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

Minutes of South Dublin County Council April 2024 County Council Meeting held on Monday 8 April 2024

### **PRESENT**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Carey, W. | Mahon, K. |
| Casserly, V. | McCrave, L. |
| Collins, Y. | McMahon, R. |
| Costello, T. | McManus, D. |
| Donaghy. L | Moynihan, S. |
| Duff, M. | Mulhall, V. |
| Dunne, L. | Murphy, E. |
| 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 | J. Frehill, M. Mulhern, T. Walsh, E. Leech |
| Head of Finance | R. FitzGerald |
| Head of IT | T. Kavanagh |
| County Architect | C. Harte |
| Senior Executive Officer | | M. Murtagh |
| Senior Executive Officer | | L. Leonard |
| Senior Parks Superintendent | | S. Furlong |
| Administrative Officer | M. Reilly |
| A/Senior Staff Officer | K. McLoughlin |
| A/ Climate Action Coordinator | A, MacNamara |
| A/ Staff Officer | D. Murphy |
| Sord | A. O’Brien |

The Mayor, Councillor A. Edge, presided

Apologies were received from Councillor D. Ó Brádaigh

**WEBCASTING NOTICE**

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Before the meeting commenced, the Mayor, Councillor A. Edge and Councillors S. Moynihan, P. Kearns, D. McManus, M. Lynch, W. Carey, F. Timmons, C. King, P. Gogarty, J. Sinnott, R. McMahon congratulated Mr. C. Ward on his appointment as Chief Executive.

Mr. C. Ward, Chief Executive addressed the Members and thanked them for their kind words.

**H1/0424 CONFIRMATION AND REAFFIRMATION OF MINUTES - FOR APPROVAL**

Minutes of the March Council Meeting held on 13th March 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 R. McMahon.

[(a) March Council Minutes - 11th March 2023](http://intranet/cmas/documentsview.aspx?id=82407)

**H2/0424 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, Newcastle, Rathcoole, Saggart and Brittas Area Committee Meeting**

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.*

**H3/0424 STANDING COMMITTEES ORGANISATION, PROCEDURE & FINANCE - FOR APPROVAL**

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

**HI3 (a) Report on Conferences/Seminars**

**REPLY:**

[**Section 142 (5) of Local Government Act 2001**](http://www.irishstatutebook.ie/zza37y2001s142.html) provides for the authorization of Members’ attendance at conferences both home and abroad.

**Training Notified Since January 2024**

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Name** | **Organisation** | **Location** | **Date** |
| AILG Module 2 | AILG | Hodson Bay Hotel, Athlone | 23rd March |

**Training Confirmed Attended Since January 2024**

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Name** | **Organisation** | **Location** | **Date** | **Councillors in Attendance** |
| AIR Regions | Association of Irish Regions | The Woodlands House Hotel, Adare, Co, Limerick | 7th - 8th February | Cllr B. Lawlor  Cllr S. O'Hara  Cllr B. Pereppadan  Cllr D. McManus |
| AILG Module 1 | AILG | The Fairways Hotel, Co. Louth | 25th January | Cllr B. Lawlor  Cllr S. O'Hara  Cllr B. Pereppadan  Cllr G. O'Connell  Cllr. D. McManus  Cllr K. Egan |
| AILG Annual Training Seminar | AILG | Arklow Bay Hotel, Co. Wicklow | 14th - 15th February | Cllr L. McCrave  Cllr G. O'Connell  Cllr B. Pereppadan  Cllr K. Egan  Cllr B. Lawlor  Cllr D. McManus  Cllr S. O'Hara |
| LAMA Spring Seminar | LAMA | Donegal | 19th - 20th January | Cllr B. Pereppadan  Cllr R. McMahon  Cllr B. Lawlor  Cllr K. Egan  Cllr S. O'Hara |

Listed below are conferences which have been notified to South Dublin County Council and whose appropriateness has been vetted by the members’ working group in accordance with Circ. Letter 02/10.

**Conferences Notified Since January 2024**

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Name** | **Organisation** | **Location** | **Date** |
| None |  |  |  |

**Conferences Confirmed Attended Since January 2024**

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Name** | **Organisation** | **Location** | **Date** | **Councillors in Attendance** |
| None |  |  |  |  |

**Requirements on members in relation to attendance at conferences**  
(1) Having been authorised to attend an event under section 142, a councillor is required in all circumstances to –

a) attend that event and participate in the proceedings to the greatest extent possible, and

b) submit a written report within 15 days to the Cathaoirleach, who shall submit the report to the next ordinary meeting of the council. The report must indicate the nature of the meeting and contain a summary of the proceedings. This report shall be made available free of charge on request to any member of the public; for this purpose it may be put on the local authority’s website. The requirements in relation to reports by attendees and making the report available to the public are in large part new requirements under section 142(5)(f) (as amended) and section 142(5)(fa).

As authorisation under this section is a reserved function Members are required to pass the following resolution:

“In accordance with Section 142 (5) of the Local Government Act, 2001 attendance by Members at the Conferences / Seminars outlined in the report is hereby authorized."

[H3 (b)(i) Review of Naming Infrastructure Policy presentation](http://intranet/cmas/documentsview.aspx?id=82382)

[H3 (b) (ii) Review of Naming Infrastructure Policy](http://intranet/cmas/documentsview.aspx?id=82383)

#### The reports were proposed by Councillor A. Edge, seconded by Councillor F.

#### Timmons and **AGREED**.

**H4/0424 STRATEGIC POLICY COMMITTEES - FOR NOTING**

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

**H5/0424 REPORTS REQUESTED BY AREA COMMITTEES - FOR NOTING**

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

**Questions:**

It was proposed by Councillor A. Edge, seconded by Councillor S. Moynihan and **RESOLVED**:

“That pursuant to Standing Order No. 22, Questions numbered Q1 – Q30 be **ADOPTED** and **APPROVED.”**

### **Q1/0424 Councillor Y. Collins**

To ask the Council for an update on its allotment policy, to include the basis on which plots are allocated, and the average time from the date of application to the date on which a plot is allocated.

**REPLY:**

Applicants who wish to register for an allotment must complete an application form available from South Dublin County Council. Forms can be requested by calling 01-4149000 or the form can be downloaded from the Council’s website at <https://www.sdcc.ie/en/services/sport-and-recreation/allotments>

Applicants must reside within the administrative area of South Dublin County Council, applications from outside the area are not accepted. Once a person has applied for an allotment, they will be placed on the waiting list or provided with an allotment if one is available immediately. The allotments are assigned to the next person on the list once they become available. For Q1 2024 – after our renewal process – we have taken back about 50 sites (overall) which were either surrendered or not being worked and have been re-allocated to applicants on the waiting list. Site visits at all 4 Allotment locations will begin as soon as growing season/workings starts and any other plots that have been monitored due to lack of maintenance will be recovered and re-allocated.

There is also a new allotment site currently being developed in Graydon's Lane, Newcastle with approx. 30 plots. The taking in charge process is well advanced in Graydon and these allotments will be available once taken in charge.

Current Allotments:

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Site | Location | Number of Allotment Plots |
| Corkagh Park | Clondalkin | 39 |
| Friarstown | Bohernabreena, Tallaght | 317 |
| Mill Lane | Palmerstown | 76 |
| Tymon Park | Tallaght | 14 |
|  |  | Total = 446 |

[Q1(b) Allotment Policy](http://www.sdublincoco.ie/sdcc/departments/corporate/apps/cmas/documentsview.aspx?id=82302)

### **Q2/0424 Councillor Y. Collins**

Has the Council considered using optical illusion speed bumps as part of a strategy to reduce speeding on our roads and to assist in traffic calming?

**REPLY:**

The Council have seen that pilot studies are being carried out in London on the effectiveness of 3-D optical illusion speed bumps. These painted on effects are in fact flat with the road surface but appear to have vertical depth to the oncoming driver.

The Council will continue to follow and implement the Irish Guidance documents in relation to traffic calming.  These recognised documents and guidance comes from the Design Manual for Urban Roads and Streets, the NTA, TII design specifications and the Department of Transport circulars.  These publications contain the tested and adopted guidance for traffic calming on public roads.

Our Senior Transport Stakeholders responsible for the development of Irish National Road Safety Policy constantly monitor the market for any new forms of traffic calming methods and will test and recommend any methods that have measurable improving effects on reducing driver speed.

The Council will be waiting for formal advice from our National Road Safety Policy makers such as the (DOT, NTA, TII or RSA) on the use of 3-D optical illusion speed bumps before we would install them in our County.

### **Q3/0424 Councillor T. Costello**

To ask the Chief Executive how long does it take to process a social housing support application from date of receipt to acceptance assuming all supporting documentation has been submitted

**REPLY:**

Fully completed applications with all required documentation can take up to 12 weeks for assessment. The current assessment time is 8 weeks which includes the processing of online and hardcopy applications.

It should be noted that an applicant must have an approved social housing file before applying for HAP.

### **Q4/0424 Councillor T. Costello**

To ask the Chief Executive for an update on projects that were awarded sports capital funding in the past 5 years

**REPLY:**

The Sports Capital Programme update below outlines the total number of projects in progress, completed and not commenced in the County. The Public Realm team manage some of the projects under the Capital Programme, while the Community team support the community facilities that have a direct landownership link to the Council.

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Sports Capital Programme | 2015 | 2017 | 2019 | 2020 |
| Total Number of Projects | 5 | 8 | 9 | 18 |
| Completed | 3 | 1 | 1 | 6 |
| In Progress | 1 | 7 | 7 | 11 |
| Not Commenced | 1 | 0 | 1 | 1 |

The Council is currently awaiting a decision from the Department of Tourism, Culture, Arts, Gaeltacht, Sport and Media, in relation to the 34 projects and over €2.7m applied for under the Sports Capital and Equipment Programme (SCEP) 2023.

### **Q5/0424 Councillor L. Dunne**

To ask the Chief Executive to give a report on how the budget allocation that was agreed through the JPC for Domestic Violence training & awareness will be spent, the report should include how many front-line council staff will be trained from this budget?

**REPLY:**

The Interagency Team are currently exploring various Domestic Violence training and awareness courses and workshops available aimed at helping staff to recognise and understand how to support those experiencing Domestic Violence.

Once a training provider and course has been agreed, it will be determined which frontline staff will be prioritised for training within the Housing, Social and Community Services Directorate.

### **Q6/0424 Councillor L. Guéret**

To ask the Chief Executive if consideration would be given to engaging the services of an Occupational Therapist to provide assessments for the residents of South Dublin County when they apply for Housing Adaptation or any grant application that requires an Occupational Therapy Assessment.

**REPLY:**

The Disabled Person's Grants (DPG) scheme is available for Council tenants who require alterations to be carried out to their Council home to assist with their disability needs.  Applicants need to submit a completed application form together with a Doctors certificate fully completed and a full Occupational Therapist (OT) report, to South Dublin County Council, Medical Section.

In 2023, a total of 152 applications for DPG scheme were received from Council tenants each accompanied by an OT report as required.

There are three categories of available housing grants for private households as follows:

* **Housing Adaptation Grant (HAG) for people with a disability (HAG)–** grant to assist disabled people with required works (Max grant €30k/means tested/required Occupational Therapist recommendation)
* **Housing Aid for Older People Grant (HOP):** essential repairs/improvements for older people aged 66years+. (Max grants €8k/means tested)
* **Mobility Aids Grant (MAG)** – mobility works for older persons, based on Occupational Therapist  report (max Grant €6K/ means tested on household income <€30k)

In 2023, 616 private grant applications were received for the above three schemes, each accompanied by an OT report as required.

An Occupational Therapist's report can be obtained from the HSE or privately, costing on average between €200 - €250. The Council do not engage the services of Occupational Therapists to provide assessments for Council tenants or private households.

### **Q7/0424 Councillor L. Hagin Meade**

To ask the Chief Executive for an update on the development, timeline and implementation agreed motion 5, September 2022, Sustainable Development Goal Community Dashboard with funding allocated in Budget 2023.

**REPLY:**

Work is ongoing between the Community Department and IT on this project with an agreement to develop a Sustainable Development Goal Community Dashboard on a pilot basis for the Clondalkin Area as this is the selected decarbonisation zone for the County.

### **Q8/0424 Councillor L. Hagin Meade**

To ask the Chief Executive if an online safety campaign aimed at raising awareness for motorists of vulnerable active travel users, on mountain roads during the summer (motion 15 agreed June 2022), will be repeated in summer 2024?

**REPLY:**

 In advance of the summer holidays, and in line with our awareness raising obligations, the Road Safety Unit will deliver a social media campaign raising the profile of vulnerable active travel users, on our mountain and pathway-free roads during the summer months.

### **Q9/0424 Councillor M. Lynch**

Can the Chief Executive outline the reasons why so many potholes have appeared on roads in the constituency over the last number of months and what is being done to repair them.

**REPLY:**

Potholes are a defect in the road that can be caused by a number of factors such as;

* poor ground conditions,
* poor construction/re-instatement,
* material failure,
* poor workmanship,
* material reaching natural end of life

Depending on when Roads were surfaced there can be several locations that can require repair works at the same time.

SDCC run an annual road patching programme that resolves localised road defects in the road network and it is under this programme that permanent pothole repairs are carried out.

As potholes are reported to us they are inspected and added to the list of locations for the patching programme. If the pothole is deemed a significant hazard then SDCC crews will carry out a temporary patch repair so as to resolve the hazard until the permanent work can be carried out.

### **Q10/0424 Councillor M. Lynch**

To ask the Chief Executive to comment on the viewpoint that the narrowing of roads and tightening of corners leads to greater wear and damage of roads as all tyres hit the same narrow stretch of road.

**REPLY:**

The Council does not believe that narrowing the carriageway width leads to greater wear of roads.

On all carriageways, irrespective of the design width, there is what is called a "wheel track" and oil track section of road.

The wheel track is the general location of the wheels of a vehicle on the road. In practice this usually means there is a consistent line where most tyres track down a typical carriageway.  This tyre line does get worn more than the track between the tyres (the oil track) because the tyres over time abrade the stone aggregate surfacing and polish and wear the stone texture.  Even on relatively wide carriageways drivers position their cars in the same position of the carriageway.  That is a set distance from the kerb line on the passenger side and set distance from the centre line of the carriageway.

Meanwhile the oil tack, the space between the tyres, gets little abrasion and therefore does not damage as quickly as the tyre tracks.

In the narrowed traffic calmed carriageway scenario, there will still be a tyre track and an oil track.  There will still be the same number of vehicles travelling over these tyre tracks and the abrasive and polishing of the surface will be the roughly the same as in the wider road example.  Therefore, in a straight line of road the wear and damage rate is the same in both a wide road and narrowed road example.

In relation to the tightening of corners. The tighter turning of lorries in theory can lead to more abrasion of the road surface.  However, the less speed of the turning movements can reduce the abrasive forces applied to the road surface also.  So the negative effect is balanced by a positive effect.  Therefore I suggest the net effect is neutral.

In conclusion, it is believed that the narrowing of roads and the tightening of corners will have a negligible effect on the life expectancy of the typical road surface.

### **Q11/0424 Councillor M. Lynch**

To ask the Chief Executive has there been a noticeable decrease in littering of plastic bottles and cans since the introduction of the deposit return scheme.

**REPLY:**

The national Deposit Return Scheme which was introduced on 1 February 2024 enables consumers to bring back used plastic drink bottles and aluminium cans which carry the Re-turn logo to reclaim the deposit which has been paid at purchase. While it is too early to evaluate the success of the scheme in terms of the reduction in littering there is already anecdotal evidence that plastic drinks bottles and aluminium cans have become less evident among street litter, and it is certain that this reduction will happen as these containers now have a monetary value.  The success of similar schemes in countries such as Sweden and Norway for example is well documented and suggests that a return rate in excess of 90% of all drinks containers is achievable.  It is expected that the reduction in littering related to such containers will be evaluated in due course by the scheme providers and through the National Litter Pollution Monitoring Scheme which is run by the Dept of Environment, Climate and Communications.

It is estimated that 5 million single-use drinks bottles and cans are consumed every day in Ireland. Drinks containers are typically consumed 'on the go' and are often thrown away in mixed waste or litter, instead of being recycled.  At present the recycling rate for 'on-the-go' bottles is only 23% and this needs to be increased to 90% by 2029 if we are to meet EU recycling targets.  The Deposit Return Scheme will boost the recycling rate for these drinks containers by charging a small, refundable deposit for each plastic bottle or can. When you return your empty and undamaged bottles or cans you will receive your deposit back in cash or a voucher redeemable for cash at the shop you are returning it to.

### **Q12/0424 Councillor M. Lynch**

To ask the Chief Executive has there been a noticeable decrease in the volume of waste in public bins since the introduction of the deposit return scheme.

**REPLY:**

The national Deposit Return Scheme which was introduced on 1st February 2024 enables consumers to bring back used plastic drink bottles and aluminium cans which carry the Re-turn logo to reclaim the deposit which has been paid at purchase. It is too early to evaluate the success of the scheme in terms of the reduction in tonnages arising from plastic drinks bottles and aluminium cans that are captured by the scheme.  Doing a comparison of litter bin tonnages before and after the introduction of the scheme may not provide conclusive evidence as these tonnages can fluctuate for a number of reasons.  It is also the case that the containers captured by the scheme can be disposed of or recycled in a number of ways including discarded as litter, placed in a street litter bin, placed in the recycling bin at home and now recycled through the DRS.  It is expected that the scheme operators will provide information regarding the tonnages of containers captured by the scheme and this information should provide a true reflection of the success of the scheme in due course.

It is estimated that 5 million single-use drinks bottles and cans are consumed every day in Ireland. Drinks containers are typically consumed 'on the go' and are often thrown away in mixed waste or litter, instead of being recycled.  At present the recycling rate for 'on-the-go' bottles is only 23% and this needs to be increased to 90% by 2029 if we are to meet EU recycling targets.  The Deposit Return Scheme will boost the recycling rate for these drinks containers by charging a small, refundable deposit for each plastic bottle or can. When you return your empty and undamaged bottles or cans you will receive your deposit back in cash or a voucher redeemable for cash at the shop you are returning it to.

### **Q13/0424 Councillor V. Mulhall**

To ask the Chief Executive how many tenants are the on are on the list for a home energy upgrade inspection and if he would make a statement on likely timeframe inspections will be carried out?

**REPLY:**

The Council does not operate a waiting list of tenants for home energy upgrade inspections.

The delivery of the Council's Energy Efficiency Retrofitting Programme(EERP) for our social housing stock is classified into two geographical areas: North of the Naas Road (Clondalkin/Lucan/Newcastle Area) and South of the Naas Road (Tallaght/Rathfarnham/Rathcoole Area).  The timeframe within which an inspection is carried out varies.  Properties are selected further to a desktop study which can give an indication of the BER (Building Energy Rating) of a particular property with knowledge of conditions of properties including the age profile.  Generally, the properties selected for a home energy upgrade range from a low energy efficiency BER rating between D and F/G. All identified properties are surveyed prior to work being undertaken.  Selected properties are then retrofitted on a phased basis within estates as it has been found that this offers the best productivity and a higher completion rate.  The number of properties retrofitted is dependent on funding and deliverable targets provided by the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage.  The target of 83 properties to be completed in 2024, was issued by the Department on 14th of March 2024, a request has been made to the Department to increase this allocation based on the Councils capacity to deliver under the programme.  165 units were delivered in 2023 with 252 properties complete to date under the EERP programme.

The Council also operates a windows and doors programme following a  county wide survey completed in 2017/18.  The survey specifically identified properties with single glazed timber of aluminium units.  Approximately 600 properties across the county were identified requiring works, 253 have been completed to date with remaining properties with contractors or surveyed, with tender preparation underway.

Going forward, periodic property inspections will be carried out, whereby properties will be inspected on a 4-to-5-year cycle.  The findings of the surveys will feed into ongoing multi-annual planned maintenance programmes, with the aim to reduce the current level of reactive maintenance requests and improve the overall value for money for the delivery of the service.  Funding has been provided by the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage to commence the first year of the 4-to-5-year cycle. The outcome of these surveys will guide the selection of properties for energy efficiency retrofitting works in the future.

### **Q14/0424 Councillor V. Mulhall**

To ask the Chief Executive if the home energy upgrade section of SDCC is adequately resourced with staff and funding to carry out inspections and works?

**REPLY:**

The Planned Housing Maintenance section are responsible for the delivery of the Energy Efficiency Retrofitting Programme (EERP). The staff complement includes a Senior Executive Engineer, an Executive Engineer, a Clerk of Works, a Foreman of Works and an Assistant Foreman of Works, the technical team are also supported by a Tenant Liaison Officer and two administrative staff members. The Planned Maintenance Section work in conjunction with several specialist construction contractors to deliver the EERP. In 2023, 165 properties received energy upgrades.

Funding of €2,822,000 was allocated by the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage to the Council for EERP 2024 with a target of 83 properties to be completed.  A request has been made to the Department to increase this funding allocation based on the Council's capacity to deliver under the programme.

### **Q14/0424 Councillor V. Mulhall**

To ask the Chief Executive how people are prioritised when applying for housing through CBL and if he could outline how this process works?

**REPLY:**

The Choice Based Letting scheme (CBL) has been the Council’s primary method of housing allocation since October 2011 and operates on a "Time on List basis" only.

Applicants on the Housing List should consult the Council’s designated website on a weekly basis in order to check for suitable advertised properties. The successful applicant, i.e. the applicant longest on the Housing List of those who expressed an interest, will be contacted immediately and offered the advertised property (subject to file review, income and Garda checks etc.).

Applicants assessed and approved as Homeless are placed in Emergency Accommodation managed by the Dublin Regional Homeless Executive.  These applicants are awarded Homeless Priority and are allocated in accordance with the Council's Allocation Scheme.

Applicants with enduring medical needs may be added to the medical list. Those approved for wheelchair adapted properties and ground floor accommodation do not have access to Choice Based Letting and are allocated properties in accordance with the Council's Allocation Scheme.

### **Q16/0424 Councillor V. Mulhall**

To ask the Chief Executive the action SDCC plan to take to best support and facilitate integration of asylum seekers and IPA people into our county?

**REPLY:**

A new Local Authority Integration Team to support and facilitate integration of asylum seekers and IPAs into our county is currently being established. The team will be made up of an Integration Support Coordinator, two Integration Support Workers and an Administrative Support role. Interviews to fill these positions have taken place and the team will be in place by the end of April.

The role of the team is to provide ongoing integration supports to International Protection Applicants, Beneficiaries of Temporary Protection and Programme Refugees and to better help them engage with existing local services. The role includes providing information, advice and guidance to individuals, linking individuals with mainstream and NGO services and identifying gaps in supports or services.  The overarching aim is to empower individuals to ultimately live independently in the community.

### **Q17/0424 Councillor D. Ó Brádaigh**

To ask the Chief Executive to provide a further update and indicative timeline for when council tenants can expect to be able to make rent payments online and set out what any difficulties in providing this service?

**REPLY:**

In line with the Council’s ongoing digital transformation, options to facilitate Council tenants in making rent payments through an online platform are being explored.

Building on the success of the implementation of an online payment solution for housing loans, the Council is set to further engage with a software developer in the second quarter of 2024 to trial its application in housing rents. Testing will be required to ensure the seamless integration of the platform with the Council’s Integrated Housing System.

During the development of this additional payment option, tenants can continue to make payments at the Council’s cash offices situated at County Hall, Town Centre, Tallaght, Dublin 24, and Civic Offices, Clondalkin, Dublin 22.  Payments may be made by cash, cheque, paying order, debit card or credit card and by credit transfer. Payments may be made in person or by calling 01 4149121. Payments can also be made at any Post Office or Post point location or by using Household Budget where applicable. The Council will continue to communicate with citizens on existing and new payment options and relevant updates will be notified on [**www.sdcc.ie**](https://eur04.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=http%3A%2F%2Fwww.sdcc.ie%2F&amp;data=05%7C02%7Cmconnell%40SDUBLINCOCO.ie%7C5b6d2b3814264663509a08dc4e4d1892%7C6a3c00c019d0492da8de95fad8fda1d4%7C0%7C0%7C638471340226130843%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C0%7C%7C%7C&amp;sdata=mPGMnuIm6uBVozb9P6zlww046TQ7vfWl2PjJ9S8EuPA%3D&amp;reserved=0)  and via the Council's communications platforms.

### **Q18/0424 Councillor E. Ó Broin**

To ask the Chief Executive what role if any county councils have in relation to providing accommodation for asylum seekers?

**REPLY:**

The provision of accommodation for International Protection Applicants (IPAs) is under the remit of the Department of Equality, Children, Disability, Integration and Youth, local authorities do not have a role in identifying locations or allocations.

### **Q19/0424 Councillor C. O’Connor**

To ask the Chief Executive if he is working on a plan to deal effectively with the annual challenges of the Halloween season and will he make a statement?

**REPLY:**

The Council recognises the challenges that Halloween causes for many communities through the illegal burning of waste on Halloween bonfires, the damage to local amenities, and the threat to property and local services.

In response to Halloween in recent years the Council has adopted a cross departmental approach utilising the services of Public Realm, Waste Enforcement, Environmental Awareness, Library Services, Housing and Community Services Departments to prevent damage and promote the “Safe Halloween” message. The Council's response to Halloween in 2024 will involve the following elements as it has done in other recent years:

* Various awareness measures to highlight the dangers associated with bonfires and the harm done to the environment.
* Funding of community based activities which are intended to divert children away from bonfires and other anti-social behaviour.
* Action by the Council's Environmental Licensing and Enforcement Section to deal with commercial premises and their obligations to properly store their waste including waste tyres and pallets (including aerial surveys of premises where necessary).
* The Public Realm response to remove stockpiles of bonfire materials will take place throughout September and October as in previous years and will intensify as Halloween approaches.
* The Public Realm Section will have operational staff on duty over the October bank holiday/Halloween weekend collecting bonfire materials as in previous years.
* Liaison with An Garda Siochana with regard to action being taken by them and by the Council in relation to this matter.
* Liaison with local residents groups who can help to identify the locations of material stockpiles.
* Implementation of the ‘bulbs not bonfires’ scheme which is a reward provided through South Dublin County Council’s Social Credit Scheme. This initiative provides communities with flowers in the Spring instead of scarred open space throughout the year. In recent years the Council has spent approximately €2,500 per year on bulbs for this popular scheme and it is envisaged that a similar sum will be spent again this year on the scheme.
* The social credits scheme will once again facilitate groups who are registered on the scheme with the disposal of materials at the Council's civic amenity site in Ballymount, and this will help to reduce the amount of materials being handed over for bonfires.
* RecycleIT will again be requested to run free door to door electrical recycling collection days in residential areas across South Dublin prior to Halloween.  These collection days are now annual events and help ensure hazardous electrical equipment and batteries don’t find their way onto seasonal Bonfires.  This scheme helps residents to recycle all types of electrical, electronic and battery-operated equipment including old heaters, electronic toys, TV’s, washing machines, cookers, kettles, phones and computers, and any other item with a plug or battery (including batteries).
* The Council will also run a free to use mattress amnesty again this year in conjunction with our social enterprise partners [**RecycleIT**](http://www.recycleit.ie/). Anyone unable to attend these collection days, will have an opportunity to drop their unwanted mattress off with our partners RecycleIt at their premises in Crag Industrial Estate, D22, free of charge.

### **Q20/0424 Councillor C. O’Connor**

To ask the Chief Executive to present an up to date report on his continued efforts to deal with our Housing/Homeless crisis and may we have a statement?

**REPLY:**

The Council continues to work proactively to address the ongoing challenges for households in need of accommodation by increasing new housing supply through partnerships with approved housing bodies, ongoing choice based letting and other allocation options, turning around vacant Council properties for re-letting, supporting HAP tenancies and engaging with landlords on potential tenant in-situ acquisitions.

On 29th February 2024, there were 48 allocations to homeless households in South Dublin. Of the total allocations 26 were allocated in February, 5 of these were singles and 21 were to families/couples (comprising a total of 36 adults & 50 children). We have significantly exceeded our target of 71 allocation to homeless households in 2022, which saw an increase of 242% in 2023.

To date, 11 offers of accommodation made to families in emergency accommodation were refused.

Our allocation team are prioritising allocations to homeless households, including three and four bed homes to reduce family homelessness, and we are also progressing significant numbers of tenant in-situ acquisitions to prevent further homelessness.

Households at risk of experiencing homelessness should engage with the Council to examine prevention measures including possible alternative accommodation and our Homeless Unit continues to help those who find themselves homeless or at risk of becoming homeless.  Working in conjunction with the Dublin Region Homeless Executive (DHRE), this unit operates an advice clinic in County Hall and provides outreach services across the County as well as detailing emergency accommodation options including central placement, self-accommodate, family hubs and other supported accommodation. Staff in the Homeless Unit will organise emergency accommodation for those assessed as homeless through the Assessment and Placement Service and we will continue to actively explore further options for the provision of emergency accommodation across the County in collaboration with the DHRE.

Refuge facilities, provided and managed by Saoirse supported by the Council, are operational in Tallaght and Rathcoole to support victims of domestic violence. Additional supported/step down/transitional accommodation is also provided by approved housing bodies and other voluntary organisations including facilities at Neilstown, Springfield, Kiltalown and Glencarrig.

The Council, in conjunction with the Dublin Region Homeless Executive will continue to explore potential options for additional family hubs and other supported accommodation in the County.

In addition, the homeless outreach service operates all year round for rough sleepers across the County, working with other agencies, including the HSE, in identifying rough sleepers and connecting them with appropriate accommodation and support services and this service will also play a vital role in assisting homeless rough sleepers during the winter months.

In 2024, €4,475,400 has been allocated for Homeless Services including an additional staff and supports, directly and through the Dublin Region Homeless Executive.

We are committed in 2024 to refining and improving our performance in this area and to achieve higher levels of delivery and reduce homelessness in our County given its importance, particularly in the current circumstances.

### **Q21/0424 Councillor C. O’Connor**

To ask the Chief Executive if he has a job creation target for the County and will he furnish a detailed statement?

**REPLY:**

In line with the National Planning Framework and its projected growth targets, in preparing the 2022 County Development Plan it is anticipated that South Dublin County will need to cater for an additional 36,678 jobs up to 2040. This equates to an average year on year growth of 1,528 jobs a year over a 24-year period. As a Local Authority we have sought to create the conditions for a buoyant economic climate within the County, which will support job creation through the zoning of economic and enterprise land, the preparation of Local Area Plans, SDZs and Masterplans to guide future development, the development of Grange Castle Business Park, which will support up to an additional 12,000 jobs, as well as supporting the start-up and SME sector through the development of the Innovation Centre, funding and mentoring supports from the South Dublin LEO, as well as investment and promotion in the Tourism sector. This is also ably supported by investment in the County of €1.5bn through the Council's capital programme, which acts as a stimulus for job creation and creating a liveable County, which is attractive for economic investment and the creation of sustainable communities.

### **Q22/0424 Councillor C. O’Connor**

To ask the Chief Executive if he continues to encourage Volunteerism throughout our County; will he give details and make a statement?

**REPLY:**

South Dublin County Volunteer Centre offers a recruitment and placement service for volunteers in South Dublin County. They also work with community and voluntary organisations providing support and training to "not for profits" on all aspects of volunteer management. The Community Department works closely with and fully supports the work carried out by South Dublin County Volunteer Centre and recently funded the Volunteer Bus through the Community Recognition Fund.

### **Q23/0424 Councillor C. O’Connor**

To ask the Chief Executive to outline his policy to deal with requests from concerned residents who report damage to their property from a Tree and feel strongly that health and safety would be served by the felling of the Tree and will he make a statement?

**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/).

The following sections of the policy are relevant to the issue raised here regarding damage being caused to a private property by a Council owned tree.  In summary, where a tree is causing damage to a private property the Council will take action to resolve the matter.  In the case of tree roots being the suspected cause of damage to a boundary wall, an engineering survey of the wall and foundation is required to establish the cause of the damage and the private resident is required to provide this.

**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 4.3.4 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

### **Q24/0424 Councillor J. Sinnott**

To ask the Chief Executive what level engagement South Dublin County Council has with refuse collection companies in relation to the picking up of bins and ensuring the returned empty bins are placed within a homeowner's boundary.

**REPLY:**

* All waste collection companies engaged in household waste collections are permitted by the National Waste Collection Permit Office (NWCPO) in Offaly County Council. The collection permit issued in relation to the collection of household kerbside waste carries a standard condition that the collector must adhere to the Local Authorities waste bye-laws in relation to the presentation of household waste. Under the South Dublin County Council  Household and Commercial Waste bye-laws 2018, the onus is on the producer of the waste (i.e. the householder) to present their bin for collection no earlier than the day before collection and to remove it from any roadway, footway, footpath or any other public place no later than 8am on the day following the designated collection day. Therefore it is not the responsibility of the waste collector to return empty bins to within a homeowners boundary.

### **Q25/0424 Councillor J. Sinnott**

To ask the Chief Executive the approximate time it takes the Council to arrange clean up of graffiti following receipt of a rep and location of graffiti to be removed.

**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, utilising staff and probation services to respond effectively to any graffiti that is reported. Any graffiti that is considered offensive due to its content is always prioritised. The turn around on graffiti clean-ups with Probation services is generally a week to 10 days. Probation services were not available in January & February 2024, but have re-started graffiti clean-ups in March 2024. A contractor is also engaged for specialist graffiti removal.
* 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 below 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 following that meeting.

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

SDCC understand the frustrations that graffiti brings to residents and businesses and is working with many groups and organisations to improve the aesthetic appearance of the county. We are grateful to all Councillors and members of the public who continue to help us by identifying areas of graffiti and also where Tidytowns groups have helped in the clean up of same.

### **Q26/0424 Councillor F. Timmons**

To ask the Chief Executive would he explain the bye laws for poster raising in regard to candidates running for local election, that includes what's allowed and not allowed?

**REPLY:**

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

1. Litter Pollution Act 1997, amended by the Electoral (Amendment) (No. 2) Act 2009
2. Protection of the Environment Act 2003
3. Planning and Development Regulations 2001-2023
4. European Parliament Elections Act 1997
5. Local Elections Regulations 1995
6. Referendum Act 1994
7. Electoral Reform Act 2022
8. Road Traffic Act 1961

Posters for elections can be displayed either

1. A) 30 days before the poll day or
2. B) From the date the Minister makes the polling order appointing the polling, which ever provides the shorter period of time.

In tandem with the requirements under the Litter Pollution Act 2007, as amended, candidates and their teams should be cognisant of safety issues associated with election posters:

· Posters obscuring visibility of traffic - pedestrian signals and traffic signs.

· Posters below head height or resting on the ground which can cause obstructions on footpaths are particularly hazardous to wheelchair users, blind people and those who are visually impaired.

· Protruding cable ties that are at a level that could cause injury to pedestrians including wheelchair users and children.

The following guidelines may be helpful in ensuring that posters are not a hazard to the public:

· Posters should be erected at a minimum height of 2.3 metres above footpaths, cycle tracks or any area to which pedestrians have access (Remember a guide dog or a long cane will not alert a blind person to the danger of an eye-level poster corner!);

· Posters should not be erected on lamp standards with overhead line electricity feed, traffic signal poles, bridge parapets, overpasses, pedestrian bridges, or roadside traffic barriers;

· Posters should not obscure statutory road signs or traffic / pedestrian signals in any way;

· Posters should be securely fixed to poles with cable ties or similar material to facilitate removal without damage to the poles.

Where South Dublin County Council staff become aware of posters that are considered to be causing a hazard, they will be removed and disposed.

Where advertisements/posters remain visible from a public place after 7 days of the polling date, fixed penalty notices may be issued to the persons/organisation/political party responsible for erecting the advertisements/posters.

In order to avoid this situation, please ensure that all advertisements/posters erected on your or your parties behalf are removed by the deadline. It would be good practice for election candidates to take note of where advertisements have been erected to ensure all are subsequently removed.

The above advise would also apply to erection of advertisements for public meetings with similar timelines associated, i.e. they should not be in place after 7 days following the date of the meeting.

### **Q27/0424 Councillor F. Timmons**

To ask the Chief Executive what grants are available to local Tidy Towns groups and other groups to undertake Climate change projects at a local community level?

**REPLY:**

South Dublin County Council’s Climate Action Plan (CAP) 2024-2029, was approved by Elected Members at the County Council meeting, held on Monday February 12th 2024. The CAP sets out a range of actions across the six theme areas of Energy & Buildings, Transport, Flood Resilience, Nature Based Solutions, Circular Economy & Resource Management and Citizen Engagement. This is aligned to the Government’s overall National Climate Objective, which seeks to pursue and achieve, by no later than the end of 2050, the transition to a climate resilient, biodiversity rich, environmentally sustainable and climate neutral economy. The inclusion of a specific Community Engagement Action area in the Plan, demonstrates the Council’s commitment to engage and support citizens and stakeholders to deliver effective, informed climate action at the local level, across South Dublin County.

The Council launched the Community Climate Action Programme on 13th December 2023. Funding of €1.073m is available for local, not-for-profit community groups and organisations over an initial 18-month period, to undertake local climate action projects. The overall objective of the Programme is to support and empower communities, in partnership with SDCC, to deliver projects that shape and build low carbon, sustainable communities in a considered and structured way, to help contribute to national climate and energy targets. Communities can play a crucial role in driving such positive change. In conjunction with the Department of the Environment, Climate and Communications, SDCC will support this through the Climate Action Plan. Project sizes include small (up to €20,000), medium (€20,000 - €50,000) and large (€51,000 - €100,000).The closing date for receipt of applications was Wednesday 27th March 2024. The Council is currently assessing project applications received, of which the final project list will be determined and approved by the Department of the Environment, Climate and Communications. Successful projects are expected to commence in Q3 2024.The Climate Action Section has undertaken extensive engagement with local groups across the County, on the availability and opportunities provided by this fund. Further information is available at [https://www.sdcc.ie/en/climate-action/community-climate-action-programme/](https://eur04.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.sdcc.ie%2Fen%2Fclimate-action%2Fcommunity-climate-action-programme%2F&amp;data=05%7C02%7Clauraabbey%40SDUBLINCOCO.ie%7Cfa63568a4c354379323a08dc4e62ece0%7C6a3c00c019d0492da8de95fad8fda1d4%7C0%7C0%7C638471433979267238%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C0%7C%7C%7C&amp;sdata=uaBwq2Ce2mijIDdoWGdHupvR3WyUiTC4MAdRv%2FxAS%2FM%3D&amp;reserved=0)

Tidy Towns groups across the County can also apply for the Tidy Towns Funding Programme 2024.  This programme offers Tidy Towns Committees the opportunity to apply for funding to assist with costs associated with their voluntary efforts, on working to enhance and improve the physical environment in their local areas and actively participate in the National Tidy Towns Competition. The maximum amount of funding currently available, is €12,000 per group. All money needs to be drawn down in 2024 and receipts provided for the entire spend. The closing date for this fund is 27th May 2024. Further information is available at [https://www.sdcc.ie/en/services/community/funding-and-support/tidy-towns/](https://eur04.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.sdcc.ie%2Fen%2Fservices%2Fcommunity%2Ffunding-and-support%2Ftidy-towns%2F&amp;data=05%7C02%7Clauraabbey%40SDUBLINCOCO.ie%7Cfa63568a4c354379323a08dc4e62ece0%7C6a3c00c019d0492da8de95fad8fda1d4%7C0%7C0%7C638471433979275414%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C0%7C%7C%7C&amp;sdata=pebLejC%2Fcbew63A6zAIESXnTXVBchZGAyCQ0i8lgL2w%3D&amp;reserved=0)

Local groups can also apply for the Community Recognition Fund 2024, of which the Application Window 1 closing date is 31st May 2024. The Community Recognition Fund was first introduced in 2023 to recognise the huge efforts made by communities in welcoming and supporting people coming to Ireland. Through the 2023 allocation, funding of €50 million was approved for some 900 projects in support cities, towns and villages nationwide. Based on the continued impacts on communities throughout the country and the need to support these communities in welcoming new arrivals, a further €50 million is being provided under the Community Recognition Fund 2024. With specific regard to climate action, projects can include for example: parks, community/sensory gardens, allotments, recreational areas and transport infrastructure. For 2024, the SDCC allocation is €2,249,663. Further information is available at [https://www.gov.ie/en/service/e626a-community-recognition-fund-2023/#2024-community-recognition-fund](https://eur04.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.gov.ie%2Fen%2Fservice%2Fe626a-community-recognition-fund-2023%2F%232024-community-recognition-fund&amp;data=05%7C02%7Clauraabbey%40SDUBLINCOCO.ie%7Cfa63568a4c354379323a08dc4e62ece0%7C6a3c00c019d0492da8de95fad8fda1d4%7C0%7C0%7C638471433979280080%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C0%7C%7C%7C&amp;sdata=YD8KeWCDUxLUgSxh%2B2grZjmEE%2BKfBYDQPFKMnjyiq1U%3D&amp;reserved=0)

The Council will continue to engage with local groups across the County, on grants and funding streams available for local climate action and environmental projects.

### **Q28/0424 Councillor F. Timmons**

To ask the Chief Executive how much is paid out in HAP Payments throughout SDCC and what efforts are being made to reduce this cost to the Taxpayer?

**REPLY:**

The Housing Assistance Payment (HAP) is a form of social housing for applicants approved as eligible for social housing supports.

On 25th March 2024, there were 2,577 active HAP tenancies which is a net decrease of 55 since the start of the year (figure takes account of ceased and new tenancies). All applicants are on the HAP transfer list with full access to Choice Based Letting (CBL).

In 2023, 120 applicants from the HAP transfer list were successful on CBL and were allocated tenancies in accordance with the Council’s Allocation Scheme. To date in 2024, 33 applicants have been allocated Council tenancies.

The Council delivered 650 new social homes through our own building programme, Part V agreements and in partnership with our AHB partners, in 2023.  Under our leasing programme 114 homes were delivered under our standard leasing and a further 151 homes under the targeted leasing initiative.

For 2024, we anticipate delivery of over 700 new homes across South Dublin through the various construction schemes and a further 120 homes under leasing initiatives. In addition, the Council has a target to acquire 140 homes under the Tenant in Situ Scheme.

The successful delivery of our housing building programme and the Tenant in Situ Scheme will enable more people to transfer from HAP properties into Council home, thus reducing the cost of HAP.

### **Q29/0424 Councillor F. Timmons**

To ask the Chief Executive for a breakdown of local property tax paid to council per LEA since 2019?

The Revenue Commissioners are responsible for the collection of Local Property Tax (LPT) and the allocation of the Local Property Tax is provided on a county wide basis. Details are not provided on the basis of Local Electoral Area.

The Local Property Tax allocation for South Dublin for the years 2019 to 2024 are computed as follows:

A table with numbers and numbers

Description automatically generated

### **Q30/0424 Councillor F. Timmons**

To ask the Chief Executive for a breakdown of commercial rates paid to Council since 2019 by LEA?

Please see below details of the commercial rates accrued by South Dublin County Council for the years 2019-2024. This information is not currently available by Local Electoral Area but has been broken down into electoral districts.



**H6/0424 DECLARATION OF ROADS TO BE MADE PUBLIC ROADS**

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

**H7a/0424 PROPOSED DISPOSAL OF PROPERTIES/SITES - FOR APPROVAL**

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

The following have applied, in accordance with the provisions of the Landlord and Tenant (Ground Rent) (No 2) Act, to acquire the fee simple in the property.

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| ADDRESS | LESSEE(S) | PURCHASE PRICE |
| 84 Balrothery Estate,  Tallaght,  Dublin, 24. | Patricia Ryan | € 849.94 |

It is proposed, in accordance with the provisions of the landlord and Tenant (Ground Rents) (No 2) Act, 1978 and subject to the provisions of Section 183 of the Local Government Act 2001, to dispose of the fee simple in the site listed above.

 Jason FrehillBottom of Form

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Jason Freehill,

Director of Economic, Enterprise & Tourism Development

The disposal of Fee Simple at 84 Balrothery Estate to Mrs Patricia Ryan was proposed by A. Edge, seconded by P. Kearns, and **AGREED**.

**H7b0424 PROPOSED DISPOSAL OF PROPERTIES/SITES - FOR APPROVAL**

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

**LD 1578      Proposed disposal of plot of land to Gas Networks Ireland (GNI) to facilitate a replacement District Regulation Installation (DRI) unit at Glenview Lawns, Tallaght, Dublin 24**

GNI have made an application to acquire a plot of land to facilitate a replacement DRI unit at Glenview Lawns, Tallaght, Dublin 24.  The previous installation is to be decommissioned and the area reinstated to match its surroundings.  The subject plot for the replacement installation is outlined in red on attached Drawing No. 46232306-ACQ-01 – Folio DN181667F refers.

I recommend that the Council disposes of its freehold interest in the plot of land outlined in red on Drawing No. 46232306-ACQ-01 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:-

1. That the Council disposes of its interest in the plot of land outlined in red on Drawing No. 46232306-ACQ-01, comprising 8.6 square metres or thereabouts, for the consideration of €500 (five hundred euro).
2. That GNI shall pay Council legal fees reasonably and necessarily incurred up to a maximum of €1,200 plus VAT.
3. 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.
4. That each party shall use their reasonable endeavours to complete the transaction within a reasonable timeframe following adoption of the disposal resolution.
5. That the Purchaser shall prepare the Deed of Transfer.
6. That no contract enforceable at law is created or intended to be created until such time as contracts have been exchanged.
7. 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**

Councillor R. McMahon raised a query in relation to the appropriateness of the site to facilitate a District Regulation Installation unit.

Mr. J. Frehill, Director of Economic Enterprise and Tourism Development responded to the Member’s query.

The disposal of plot of land to Gas Networks Ireland (GNI) to facilitate a replacement District Regulation Installation (DRI) unit at Glenview Lawns, Tallaght, Dublin 24 was proposed by Councillor A. Edge, seconded by Councillor E. Murphy, and **AGREED**.

**H7c0424 PROPOSED DISPOSAL OF PROPERTIES/SITES - FOR APPROVAL**

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

**LD 1562 Proposed leasehold disposal of land at St. Cuthbert's Road to Deansrath Family Centre CLG**

Deansrath Family Centre CLG has made an application for disposal of plot of land at St. Cuthbert’s Road, Deansrath, Clondalkin, Dublin 22 in order to build a multi-functional community based Family Centre thereon. The subject area is outlined in red on attached Indicative Drawing No. LR/5/24 – Council Folio DN1777 refers.

The matter was referred for examination to the Council Valuer who has recommended the following Terms and Conditions which are considered to be fair and reasonable, and which have been accepted by Deansrath Family Centre Company CLG.

Accordingly, I now recommend that the Council disposes of, under a 99 year Lease, the plot of land measuring 0.355 hectares (0.877 acres) or thereabouts at St. Cuthbert’s Road, Deansrath, Clondalkin, Dublin 22 as outlined in red on attached Indicative Drawing No. LR/5/24 to Deansrath Family Centre CLG in accordance with Section 211 & 212 of the Planning and Development Act, 2000 and subject to the provisions of Section 183 of the Local Government Act, 2001 subject to the following terms and conditions as recommended by the Council Valuer:-

1. That the subject site is shown outlined in red on the attached Drawing No. LR/05/24 and extends to an area of approximately 0.35 hectares (0.87 acres) or thereabouts.
2. That South Dublin County Council (“the Council”) shall grant a lease of the subject site to Deansrath Family Centre CLG (“the Lessee”) for a term of 99 (ninety nine) years, commencing upon practical completion of a multi-functional community based Family Centre (“the development”) by the Lessee in full compliance with planning permission and all other statutory consents.
3. That Deansrath Family Centre CLG will at its own cost, lodge a planning application for the proposed development within 4 (four) months of Council approval to this lease disposal (if approved). All plans and specifications shall be approved in writing by the Council’s Development Section prior to lodging the planning application.
4. That Deansrath Family Centre CLG will be allowed enter on the subject site under a Building Licence Agreement, on standard terms (including appropriate insurances), following receipt of a grant of planning permission. Construction works will commence on site within 48 (forty-eight) months of the final grant of planning permission or at a date to be agreed with the Council.
5. That the site will be disposed of in its current condition and Deansrath Family Centre CLG will be responsible for all costs in relation to the development including inter alia: planning costs, funding costs, site surveys, any contamination issues, servicing, and all construction works including the provision of suitable boundaries.
6. That no building or tree planting shall be permitted on the wayleave area which is shown coloured yellow on Drawing No. LR/05/24. The Council and its nominees will retain all rights of access and connection to services located on the site, under the Building Licence Agreement and the 99-year lease.
7. That should the approved development in its entirety not be practically complete within 20 months (as may be extended in cases of force majeure, strikes or adverse weather conditions which cause delay in building works) following the grant of planning permission, the Council reserves the right to take possession of the site at no cost to the Council.
8. That the Building Licence Agreement (see 4 above) shall not be transferable save, if applicable, in the case of a financial institution which has entered into a mortgage with Deansrath Family Centre CLG. The mortgage must be approved by the Council in writing and must have been entered into specifically for the purposes of financing the development of the site.
9. That the commercial rent payable shall be the sum of €30,000 (thirty thousand euro), plus VAT (if applicable), per annum.
10. That the commercial rent shall be abated shall be nominal sum (if any) per annum provided the property is used by the Lessee for non-profit making community purposes and for the provision of child and family support services in compliance with their Registered Charity status.
11. That the lease shall provide for five yearly rent reviews and the commercial rent shall be reviewed to current market rental value (of the site) and the abated rent shall be reviewed by changes in the Consumer Price Index (CPI).
12. That the Lessee shall not sell, assign, grant any sub interests, sub-divide, alienate or part with the possession of the demise.
13. That the demise shall be maintained to a high standard and the Lessee shall seek to avoid any nuisance, noise, or disturbance to adjoining occupiers.
14. That the Lessee shall be prohibited from erecting any mast, hoarding or signage on the demise.
15. That the Lessee shall be responsible for all charges including inter alia: utilities, security, maintenance, taxes, service charges, rates and all other outgoings assessed on the subject property and right of way during the term.
16. That the Lessee shall be responsible for fully repairing and insuring the demise and completed development.
17. That the Lessee shall indemnify the Council against any and all claims arising from their use of the property. The Lessee shall hold Public Liability Insurance (minimum of €6.5 million) and Employers’ Liability Insurance (minimum of €13 million).
18. That in the event of the Lessee failing to comply with any of the terms and conditions herein contained, the Council may revoke the lease by giving the Lessee one month’s notice in writing.
19. That the lease shall be subject to any other terms and conditions as deemed appropriate by the Council’s Law Agent.
20. That each party shall be responsible for their own fees and costs in this matter.
21. That the Lessee shall be responsible for the payment of any Stamp Duty and VAT liability that may arise on the creation of this lease.
22. That in the event of any name change to Lessee prior to formal completion of the legal transfer, the Lessee must provide documentary evidence to the Council proving that the new named party is one and the same as the named Lessee heretofore, to enable the transfer to complete.
23. That each party shall use their best endeavours to complete the transaction within a reasonable timeframe following adoption of the disposal resolution.
24. That this proposal is subject to the necessary approvals and consents being obtained from Council.
25. That no contract enforceable at Law is created or intended to be created until such time as contracts have been exchanged.

The lands being disposed of were acquired in 1972 from Deansrath Investment Company Limited for housing and open space purposes.

**Colm Ward**

**Chief Executive**

A discussion followed with contributions from Councillors W. Carey, F. Timmons, and E. Ó Broin, queries were raised in relation to the tenure and terms of the lease.

Mr. J. Frehill, Director of Economic Enterprise and Tourism Development responded to the queries.

The leasehold disposal of land at St. Cuthbert's Road to Deansrath Family Centre CLG was proposed by Councillor A. Edge, seconded by Councillor F. Timmons, and **AGREED**.

**H8/0424 MANAGERS REPORT** **& CAPITAL PROJECTS PROGRESS 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 8 a) Chief Executive's Monthly Report - April 2024](http://intranet/cmas/documentsview.aspx?id=82332)

[HI 8 b) Capital Projects Progress Report - April 2024](http://intranet/cmas/documentsview.aspx?id=82380)

**H8c/0424 MANAGERS REPORT** **& CAPITAL PROJECTS PROGRESS REPORT**- **FOR NOTING**

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[HI 8 d) Statistics Report](http://intranet/cmas/documentsview.aspx?id=82458)

A discussion followed with queries from Councillors P. Gogarty, J. Sinnott, F. Timmons, L. Dunne, R. McMahon, M. Johannson, C. O’Connor, W. Carey, P. Holohan, J. Tuffy, E. Ó Broin, T. Gilligan, S. Moynihan, G. O’Connell, Y. Collins, D. McManus, L. McCrave, V. Mulhall and A. Edge.

Queries were raised in relation to Lucan Pool, potholes, graffiti, anti-racism and anti-hate campaigns, Dublin Mountains Heritage centre, Tenant in Situ scheme, Community Recognition Fund, Orchard Lodge, Grand Canal Greenway, County Hall works, homeless statistics, housing construction, re-lets, and the 25 year lease housing scheme, ground nesting bird project, the Business Support fund, Clonburris road works, and Active Travel Scheme.

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

The report was **NOTED**.

**H9/0424 SHAMROCK ROVERS LEASE - 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**.

[H9 (a) Map A Licence Map Site Plan](http://intranet/cmas/documentsview.aspx?id=82335)

[H9 (b) Map B Licence Map West Stand](http://intranet/cmas/documentsview.aspx?id=82336)

[H9 (c) Section 183 Shamrock Rovers Lease](http://intranet/cmas/documentsview.aspx?id=82334)

[H9 (d) Map D North Stand Undercroft](http://intranet/cmas/documentsview.aspx?id=82338)

A discussion followed with contributions from Councillors M. Duff, P. Kearns, E. O’Brien, M. Lynch, P. Holohan, R. McMahon, G. O’Connell, A. Edge, and C. O’Connor. Queries were raised in relation to provision of hospitality, the decision process in the increase in charges, third party rental, commercial value of the stadium, advertising policies and naming rights of the stadium.

Mr. J. Frehill, Director for Economic Enterprise and Tourism Development responded to the Members’ queries.

It was proposed by Councillor C. O’Connor, seconded by Councillor M. Duff, and **AGREED** that the Council grant a 15-year licence to Shamrock Rovers Football Club, Tallaght, Dublin 24 in accordance with Section 211 of the Planning and Development Act 2000 and subject to the Provisions of Section 183 of the Local Government Act 200.

**H10/0424 ANNUAL FINANCIAL STATEMENT**

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

**a) Annual Financial Statement 2023 - For Noting**

[H10 (a) Annual Financial Statement 2023](http://intranet/cmas/documentsview.aspx?id=82329)

A discussion followed with contributions from Councillors R. McMahon, P. Holohan and P. Kearns with queries raised in relation to debtors, and the areas of increased spending.

Mr. R. FitzGerald, Head of Finance, responded to the Members’ queries.

The report was **NOTED**.

**H10b/0424 ANNUAL FINANCIAL STATEMENT**

**(b) Authorisation of Additional Expenditure - For Approval**

As anticipated in the Revised Budget process, there was an increase in expenditure for 2023 over the Adopted Budget. The Annual Financial Statement for 2023 has recorded a surplus of €55,101. Actual expenditure compared to budget, for a number of services and divisions, differed from projections. This is a normal part of service provision and the excess expenditure is offset by additional receipts, grants/recoupments or savings in other areas. Accordingly the increase in expenditure from the revised budget was funded from increased grant and other income.

The approval of the members is required, in accordance with Section 104 of the Local Government Act 2001, for changes to the 2023 budget as outlined in the table below.

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Service** | **Description** | **Actual 2023** | **Revised Budget 2023** | **Actual V Revised Budget 2023** |
| A01 | Maintenance & Improvement of LA Housing Units | 25,828,270 | 24,941,400 | 886,870 |
| A06 | Support to Housing Capital & Affordable Prog | 11,686,154 | 11,131,400 | 554,754 |
| A08 | Housing Loans | 2,959,130 | 2,959,000 | 130 |
| A12 | HAP Programme | 585,520 | 585,400 | 120 |
| B04 | Local Road - Maintenance and Improvement | 20,865,056 | 20,438,100 | 426,956 |
| B07 | Road Safety Engineering Improvement | 3,411,402 | 2,588,600 | 822,802 |
| B09 | Maintenance & Management of Car Parking | 836,228 | 656,600 | 179,628 |
| D01 | Forward Planning | 4,008,773 | 3,901,100 | 107,673 |
| E12 | Fire Prevention | 21,684 | 13,200 | 8,484 |
| F03 | Outdoor Leisure Areas Operations | 24,905,911 | 24,724,800 | 181,111 |
| F04 | Community Sport and Recreational Development | 11,142,711 | 11,076,900 | 65,811 |
| H07 | Operation of Markets and Casual Trading | 250 | - | 250 |
| H08 | Malicious Damage | 6,150 | - | 6,150 |
| H11 | Agency & Recoupable Services | 586,410 | 536,200 | 50,210 |

The report was **NOTED** and it was proposed by Councillor A. Edge seconded by Councillor R. McMahon and **RESOLVED**:

“That, in accordance with Section 104 of the Local Government Act 2001, the additional expenditure not provided in the 2023 budget as outlined in the table attached be **ADOPTED** and **APPROVED**.”

**H10c/0424 ANNUAL FINANCIAL STATEMENT**

1. **Approval of Transfers - For Approval**

Adoption of formal proposals for:

b) Transfer to reserves of the sums provided for various capital purposes

Annual Financial Statement 2023

“That the County Council Approves of the transfer to reserves of the sums provided for various capital purposes in the Annual Financial Statement for 2023 as noted for the financial year ending 31st December 2023”.

**PROPOSED**: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

**SECONDED**: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

The report was **NOTED** and it was proposed by Councillor A. Edge seconded by Councillor M. Lynch and **RESOLVED**:

“That the County Council Approves of the transfer to reserves of the sums provided for various capital purposes in the Annual Financial Statement for 2023 as noted for the financial year ending 31st December 2023”.

**H11/0424 TAKING IN CHARGE OF DODDERBROOK PHASE 1 – 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 Transport and was **CONSIDERED.**

[Dodderbrook Phase 1 Taking in Charge Report](http://intranet/cmas/documentsview.aspx?id=82477)

[H11 (a) TIC Map](http://intranet/cmas/documentsview.aspx?id=82288)

[H11 (b) TIC Schedule](http://intranet/cmas/documentsview.aspx?id=82289)

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

**to declare the roads to be public roads, and to Take in Charge the open spaces, sewers, watermains, storm drains and public lighting within the attendant ground of the Dodderbrook Phase 1, development (being cognisant that Class 1 large green areas will be Taken in Charge and cut by the Council, however the small verge grass areas will be Taken in Charge but the maintenance / grass cutting of these areas will remain the responsibility of the residents of the estate)**

**H12/0424 PAVILIONS PROGRAMME – FOR NOTING**

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

[HI12 (a) Pavilion Programme Review Presentation](http://intranet/cmas/documentsview.aspx?id=82463)

[HI12 (b) Pavilion Programme Review Report](http://intranet/cmas/documentsview.aspx?id=82378)

A discussion followed with contributions from Councillors J. Tuffy, S. Moynihan, P. Gogarty, T. Costello, W. Carey, E. O’Brien, R. McMahon, K. Mahon, V. Mulhall and P. Kearns. Queries were raised in relation to Lucan kayak club, Collinstown Park, toilet and shower facilities, the booking system, management of the pavilions, timeframe for delivery of the programme and the funding.

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

The report was **NOTED**.

**H13/0424 CLIMATE ACTION PLAN IMPLEMENTATION PLAN 2024 – FOR NOTING**

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

[H13 (a) CAP 2024 Implementation Plan Presentation](http://intranet/cmas/documentsview.aspx?id=82372)

[H13 (b) CAP 2024 Implementation Plan](http://intranet/cmas/documentsview.aspx?id=82373)

A discussion followed with contributions from Councillors D. McManus, E. Ó Broin, P. Holohan, P. Kearns, G. O’Connell, M. Lynch, R. McMahon, and A. Edge with queries raised regarding EV charging, bus stops, increase in traffic and emissions, District Heating, Community Climate Action applications and the remediation of landfill sites.

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

The report was **NOTED**.

**H14/0424 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

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 **19** grants totalling **€41,272.65** were approved for **17** local groups summarised as follows:

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Category** | **No:** | **Amount** |
| Community Development Grants | 13 | €23,692.65 |
| Community Events Funding | 6 | €17,580.00 |
| **Total** | **19** | **€41,272.65** |

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** |
| Archways | Community Development Grant | Major Equipment | €2330.85 |
| Bawnogue Active Retired Men’s Club | Community Development Grant | Running Costs Grant | € 484.00 |
| Bawnogue Active Retired Men’s Club | Community Development Grant | Minor Equipment | €1300.00 |
| Bawnogue Youth and Community Centre | Community Development Grant | Community Centre Based I.T. Infrastructure Grant | €3403.00 |
| Bodearg | Community Development Grant | Environmental Improvement Grant | € 500.00 |
| Citywise Education | Community Development Grant | Community Centre Based I.T. Infrastructure Grant | €2800.00 |
| Fettercairn Community and Youth Centre | Community Development Grant | Community Centre Based I.T. Infrastructure Grant | € 850.00 |
| Fettercairn Youth Horse Project | Community Development Grant | Minor Equipment Grant | €2000.00 |
| New Hope Residential Centre | Community Development Grant | Major Equipment Grant | €1850.00 |
| The WEB Project | Community Development Grant | Major Equipment Grant | €5000.00 |
| Women's Collective Ireland Liffey Valley | Community Development Grant | Minor Equipment Grant | € 983.80 |
| Woodview Heights Residents Association | Community Development Grant | Running Costs Grant | € 395.00 |
| Youth Horizons | Community Development Grant | Minor Equipment Grant | €1796.00 |
| Firhouse Active Age Group | Community Events Funding | Bealtaine | € 420.00 |
| Gaelphobal Thamhlacta | Community Events Funding | St. Patrick's Day Parade / Celebration | €4600.00 |
| Neighbourhood Network South Dublin | Community Events Funding | Other – Street Feast | €4000.00 |
| North Clondalkin Community Safety Programme | Community Events Funding | Easter Community Celebration | €1510.00 |
| St Mary's GFC | Community Events Funding | St. Patrick's Day Parade / Celebration | €5150.00 |
| Woodview Heights Residents Association | Community Events Funding | Family Fun Day | €1900.00 |

The report was **NOTED**.

**C1/0424 REPLIES, ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS & CORRESPONDENCE**

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

Councillor K. Mahon expressed disappointment in lack of reply from IPAS relating to his motion agreed at the February 2024 County Council meeting.

### **M1/0424 Tree Pruning**

Proposed by Councillor M. Lynch seconded by Councillor D. McManus.

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.

**REPORT:**

The Council's [Tree Management Policy 'Living with Trees'](https://www.sdcc.ie/en/services/environment/tree-management/tree-management-policy/)which was first implemented in 2016 and subsequently reviewed and revised in 2021, sets down the Council's policy for the management of the stock of publicly owned street trees, trees in parkland locations and trees located on estate open spaces.  The Council does not permit tree maintenance works being carried out on publicly owned trees by local residents or contractors engaged by them.  A number of issues arise in relation to this proposal and these are set out below.

The trees and any work carried out to them by the Council are covered by the public liability and employer liability insurance policies which are provided to the Council by Irish Public Bodies Mutual Insurance.  If work is carried out to a tree by a private contractor who is not engaged by the Council but is engaged by a private resident and the work done subsequently leads to personal injury or property damage being suffered, then the Council's insurance cover is no longer valid in this situation.  The Council cannot take on the risk of having a portion of the tree stock not covered by it's insurance policies in such circumstances.

Tree maintenance works are carried out either by the Council's own crews or by specialist contractors engaged to do the work.  The Council's safety management system sets down all the health and safety requirements in relation to tree maintenance works including the necessary risk assessments for the work, safe systems of work, traffic management plans and all other requirements.  Where the work is being carried out by a specialist contractor then that contractor is obliged to meet these same health and safety requirements.  If work is to be carried out by a specialist who has not been engaged by the Council and is not working under the instruction of the Council then that influence and control over health and safety requirements will be lost to the Council.  Again the Council is not in a position to take on the risks associated with extremely difficult and potentially hazardous tree maintenance work being carried out by a private contractor who is engaged by local residents but who is not working under the control of the Council.

Similarly the issue of what work is to be done to a tree or group of trees and what standard will be required in relation to this work is something that would be beyond the control of the Council, if such an arrangement were facilitated.  Decisions relating to which trees are to be removed, which ones are to be pruned, the extent of the pruning works required to a tree or group of trees and all related matters must remain under the control of the Council to ensure the proper management of the stock of publicly owned trees into the future.

For the reasons outlined above it is not proposed to facilitate this proposal to accommodate local residents who wish to engage private contractors to carry out tree maintenance works on publicly owned trees.

The Council's insurers will not endorse the design of a policy and guidelines that allows residents undertake tree maintenance on public trees, the risk of providing this information and ability to non-council staff brings a high risk and exposure to the council.

An amendment to the motion was submitted by Councillor V. Mulhall, seconded by Councillor E. Murphy.

“That, during the next review of the Tree Management Policy, the council examines the possibility of introducing 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.”

A discussion followed with contributions with Councillors M. Lynch, V. Mulhall, T. Costello, C. King, P. Kearns, E. Murphy, G. O’Connell, K. Mahon, J. Sinnott, D. McManus and A. Edge. Queries were raised in relation to management, residents ability to pay and possible abuse of the system.

Ms. T. Walsh, Director for Environment, Water and Climate Change addressed the members on the motion.

Councillors M. Lynch, D. McManus and R. McMahon called for a Roll Call vote on the amended motion the result of which is as follows:

**FOR: 10 (TEN)**

Councillors L. Donaghy, L. Hagin Meade, M. Lynch, R. McMahon, D. McManus, V. Mulhall, G. O’Connell, S. O’Hara, B. Pereppadan, J. Sinnott.

**AGAINST: 12 (TWELVE)**

Councillors W. Carey, T. Costello, A. Edge, L. Guéret, M. Johannson, P. Kearns, C. King, E. Murphy, E. O’Brien, E. Ó Broin, D. Richardson, F. Timmons.

**ABSTAIN: 0 (ZERO)**

As a result of the Roll Call Vote the amendment to the motion **FALLS**.

The motion was **NOT** **AGREED.**

### **M2/0424 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?

As Councillor C. O’Connor was not present at the meeting the Motion **FALLS**.

### **M3/0424 Road and Bike Lane Network**

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

This Council notes with concern the increasing number of potholes on the road and bike lane network across South Dublin County Council and requests that repairs are carried out as a matter of urgency.

**REPORT:**

Potholes are a defect in the road that can be caused by a number of factors such as;

* poor ground conditions,
* poor construction/re-instatement,
* material failure,
* poor workmanship,
* material reaching natural end of life

Depending on when Roads were surfaced there can be several locations that can require repair works at the same time.

SDCC run an annual road patching programme that resolves localised road defects in the road network and it is under this programme that permanent pothole repairs are carried out.

As potholes are reported to us they are inspected and added to the list of locations for the patching programme. If the pothole is deemed a significant hazard then SDCC crews will carry out a temporary patch repair so as to resolve the hazard until the permanent work can be carried out.

A discussion followed with contributions from Councillors J. Sinnott, P. Kearns, L. Guéret, W. Carey, G. O’Connell, and R. McMahon a query was raised in relation to the possible reason for the increase in potholes.

Mr. M. Mulhern, Director of Land Use, Planning and Transport responded to the Members query.

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

### **M4/0424 Tallaght Stadium**

Proposed by Councillor D. Ó Brádaigh

That the Council agrees that Tallaght Stadium be made available to play a Soccer match against Palestine if requested by the FAI or a League of Ireland Club.

As Councillor D. Ó Bradaigh was not present at the meeting the Motion **FALLS.**

### **M5/0424 Annual Audit of Council Premises**

Proposed by Councillor M. Johansson seconded by Councillor A. Edge

That the Chief Executive will produce an annual audit of all Council owned premises in the area of the South Dublin County Council's local authority for wheelchair accessibility and access to wheelchair accessible toilet facilities. A list of all independently wheelchair and wheelchair accessible facilities to be published as soon as practical and the council's website to be updated accordingly, this list be published annually every 1st March, International Wheelchair Day.

**REPORT:**

South Dublin County Council provides a high level and range of accessibility across its buildings and services for all disabled people, and those with mobility impairments.

[**Section 25 of the Disability Act 2005**](https://eur04.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=http%3A%2F%2Fwww.irishstatutebook.ie%2Feli%2F2005%2Fact%2F14%2Fsection%2F25%2Fenacted%2Fen%2Fhtml%23%3A~%3Atext%3DAccess%2520to%2520public%2520buildings.%2Caccessible%2520to%2520persons%2520with%2520disabilities&amp;data=05%7C02%7Clfarrell%40SDUBLINCOCO.ie%7C9ea1d9aaa6c34f48859208dc4e881e47%7C6a3c00c019d0492da8de95fad8fda1d4%7C0%7C0%7C638471593735312765%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C0%7C%7C%7C&amp;sdata=pT0AyYloKZMP4zwpMDLMDU73bMLmm9wMq4yjzh5SWRM%3D&amp;reserved=0) deals with access to public buildings. It states that:

“a public body shall ensure that its public buildings are, as far as practicable, accessible to persons with disabilities”.

SDCC buildings / facilities such as: County Hall, Civic Offices Clondalkin, all South Dublin Libraries, Rua Red, the Civic Theatre, Tallaght Stadium, The Round Tower Clondalkin, Camac Valley Caravan and Camping Park, Tallaght and Clondalkin Leisure Centres and Kiltalown House are wheelchair accessible and include accessible toilet facilities - more information is available at [Accessible South Dublin County - SDCC](https://www.sdcc.ie/en/services/our-council/policies-and-plans/disability-access/accessible-south-dublin-county/).

South Dublin County Council has delivered Changing Places accessible toilet facilities in County Hall, North Clondalkin Library and Tallaght Stadium as part of the recent upgrade.  A fourth facility is currently under construction in the new Lucan Swimming Pool.

South Dublin County Council community centres are wheelchair accessible but not all of the centres have accessible toilets.  At present it is not feasible to carry out annual audits on all Council owned premises due to resource constraints, however, the website is updated as appropriate.

A discussion followed with contributions from Councillors M. Johannson, P. Kearns, L. Hagin Meade, and C. King, it was suggested that an audit be carried out and updated as appropriate.

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.

Mr. C. Ward, Chief Executive and Mr. M. Murtagh, Senior Executive Officer, responded to the Members.

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

***The meeting ended at 19:04.***

**Motions Not Reached:**

### **M6/0424 Autism Friendly Community**

Proposed by Councillor L. Hagin Meade

That South Dublin County Council become an Autism Friendly Community, joining Dublin City and communities nationwide, by signing up to the AsIAm Autism Friendly Community Commitment and creating a 3 year inclusion plan. Full details are available here: https://asiam.ie/autism-friendly-communities-portal.