timmons, and **AGREED**.

**H17/0324 PROPOSED EXTINGUISHMENT OF THE PUBLIC RIGHT OF WAY OVER THE LANEWAY AT THE REAR OF 3,5,1B AND 1A TYMONVILLE COURT, TALLAGHT, DUBLIN 24 - FOR APPROVAL**

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

**PROPOSED EXTINGUISHMENT OF THE PUBLIC RIGHT OF WAY OVER THE LANEWAY AT THE REAR OF 3,5,1B AND 1A TYMONVILLE COURT, TALLAGHT, DUBLIN 24 (RT-4-364)**

An initial proposal to Extinguish the Public Right of Way (EPROW) over the Laneway at the rear of No’s 3,5,1B and 1A Tymonville Court, Tallaght, Dublin 24 was originally presented to a meeting of the Tallaght Area Committee held on 27th November 2023, to request approval to initiate the EPROW process, which was agreed by the Councilors.

Following this meeting, a public consultation process was initiated. Public notices were erected on site and an advertisement was placed in the Tallaght Echo newspaper.

No objections were received on-foot of this public consultation. Furthermore, there were no objections from the public utility companies who were consulted or other departments within the Council.

On Monday, February 26th, 2024, the Proposed Extinguishment was RECONSIDERED at the meeting of the Tallaght Area Committee.

The following report was circulated...

MEETING OF TALLAGHT AREA COMMITTEE

MONDAY 26th FEBRUARY 2024

HEADED ITEM NO. XX

PROPOSED EXTINGUISHMENT OF THE PUBLIC RIGHT OF WAY OVER LANEWAY AT THE REAR OF 3,5,1B AND 1A TYMONVILLE COURT, TALLAGHT, DUBLIN 24 (RT-4-364)

This proposal was considered at the Tallaght Area Committee Meeting on Monday, 27th November 2023.

“An application has been received requesting the extinguishment of the public right of way over the laneway at the rear of 3,5,1B and 1A Tymonville Court, Tallaght, Dublin 24. 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 at this location was advertised in the Tallaght Echo on Thursday, November 30th, 2023. Public Notices were also erected on site on this date in accordance with Section 73 of the Roads Act, 1993.

No submissions were received in response to the public advertisement/notice. There were also no objections from the various Council departments & public utility companies who were contacted regarding the proposal.

It is therefore 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 February 2024.At the Tallaght ACM held on February 26th, 2024, it was proposed by Councilor Louise Dunne, and unanimously AGREED

“That this Committee recommends to the Council that the public right of way over the laneway at the rear of 3,5,1B and 1A Tymonville Court, Tallaght, Dublin 24 (RT-4-364) (Highlighted on Map No. RE-5011) be extinguished. The extinguishment is to be effected by means of a disposal”.

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 over the laneway at the rear of 3,5,1B and 1A Tymonville Court, Tallaght, Dublin 24 (RT-4-364) (Highlighted on Map No. RE-5011) be extinguished. The extinguishment is to be effected by means of a disposal.”

This matter is now before the Council.

**A map of a neighborhood

Description automatically generated**

Councillor E. Ó Broin raised a query in relation to resident’s purchase of the land.

Mr. M. Mulhern, Director for Land Use, Planning and Transportation, responded to the Member’s query.

It was proposed by Councillor A. Edge, seconded by Councillor W. Carey, and **AGREED**.

**H18/0324 1 YEAR MONITORING REPORT COUNTY DEVELOPMENT PLAN – FOR NOTING**

The following report by the Chief Executive, which had been circulated, was presented by Ms. H. Craigie, Senior Planner, and was **CONSIDERED.**

[H18 (a) CDP Core Strategy Monitoring Presentation](http://www.sdublincoco.ie/sdcc/departments/corporate/apps/cmas/documentsview.aspx?id=82047)  
[H18 (b) CDP Core Strategy Monitoring Report](http://www.sdublincoco.ie/sdcc/departments/corporate/apps/cmas/documentsview.aspx?id=81953)

A discussion followed with contributions from Councillors L. Dunne, E. Ó Broin, M. Johannson, C. King, and A. Edge. Queries were raised regarding monitoring of residential construction and SHDs, and commercial space for indigenous businesses.

Ms. H. Craigie, Senior Planner, responded to the Members queries.

The report was **NOTED**.

**H19/0324 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 and Community Development, 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 12 grants totalling €21,363.85 were approved for 10 local groups summarised as follows:

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Category | No: | Amount |
| Community Development Grants | 10 | €12,763.85 |
| Community Events Funding | 2 | €8,600.00 |
| Total | 12 | €21,363.85 |

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 |
| Ard Mor Community Support - Ard Mor Neighbourhood Centre | Community Development Grant | Start Up Costs | €500.00 |
| Citywest Village Residents Association | Community Development Grant | Start Up Costs | €500.00 |
| Jobstown Community & Youth Centre | Community Development Grant | Minor Equipment | €2000.00 |
| Killinarden Community Council | Community Development Grant | Running Costs | €1000.00 |
| Knocklyon Women's Group | Community Development Grant | Running Costs | €1000.00 |
| Liffey Sounds Communication Cooperative Ltd. | Community Development Grant | Major Equipment | €4913.85 |
| Quarryvale Community and Leisure Centre | Community Development Grant | Start Up Costs | €500.00 |
| Retired Active Men's Social (RAMs) | Community Development Grant | Minor Equipment | €600.00 |
| Retired Active Men's Social (RAMs) | Community Development Grant | Running Costs | €1000.00 |
| The Firhouse Singers | Community Development Grant | Running Costs | €750.00 |
| Killinarden Community Council | Community Events Funding | Other - Workshop | €600.00 |
| Lucan St. Patrick's Day Committee | Community Events Funding | St. Patrick's Day Parade / Celebration | €8000.00 |

Councillor C. O’Connor raised a query regarding applications for funding for St. Patrick’s day parades.

Ms. E. Leech, Director for Housing and Community Development, responded to the Member’s query.

The report was **NOTED**

**C1/0324 REPLIES, ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS & CORRESPONDENCE**

Proposed by Corporate Performance and Change Management Directorate.

**Replies**

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

**Acknowledgements**

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

**Correspondence**

[(a) Correspondence from Cork County Council re hospitality vat rate](http://www.sdublincoco.ie/sdcc/departments/corporate/apps/cmas/documentsview.aspx?id=81881)  
[(b) Correspondence from Cork County Council re Vat rates for pubs](http://www.sdublincoco.ie/sdcc/departments/corporate/apps/cmas/documentsview.aspx?id=81882)

The correspondence was **NOTED.**

### **M1/0324 Derelict Structures**

It was proposed by Councillor J. Tuffy seconded by Councillor F. Timmons and **MOVED** without debate:

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.

**REPORT:**

The Derelict Sites Register remains under continuous review in South Dublin County, with regular engagement with the owners of these properties. This engagement includes options open to the owners under the various Government initiatives, such as repair and lease, or sale of the property.

A review of the Record of Protected Structures (RPA is carried out as part of the County Development Plan review which can highlight protected structures that may be endanger.  Where a building has become endangered the SDCC Architectural Conservation Officer (ACO) will carry out an assessment.

The Council’s Vacant Homes officer actively investigates reports of potential vacant dwellings.  All properties reported to the Council as vacant are inspected and checks are undertaken through land registry and various other sources to establish ownership. The status of each property is reviewed and if a vacant dwelling if found to be a protected structure, the Vacant Homes Officer will liaise with the Council’s Planning Department in this regard to ensure the relevant planning legislation is adhered to.  Once ownership is established, the owner is engaged with a view to bringing the properties back into productive use including with the assistance of the Croí Cónaithe Vacant Homes Grant, SEAI energy efficiency grants or the repair and Leasing Scheme.

### **M2/0324 Israeli Ambassador**

Proposed by Councillor L. Dunne and seconded by Councillor F. Timmons.

This Council calls on the Taoiseach to expel the Israeli Ambassador to Ireland.

**REPORT:**

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

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

Councillors L. Dunne, W. Carey and F. Timmons called for a **Roll Call Vote** the result of which is as follows:

**For: 12 (TWELVE)**  
Councillors W. Carey, M. Duff, L. Dunne, P. Holohan, M. Johannson, C. King, D. Ó Brádaigh, E. Ó Broin, D. Richardson, J. Sinnott, F. Timmons and L. Whelan.

**Against:** **18 (EIGHTEEN)**  
Councillors V. Casserly, Y. Collins, L. Donaghy, A. Edge, P. Gogarty, L. Guéret, L. Hagin Meade, P. Kearns, M. Lynch, L. McCrave, R. McMahon, D. McManus, S. Moynihan, G. O’Connell, C. O’Connor, S. O’Hara, B. Pereppadan, and J. Tuffy.

**Abstain:** **4 (FOUR)**   
Councillors T. Costello, V. Mulhall, E. Murphy and E. O’Brien.

As a result of the **Roll Call Vote** the Motion was **NOT AGREED.**

### **M3/0324 Consultation Portal**

Proposed by Councillor Y. Collins and seconded by Councillor S. Moynihan.

That this Council considers adding follow up documentation to the consultation portal after a public consultation closes, detailing how the feedback from the submissions and observations raised by the public has been considered and implemented by the Council, as appropriate.

**REPORT:**

A review of the Council's consultation portal has identified an improvement in uploading the reports presented at Council following the Consultation process to the portal to make the complete information on a project more accessible to the public. As members will be aware, these reports include a list of all participants in the consultation, a summary of the issues and the Chief Executive's response, including any recommended amendments to the policy or initiative in question by the Executive.

Implementation of this measure is currently in process, and it is felt that this would achieve the intent of this motion.

A discussion followed with a contribution from Councillor Y. Collins.

Ms. L. Maxwell, Director of Corporate Performance and Change Management, responded to the Member.

The report was accepted and the motion **AGREED**.

### **M4/0324 Registered Tradespersons.**

It was proposed by Councillor T. Costello, seconded by Councillor E. Murphy, and **MOVED** without debate:

That SDCC compile a Registered Tradesperson list, similar to what is operational in Kildare Co Co to ensure that elderly people who are getting work done through grants etc are protected when getting alterations and modifications to their homes.

**REPORT:**

South Dublin County Council does not maintain a list of registered tradespersons.

However, there is a Voluntary Construction Register (VCR) which was established by the Construction Industry Federation (CIF) in consultation with the Department of Housing, Planning, Local Government and Heritage as the definitive listing of main contractors and sub-contractors operating in Ireland that are competent to carry out works on behalf of public and private clients.  Each company on the Register must meet particular prequalification criteria to qualify for VCR registration.

Anyone can access the Register at [www.voluntaryconstructionregister.ie](http://www.voluntaryconstructionregister.ie/) to find a contract, sub-contractor or tradesperson or to check if a company they are considering to contract is on the register.

### **M5/0324 Kissing Gates** Proposed by Councillor V. Mulhall, seconded by Councillor M. Lynch.

That this Council commits to a timeline for the full phase-out of 'kissing gates' from parks and public spaces to facilitate universal access to our public realm in South Dublin County.

**REPORT:**

In response to calls from elected members and local residents from 2018/2019 onwards South Dublin County Council completed a substantial programme of boundary improvement works and access controls at locations where scramblers, quad bikes and stolen cars were gaining access to public parks. These substantial boundary improvement works were carried out at Bancroft Park, Butler McGee Park, Jobstown Park, Tymon Park/Basketball Arena Road, Dodder Valley Park, Killinarden Park and Whitestown Stream  The construction of a reinforced concrete wall at the boundary of Killinarden Park and Knockmore Crescent and Drive was completed in 2020, as was the construction of a similar wall at St Cuthbert’s Park in Clondalkin and these boundary walls have incorporated access controls such as kissing gates and K barriers.   All of the above represents a major investment in the protection of parks and open spaces across the county.  Had these works not been carried out at the time it is likely that considerable damage would have occurred at many of these park locations over the years that have passed.

Following a lengthy process to consider the requirements of new legislation and the examination of the matter by an interdepartmental group appointed by government in 2017, the Roads and Road Traffic Act 2023 was signed into law by President Higgins on 23rd June 2023.  The new legislation gives powers to An Garda Siochana which were not available to them under previous legislation, including powers to stop and seize a scrambler or quad bike where there is suspicion that it has been used in breach of the law and also the powers to search a premises in connection with such a matter.   A number of targeted actions have been carried out by An Garda Siochana around the country which have led to the seizure of many such vehicles.

It is accepted that the installation of access controls at entrances to parks can have the unintended and undesired consequence of preventing some legitimate park users such as those on bikes, pushing buggies or those who use mobility aids from gaining access to parks at certain points.  This is in conflict with the Council's objectives to provide universal access to parks and open spaces where this is possible.  The Council has always committed to reviewing this issue once the position with regard to legislation and the powers available to the Gardai had changed, and now is the appropriate time to commence this process.  In the first instance those cycle and walking routes which have been developed with the assistance of grant funding from central government which is conditional on universal access being provided are being examined as a priority, the first of these is the Dodder Greenway.  All regional parks will then be examined to determine where universal access needs to be provided, and following this all other parks will be examined.  This information, once it has been compiled, will be brought back to each of the relevant area committees for discussion with regard to action required.  The review will include liaison with An Garda Siochana in relation to the issues relating to each kissing gate location. The proposals regarding the Dodder Greenway will be presented to both the Tallaght area committee and the Rathfarnham/Templeogue/Firhouse/Bohernabreena area committee as the greenway runs through both areas.

A discussion followed with contributions from Councillors V. Mulhall, E. Murphy, T. Costello, C. King, V. Casserly, E. Ó Broin, C. O’ Connor, M. Johannson, M. Lynch, M. Duff,

At this point of the meeting 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.

The discussion continued with contributions from Councillors W. Carey and J. Tuffy.

The report was accepted and the motion **AGREED**.

### **M9/0324 Local Area Plan**

It was proposed by Councillor F. Timmons, seconded by Councillor M. Lynch, and **MOVED** without debate:

That this council calls on the Chief Executive to provide written guidance to communities who are looking to have input into the development of their areas in line with the County Development Plan and their Local Area Plan.

**REPORT:**

The Planning and Development Acts include sections which outline the requirements for public consultation of both County Development Plans and Local Area Plans. This is the key opportunity for the public to have input into the development of their areas.

For both plan-making processes, the Act provides for consultation at the pre-draft stage and following that, for the various statutory stages of the different plans.  
There is certain discretion afforded to Local Authorities as to how they run public consultation. South Dublin County Council has taken different approaches intended to reflect the needs of different demographics and / or different geographies.

However, typically there will be a public notice, the publication of issues papers, social media feeds, drop-ins or workshops, on-line consultation whether in the form of surveys or webinars or other formats e.g. virtual rooms. These forms of public engagement allow for discussion and feedback from the early stages of plan-making. For the County Development Plan there were also weekly articles in the Echo newspaper during the pre-draft stage explaining the different themes that would be within the Plan. All of the above provide for public engagement and are advertised during the relevant period.

In terms of oversight of the Development Plan, the Planning Authority is required to give a report to the members of the authority two years after the making the development plan on the progress achieved in securing its objectives. This report is public and will facilitate members of the public to outline any observations they may have on progressing objectives.

Following the plan making process, members of the public can, and do, frequently engage with the local authority through customer care queries where they can email info@sdublincoco.ie. Information on customer care is contained on South Dublin’s website Customer Care - SDCC, where various different contact emails are provided for different enquiries or concerns. The Customer Care page also includes a Customer Care On-line Form where details of an enquiry or complaint can be set out.  
  
This is in addition to any motions or questions which may be put forward in the chamber by elected members representing their constituents.

### **M10/0324 Street Bollards**

It was proposed by Councillor E. Ó Broin, seconded by Councillor F. Timmons and **MOVED** without debate:

This council agrees that the vintage street bollards installed on the south side of the Cookstown Road from the junction with the Old Belgard Road, west, which is an industrial estate, should be deployed in other village centres to enhance their public realm.

**REPORT:**

The Council has an active programme of village and district centre enhancements underway including Castletymon, Rosemount, Bawnogue, Dodsboro, Lucan Village and Clondalkin Village. These projects are each at different stages of design and delivery. There is also a follow on set of locations previously to be progressed once suitable progress has been made on the above listed projects and there is capacity within the team to move onto the next project.

The design will typically take a contextual design at each location as to what the most appropriate design and materials should be. However, there is a growing set of materials that providing successful that the team will keep under constant review. At this stage, it would not be appropriate to agree a set of materials out of context and commit to applying these in each location in advance of a design being progressed. However, the team are happy to commit to reviewing this type of bollard in future designs as appropriate.

[M10 (b) Example of bollards](http://intranet/cmas/documentsview.aspx?id=81895)

### **M11/0324 CAMHS**

It was proposed by Councillor W. Carey, seconded by Councillor F. Timmons, and **MOVED** without debate:

That this council agrees that the Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services (CAMHS) should be regulated under the Mental Health Act, 2001, delivering on the first out of the forty-nine recommendations made by the Mental Health Commission in their report on CAMHS, and will write to the Minister for Health to ask that this is carried out.

**REPORT:**

If this motion is passed, a letter will be issued to the Minister of Health. The response, when received, will be circulated to the Members.

*Meeting ended at 19:06.*

**Motions Not Reached:**

### **M6/0324 St. Patricks Day**

Proposed by Councillor L. Whelan

That this councils calls on the Taoiseach, government and opposition parties to refrain from 'business as usual' politics by not attending St. Patricks day celebrations in the White House with President Biden. This is due to the direct role he, and the US government, are playing in upholding genocide by supplying Israel with weapons, bombs and being the sole vote in the UN security council opposing a ceasefire.

### **M7/0324 Residents Group**

Proposed by Councillor M. Lynch

That the council designs a policy and guidelines that allows residents groups, at their own expense, who have unanimous or majority agreement on a given street or area, and with prior approval from the council, to conduct on street tree pruning using licenced arboricultural professionals.

### **M8/0324 Public Lighting**

Proposed by Councillor C. O'Connor

That this Council calls on the Chief Executive to take immediate and effective action to deal with the situation where many public lights across our County are out of order and subject to huge delays regarding repairs?