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

Minutes of South Dublin County Council September 2024 County Council Meeting held on Monday 9 September 2024

### **PRESENT**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Adelaide, D. | Kearns, P. |
| Ahern. C. | Lawlor, B. |
| Barnes, S. | Mannion, R. |
| Brady, C. | McCrave, L. |
| Carey, W. | McMahon, R. |
| Casserly, V. | McManus, D. |
| Collins, Y. | Moore, G. |
| Costello, T. | Moynihan, S. |
| Donnelly, D. | Murphy, E. |
| Duff, M. | Ó Broin, E. |
| Dunne, L. | O’Hara, S. |
| Edge, A. | O’Toole, L. |
| Egan, K. | Pereppadan, Baby |
| Fennell, N. | Pereppadan, Britto |
| Gilligan, T. | Richardson, D. |
| Gogarty, P. | Sinnott, J. |
| Hayes, A. | Spear, J. |
| Holohan, P. | Timmons, F. |
| Johansson, M. | Tuffy, J. |
|  | Whelan, N. |
|  |  |

### **OFFICIALS PRESENT**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Chief Executive | C. Ward. |
| Directors | J. Frehill, M. Mulhern, T. Walsh, E. Leech, L. Maxwell, R. Fitzgerald |
| Head of IT | T. Kavanagh |
| County Architect | C. Harte |
| County Librarian | P. Fusco |
| Senior Executive Officer | | M. Murtagh |
| Administrative Officer | M. Reilly |
| Communications Manager | D. Healy |
| A/Senior Staff Officer | K. McLoughlin |
| A/ Staff Officer | D. Murphy |
| EVAD | P. Jackson |
|  |  |

The Mayor, Councillor Baby Pereppadan, presided

Apologies were received from Councillor L. de Courcy.

**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 Baby Pereppadan, welcomed everyone and informed the Members of the etiquette for Hybrid Meetings:

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

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

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

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

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

**H1/0924 CONFIRMATION AND REAFFIRMATION OF MINUTES - FOR APPROVAL**

[H1 (a) Annual Meeting Minutes - 21st June 2024](http://www.sdublincoco.ie/sdcc/departments/corporate/apps/cmas/documentsview.aspx?id=83253)  
[H1 (b) July Council Minutes - 8th July 2024](http://www.sdublincoco.ie/sdcc/departments/corporate/apps/cmas/documentsview.aspx?id=83297)  
  
Minutes of the July Council Meeting held on 8th July 2024 which had been circulated were submitted and **APPROVED** as a true record and signed in the proposition of Councillor Baby Pereppadan and seconded by Councillor F. Timmons.

### **H2/0924 FILLING OF CASUAL VACANCY ON SOUTH DUBLIN COUNTY COUNCIL - TALLAGHT CENTRAL LEA - 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**.

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### **REPORT**

Following the election of Councillor Patrick Pearse Holohan in two local electoral areas, on 7th June 2024, a casual vacancy has occurred on South Dublin County Council (Tallaght Central).  The filling of the Casual Vacancy in the membership of of South Dublin County Council (Tallaght Central LEA), to be in accordance with Section 19 of the Local Government Act 2001, as amended and in accordance with Article 124(2) of the Local Elections Regulations 1995.

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

Mr Dean Donnelly has been nominated by Councillor P. Holohan, Independent, and in accordance with Section 19 (5) Mr Donnelly's written consent to his proposed co-option has been received.

Mr Kieran Mahon has been nominated by Councillor J. Spear, People Before Profit Solidarity, and in accordance with Section 19 (5) Mr Mahon's written consent to his proposed co-option has been received.

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

### [H2(B)(i) Nomination from Cllr. Holohan for Dean Donnelly](http://www.sdublincoco.ie/sdcc/departments/corporate/apps/cmas/documentsview.aspx?id=83156)

### [H2(B)(ii) Acceptance letter from Dean Donnelly](http://intranet/cmas/documentsview.aspx?id=83157) [H2(C)(i) Nomination from Cllr. Spear for Kieran Mahon](http://www.sdublincoco.ie/sdcc/departments/corporate/apps/cmas/documentsview.aspx?id=83154) [H2(C)(ii) Acceptance letter from Kieran Mahon](http://www.sdublincoco.ie/sdcc/departments/corporate/apps/cmas/documentsview.aspx?id=83155)

### **Nominations:**

### **Mr Dean Donnelly** was proposed by Councillor P. Holohan and seconded by Councillor D. Richardson.

### **Mr Kieran Mahon** was proposed by Councillor J. Spear and seconded by Councillor K. Keane.

### A discussion followed with contributions from Councillors P. Holohan, D. Richardson, J. Spear, W. Carey, E. Murphy, A. Edge, P. Gogarty, W. Carey, S. Moynihan, K. Keane, C. Ahern, E. Ó Broin, M. Johansson, R. McMahon, D. Adelaide, L. O’Toole and L. Dunne with queries raised on the voting process.

### Ms. L. Maxwell, Director of Corporate Performance and Change Management responded to the Members’ queries.

### A **Roll Call** vote was taken the results of which are as follows:

### **For Mr Dean Donnelly: 22 (TWENTY-TWO)** Councillors: S. Barnes, C. Brady, V. Casserly, Y. Collins, T. Costello, M. Duff, T. Gilligan, P. Gogarty, P. Holohan, B. Lawlor, L. McCrave, R. McMahon, D. McManus, G. Moore, S. Moynihan, E. Murphy, L. O’Toole, S. O’Hara, Britto Pereppadan, Baby Pereppadan, D. Richardson, and F. Timmons. **For Mr Kieran Mahon: 11 (ELEVEN)** Councillors: D. Adelaide, C. Ahern, A. Edge, A. Hayes, M. Johansson, K. Keane, P. Kearns, E. Ó Broin, J. Sinnott, J. Spear and J. Tuffy. **ABSTAIN: 5 (FIVE)** Councillors: W. Carey, L. Dunne, N. Fennell, R. Mannion and N. Whelan.

### As a result of the roll call vote Mr Dean Donnelly was deemed co-opted to the Casual Vacancy on Central Tallaght LEA.

### Councillor W. Carey raised a Point of Order to state his non-acceptance of the voting process.

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

### Councillor D. Donnelly then addressed the Members accepting his position as a Councillor.

### Councillors L. Dunne, P. Kearns, M. Duff, A. Edge, T. Costello, B. Lawlor, W. Carey, P. Gogarty, N. Whelan, L. O’Toole, K. Keane, E. Ó Broin and A. Hayes all welcomed Councillor D. Donnelly and wished Mr Kieran Mahon well for the future.

### Mr. C. Ward, Chief Executive congratulated Councillor D. Donnelly and wished him well.

### **H3/0924 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.*

### **H4/0924 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**

### [H4(A) Calendar of Meeting Dates](http://www.sdublincoco.ie/sdcc/departments/corporate/apps/cmas/documentsview.aspx?id=83160)

### **H4(B) REPORT ON CONFERENCES AND TRAINING**

**REPLY:**

[Section 142 (5) of Local Government Act 2001](https://www.irishstatutebook.ie/eli/2001/act/37/section/142/enacted/en/html#:~:text=(5)%20(a)%20This,to%20the%20performance%20of%20its) provides for the authorization of Members’ attendance at conferences both home and abroad.

**Training Notified Since January 2024**

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Name** | **Organisation** | **Location** | **Date** |
| AILG Elected Member General Induction Training | 9.30am – 1pm | Mullingar Park Hotel | Thursday 11th July 2024 |

**Training Confirmed Attended Since March 2024**

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

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 March 2024**

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Name** | **Organisation** | **Location** | **Date** |
| MacGill Summer School 2024 | MacGill Summer School | Glenties, Co. Donegal | 18th - 20th July 2024 |

**Conferences Confirmed Attended Since March 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 –

1. a) attend that event and participate in the proceedings to the greatest extent possible, and
2. 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."

The Reports were proposed by Councillor Baby Pereppadan, seconded by Councillor D. McManus and **AGREED.**

### **H5/0924 STRATEGIC POLICY COMMITTEES - FOR NOTING**

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

### **H6/0924 REPORTS REQUESTED BY AREA COMMITTEES - FOR NOTING**

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

It was proposed by Councillor Baby Pereppadan, seconded by Councillor M. Duff and **RESOLVED**:

“That pursuant to Standing Order No. 22, Questions numbered Q1 – Q53 be **ADOPTED** and **APPROVED.”**

### **Questions:**

### **Q1/0924 Councillor D. Adelaide**

To ask the chief executive the yearly funding provided to the council and accompanying number of homes retrofitted as part of the Local Authority Energy Efficiency Retrofit Programme, since the programmes rollout (broken down by year).

**REPLY:**

The Energy Efficiency/Retrofitting Programme (EERP) was launched in 2013 with the aim of funding the retrofit of social homes requiring insulation and energy upgrade works. The programme was, in light of Programme for Government commitments, revised in 2021 and the table below lists the targets set for local authority owned dwellings in South Dublin County to be retrofitted to a BER rating of B2/Cost Optimal Equivalent (CoE). The revised programme provides for a significant upscaling in the level of funding available and focuses on ensuring that the fabric of the home is upgraded and an energy efficient heating system is provided, namely a heat pump. It should be noted that the programme was impacted by construction shut downs during Covid -19 pandemic.

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Year | Target No. of Units | Funding Available (€) |
| 2021 | 117 | 3,167,054 |
| 2022 | 146 | 5,100,000 |
| 2023 | 110 | 3, 740,000 |
| 2024 | 83 | 2, 822,000 |
| Total | 456 | 14,829,054 |

The table below provides a breakdown of the Council's progress to date on a total of 422 units by stage and local electoral area under the ERRP.

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| LEA | Pre-Tender Stage | Contractor Stage | Complete |
| Tallaght South | 0 | 0 | 82 |
| Tallaght Central | 55 | 1 | 22 |
| Firhouse/ Bohernabreena | 0 | 0 | 55 |
| Rathfarnham /Templeogue | 0 | 0 | 12 |
| Clondalkin | 0 | 47 | 18 |
| Palmerstown/ Fonthill | 41 | 15 | 58 |
| Lucan | 0 | 0 | 16 |
| Total (422 units) | 96 | 63 | 263 |

### **Q2/0924 Councillor D. Adelaide**

To ask the chief executive, since the implementation of the tenants in situ scheme, the total number of requests received from the council, the total number of homes bought under the scheme, and the average wait time from start to finish.

**REPLY:**

Since the commencement of the tenant in situ scheme to date, 650 expressions of interest have been received for potential acquisitions.  The current status of our responses to the expressions of interest received is as follows:

* 114 properties have been purchased
* 105 properties are sale agreed/at conveyancing.
* 49 properties have completed due diligence checks and are at valuation/negotiation stage with a view to purchasing.
* 113 properties at various stages of due diligence and pre-purchase checks.
* 269 properties are not proceeding where offers of alternative accommodation have been made, properties not being suitable, tenants no longer in-situ or miscellaneous other reasons.

Timeframes for completion of conveyance can vary. Individual property purchases can be delayed for a number of reasons such as the owner not having full legal title, planning issues, outstanding property taxes or general contractual conditions of sale not in place. In 2024, the average completion time from the date of sale agreement to close is 30 weeks.

### **Q3/0924 Councillor D. Adelaide**

To ask the chief executive the costs associated with repairs, maintenance, or other necessary works completed by the council using outsourced/contracted workers for council homes

**REPLY:**

The Council’s housing maintenance and refurbishment revenue budget for 2024 is €20.47m. The service is structured into three programme areas and delivered through a combination of the Council's direct labour teams and specialist contractors as necessary. Our combined revenue budget expenditure for contractor services for 2024 is projected at €10.22m.

1. Response Maintenance-this includes expenditure on response maintenance repairs reported by tenants including electrical repairs and upgrades, heating system repairs, replacement and servicing, specialist cleaning and miscellaneous works.
2. Relets/Voids Programme- works required on vacant housing stock to bring properties back up to rental standards for letting to new tenants.
3. Planned Maintenance Programme- these works form part of the Council's capital budget and include the National Energy Efficiency Retrofit, Window and Doors, Painting and Health and Safety Works programmes.

### **Q4/0924 Councillor D. Adelaide**

To ask the chief executive the percentage of the budget allocated Traveller accommodation that has been spent for each of the last 5 years

**REPLY:**

Since January 2020, the Department of Housing, Local Government & Heritage (DHLGH) no longer allocates specific budgets to individual local authorities for Traveller accommodation capital programmes. Instead, for ease of funding, local authorities can now apply for and drawdown funding at any time throughout the year.

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Year | Capital Expenditure |
| 2019 | €127,276.42 |
| 2020 | €284,390.38 |
| 2021 | €358,873.35 |
| 2022 | €695,078.83 |
| 2023 | €3,300,941.52 |
| 2024 to date\* | €3,312,278.58 |

In addition to above, an annual revenue budget is allocated to the Traveller Accommodation Unit for maintenance, mobile caretaking services and supports. Details of revenue expenditure below:

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Year | Expenditure | % adopted budget spent |
| 2019 | €991,816.03 | 80.83% |
| 2020 | €1,130,046.01 | 88.83% |
| 2021 | €608,263.69 | 44.54% \* |
| 2022 | €918,223.27 | 65.68% \* |
| 2023 | €1,048,708.82 | 81.53% |
| 2024 to date | €942,178.95 | 80.18% |

\*Expenditure impacted due to Covid construction industry restrictions, only permitted essential maintenance/construction works were carried out during this time.

### **Q5/0924 Councillor D. Adelaide**

To ask the chief executive under what conditions the council would deem it appropriate to refuse to award procurement contracts to companies with links to (or operating within states charged with) genocide, war crimes, and crimes against humanity.  It is noted that the awarding of public procurement contracts is carried out in accordance with the revised directive 2014/24/EU (transposed into Irish law in 2017).

**REPLY:**

South Dublin County Council awards procurement contracts as prescribed within EU public procurement directives. Neither EU public procurement directives or public procurement as transposed into Irish law contain provisions to refuse the award of procurement contracts to companies on the basis of their having links to (or operating within states charged with) genocide, war crimes, and crimes against humanity.

The rationale of the EU public procurement regime is to open up the public procurement market and to ensure the free movement of goods, services and works within the EU and promotes the fundamental principles of non-discrimination, free movement of goods and services and freedom of establishment. These principles are reinforced in secondary EU law by the EU Directives on public procurement which set out precise rules and procedures designed to ensure equal treatment, mutual recognition, proportionality and transparency in the awarding of public contracts. The EU Directives on public procurement are transposed into Irish national law by Member States. Transposition in Ireland, is by way of Statutory Instrument (S.I.).

Even in the case of procurement which might not be subject to the full scope of the Directives, the European Commission (EC) and the Court of Justice of the European Union (CJEU) have ruled that the Treaty principles must be observed. CJEU case law implies a requirement to publicise contracts to a degree which allows parties in other Member States the opportunity to express an interest or to submit tenders.

All procurement opportunities in South Dublin County Council for contracts worth in excess of €50,000 for goods and services and €200,000 for works, are advertised on E-Tenders, [www.etenders.gov.ie](http://www.etenders.gov.ie). National frameworks available through the Office of Government Procurement www.ogp.gov.ie and Local Government Operational Procurement Centre (LGOPC) www.supplygov.ie are also utilised.

### **Q6/0924 Councillor C. Ahern**

To ask the CEO how many fines have been issued in respect of dog fouling and/or other safety or enforcement issues by dog wardens in the last 12 months?

**REPLY:**

The following is a breakdown of fines issued by the Council's Dog Wardens in 2023 and to date in 2024:

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Act/Regulation | Section/Article | Description | 2023 | 2024 to date |
| Control of Dogs Acts 1986 and 1992 | Section 2 | keeping a dog without a licence | 4 | 0 |
|  | Section 9 | failing to keep a dog under effectual control | 5 | 9 |
| Control of dogs Regulations, 1998 | Article 5 | allowing a dog that is required to be muzzled in a public place to be unmuzzled in a public place | 0 | 1 |

Under [**Section 22 of the Litter Pollution Act 1997,**](http://www.irishstatutebook.ie/eli/1997/act/12/section/22/enacted/en/html)where faeces has been deposited by a dog in any place to which the section applies, the person in charge of the dog shall immediately remove the faeces and shall ensure that it is properly disposed of in a suitable sanitary manner.

Three fines were issued in 2023, and one fine has been issued to date in 2024.

The difficulty with enforcement of Section 22 is the requirement for witness testimony, to report that the offence happened and that an identified person is the person in charge of the dog. In the absence of such testimony, fines cannot be issued. The Council continues to encourage residence groups and/or individuals to assist the Litter Warden Service in this regard.

The Dog Warden Service encourages responsible dog ownership and continually promotes the benefits of microchipping dogs and how this will assist in reuniting dog owners with their dogs if lost or worse stolen. Up to the end of July 2024, **261** stray and surrendered dogs were dealt with by the warden service, happily **78** dogs have been reunited with their owners and a further **169** have been rehomed to date.

As part of their enforcement role under the Control of Dogs Act, the Dog Wardens will:

* Respond to complaints relating to dogs not under effectual control and/or dangerous dogs, including incidents of sheep worrying.
* Carry out licence checks and initiate enforcement proceedings if necessary
* Collect unwanted and stray dogs

Since the introduction of the Control of Dogs Act and subsequent programmes of awareness and enforcement the number of unwanted and stray dogs collected by the Wardens in South Dublin has reduced by around 90%. During the same period, the number of sheep worrying incidents reduced by a similar amount.

The Dog Wardens also deal with complaints related to dogs daily e.g. Barking dogs, Stray dogs, Surrendered dogs, Nuisance dogs. The wardens patrol all areas of the County including parks and open spaces.

The Wardens liaise with other Council sections and departments in carrying out their work, including the Park Ranger Service in respect of the control of dogs in council parks and open spaces and will advise and assist estate management in the Councils Housing Department.

The Dog Warden Service regularly co-ordinates with the DSPCA Inspectors on matters relating to dogs. On occasion, the expertise of the Council's Dog Warden Service will be called upon by An Garda Síochána, to assist in search or arrest operations, where there are dogs on the premises.

### **Q7/0924 Councillor C. Ahern**

Please provide a report on how many gardeners are directly employed by the council to maintain trees, flowers and planting in SDCC parks, district centres, verges, etc- report to include any plans to increase this given the very welcome number of new wildflower and green areas being created in the county

**REPLY:**

The Public Realm Section is engaged in a wide variety of works including tree maintenance, planting and landscaping schemes, maintenance or urban centres and cutting of roadside verges as mentioned.  Also included are maintenance of estate open spaces, park maintenance works, hedge maintenance, maintenance of short and long meadows, landscaping of roundabouts as well as many other items.  Some of this work is seasonal while other items are carried out on a year round basis.  Staff involved in the overall programme of maintenance works range from supervisors to craftworks, drivers and general operatives.  The number of craftworkers engaged by the Council's Public Realm Section is 16 which includes bricklayers, craft gardeners, carpenters, welders and painters.  A there is an increasing volume of work arising from new park developments, new public realm areas, taking in charge of housing estates and the development of new play facilities, our workforce plan numbers are under constant review to keep in line with a growing and developing county.

### **Q8/0924 Councillor C. Ahern**

How many dog wardens does the council currently employ and do they operate only in SDCC parks, or do they also operate on streets and smaller green areas?

**REPLY:**

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

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

The Dog Wardens can be contacted on 01 414 9213.

The Minister for Rural and Community Development, Heather Humphreys TD, the Minister for Housing, Local Government and Heritage, Darragh O’Brien TD, and Minister of State with Responsibility for Local Government and Planning, Alan Dillon TD on the 25th of July 2024 announced funding of €2 million for local authorities to support the resourcing of dog warden services from 2025.

The funding recognises the increased demands in the area of dog control and the need to ensure resources on the ground to enforce the pending ban on XL Bully dogs.

### **Q9/0924 Councillor C. Brady**

To ask the Chief Executive to outline what measures may be implemented to ensure full implementation of the three year tree maintenance programme by the end of 2025?

**REPLY:**

The table below sets out the detailed list of estates, roads and other locations which have been included on the current 3 year tree programme 2023 to 2025 for planned maintenance.  There are a total of 176 locations included on the programme with 86 of those completed to date, maintenance works are currently underway in 2 locations and a further 34 locations have been assigned as per the status shown below which means that the necessary tree surveys have been completed at the location and either a Council crew or tree maintenance contractor has been provided with details of the work required and has been requested to plan and proceed with the work. At the present time 86 of the total 176 locations have been completed and this equates to 49% of the programme completed to date.  It is expected that by year end works will be completed at a total of 122 of the 176 locations which will equate to 69% of the programme, progress on the current programme is therefore considered to be on target.

To the end of June a total of 8,499 tree inspections were carried out, the number of trees pruned in the same period was 4,769 and the number of trees removed was 454.  The overall budget provided for tree maintenance in 2024 was €4.075m, of this €2.414m has been spent and a further €1.574 has been committed to year end.

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Location | Status |
| Foxford and Ballyowen Lane |  |
| Griffeen Road, Avenue & Way | Complete |
| Hermitage Park - Mature Trees |  |
| Lucan Road (Ballydowd to Woodies) |  |
| Manor Road and Park | Complete |
| Woodfarm Drive and Avenue | Assigned |
| Abbeydale |  |
| Abbeywood |  |
| Adamstown Link Rd |  |
| Alpine Rise | Complete |
| Ashfield Estate, Templeogue | Complete |
| Ashfield Open Space, Templeogue | Complete |
| Ashfield, Kingswood |  |
| Ashgrove |  |
| Ashpark open space |  |
| Ashpark street trees | Assigned |
| Ashton Estate | Assigned |
| Aylmer Road | Complete |
| Ballymount Road Upper (Additional) |  |
| Ballyowen Road - L1042 (Larkfield to Fonthill Road) |  |
| Ballyroan Estate | Complete |
| Ballytore Road/Crannagh Road & Park/Rathfarnham Park | Complete |
| Bancroft Estate | Complete |
| Barton Road Extension/ Barton Road West | Complete |
| Bawnogue Road | Complete |
| Beaufort Downs Estate |  |
| Beechwood Lawns | Complete |
| Belgard Green |  |
| Belgard Heights Estate & Kingswood View | Complete |
| Bewley | Assigned |
| Birchview Heights / Close | Complete |
| Boden Park Estate | Assigned |
| Boden Wood Estate | Complete |
| Brookdale/Pine Lawn | Complete |
| Brookmount | Complete |
| Brookvale | Assigned |
| Brookvale Downs and Road | Complete |
| Bushfield Estate | Complete |
| Butterfield Avenue, Grove, Park & Orchard | Complete |
| Cappaghmore OS | Complete |
| Castle Riada | Assigned |
| Castle Road |  |
| Castlefield Estate | Complete |
| Castleside Drive | Complete |
| Cedar (assigned separately as report didn’t pick up on workorder) | Assigned |
| Cherry Grove Estate |  |
| Chestnut Grove (Additional) |  |
| Cloonmore | Assigned |
| Coldcut Road |  |
| Corkagh Park Mature Trees |  |
| Culmore Road and Park | Complete |
| Dalepark Road | Assigned |
| Dangan Park Estate | Complete |
| Dargle Wood Estate |  |
| Deansrath Estate | Complete |
| Dodder Lawn (Trees at the rear 2-24 Dodder Lawn ) | Assigned |
| Dodsborough Cottages on o/s |  |
| Dromcarra |  |
| Dun an Oir | Assigned |
| Earlsfort | Complete |
| Eden Estate |  |
| Ellensborough Estate | In Progress |
| Elm estate street trees and mature trees |  |
| Elmcastle Walk/Close | Complete |
| Esker Glebe and Esker Lane OS Mature trees |  |
| Esker Glebe and Esker Lane OS street trees. (Esker Park is completed already) |  |
| Esker Lodge street and mature trees |  |
| Esker Meadow |  |
| Esker Road and Drive  and L1011/Old Esker Lane |  |
| Esker Woods |  |
| Ferncourt Estate | Assigned |
| Ferndale | Complete |
| Fforster estate | Complete |
| Floraville |  |
| Floraville |  |
| Fonthill Road and Coldcut Road cycle paths (Greenfort Boundary) |  |
| Forest Hills & Church Rd Rathcoole |  |
| Forest Hills and Church Road (Rathcoole) |  |
| Foxdene | Complete |
| Garrynisk & Belgard Close | Assigned |
| Glencarrig Estate, Firhouse | Complete |
| Glendale Park Templeogue |  |
| Glendoher Estate and Park | Complete |
| Glendown Estate | Assigned |
| Glenmaroon Road and Park | Complete |
| Glenmore Court |  |
| Glenshane | Complete |
| Glenview Drive | Assigned |
| Glenview Park & Lawns | Assigned |
| Grange Park | Complete |
| Grange View |  |
| Grange View |  |
| Green Isle Road/Old Naas Road |  |
| Greenfort estate | Complete |
| Greenisle Isle Rd/Old Naas Rd |  |
| Greenogue Drive - Rathcoole (Additional) |  |
| Harelawn | Assigned |
| Hazelgrove | Assigned |
| Hazelwood | Assigned |
| Hermitage Way Valley - Rear of Houses |  |
| Hillview,Rathcoole | Complete |
| Kilcarberry |  |
| Kilcarrig Avenue | Assigned |
| Kilmartin | Complete |
| Kilmashogue | Complete |
| Kingswood Estate | Assigned |
| Kippure Estate | Complete |
| Knockcullen Estate | Assigned |
| Knockmore | Complete |
| Lanndale | Assigned |
| Laurel Park | Complete |
| Liffey Estate | Complete |
| Limekiln Green, Avenue, Road and Close | Complete |
| Lugnaquilla Avenue | Complete |
| MacUilliam | Complete |
| Marian Road/Estate |  |
| Meile an Ri |  |
| Millbrook Lawns | Assigned |
| Millcourt |  |
| Monalea Grove | Complete |
| Monastery Estate (Road, Park, Walk, Crescent, Drive) | Complete |
| Monastery Gate | Complete |
| Monastery Rise street trees | Assigned |
| Mount Carmel Park |  |
| Mount Down Estate | Complete |
| Mountain Park | Assigned |
| Moyle Crescent | Complete |
| Nangor Crescent |  |
| Neilstown Estate | Complete |
| New Road, Newlands Cross, Rd, Avenue, Knockmeenagh Road. |  |
| Newcastle Road/R120. (LO11 completed  with Esker Road). Lucan Harries car park frontage |  |
| Oakdale Estate |  |
| Old Bawn Road incl trees on Old Bawn Football Field | Complete |
| Parkhill | Complete |
| Parklands Road/Estate |  |
| Pinetree Crescent | Complete |
| Prospect Estate | Complete |
| Raheen | Complete |
| Rathcoole Village | Complete |
| Rathfarnham Wood (Additional) | Complete |
| Rathlyon Estate |  |
| Redwood | Assigned |
| Riversdale Estate Palmerstown |  |
| Riverside Drive | Complete |
| Rochfort | Complete |
| Rosebank/Summerfield | Complete |
| Rossfield | Complete |
| Saint Finians | In Progress |
| Saint Marks | Complete |
| Sarsfield Park Mature Trees |  |
| Shancastle | Complete |
| Silverwood Road/Drive | Complete |
| Springfield Road | Complete |
| St Patricks Esatate (Road, Park , Avenue) |  |
| St. Aongus | Complete |
| St. Conleths Road | Complete |
| St. Gerards Road | Complete |
| St. Lomans Road (L1042) and Ballyowen Road |  |
| St. Patricks Crescent Rathcoole |  |
| St. Patricks Road | Complete |
| St. Peters Road and Drive | Complete |
| Suncroft | Complete |
| Sundale | Assigned |
| Swiftbrook | Complete |
| Sycamore Avenue (assigned separately as report didn’t pick up on workorder) | Assigned |
| Tamarisk | Assigned |
| Temple Manor Estate, Greenhills | Complete |
| Templeroan Estate incl. woodland along Templeroan Road | Assigned |
| Tor an Ri |  |
| Tree Park Road | Complete |
| Turret Road | Complete |
| Walnut/Sylvan Avenue, Drive & Close | Complete |
| Washington Park | Complete |
| Watermeadow | Complete |
| Wellington Park |  |
| Westbury |  |
| Whitecliff | Complete |
| Whitecliff | Complete |
| Whitestown Road/Drive | Assigned |
| Willowbank | Assigned |
| Willsbrook Estate and Road |  |
| Wood Avens |  |
| Woodside (Additional) |  |
| Woodstock Park |  |
| Woodstown Estate |  |
| Woodview Heights |  |

### **Q10/0924 Councillor C. Brady**

To ask the Chief Executive, given that not all estates are serviced within the three year maintenance plan cycle, can you outline how long it takes to complete tree maintenance across the county?

**REPLY:**

The Council to date have through it's survey work recorded in excess of 60,000 street trees in the county. On average the Council look to maintain between 7,500 and 10,000 trees per year equating to an 8-10 year cycle. This programme is heavily impacted by emergency works across any given year which have to be added to the planned works as per the approved programme.

The return period will vary from estate to estate and depends on numerous factors but most importantly the tree species, some of which require more regular maintenance than others.  This programme of planned cyclical maintenance commenced with the first 3 year programme from 2017 to 2019, we are now half way through the third 3 year programme for the period 2023 to 2025.  While some estates which were included in the first programme have been included in the current programme for a return visit, it is neither necessary or possible to do this for every estate.  And in some cases an estate will be receiving it's first visit in this third cycle of three year planned maintenance.  The preparation of the 3 year programme is determined by knowledge and information available on each estate with regard to the general condition of the trees within an estate and priorities are determined with regard to the level of urgency which applies at each location.

### **Q11/0924 Councillor C. Brady**

To ask the Chief Executive to outline the level of resources, both internal and external, being deployed by the Council in 2024 to repair damaged footpaths and trip hazards?

**REPLY:**

The council have allocated over €3million to footpath repairs in the 2024 budget. This money is used to carry out repairs to damaged footpaths and trip hazards across the County.

In addition to this the Council has 7 direct labour crews who undertake one off repairs around the county and these crews have over 5000m2 of footpath repaired to date this year.

### **Q12/0924 Councillor C. Brady**

To ask the Chief Executive for a breakdown by electoral area of the number of footpath repair requests listed for works recorded by the council?

**REPLY:**

The Council has the following list of footpath repairs listed to be carried out in 2024. These schemes are listed in the agreed 2024 Roadworks Programme.

* Lucan - 8
* Clondalkin - 15
* Palmerstown Fonthill - 7
* Tallaght South - 8
* Tallaght Central - 15
* Templeogue Rathfarnham - 18
* Firhouse Bohernabreena – 8

In addition to these agreed works, the Council will also progress other repair works as and when needed to address health and safety issues where these are identified.

### **Q13/0924 Councillor C. Brady**

To ask the Chief Executive how many footpath repairs listed for works will be repaired by end of 2024?

**REPLY:**

There are 80 footpath schemes included in the 2024 Roadworks Programme and it is expected that all these schemes will be completed in 2024.

In addition to this our own direct labour crews will be undertaking one off repairs around the county and these crews have over 5000m2 of footpath repaired to date.

### **Q14/0924 Councillor C. Brady**

To ask the Chief Executive what options are available in the case of mature estates where it becomes clear that the trees originally planted in the estate were inappropriate and have now become a serious nuisance?

**REPLY:**

All actions undertaken in managing South Dublin County Council's tree stock are guided by the Council's tree management policy ‘Living with Trees’ 2021-2026.  The Council's policy commits to retaining as many trees as possible across the County and only removing where absolutely necessary, this matter is dealt with in the tree policy and the possible reasons for removal of a tree as stated in the policy are listed below.  Actions required to be taken in relation to trees are dictated on a case by case basis, analysing and observing how the tree exists within its immediate location and how it will develop into the future.  However should a tree be presenting itself as a clear and obvious hazard, any works deemed as necessary will be conducted within an appropriate timeframe and in line with the required actions which are obtained from a detailed inspection of the tree in question.  If a situation were to arise where a large number of trees in one location are required to be removed then this would have to be done as part of a plan devised to address the issue over a number of years and which would include proposals for replacement planting. Trees are removed only when necessary as a last resort, the criteria for tree removal as stated in 'Living with Trees' are as follows:

* 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

### **Q15/0924 Councillor Y. Collins**

To ask the Council whether it has asked the Data Protection Commissioner to review its finding that the Council may not install CCTV in its public parks,  to act as a deterrent against acts of vandalism such as the recent destruction of cherry trees and saplings in Dodder Valley Park, as per the Motion submitted by me at our Council meeting on the 13th May 2024

**REPLY:**

In 2022, the Data Protection Commission (DPC) audited this Council's use of CCTV across a range of services and functions.  This has been followed by a lengthy period of engagement and communication between the Council and DPC which included a requirement that we provide comprehensive information on our CCTV infrastructure, its purpose and the basis for its use.  This process has not yet concluded and it is therefore not currently known what the final position of the DPC position will be in relation to CCTV in park locations.  We have clearly outlined to the DPC our justification for the use of CCTV and we await the final findings of the DPC audit which will determine the future use of CCTV in our parks and other locations.

### **Q16/0924 Councillor T. Costello**

To ask for a report on how SDCC monitors household compliance with Household Waste Collection bylaws.

**REPORT:**

In accordance with the requirements of Section 34 C of the Waste Management Act 1996, Local Authorities are required to 'maintain a register of persons availing of a household waste collection service for the purpose of establishing compliance by original producers of waste and other waste holders. Authorised Waste Collectors are required to provide this information following a written request made by a Local Authority.

Section 34 C (9) of the Waste Management Act 1996 (as inserted by Section 27 of the Circular Economy and Miscellaneous Provisions Act 2022) a local authority may establish and maintain a register of postcodes in respect of addresses in its functional area from which household waste or commercial waste is not

(a) collected by an authorised waste collector,

(b) deposited at a waste facility, or

(c) otherwise disposed of or treated in accordance with this Act,

for the purposes of establishing compliance by original producers and other waste holders with section 32(1A) and any regulations or bye-laws made under this Act in relation to household waste or commercial waste.

Under Section 34C(16) of the Act, the Minister for the Environment, Climate and Communications shall issue guidance for the purpose of assisting local authorities in the establishment and maintenance of a register referred to in subsection (9) and the appropriate use of the information contained in such a register and may from time to time revise or re-issue that guidance. This guidance was issued in December 2023 with further explanatory guidance received in Q1 2024.

To this end, South Dublin County Council issued Section 18 notices in July 2024 to the 12 authorised household waste collectors operating in SDCC seeking details of addresses of premises in SDCC from which they collect household and/or kerbside waste. The authorised collectors are in the process of providing this information, South Dublin County Council Waste Enforcement & Licensing Section will then process the data from which areas with low collector rates will be identified, and will in turn be targeted to carry out surveys to determine how these properties are complying with the 2018 SDCC Household and Commercial Waste Bye-Laws.

### **Q17/0924 Councillor T. Costello**

Can SDCC provide a report of council owned laneways, report to include which ones need attention to remove illegal dumping or over vegetation and what schedule is in place to cleanse those that need to be addressed.

**REPLY:**

Provision was made in budget 2024 for the cleaning of laneways in the Palmerstown and Dublin 12 areas on a once off basis.  Those laneways are wide enough to accommodate a vehicle and in many instances they have suffered from regular illegal dumping.  As they are accessible by vehicle they have been used to access back garden parking areas and garages and for this reason they must be kept clear.  The cleaning programme commenced at the start of July and is due to run to the end of October, substantial progress has already been made on this programme of work.  The work completed consists of sweeping, removal of illegally dumped items and weed treatment and removal.  It is proposed that this provision in the budget will be continued in 2025.

In addition to this the Council's litter wardens inspect laneways where illegal dumping has been reported and in some instances this will lead to regular patrols of certain areas.  Where a litter warden, elected representative or residents requests the cleaning of a laneway this is inspected and arranged on a once off basis if deemed necessary.

There are several gated laneways in Council built estates within the remit of the Estate Management Section, these laneways were gated at the request of the local residents mainly due to anti-social behaviour.  As access to these laneways is restricted responsibility falls upon residents to maintain the laneways to ensure their access is continued.  Gated laneways are not subject to a maintenance schedule. When reports of dumping or over vegetation are received, an inspection is carried out by our Estate Management Team and if required the gated laneway will be added to a cleansing and/or spraying schedule. At present the Estate Management Section address the cleansing of laneways on a need’s basis particularly around Halloween when laneways are often used to store materials.  Estate Management can organise once off cleansing providing the laneway is being utilised and subject to having the funds to do so.  The Estate Management team do not deal with gated laneways in private estates.

### **Q18/0924 Councillor T. Costello**

To ask the Chief Executive how many people who have children with rare complex medical needs (using hoists etc) are waiting to be housed in the county and what is the length of time they are waiting?

**REPLY:**

The Council does not currently record numbers of children with complex medical needs. There are currently 713 applications with medical approval on the Housing Waiting List. Applicants who do not require specially adapted properties continue to have access to Choice Based Letting.

Properties assigned to the medical unit will be offered to applicants in accordance with the Council's Allocation Scheme.

|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Standard Medical List | Bedroom Need | | | | Total |
|  | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 |  |
| Ground Floor & Wheelchair | 17 | 16 | 41 | 25 | 99 |
| Ground Floor | 63 | 23 | 34 | 12 | 132 |
| Standard | 72 | 25 | 71 | 34 | 202 |
| Total | 152 | 64 | 146 | 71 | 433 |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Supported Housing | Bedroom Need | | | | Total |
|  | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 |  |
| Ground Floor & Wheelchair | 13 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 13 |
| Ground Floor | 13 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 13 |
| Standard | 241 | 13 | 0 | 0 | 254 |
| Total | 267 | 13 | 0 | 0 | 280 |

### **Q19/0924 Councillor L. de Courcy**

To ask the Chief Executive for the studies showing the positive economic impact migrants have on our economy as claimed in the SDCC Fact or Fiction factcheck leaflet "Migrants benefit our economy". Specifically, distinguishing between educated EU migrants and migrants from non-EU countries.

**REPLY:**

The Fact and Fiction leaflet campaign was a shared initiative between the then Mayor’s office, South Dublin Volunteer Centre, and South Dublin County Partnership. It came about from work in the Community Integration Forum and looked at providing evidence-based statements on migration.

The section “Migrants benefit our economy” is based on a journal article from Science Advances (science.org) titled Macroeconomic evidence suggests that asylum seekers are not a “burden” for Western European countries (2018) and is available at [https://www.science.org/doi/10.1126/sciadv.aaq0883#body-ref-R29](https://eur04.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.science.org%2Fdoi%2F10.1126%2Fsciadv.aaq0883%23body-ref-R29&amp;data=05%7C02%7Clmaxwell%40SDUBLINCOCO.ie%7C963fd9e18f6a4a42e5fa08dcccf7b185%7C6a3c00c019d0492da8de95fad8fda1d4%7C0%7C0%7C638610611420907118%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C4000%7C%7C%7C&amp;sdata=7rVIHOx0E8%2B%2B6UfU7GvzmtGCUIYkb%2Bb%2F916DCjjgdoo%3D&amp;reserved=0)

The abstract from the article is below.

This paper aims to evaluate the economic and fiscal effects of inflows of asylum seekers into Western Europe from 1985 to 2015. It relies on an empirical methodology that is widely used to estimate the macroeconomic effects of structural shocks and policies. It shows that inflows of asylum seekers do not deteriorate host countries’ economic performance or fiscal balance because the increase in public spending induced by asylum seekers is more than compensated for by an increase in tax revenues net of transfers. As asylum seekers become permanent residents, their macroeconomic impacts become positive.

Studies have also shown that new migrants, when allowed to work, have a net positive impact on receiving countries, see for example THE FISCAL EFFECTS OF IMMIGRATION TO THE UK Dustmann, Christian and Frattini, Tommasso, The Economic Journal, Doi: 10.1111/ecoj.12181 © 2014 Royal Economic Society. Published by John Wiley & Sons, 9600 Garsington Road, Oxford OX4 2DQ, UK and 350 Main Street, Malden, MA 02148, USA.

There are various studies of the positive economic impacts of refugees from other conflicts, such as, 'Winners and losers among a refugee-hosting population', by Jean-François Maystadt and Philip Verwimp  [https://cdn.uclouvain.be/public/Exports%20reddot/core/documents/coredp2009\_34.pdf](https://eur04.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fcdn.uclouvain.be%2Fpublic%2FExports%2520reddot%2Fcore%2Fdocuments%2Fcoredp2009_34.pdf&amp;data=05%7C02%7Clmaxwell%40SDUBLINCOCO.ie%7C963fd9e18f6a4a42e5fa08dcccf7b185%7C6a3c00c019d0492da8de95fad8fda1d4%7C0%7C0%7C638610611420927419%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C4000%7C%7C%7C&amp;sdata=P17n9oIJj%2BxguFH6IsWHwFGP7E%2FahWKgroZIRq1DBpM%3D&amp;reserved=0)

Since the publication of the leaflet, the Local Government Management Agency (LGMA) has requested permission from South Dublin County Council to use the leaflet as a template to provide to Local Authorities nationally to run similar awareness-raising campaigns.

### **Q20/0924 Councillor L. de Courcy**

To ask the Chief Executive for a breakdown of where the funds of €2,754,305 have been allocated under the Community Recognition Fund for communities that have welcomed migrants?

**REPLY:**

Details of the approved projects in South Dublin under the Community Recognition Fund for 2023 are below:

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Area/Group | Project | Amount Awarded |
| Saggart/Citywest | Upgrade of St. Mary’s GAA pitch in Saggart Village to all-weather surface with associated lighting and boundary upgrades. | €391,820 |
| Rathcoole | Minor upgrades to Rathcoole Football Club facilities including repair and painting | €15,000 |
| Saggart/Citywest | Saggart Schoolhouse Community Centre enhancement to include boundary upgrade, drainage, landscaping, play/activity areas, outdoor seating/lighting and event space | €380,000 |
| Saggart/Citywest | Upgrade of Carrigmore Park to include playspace for younger children and teenspace for teenagers | €200,000 |
| Saggart Village & Citywest | Provision of required hardware and configuration to install: • Up to 10 no. public Wi-Fi access points throughout the village and surrounds • 4 no. Wi-Fi benches in park areas • 8 no. Wi-Fi access points in or at community buildings (internal and external) • Live Streaming equipment for Saggart Community Centre | €185,000 |
| Saggart Village/Rathcoole | Provision of new half-court MUGA in Rathcoole Park | €70,000 |
| Tallaght & Countywide | County Library Installation of gamerspace equipment and a range of sensory supports to provide options for social inclusion and integration | €200,000 |
| Tallaght/Citywest | Fettercairn Horse Project Surface and fencing upgrades to facilitate increased centre usage under social inclusion initiatives | €100,000 |
| Tallaght, Clondalkin & Saggart/Citywest | Community Bus managed by South Dublin County Council in conjunction with South Dublin Volunteer Centre | €65,000 |
| Tallaght | Provision of new half-court MUGA  in Sean Walsh Park, Tallaght | €70,000 |
| Tallaght | Provision of required hardware and configuration to install: • Up to 10 no. public Wi-Fi access points throughout the village and surrounds • 4 no. wi-F fi benches in park areas • 4 no. Wi-Fi access points in or at community buildings (internal and external) | €100,000 |
| Countywide | Heritage Trail App Translation to support increased use by all of the free heritage trails and routes in many local towns and villages including Tallaght, Saggart, Clondalkin providing free access to local heritage information for all | €15,000 |
| Clondalkin | Fit-out of new age friendly centre at Orchard Lodge, Clondalkin | €25,000 |
| Clondalkin | Further development and upgrade of Clondalkin “Global Garden” to include polytunnels, working area, gardening equipment. | €10,000 |
| Clondalkin | Provision of required hardware and configuration to install: • Up to 10 no. public Wi-Fi access points throughout the village and surrounds • 4 no. Wi-Fi benches in park areas • 4 no. Wi-Fi access points in or at community buildings (internal and external) | €100,000 |
| Clondalkin | Provision of new all-weather sports pitch at Knockmitten Park | €350,000 |
| Clondalkin | Upgrade of existing play space & provision of new half -court MUGA | €200,000 |
| Clondalkin | Provision of Astro Pitch at Round Towers GAA | €107,485 |
| Clondalkin | Provision of new half -court MUGA | €70,000 |

The allocation included €100,00 for project management and administration and therefore the list of approved projects totals €2,654,305.

### **Q21/0924 Councillor M. Duff**

Could the Manager please give details of the number of requests that were made for tree removals, resulting from damage to property in 2023/2024. Could he also detail the number of cases where the householder was asked to provide an Engineers report?

**REPLY:**

During the 12 month period from August 2023 to August 2024 the Council received a total of 2,449 queries which are logged on the customer care system and which related to the management of trees in some way.  Of that total number of 2,449 the number of queries categorised and logged as tree removal requests which specifically mentioned damage or potential damage to property was 64.  These 64 queries have been examined and it was found that 56 of them referred to damage to public property such as the public footpath and 8 referred to damage or potential damage to private property including private boundary walls and driveways.  In relation to each of those 8 queries the resident in each case has been requested to provide an engineer's report to substantiate the claim that the publicly owned tree is causing damage to private property, with one report received to date.

### **Q22/0924 Councillor M. Duff**

Could the Manager please advise this Council if in cases where a successful claim for damages, caused by a Contractor working on behalf of South Dublin County Council, is made to Irish Public Bodies Insurance, would that payment for damages be recovered by SDCC from the Contractor?

**REPLY:**

All contractors engaged by the Council are required to have adequate insurance in place before they commence work for the Council.

In the event a third party makes a claim against the Council because of work undertaken by a contractor, then the Council's insurer, Irish Public Bodies (IPB), will defend any such claim on the Council's behalf and refer the matter back to the contractor or their insurers.

### **Q23/0924 Councillor A. Edge**

Does SDCC (and/or its contractors) record the quantity of pesticides they use each year?

**REPLY:**

In order to comply with the requirements of the Sustainable Use of Pesticides Directive this Council is required to maintain records of pesticide usage and this also applies to any contractors or agents of the Council including the road sweeping contractor.  These records of pesticide usage are maintained each year and are reported to the Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine when required to do so.  This Council is implementing measures to reduce pesticide usage on an ongoing basis and in this regard the tender for a new road sweeping contract to commence on January 1st next year will include measures to further reduce pesticide usage in the provision of the road sweeping services.

### **Q24/0924 Councillor N. Fennell**

To ask the Chief Executive for a break down by tabular format by LEA on funding for youth facilities available to young people in the county. For years 2024, 2023, 2022

**REPLY:**

The Council provides through our capital and revenue budgets funding for the development, maintenance and programming of a wide range of facilities/activities for children and young people across the county including our network of libraries, regional/neighbourhood parks, community and leisure centres, Civic Theatre, RUA RED, Big Space/Fettercairn Horse Project and Clondalkin Equine Club. It is not possible to provide a full breakdown of funding as these facilities are not exclusively used by children and young people but they do provide or support a wide range of activities to ensure that they are kept active, entertained and educated through the provision of playgrounds/teen spaces, youth clubs, youth cafes, skate parks, sports facilities/playing pitches, youth arts/drama/music, literacy/STEAM programmes, youth outreach and voluntary activities.

South Dublin Comhairle na nOg (Youth Council) have committed in their work programme for 2024 to map services and activities for young people in community centres and spaces in the County and their findings can be presented and shared with the elected members.

Detailed below is an example of the facilities for children and young people delivered/funded by the Council between 2022-24:

**South Dublin Library Services**

All libraries across the county provide facilities specifically aimed at young people as part of overall suite of facilities available in each branch. This includes children’s and young adult spaces and collections. It’s not possible to separate the costs of providing these facilities from the cost of providing library facilities overall, but in the years listed the Council has invested the following in specific facilities aimed at young people through the library service:

* Think Big Space in partnership with Amazon Web Services. This facility has provided workshops in robotics and virtual reality to just under 8,000 children since its launch in May 2022. The facility is managed by Libraries and AWS with rental costs covered by the Council.
* In June 2023, we launched The Loft, which is targeted at teens and provides them with a variety of creative outlets. The Loft is “chill out” space for young people and has pool tables, and will play host to DJ workshops, and open mic and comedy clubs.
* Our Young Adult Collections include both fiction and non-fiction titles, as well as graphic novels. Each year we allocate a percentage of our overall acquisitions budget to the purchase of Young Adult stock. The percentage on young adult fiction p/a is approximately 4%, with another 18% on Children's stock.

**Playground/Teenspace Programme:**

Over the past 10 years we have gone from 4 playgrounds to over 40 across the county. We have also constructed outdoor exercise areas and teenspaces in many of our parks which are very popular with young people.

Since 2022 we have added the following:

**Teenspaces (overall figure €560,000):**

* Griffeen Valley Park
* Bancroft Park
* Ballycragh Park
* Tymon Limekiln
* Kingswood

**New/refurbished playgrounds:**

* Kiltalown Park (€150,000)
* Dodder Valley Park- 3 new playgrounds and a play trail (€352,726)
* Whitestown Stream (€120,000)
* Airlie Park x 3 playgrounds (included in overall cost for park)
* Aylesbury playground refurbishment (€40,000)
* Kingswood Playground refurbishment (€28,536)
* Ballycragh Playground refurbishment €20,000)

**Exercise/Calisthenics areas:**

* Tymon Limekiln (€55,000)
* Clondalkin Park (€55,000)
* Meile An Ri -North Clondalkin (€55,000)
* Knockmitten Park (€55,000)

**MUGA's:**

* Sean Walsh Park (€70,000)
* Clondalkin Park  (€70,000)
* Rathcoole Park  (€70,000)

**BMX/Pump track:**

* Dodder Valley Park (€401,186)

**Pitches/Artificial Grass Pitches:**

* Sean Walsh Park - full-sized 3G soccer pitch which can also be used for rugby pitch with a 6m in-goal area for training and underage matches, GAA training pitch and cross field play 5 aside soccer. (€863,482)
* Airlie Park - full sized 3G GAA which can also be used as 2x full-sized 3G soccer pitch (included in overall cost of park)

**Tennis courts/ basketball courts**

* Dodder Valley Park- 4 tennis courts (€120,000)
* Airlie Park x 3 courts (included in overall cost for park)
* Beechfield Park – 3 courts (€120,000)

**Facilities currently under construction**

* Carrigmore Park- Playground and Teenspace (€200,000)
* Saggart Community Centre- Playground (€300,000)
* St Cuthberts Park- 2 playgrounds, 1 MUGA, 1 Teenspace (included in overall cost of park in parks masterplan)
* Jobstown Park- BMX Pumptrack, 2 Playgrounds, 1 Teenspace (included in overall cost of park in parks masterplan)
* Killinarden Park - 2 playgrounds, 1 play trail, skate ramp, teen facilities (included in overall cost of park in parks masterplan)
* Quarryvale Park- 1 Teenspace and 1 playground (included in overall cost of park in parks masterplan)

**Community Services**

Funding for youth services comes from central government through the DDLETB however, the Council provide funding to community centres and organisations through grant assistance many of which provide services to youth including Foroige/Crosscare.

**Foroige**

2022 – €20,000 to support a youth café in Tallaght

2023 – €30,000 to support a youth café in Tallaght

2024 - €30,000 to support a youth café in Tallaght

**Crosscare**

2022 –  €7346.45 Community Activities Fund under LCDC

### **Q25/0924 Councillor P. Gogarty**

To ask the Chief Executive to provide a full list of pitches allocated to sports clubs in the County for the 2024/25 period?

**REPLY:**

South Dublin County Council provides over 1,750ha of parks and open spaces throughout the County. The larger parks, in particular, provide space for a wide range of active and passive recreation facilities including circa 173 playing pitches/sport facilities for various sporting clubs such as Gaelic Football, Hurling, Soccer, Rugby, Cricket, Rounder’s, Softball, Baseball, Athletic etc. The benefits of these facilities contribute to the Government’s vision of an active and healthy society.

The allocation of playing pitches/sport facilities is granted on a year-to-year basis, subject to clubs undertaking to abide by the various Acts, Bye-Laws, etc. governing the use of County Council Parks and Open Spaces. South Dublin County Council Bye-Laws for the control and regulation of the use of Parks and Open Spaces and recreational playing grounds came into effect on 1st August 2011. A copy of the Bye-Laws are available here on the Council’s website <https://www.sdcc.ie/en/download-it/publications/parks-and-open-spaces-bye-laws-2011.pdf>

The pitch allocation for the 2024/2025 season is almost complete. There are currently 173 SDCC playing pitches to be allocated with 12 of these pitches currently unavailable for the 2024/2025 season due to pitch upgrades and maintenance. Therefore there are 161 pitches available for the 2024/2025 season.

The Public Realm Administration team engaged with 104 clubs in relation to the allocation for the year ahead. 65 clubs submitted an application on behalf of over 1,500 teams. The Public Realm team have allocated 157 pitches to teams across the county to date. The remaining allocations will be completed very shortly once clubs have submitted correct insurance details and all other relevant documents.  Of these 65 clubs, 8 clubs had no allocation in the 2023/2024 season and an allocation has been provided for in the 2024/2025 season.

The Public Realm team have also engaged with clubs and leagues to facilitate pitch sharing where possible. This allows for optimal use of the pitches and facilitates a greater number of clubs where possible.

For the 2024/2025 season, Public Realm Administration team have fully met the requested needs for 80% of the clubs who made an application. 20% of the clubs requests were partially met. No club was denied an allocation.

Please find the link to the 2024/2025 SDCC allocation here: [Allocation Breakdown By Pitch 2023 / 2024](http://www.sdublincoco.ie/Home/ViewDocument/c9035d40-ce26-4f62-8bf1-b1e000d7889c). For operational reasons, this list of allocations can be subject to change.

### **Q26/0924 Councillor P. Gogarty**

To ask the Chief Executive to outline why South Dublin has a different policy to Fingal in not allocating designated off-leash periods in smaller parks without a dog run; and if a statement can be made on the matter.

**REPLY:**

This Council has prioritized providing dedicated dog runs in parks rather than providing off-leash periods for owners to exercise their dogs.  To date dog runs have been created in Tymon Park, Sean Walsh Park, Corkagh Park, Griffeen Valley Park, Waterstown Park and Collinstown Park. New dog runs are planned to be installed in both Rathcoole Park and Ballymount Park and these will be provided through the public realm improvement works programme.  Other parks will also be considered for dog run installation where there is considered to be a need.  While South Dublin County's parks do not have off-leash times and these have never been trialled, the Council could trial such an arrangement in the future if there was sufficient demand for same.  This may be considered in a situation where a park is deemed to be too small or unsuitable in other ways for the installation of a dog run.

### **Q27/0924 Councillor P. Gogarty**

To ask the Chief Executive to outline how many fines were issued since January 2023 in relation to dogs off leash in public parks; and if a statement can be made on the matter?

**REPLY:**

Number of Fixed Payment Notices issued under The Byelaws for Parks and Open Spaces in relation to dogs off leash in public parks:

Number of Fines issued under the Control of Dogs Act, 1986 for failure to keep a dog under effectual control, contrary to Section 9, in a public park: **1**

[The Bye-Laws for Parks and Open Spaces 2011](https://www.sdcc.ie/en/download-it/publications/parks-and-open-spaces-bye-laws-2011.pdf) came into force on the 1st August 2011 and are for the use, operation, protection, regulation and management of Parks and Open Spaces owned, controlled and managed by, or in the charge of South Dublin County Council.

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

Park Rangers as employees of the Council are authorised to enforce the SDCC Bye-laws.

**4.1 Dogs:-**

4.1.1 No person:

a) Shall take into or allow to remain in a Park any dog unless it is under effective control on a leash other than in areas designated (dog runs) or at times specified by the County Council

b) In charge of a dog in a Park shall engage it in coursing or permit it to be engaged in coursing in a Park.

4.1.2 Persons in charge of a dog in a park shall

a) Take reasonable care to prevent it from causing annoyance to any person using the Park or worrying, chasing, injuring or disturbing any animals, birds or other creatures in the Park.

b) Be liable for any damage or injury which may be caused by the dog.

c) Remove it from the Park if so directed by an Employee of the Council or an Authorised Person.

**9. Fixed Payment Notice:-**

9.1. If an Authorised Person and/or a member of the Garda Siochana has reasonable grounds for believing that a person is committing a contravention or has committed a contravention of a provision of these Bye-Laws the authorised Person and/or a member of the Garda Siochana may serve on the person a fixed payment notice in the general form as set out in the Schedule to these Bye Laws.

[The Control of Dogs Act, 1986](https://www.irishstatutebook.ie/eli/1986/act/32/enacted/en/html?q=control+of+dogs), Section 9 provides:

9.—(1) The owner or any other person in charge of a dog shall not permit the dog to be in any place other than—

(a) the premises of the owner, or

(b) the premises of such other person in charge of the dog, or

(c) the premises of any other person, with the consent of that person,

unless such owner or such other person in charge of the dog accompanies it and keeps it under effectual control

The Council's Dog Warden Service do regular checks of the parks and work with the Park Rangers when necessary. The dog wardens are responsible for the enforcement of the Control of Dogs Act 1986 as amended. This includes responding to complaints relating to dogs not under effectual control and/or dangerous dogs, carrying out of Licence Checks, the initiation of enforcement proceedings where possible and the seizure and collection of stray dogs and removal to the Dog Shelter.

### **Q28/0924 Councillor P. Gogarty**

To ask the Chief Executive to outline how many fines were issued and court prosecutions secured by the Dog Warden service in South Dublin County for dogs not under effective control since January 2024; and if a statement can be made on the matter?

**REPLY:**

To date in 2024 nine fines have been issued by the Council's Dog Warden Service for failure to keep a dog under effectual control contrary to Section 9 of the Control of Dogs Acts 1986 and 1992.

Five of these fines have been paid in full

Two cases have been referred for prosecution, with Court dates scheduled in September

The remaining two cases will be referred for prosecution if they remain unpaid after the time allowed i.e. 21 days

The Dog Warden Service encourages responsible dog ownership and continually promotes the benefits of microchipping dogs and how this will assist in reuniting dog owners with their dogs if lost or worse stolen. Up to the end of July 2024, 261 stray and surrendered dogs were dealt with by the warden service, happily 78 dogs have been reunited with their owners and a further 169 have been rehomed to date.

As part of their enforcement role under the Control of Dogs Act, the Dog Wardens will:

* Respond to complaints relating to dogs not under effectual control and/or dangerous dogs, including incidents of sheep worrying.
* Carry out licence checks and initiate enforcement proceedings if necessary
* Collect unwanted and stray dogs

Since the introduction of the Control of Dogs Act and subsequent programmes of awareness and enforcement the number of unwanted and stray dogs collected by the Wardens in South Dublin has reduced by around 90%. During the same period, the number of sheep worrying incidents reduced by a similar amount.

The Dog Wardens also deal with complaints related to dogs daily e.g. Barking dogs, Stray dogs, Surrendered dogs, Nuisance dogs. The wardens patrol all areas of the County including parks and open spaces.

The Wardens liaise with other Council sections and departments in carrying out their work, including the Park Ranger Service in respect of the control of dogs in council parks and open spaces and will advise and assist estate management in the Councils Housing Department.

The Dog Warden Service regularly co-ordinates with the DSPCA Inspectors on matters relating to dogs. On occasion, the expertise of the Council's Dog Warden Service will be called upon by An Garda Síochána, to assist in search or arrest operations, where there are dogs on the premises.

### **Q29/0924 Councillor K. Keane**

To ask the Chief Executive to produce a report on funding for Traveller Specific Accommodation for 2023 and 2024. Report to include how much has been spent and on what and how much is outstanding.

**REPLY:**

Since January 2020, the Department of Housing, Local Government & Heritage (DHLGH) no longer allocates specific budgets to individual local authorities for Traveller accommodation capital programmes. Instead, for ease of funding, local authorities can now apply for and drawdown funding at any time throughout the year. In 2023 the Council drew down a total of €3,300,942.

Breakdown as follows:

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Description | Amount |
| Relet/Refurbishment Works | €264,847 |
| National Caravan Loan Scheme | €114,800 |
| New Group Housing Scheme | €2,921,295 |

To date in 2024, the Council has submitted claims to the total of €421,539

Breakdown as follows:

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Description | Amount |
| Relet/Refurbishment Works | €272,144 |
| National Caravan Loan Scheme | €149,395 |

Outstanding claims:

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Description | Amount |
| New Group Housing Scheme | €2,853,124 |
| Relet/Refurbishment Works | €44,000 |

In addition to above, €1,048,708 was spent in the Revenue Budget for 2023 with €1,643,600 provided in the Budget 2024 for the maintenance, mobile caretaking services and supports to Traveller Accommodation in the County.

### **Q30/0924 Councillor E. Ó Broin**

To ask the Chief Executive if the plans for EV charging points included in the SDCC Climate Action Plan include locations in existing housing estates?

**REPLY:**

Within SDCC Climate Action Plan (2024-2029), objective T25 outlines the goal for the council to continue the implementation of the Dublin Local Authority Electric Vehicle Charging Strategy. The strategy is a comprehensive report, setting out a co-ordinated approach to deploy EV charging infrastructure in the four Dublin region Local Authorities (LAs), to support the transition to Electric Vehicles.  The strategy takes into account national targets for EV role out.  By 2030, it is estimated approximately 138,000 EV’s will be owned and operating within the Dublin region, of which, approximately 75% of EV’s will be predominately charged at the vehicle owners residential driveway. The strategy focuses ensuring appropriate EV charging infrastructure is available for the remaining 25% of EV owners, that will not have access to driveway charging.

The strategy, identifies 5 key methods for residents of the Dublin region to charge their EV’s, as set out below.

* Home charging – vehicle charged at the owners driveway/garage/shared carpark, typically overnight, with slow chargers (3-7kw).
* Neighbourhood charging – vehicle charged near owners home who do not have off street parking, typically overnight, with slow to fast charging (7-22kw).
* Residential charging hub – vehicle charged in centralised hubs close to home, can cater for car sharing and taxi’s, 24 hour use, with rapid to ultra rapid charging (50-150kw).
* Destination charging – vehicles charged at the end of a journey, typically public amenities such as shops, parks and community buildings, operated during the amenity opening times, with slow to rapid charging (3-50kw).
* En-route charging – vehicles charged along major routes/main roads, typically located in service stations, with fast turnaround rapid and ultra rapid charging ( 50-350kw).

In the case of Neighbourhood Charging, Residential Charging Hub and Destination Charging, the Local Authority has a role in the delivery of the necessary infrastructure, with the assistance of central government funding through the Department of Transport and Zero Emission Vehicles Ireland (ZEVI).

A procurement competition has just been completed for a 10-year concession framework agreement, to allow for the appointment of a contractor for the design, install and operate destination charge points across the entire county of Dublin. An initial 50 projects will be installed within the Dublin region during 2024/25, of which 14 sites have been identified in the SDCC region.  The initial sites are predominately in carparks of public parks and amenities operated by SDCC, allowing users access to fast and rapid charging. The preferred contractor, ePower, will be delivering charging locations throughout 2025, with first sites expected to be delivered Q1 2025. Additional sites have been identified and surveys have commenced to ensure the appropriate level of infrastructure is in place.

In the case of Neighbourhood charging, a similar procurement process to Destination Charging is being considered for the operation of EV Charging in estates taken in charge by the 4 Dublin Local Authorities.  The tender will be required to address the operation of EV Charging in new developments, which infrastructure has been provided and is operational as a condition of planning.  The tender process will also be required to address older residential developments in the charge of the Local Authority and where residents don’t have access to off street parking.

Public EV Charging delivery can be challenging, as upgrades are frequently required to the national grid, and the current market for EV Charging Operators is small and is at an early stage of development. SDCC will continue to push to achieve the objectives of the Climate Action Plan in the area of EV charging, as it recognises the role of this council is critical for the continued growth of EV’s to achieve the reduction in emissions targets.

### **Q31/0924 Councillor E. Ó Broin**

To ask the Chief Executive to describe how the numbers of trees planted on public property across the county has increased in recent years as measures to address the dual climate and biodiversity emergencies?

**REPLY:**

Since the commencement of the first 3 year tree management programme in 2017 a total of 12,000 trees have been planted by this Council.  The tree planting target set during that first 3 year programme was 1,000 trees per year and this increased to 2,000 during the course of the next 3 year programme.  The target is set at 3,500 trees planted for the current year.  It is worth noting that the 3,500 trees planned to be planted in the current year will cost in the region of €600,000 and this includes a period of 2 years of maintenance and replacement if the tree does not survive.  In addition to the planting of street trees, trees on open spaces and trees in parks the public realm section is also implementing a programme of mini-woodland developments in association with voluntary and residents groups and in this regard a total of 14,500 saplings trees will be planted in the current year also.

### **Q32/0924 Councillor E. Ó Broin**

To ask the Chief Executive if he would support the creation of a publicly owned/leased pop-up shop space as has been done in DLR? ( See : https://www.dlrcoco.ie/business/pop-shop )

**REPLY:**

The Council have provided retail space for a range of products in Brú Chrónáin, Round Tower Visitors Centre, Clondalkin, for local entrepreneurs. The outcome of this initiative will be evaluated and reviewed. There are no current plans to extend this initiative into commercial shop units in a Shopping Centre for example, however contact will be made with DLR Co Co to understand the basis of their approach and the impact of the scheme in terms of job creation/support.

### **Q33/0924 Councillor E. Ó Broin**

To ask the CEO to describe the resources assigned to the Dog Warden section of SDCC.

**REPLY:**

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

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

The Dog Wardens can be contacted on 01 414 9213.

Administrative support for the Dog Warden Service is provided by 2.25 Whole Time Equivalent staff. The support provided includes (not exhaustive):

* dealing with complaints and queries from and referring to the Dog Warden where appropriate
* providing general advice to the public in relation to licencing, barking dogs
* following up on unpaid fines, and preparing files for prosecutions where appropriate
* reconciling and maintaining dog licence records

Dog Shelter facilities provided under contract with Midland Animal Care Ltd., are located at Dublin County Dog Shelter, Lyons Road, Newcastle, Co. Dublin.

The Minister for Rural and Community Development, Heather Humphreys TD, the Minister for Housing, Local Government and Heritage, Darragh O’Brien TD, and Minister of State with Responsibility for Local Government and Planning, Alan Dillon TD on the 25th of July 2024) announced funding of €2 million for local authorities to support the resourcing of dog warden services from 2025.

The funding recognises the increased demands in the area of dog control and the need to ensure resources on the ground to enforce the pending ban on XL Bully dogs.

### **Q34/0924 Councillor E. Ó Broin**

To ask the Chief Executive if the greening of buildings with a variety of creeping plants has been considered on any public buildings as a measure to address the climate and biodiversity crises but also as an aesthetic measure?

**REPLY:**

The application of climbing plants or creepers to external walls brings with it a number of complications with regard to compromising the function of the outer skin of the wall as a rain-screen, damage to the mortar joints, and damage to the external face of brick finishes. Creepers & ivy also have the effect of retaining further moisture directly against the external face of the wall.

The Council previously examined the provision of a Living Wall at County Hall however there was no suitable external wall and the main atrium concourse is not suitable due to the extent of maintenance required. If there are other location which you feel may be suitable, these can be examined to determine the feasibility of this type of installation.

 While SDCC do employ these types of plants on freestanding external walls and boundary conditions, it is not advisable to employ them where the façade has not been specifically designed to receive them. SDCC also includes a high degree of landscaping to its schemes both to improve the amenity of the residents, and in order to address surface water attenuation and biodiversity issues on a site specific basis.

 I trust that you will find the above in order, and I would be happy to meet with you directly to discuss this matter further if there are any further specific queries.

### **Q35/0924 Councillor J. Sinnott**

To ask the Chief Executive to provide details in relation to the contract South Dublin County Council has with South Dublin Parking Services including the length of contract, tendering process

**REPLY:**

 Parking on street and off street (ie in car parks) on South Dublin County Council is controlled by the Council's adopted Control of Parking Bye Laws and in terms of managing parking services, South Dublin County Council  entered a contract with Parkrite Ltd. (100% subsidiary of Tazbell Services Group DAC) in February 2021, following a public procurement process in collaboration with the Office of Government Procurement.   The contract includes the provision of Enforcement Service, Cash Collection, Provision of Parking Machines and the Maintenance of Parking Machine Service.

This contact was initially for a period of two years, with an option (which has been utilised) to extend the contract for two periods of 12 (twelve) months each.

As this contract is due to expire in January 2025, the Council is currently working on a new SRFT for the current OGP framework, with a view to having a new contractor in place from 1st February 2025.

### **Q36/0924 Councillor J. Sinnott**

To ask the Chief Executive to provide details on the number of parking fines issued by private contracted parking services that have contracts with South Dublin County Council and the specific parking breaches for those fines in 2024

[Q36 Parking Fine Summary 2024](http://www.sdublincoco.ie/sdcc/departments/corporate/apps/cmas/documentsview.aspx?id=83150)

### **Q37/0924 Councillor J. Sinnott**

To ask the Chief Executive to provide details in relation to the remit of South Dublin Parking Services in relation to their services in South Dublin County Council. Can details be provided in relation to the areas they patrol and where they can issue fines to motorists?

[Q37(a) Control of Parking ByeLaws](http://www.sdublincoco.ie/sdcc/departments/corporate/apps/cmas/documentsview.aspx?id=83141)

**REPLY:**

Parking on street and off street (ie in car parks) on South Dublin County Council is controlled by the Council's adopted Parking Bye Laws. A copy of these bye laws is attached.

In terms of managing parking services, South Dublin County Council has entered a contract with Parkrite Ltd. (100% subsidiary of Tazbell Services Group DAC) for the management of car parking services including the provision of Enforcement Service, Cash Collection, Provision of Parking Machines and the Maintenance of Parking Machine Service in February 2021.

This contact was initially for a period of two years, with an option (which has been utilised) to extend the contract for two periods of 12 (twelve) months each.

The contract is relative to the Control of Parking ByeLaws 2021 which apply to the administrative area of the county of South Dublin, namely in and around the Pay & Display areas as outlined in Part 1 (3) (Area of Application), PART VIII (General regulation of Parking of Vehicle Restrictions and Prohibition) and Appendix 3  (Parking Control areas).

### **Q38/0924 Councillor J. Sinnott**

To ask the chief executive if it is possible to provide details on the number of new childcare facilities given planning permission in 2023 and 2024 in the South Dublin County Council Area.

**REPLY:**

There were 6 planning applications granted which were categorised as creche / childcare facilities, which related to the provision of new childcare facilities in 2023/24 as follows:

SD24A/0037 - Planning permission for a proposed change of use from existing café to Day Care Centre at the Beehive Hub. Old Lucan Road, Palmerstown.

SD23A/0197 - Change of use of two community hall meeting rooms - to be used as Montessori classroom at Kingswood Community and Leisure Centre

SD22A/0459 - Construction of a two storey creche / childcare facility, In the townland of Newcastle South, at the junction of Newcastle Boulevard, Burgage Street & Lyons Avenue, Graydon, Newcastle, Co. Dublin

LRD23A/0001 - Lands south of Citywest Avenue and west of Cheeverstown Luas Park and Ride, Brownsbarn, Dublin 24 – includes the provision of a childcare facility with a gross floor area of 239 sq.m and associated play area;

LRD23A/0002 - Site at Taylors Land & Edmondstown Road, Taylors Lane, Ballyboden, Dublin 16 – includes creche as part of the development

SD22A/0398 - Construction of a three storey creche and community centre facility of 1,610sq.m at Cuil Duin Avenue, Citywest, Co. Dublin

### **Q39/0924 Councillor J. Spear**

To as the Chief Executive if there are plans for the provision of water and bins in recently installed dog parks/runs?

**REPLY:**

The Council's Public Realm Section provides litter bins in close proximity to park dog runs and will continue to do so at newly developed dog runs. Benches have been provided at Dog Run locations.  A water supply is provided in most locations and this matter will be examined further. Drinking water stations have been installed in most parks which can be used for this purpose.<http://sdcc.waterstations.ie/>

### **Q40/0924 Councillor J. Spear**

To ask the Chief Executive to give a report on the plans to collect the outstanding vacant sites levy - €540,750?  The report should include how many owners of properties have not paid their levy, and what steps the council is taking to collect the arrears.

**REPLY:**

The amount quoted in the question relates to the Vacant Sites Levy only, and is a levy provided for under the Urban Regeneration and Housing Act, 2015.  This is different to the Derelict Sites Levy which is a separate levy provided for under the Derelict Sites Act 1990.  A site can only be on one register, either the Vacant Site or the Derelict Sites, but not both.

The figure of €540,750 is the outstanding levies for two sites on the vacant sites register, both owing levies since 2019.  The register is publicly available on the Council’s website at Vacant Sites - SDCC. The related sites are located at Mill Road, Saggart and along Peamount Road, Newcastle.  The site at Mill Road has outstanding levies of €504,000 while the site at Peamount Road has outstanding levies of 37,500.

The Council has sent invoices and repeated reminders to both landowners and will continue to do so. The Vacant Site levy is on a list of checks that come up during any conveyancing process so that should the land be put up for sale the need to pay the levy will arise.

### **Q41/0924 Councillor J. Spear**

To ask the Chief Executive for a report on staff in each Council department? Please include number of current staff in each department, vacancies, if any, whether the department outsources work to private companies (what services and what percentage of work is outsourced), whether the department relies on other Council staff (e.g., to cover Park Ranger duties), and any plans for increasing staff numbers to assist with the workload.

**REPLY:**

The following table shows the staffing numbers and vacancies across the Council by directorate on 01/08/2024:

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Workforce Plan at 18/2024 | HSCD | EETD | EWCC | LUPT | Finance | CPCM | ICT | Architects | Law | Total |
| Total Posts | 269 | 166 | 446 | 325 | 74 | 123 | 29 | 55 | 25 | 1,512 |
| Total Vacancies | 37 | 14 | 79 | 45 | 11 | 9 | 6 | 7 | 2 | 210 |

In the past two years, we have increased the new of approved workforce posts by almost 100 posts to a total 1,512 positions and our workforce planning is a ongoing process which will align with and support delivery of our new Corporate Plan 2025 – 2029.  It should be noted that 29 current vacancies are newly created posts that are being added to the existing workforce and are currently in recruitment while a further 123 posts are currently at various stages in the recruitment process, including new employees having been offered contracts and with commencement dates agreed.  In addition, some vacant posts are currently being reviewed in the context of project completions, restructuring related to the transfer of functions to Uisce Éireann and other operational requirements.  In that context, the current level of vacancy reflects an extremely challenging recruitment environment, as seen across the entire public and private sectors with the economy practically at full employment, but every effort is being made to fill vacancies in the shortest possible timeframe and to examine enhancements and efficiencies in our recruitment processes.

In line with optimal workforce planning practice, business cases are required for all new posts and filling of all vacancies, ensuring review and justification for each post in the context of a changing operating environment, new technology and objectives, to ensure that each post is fit-for-purpose and that the workforce is adapting to strategic and service delivery objectives as fresh challenges materialise and service demand evolves. Workforce planning is an essential tool for anticipating possible future developments and maintaining a well-structured workforce of an appropriate size which has the capacity to meet the changing needs of the Council in a cost-efficient manner and we engage with and consult the trade unions as part of this process on a quarterly basis.

The Council is committed to the use of direct labour aligned to efficient and effective service delivery but where a service defines the need to examine an external service delivery option, this is provided for in the Public Service Agreements. In such circumstances, the Council engages with the relevant unions in accordance with the consultative process set out in the Public Service Agreement.  Where issues remain, the industrial relations mechanisms of the state are utilised to reach a resolution.  As there are many and varied such arrangements in place across multiple work areas, it is not intended to provide an exhaustive list of all such arrangements currently in place in this reply but the relevant contextual and background information to instigating such arrangements should provide assurance regarding the analytical, evidence-based and consultative nature of the process undertaken by the Council both in identifying workforce development needs and any outsourcing requirements.

It should also be noted that any such external procurement of services does not impact on the pay rates, pension and employment conditions of employees and will not result in any compulsory redundancies, while any private sector employers acting under a public service outsourcing contract are required to comply with all statutory terms and conditions relating to the employment in Ireland, including any registered agreements or Employment Regulation Orders.

### **Q42/0924 Councillor F. Timmons**

To ask the Chief Executive for a report on Housing for All quarter 1 2024. Report to include how many social homes and affordable homes were built in the county for the quarter?

**REPLY:**

Under the national housing policy “Housing for All”, South Dublin County Council has a delivery target of 718 new social homes in 2024 along with 302 affordable homes (purchase and cost rental).

At the start of 2024, 534 social and affordable homes were under construction in our direct build programme, with a further 532 social homes on-site for delivery either under Part V or through Approved Housing Bodies. To date this year 103 new social homes have been completed with our current projections for the full year showing expected delivery of in excess of the target and approaching some 750 new social homes.

In addition, 30 affordable purchase homes are currently advertised for applications with more schemes planned to launch in the remaining months of this year.  259 new cost rental homes have also already been delivered in the County this year by the Land Development Agency and Approved Housing Bodies with support from the Council, while the Council’s own 133 apartment cost rental development at Belgard is progressing well and will be close to substantial completion by year end.

### **Q43/0924 Councillor F. Timmons**

To ask the Chief Executive would he consider extra dog wardens to address off lead dogs , dog fouling , barking issues and other dog control issues?

**REPLY:**

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

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

The Dog Wardens can be contacted on 01 414 9213.

The Minister for Rural and Community Development, Heather Humphreys TD, the Minister for Housing, Local Government and Heritage, Darragh O’Brien TD, and Minister of State with Responsibility for Local Government and Planning, Alan Dillon TD on the 25th of July 2024) announced funding of €2 million for local authorities to support the resourcing of dog warden services from 2025.

The funding recognises the increased demands in the area of dog control and the need to ensure resources on the ground to enforce the pending ban on XL Bully dogs.

Under [**Section 22 of the Litter Pollution Act 1997,**](http://www.irishstatutebook.ie/eli/1997/act/12/section/22/enacted/en/html)where faeces has been deposited by a dog in any place to which the section applies, the person in charge of the dog shall immediately remove the faeces and shall ensure that it is properly disposed of in a suitable sanitary manner.

The difficulty with enforcement of Section 22 is the requirement for witness testimony, to report that the offence happened and that an identified person is the person in charge of the dog. In the absence of such testimony, fines cannot be issued. The Council continues to encourage residence groups and/or individuals to assist the Litter Warden Service in this regard.

Complaints in relation to excessive barking should be made to the district court on the appropriate form. [Section 25 of the Control of Dogs Act 1986](http://www.irishstatutebook.ie/1986/en/act/pub/0032/print.html) deals with the issue of nuisance due to barking dogs. Under Section 25 of this act a decision as to whether any case of dog barking constitutes a nuisance is a matter for the District court to decide upon.

### **Q44/0924 Councillor F. Timmons**

To ask the Chief Executive for a report on a study done by the ERSI into Air Pollution and mental health particularly in people over 50?

**REPLY:**

The Principal Environmental Health Officer reports that a number of positive steps have been taken over recent years to improve air quality standards in Ireland. South Dublin County Council is a participant of the Dublin Regional Air Quality Plan 2021, and also the previous plan for the Dublin Region, for the years 2009-2012.

Both of these plans, the County Development Plan 2022 - 2028 and the Climate Action Plan 2024 - 2029 include measures that aim to improve air quality such as:

* Enhanced Public Parking
* Encouraging redevelopment of brown field sites, where proximity to amenities and service already exist (15 Minute Neighbourhoods concept)
* Delivery of the Active Travel Programme
* Decarbonization of the Council’s fleet and Behavioural Change Campaigns to Cleaner Fleets
* Delivery of the Electrical Vehicle (EV) Charging Strategy
* Enhanced Air Quality Monitoring and Modelling

**Air Quality monitoring and enforcement**

Two of Dublin region’s air monitoring network stations, are located in this county at Old Bawn, Tallaght and at Lucan.  These stations provide continuous monitoring of several air quality indicators, including Particulate Matter less than 2.5 microns in diameter (PM2.5)  This is the parameter, which is the primary focus of the ERSI report in relation to this response.  Results recorded at both of these sites have all been within legislative limits and no breaches or exceedances have occurred for PM2.5.

Results are continuously available and viewable on [airquality.ie](http://www.airquality.ie)

The implementation of the amended Air Pollution Act 1987 (Solid Fuels) Regulations 2022 (S.I. No. 529 of 2022) commenced on 31st October 2022. This new legislation has provided additional controls on the types of fuels that can be purchased for burning in domestic properties in this county.

Some of the changes that now apply under these new regulations include:

* Coal products and manufactured solid fuels must have a smoke emission rate of less than 10 grams per hour
* Coal products and manufactured solid fuels, must have a sulphur content of less than 2%
* Fuel products which are 100% biomass products including, wood products and wood logs, supplied in units of two cubic metres or less, must have a moisture content of less than 25%
* Wood logs supplied in units of two cubic metres or more shall be accompanied by a notice outlining the need to store and season wet wood until it is sufficiently dried
* It will not be possible to sell turf via retail, online or other media, in public houses or other public places.  If you currently source turf from family, friends, neighbours outside of the channels mentioned this can continue

Environmental Health Officers, (EHOs) visit and will again be visiting both retailers and wholesalers of solid fuel products, over the upcoming winter period, to ensure compliance with the new standards. In addition, the Principal EHO reports that officers will also be taking away samples of solid fuels on sale in such premises. These samples are sent for laboratory analysis to ensure compliance with the new standards.

In addition, EHOs also actively respond and investigate instances of unauthorised burning or complaints, which may have an impact on air quality.

Many large scale Developments in the South Dublin area, are also assessed at the Planning Application stage, and conditioned accordingly by the EH Section to mitigate air pollution whether at construction stage or later when the development comes on stream. EHO's evaluate Environmental Impact Assessment Reports for air quality, and conditions them accordingly.

The ESRI study referred to is the latest TILDA study. This is an ongoing health study jointly carried out in association, with the Health Service Executive (HSE).

TILDA's (The Irish Longitudinal Study on Ageing) main objectives are as follows:

* The health status and health needs of older people
* The social and economic status and needs of older people
* The health, economic and social needs of families and carers of older people
* The biological and environmental components of "successful ageing"
* The contributions that older people are making to society and the economy
* How Ireland can meet the needs and choices of its citizens in a personalised and positive environment and with due dignity and respect

This cross-sectional analysis uses data on mental health and wellbeing and is a nationally representative survey of the population, aged 50+, in Ireland.  Annual average PM2.5 concentrations of air at respondents’ residential addresses over the period 1998–2014 were used to measure long-term exposure to ambient PM2.5.

Outcomes

The positives from the report showed that four in every five respondents, (79%) of those taking part in the study had a PM2.5 of 8μg/m3 or less.

This is well below the legislative value of 20μg/m3 laid down in S.I. No. 180 of 2011 Air Quality Standards Regs 2011.

The report also revealed a significant improvement in PM2.5 levels between 1998 and 2014.

The overall outcome from the TILDA study is positive in relation to air quality and with the most recent legislative improvements, highlighted above, and our involvement with Regional Air Quality Plans; we should see this improvement sustained in South Dublin.

### **Q45/0924 Councillor F. Timmons**

To ask the Chief Executive for a report into what grants are available for older citizens in our county for windows and doors etc (report to include all household grants)

**REPLY:**

The following grants are available to private homeowners in the South Dublin:

**The Housing Aid for Older People Scheme**

This scheme is available to assist older people (aged 66+) living in poor housing conditions to have necessary repairs or improvements carried out.

The effective maximum grant of €8,000 to cover up to 95% of the cost of works, may be available to applicants with gross household incomes of up to €30,000 per annum, tapering to 30% for applicants with gross household incomes of between €50,001 to €60,000 per annum. The same means test applies in every local authority area and is in line with the criteria for assessment of need for social housing.

The grant can be used for essential repairs including:

* Roof repair or replacement
* Electrical wiring upgrade
* Repair or replacement of doors and windows
* Provision of central heating (where there is no central heating, or it is beyond economic repair)

**The Mobility Aids Grant scheme**

This scheme provides grant aid to cover a basic suite of works to address mobility problems, primarily, but not exclusively, associated with ageing.

The effective maximum grant under the Mobility Aids Housing Grant Scheme is €6,000, which may cover 100% of the cost of works. Applicants must have a gross household income of up to €30,000 per annum.

The types of work allowable under this scheme are to improve access in your home, for example:

* Installation of grab rails
* Ramp construction
* Accessible shower installation
* Stair lift installation

**The Housing Adaptation Grant for People with a Disability scheme**

* This scheme  provides grant aid to applicants to assist in the carrying out of works that are reasonably necessary for the purposes of rendering a house more suitable for the accommodation needs of a person with a disability.
* The effective maximum grant of €30,000 to cover up to 95% of the cost of works, may be available to applicants with gross household incomes of up to €30,000 per annum, tapering to 30% for applicants with gross household incomes of between €50,001 to €60,000 per annum.
* The types of work allowable under the scheme can be varied and may include:
* Ramp or other access solutions
* grab rails installation
* Accessible bathroom facilities, for example an accessible shower or a downstairs toilet
* Stair lift installation
* Space for wheelchair access
* Extension (typically for a bedroom or bathroom to accommodate a person with a disability)
* More information on the schemes is available on the Council’s website  [www.sdcc.ie](http://www.sdcc.ie)
* The Disabled Persons Grant 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 the Doctors certificate fully completed and a full Occupational Therapist (OT) report, to South Dublin County Council, Medical Section.
* Examples of works/adaptations carried out under the Disabled Persons Grants are;
* Ramps
* Stairlifts
* Level access shower installation
* Downstairs toilet
* Small works

### **Q46/0924 Councillor F. Timmons**

To ask the Chief Executive for a report into the efforts SDCC are making to offset the carbon emissions created by data centres in the county given that, according to the Central Statistics Office, data centres were responsible for 21% of all electricity consumed in the state during 2023.

**REPLY:**

* SDCC County Development Plan (2022 – 2028) recognises the continued growth of Data Centres nationally, and in particular the South Dublin Area.  The growth is attributed to the social and technology needs such as 5G, smart cities and artificial intelligence. The Development Plan acknowledges space extensive land uses, such as data centres, generally have a higher carbon footprint due to the energy demand. Through policy within the plan, high energy users are required to demonstrate ways to reduce their energy use, in particular use of fossil fuels and to redistribute energy for other end users where such potential exists. Furthermore, developments of this type must demonstrate,
* Strong energy efficiency measures to reduce their carbon footprint in support of national targets towards a net zero carbon economy, including renewable energy generation;
* Maximise on site renewable energy generation to ensure as far as possible 100% powered by renewable energy, where on site demand cannot be met in this way, provide evidence of engagement with power purchase agreements in Ireland (PPA);
* It should be noted, due to targets of the National Climate Action Plan 2024, in the coming years further reductions in carbon footprints of data centre operations, can be expected.  The National CAP has set a target of 80% of electricity generated in 2030, must be from renewable sources. This will be achieved with the continued development of onshore and offshore wind generation, and further development of solar energy.
* In addition, SDCC Climate Action Plan (2024-2029) includes a range of actions for which the Council can influence, co-ordinate, facilitate and advocate climate action in other sectors. The aims to support other sectors and local communities in building resilience to the negative impacts of climate change and in tackling the causes of climate change. This is necessary to ensure that the environmental, social and economic benefits that can come with climate action can be fully realised.  Several actions in the Community Engagement Action Area of the Plan highlight how SDCC will work with external partners, such as data centre operators to deliver national climate targets. Through these actions, the local authority can influence, co-ordinate and facilitate and advocate actions which will reduce carbon emissions in data centres.
* Through the policy as stated above, SDCC successfully delivered the Tallaght District Heating Network. The project, which was partly funded by the European Union’s Interreg NEW programme Heatnet, Project Ireland 2040 Climate Action Fund, SEAI and through direct funding from SDCC, uses excess heat from Amazon Web Services’ (AWS) data centre to provide low carbon heat to the network customers, currently SDCC and Technological University Dublin (TU Dublin). AWS has included heat-collection systems in their new facility which provides this recycled heat at no cost as part of its broader sustainability commitments. This first phase of delivery, the carbon emissions reduction in the Tallaght area will be over 1,500 tonnes per year. SDCC continues to work with industries and businesses to identify means to improve processes, and, where possible, capture excess energy generated to be used as an alternate clean energy source.

### **Q47/0924 Councillor J. Tuffy**

To ask the Chief Executive for an update on the 2023 to 2025 tree pruning programme as implemented so far. The report should include the budget available and what has been spent to date and how many estates have been completed so far.

**REPLY:**

* The table below sets out the detailed list of estates, roads and other locations which have been included on the current 3 year tree programme 2023 to 2025 for planned maintenance.  There are a total of 176 locations included on the programme with 86 of those completed to date, maintenance works are currently underway in 2 locations and a further 34 locations have been assigned as per the status shown below which means that the necessary tree surveys have been completed at the location and either a Council crew or tree maintenance contractor has been provided with details of the work required and has been requested to plan and proceed with the work. At the present time 86 of the total 176 locations have been completed and this equates to 49% of the programme completed to date.  It is expected that by year end works will be completed at a total of 122 of the 176 locations which will equate to 69% of the programme, progress on the current programme is therefore considered to be on target.
* To the end of June a total of 8,499 tree inspections were carried out, the number of trees pruned in the same period was 4,769 and the number of trees removed was 454.  The overall budget provided for tree maintenance in 2024 was €4.075m, of this €2.414m has been spent and a further €1.574 has been committed to year end.

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| * Location | * Status |
| * Foxford and Ballyowen Lane |  |
| * Griffeen Road, Avenue & Way | * Complete |
| * Hermitage Park - Mature Trees |  |
| * Lucan Road (Ballydowd to Woodies) |  |
| * Manor Road and Park | * Complete |
| * Woodfarm Drive and Avenue | * Assigned |
| * Abbeydale |  |
| * Abbeywood |  |
| * Adamstown Link Rd |  |
| * Alpine Rise | * Complete |
| * Ashfield Estate, Templeogue | * Complete |
| * Ashfield Open Space, Templeogue | * Complete |
| * Ashfield, Kingswood |  |
| * Ashgrove |  |
| * Ashpark open space |  |
| * Ashpark street trees | * Assigned |
| * Ashton Estate | * Assigned |
| * Aylmer Road | * Complete |
| * Ballymount Road Upper (Additional) |  |
| * Ballyowen Road - L1042 (Larkfield to Fonthill Road) |  |
| * Ballyroan Estate | * Complete |
| * Ballytore Road/Crannagh Road & Park/Rathfarnham Park | * Complete |
| * Bancroft Estate | * Complete |
| * Barton Road Extension/ Barton Road West | * Complete |
| * Bawnogue Road | * Complete |
| * Beaufort Downs Estate |  |
| * Beechwood Lawns | * Complete |
| * Belgard Green |  |
| * Belgard Heights Estate & Kingswood View | * Complete |
| * Bewley | * Assigned |
| * Birchview Heights / Close | * Complete |
| * Boden Park Estate | * Assigned |
| * Boden Wood Estate | * Complete |
| * Brookdale/Pine Lawn | * Complete |
| * Brookmount | * Complete |
| * Brookvale | * Assigned |
| * Brookvale Downs and Road | * Complete |
| * Bushfield Estate | * Complete |
| * Butterfield Avenue, Grove, Park & Orchard | * Complete |
| * Cappaghmore OS | * Complete |
| * Castle Riada | * Assigned |
| * Castle Road |  |
| * Castlefield Estate | * Complete |
| * Castleside Drive | * Complete |
| * Cedar (assigned separately as report didn’t pick up on workorder) | * Assigned |
| * Cherry Grove Estate |  |
| * Chestnut Grove (Additional) |  |
| * Cloonmore | * Assigned |
| * Coldcut Road |  |
| * Corkagh Park Mature Trees |  |
| * Culmore Road and Park | * Complete |
| * Dalepark Road | * Assigned |
| * Dangan Park Estate | * Complete |
| * Dargle Wood Estate |  |
| * Deansrath Estate | * Complete |
| * Dodder Lawn (Trees at the rear 2-24 Dodder Lawn ) | * Assigned |
| * Dodsborough Cottages on o/s |  |
| * Dromcarra |  |
| * Dun an Oir | * Assigned |
| * Earlsfort | * Complete |
| * Eden Estate |  |
| * Ellensborough Estate | * In Progress |
| * Elm estate street trees and mature trees |  |
| * Elmcastle Walk/Close | * Complete |
| * Esker Glebe and Esker Lane OS Mature trees |  |
| * Esker Glebe and Esker Lane OS street trees. (Esker Park is completed already) |  |
| * Esker Lodge street and mature trees |  |
| * Esker Meadow |  |
| * Esker Road and Drive  and L1011/Old Esker Lane |  |
| * Esker Woods |  |
| * Ferncourt Estate | * Assigned |
| * Ferndale | * Complete |
| * Fforster estate | * Complete |
| * Floraville |  |
| * Floraville |  |
| * Fonthill Road and Coldcut Road cycle paths (Greenfort Boundary) |  |
| * Forest Hills & Church Rd Rathcoole |  |
| * Forest Hills and Church Road (Rathcoole) |  |
| * Foxdene | * Complete |
| * Garrynisk & Belgard Close | * Assigned |
| * Glencarrig Estate, Firhouse | * Complete |
| * Glendale Park Templeogue |  |
| * Glendoher Estate and Park | * Complete |
| * Glendown Estate | * Assigned |
| * Glenmaroon Road and Park | * Complete |
| * Glenmore Court |  |
| * Glenshane | * Complete |
| * Glenview Drive | * Assigned |
| * Glenview Park & Lawns | * Assigned |
| * Grange Park | * Complete |
| * Grange View |  |
| * Grange View |  |
| * Green Isle Road/Old Naas Road |  |
| * Greenfort estate | * Complete |
| * Greenisle Isle Rd/Old Naas Rd |  |
| * Greenogue Drive - Rathcoole (Additional) |  |
| * Harelawn | * Assigned |
| * Hazelgrove | * Assigned |
| * Hazelwood | * Assigned |
| * Hermitage Way Valley - Rear of Houses |  |
| * Hillview,Rathcoole | * Complete |
| * Kilcarberry |  |
| * Kilcarrig Avenue | * Assigned |
| * Kilmartin | * Complete |
| * Kilmashogue | * Complete |
| * Kingswood Estate | * Assigned |
| * Kippure Estate | * Complete |
| * Knockcullen Estate | * Assigned |
| * Knockmore | * Complete |
| * Lanndale | * Assigned |
| * Laurel Park | * Complete |
| * Liffey Estate | * Complete |
| * Limekiln Green, Avenue, Road and Close | * Complete |
| * Lugnaquilla Avenue | * Complete |
| * MacUilliam | * Complete |
| * Marian Road/Estate |  |
| * Meile an Ri |  |
| * Millbrook Lawns | * Assigned |
| * Millcourt |  |
| * Monalea Grove | * Complete |
| * Monastery Estate (Road, Park, Walk, Crescent, Drive) | * Complete |
| * Monastery Gate | * Complete |
| * Monastery Rise street trees | * Assigned |
| * Mount Carmel Park |  |
| * Mount Down Estate | * Complete |
| * Mountain Park | * Assigned |
| * Moyle Crescent | * Complete |
| * Nangor Crescent |  |
| * Neilstown Estate | * Complete |
| * New Road, Newlands Cross, Rd, Avenue, Knockmeenagh Road. |  |
| * Newcastle Road/R120. (LO11 completed  with Esker Road). Lucan Harries car park frontage |  |
| * Oakdale Estate |  |
| * Old Bawn Road incl trees on Old Bawn Football Field | * Complete |
| * Parkhill | * Complete |
| * Parklands Road/Estate |  |
| * Pinetree Crescent | * Complete |
| * Prospect Estate | * Complete |
| * Raheen | * Complete |
| * Rathcoole Village | * Complete |
| * Rathfarnham Wood (Additional) | * Complete |
| * Rathlyon Estate |  |
| * Redwood | * Assigned |
| * Riversdale Estate Palmerstown |  |
| * Riverside Drive | * Complete |
| * Rochfort | * Complete |
| * Rosebank/Summerfield | * Complete |
| * Rossfield | * Complete |
| * Saint Finians | * In Progress |
| * Saint Marks | * Complete |
| * Sarsfield Park Mature Trees |  |
| * Shancastle | * Complete |
| * Silverwood Road/Drive | * Complete |
| * Springfield Road | * Complete |
| * St Patricks Esatate (Road, Park , Avenue) |  |
| * St. Aongus | * Complete |
| * St. Conleths Road | * Complete |
| * St. Gerards Road | * Complete |
| * St. Lomans Road (L1042) and Ballyowen Road |  |
| * St. Patricks Crescent Rathcoole |  |
| * St. Patricks Road | * Complete |
| * St. Peters Road and Drive | * Complete |
| * Suncroft | * Complete |
| * Sundale | * Assigned |
| * Swiftbrook | * Complete |
| * Sycamore Avenue (assigned separately as report didn’t pick up on workorder) | * Assigned |
| * Tamarisk | * Assigned |
| * Temple Manor Estate, Greenhills | * Complete |
| * Templeroan Estate incl. woodland along Templeroan Road | * Assigned |
| * Tor an Ri |  |
| * Tree Park Road | * Complete |
| * Turret Road | * Complete |
| * Walnut/Sylvan Avenue, Drive & Close | * Complete |
| * Washington Park | * Complete |
| * Watermeadow | * Complete |
| * Wellington Park |  |
| * Westbury |  |
| * Whitecliff | * Complete |
| * Whitecliff | * Complete |
| * Whitestown Road/Drive | * Assigned |
| * Willowbank | * Assigned |
| * Willsbrook Estate and Road |  |
| * Wood Avens |  |
| * Woodside (Additional) |  |
| * Woodstock Park |  |
| * Woodstown Estate |  |
| * Woodview Heights |  |

### **Q48/0924 Councillor J. Tuffy**

To ask the Chief Executive if he has considered if it would be feasible to increase the budget and add to the programme, to allow for additional estates to be added for the remainder of the tree pruning programme in 2024 and 2025, and if he will make a statement on the matter.

**REPLY:**

* Prior to works on the Tree Maintenance Programme commencing, the list of estates is compiled by Public Relam to highlight areas for work over the coming 3 years. The areas listed are a combination of requests submitted by Councillors and Members of the public as well as estates informed by previous Tree Maintenance Programmes. The entire list is approved by Councillors prior to implementation.
* The programme generally takes the full three years to work through, however if completed ahead of time and pending budget availability, further estates may be tended too within the time period.
* It is worth noting that trees have different rates of growth and are subject to the conditions they are growing in. Therefore, some areas need to be returned to sooner than others.
* Regardless, should a Health and Safety issue arise in an area not listed on the programme, it will still be tended to as required to ensure the safety of the public.

### **Q49/0924 Councillor N. Whelan**

To ask the Chief Executive for a breakdown of derelict sites in the county, report to include locations of these sites and length of time on derelict sites list.

**REPLY:**

Sites/properties that constitute derelict sites within the definition contained in Section 3 of the Derelict Sites Act, 1990 (the Act) are entered on the Register of Derelict Sites. The Register is maintained by South Dublin County Council as required by Section 8 of the Act.  The [register](https://view.officeapps.live.com/op/view.aspx?src=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.sdcc.ie%2Fen%2Fservices%2Fplanning%2Fderelict-sites%2F28-08-2024-register-of-derelict-sites.xlsx&amp;wdOrigin=BROWSELINK) is published on the Council's website and updated regularly. Sites that are under investigation are not routinely entered on the register until such time as investigations are completed and a determination made that the site is derelict.

The definition of a Derelict Site, as set out is Section 3 of the Act, is as follows:

*"In this section “derelict site” means any land (in this section referred to as “the land in question”) which detracts, or is likely to detract, to a material degree from the amenity, character or appearance of land in the neighbourhood of the land in question because of—*

*(a) the existence on the land in question of structures which are in a ruinous, derelict or dangerous condition, or*

*(b) the neglected, unsightly or objectionable condition of the land or any structures on the land in question, or*

*(c) the presence, deposit or collection on the land in question of any litter, rubbish, debris or waste, except where the presence, deposit or collection of such litter, rubbish, debris or waste results from the exercise of a right conferred by statute or by common law."*

### **Q50/0924 Councillor N. Whelan**

To ask the Chief Executive how many school traffic wardens are employed by SDCC and where they are located.

[Q50(a) School Crossing Locations](http://www.sdublincoco.ie/sdcc/departments/corporate/apps/cmas/documentsview.aspx?id=83172)

**REPLY:**

South Dublin County Council provides a School Warden Service in accordance with [Section 96 of the Road Traffic Act, 1961.](https://www.irishstatutebook.ie/eli/1961/act/24/section/96/enacted/en/html) School Wardens are employed to operate at places where school-children cross public roads to enable school children to cross the road safely.

There are currently 95 school crossings covered by 94 Permanent School Wardens.

The Council operates the School Warden Service within the following 3 districts:

Lucan/Clondalkin – 37 Crossings

Tallaght/Rathcoole – 31 Crossings

Templeogue/Rathfarnham – 27 Crossing

There are currently 16 Relief School Wardens who cover school crossing in the absence of the permanent school warden.

See list of assisted crossing locations attached.

### **Q51/0924 Councillor N. Whelan**

To ask the Chief Executive for an update on reports of tree vandalism in the past 12 months, if there are plans to replace these trees and are there any steps being considered to prevent this type of vandalism

**REPLY:**

SDCC manages and maintains in excess of 60,000 street trees in the county, since May 2023 there have been 183 reports of vandalism to trees. Vandalism can refer to the illegal pruning or felling of existing trees or the damage to newly planted specimens.

In the majority of cases these trees are listed for replacement, however in areas of sustained and repeated vandalism often an alternative is investigated to ensure local groups can benefit from the panting of trees but the vandalism of the specimens is kept to an absolute minimum.

In instances where proof may be available that the tree was targeted and vandalised, information is gathered and presented to an Garda Siochana.

### **Q52/0924 Councillor N. Whelan**

To ask the Chief Executive to provide a report, by location, of footpaths with accessibility issues for people with disabilities and when work is expected to commence to rectify these issues.

**REPLY:**

As part of the Council's agreed 2024 road work and footpath repair programme the Council will deliver approximately 80 footpath improvements and between 2023 and 2024 the Council will provide 21 full new controlled pedestrians crossings. Where the Council carry out repairs to footpaths that include a road crossing we include the upgrade of dishings at crossings points to ensure they are wheelchair accessible.

In addition to this the Council has worked with Cheeverstown House, parents of school children and councillors over the last 12 months to resolve a number of mobility issues and as part of the village enhancement schemes in Lucan Village, at Rosemount we will deliver improved and safer crossings.

If councillors are aware of locations with mobility issues we would welcome information on these so that we can inspect and action. Where requests are received regarding a specific issue we will endeavour to resolve these as quick as possible and usually do this by using our own direct labour crews.

### **Q53/0924 Councillor N. Whelan**

To ask the Chief Executive to outline what extra measures are put in by this council, in the lead up to Halloween, to prevent illegal bonfires. What is the process for reporting potential bonfire stashes?

**REPLY:**

The Council recognises the challenges that Halloween presents 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 and prevent these materials from ending up on bonfires (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 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.

### **H7/0924 DECLARATION OF ROADS TO BE MADE PUBLIC ROADS**

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

### **H8/0924 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 of Economic Enterprise and Tourism Development, and were **CONSIDERED**.

### **H8(a)/0924 A)Disposal of fee simple in 5 Bolbrook Avenue, Tallaght, Dublin 24**

**MEETING OF SOUTH DUBLIN COUNTY COUNCIL**

**DATE**

**HEADED ITEM NO.H7b)**

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 |
| 5 Bolbrook Avenue, Tallaght, Dublin 24 | Uyen Thi Dang and Piotr Szmul | €43.02 |

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.

**Colm Ward**

**Chief Executive**

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The report was proposed by Councillor Baby Pereppadan, seconded by Councillor D. McManus and **AGREED**.

### **H8(b)/0924 B)Disposal of fee simple in 30 Arthur Griffith Park, Lucan, Co. Dublin**

**MEETING OF SOUTH DUBLIN COUNTY COUNCIL**

**DATE**

**HEADED ITEM NO.H7b)**

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 |
| 30 Arthur Griffith Park, Lucan, Co. Dublin | Noeleen May | €192.19 |

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.

**Colm Ward**

**Chief Executive**

A map of a neighborhood

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The report was proposed by Councillor Baby Pereppadan, seconded by Councillor L. O’Toole and **AGREED**.

### **H8(c)/0924 C)Disposal of fee simple in 10 and 10A Michael Collins Park, Clondalkin, Dublin 22.**

**MEETING OF SOUTH DUBLIN COUNTY COUNCIL**

**DATE**

**HEADED ITEM NO.H7b)**

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 |
| 10 and 10A Michael Collins Park, Clondalkin, Dublin 22 | Andrea Nolan | €384.38 |

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.

**Colm Ward**

**Chief Executive**

### H8(c)(ii) Map 10 **A map of a neighborhood Description automatically generated**

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### H8(c)(ii) Map 10A

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The report was proposed by Councillor Baby Pereppadan, seconded by Councillor E. Murphy and **AGREED**.

### **H9/0924 MANAGERS REPORT**

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

[HI 9 a) CE Report](http://www.sdublincoco.ie/sdcc/departments/corporate/apps/cmas/documentsview.aspx?id=83289)  
[HI 9 b) July 2024 Statistics Report](http://www.sdublincoco.ie/sdcc/departments/corporate/apps/cmas/documentsview.aspx?id=83283)  
[HI 9 c) August 2024 Statistics Report](http://www.sdublincoco.ie/sdcc/departments/corporate/apps/cmas/documentsview.aspx?id=83284)

### **H9(d)/0924 FINANCE REPORT**

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A discussion followed with contributions from Councillors P. Gogarty, F. Timmons, W. Carey, J. Sinnott, J. Spear, S. Moynihan, L. O’Toole, K. Keane, C. Ahern, M. Johansson, D. McManus, B. Lawlor, D. Adelaide, N. Fennell, J. Tuffy, E. Murphy, L. McCrave, P. Kearns and E. Ó Broin.

Queries were raised in relation to Lucan swimming pool, Lucan House, Eircom site, Oldcastle site, Corkagh Park, housing for those with medical priority, parking services, local property tax, housing maintenance and relet timeframe, Cloverhill site, Jobstown swimming pool, Clonburris housing development, Rathfarnham Castle and Quarryvale Park. The Members also expressed thanks and best wishes to Mr M Mulhern, Director of Land Use Planning and Transport on his leaving South Dublin County Council.

Mr. C. Ward, Chief Executive responded to the Members’ queries, and thanked, Mr. M. Mulhern Director of Land Use Planning and Transport, for his great work while at South Dublin County Council.

The reports were **NOTED**.

### **H10/0924 SPC SCHEME 2024 -2029**

### 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**

### [H10 Draft Scheme for the Establishment of Strategic Policy Committees 2024 - 2029](http://www.sdublincoco.ie/sdcc/departments/corporate/apps/cmas/documentsview.aspx?id=83286) [H10 Report on the Public Consultation for the preparation of the SPC Scheme 2024 - 2029](http://www.sdublincoco.ie/sdcc/departments/corporate/apps/cmas/documentsview.aspx?id=83290)

### A discussion followed with contributions from Councillors F. Timmons, M. Johansson, L. Dunne, P. Holohan and E. Murphy, who raised queries in relation to review of SPC Standing Orders, training and commencement of meetings.

### Ms. L. Maxwell, Director for Corporate Performance and Change Management responded to the queries.

### The SPC Scheme 2024 – 2029 proposed by Councillor Baby Pereppadan, seconded by Councillor F. Timmons was **ADOPTED** and **APPROVED.**

### 

### **H11/0924 AUDIT COMMITTEE - APPROVAL OF NOMINATIONS**

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

**REPLY:**

In accordance with the Local Government (Audit Committee) Regulations 2014, appointment of members to the audit committee is a reserved function of the local authority. The audit committee will comprise of seven members of which not less than four members will be external and not less than three serving or retired elected members.

At the Corporate Policy Group meeting held on September 3rd 2024 the following Councillors and external nominees for appointment to the Audit Committee were agreed:

1. Councillor Caroline Brady
2. Councillor Shane Moynihan
3. Councillor Joanna Tuffy
4. Ms Eilis Quinlan, Quinlan & Co Chartered Accountants
5. Ms Ann Horan, Chairperson of the Food Safety Authority of Ireland
6. Mr George Kennington, Partner Audit, Crowe Ireland
7. Mr Martin Nolan, Head of Compliance, Bright Software Group

The three elected members and four external members, as agreed, are now before the Council for ratification.

It is considered that the nominees will fulfil the requirements of the regulations in relation to the required knowledge or experience in finance, audit or accounting.

### Councillor S. Moynihan addressed the members requesting that Councillor N. Fennell take his place on the Audit Committee. The Members **AGREED**.

### 

The report was **NOTED** and it was proposed by Councillor Baby Pereppadan, seconded by Councillor M. Duff and **RESOLVED:**

“That, in accordance with the Local Government (Audit Committee) Regulations 2014 the following four nominees, who fulfill the requirements of the regulations in relation to the required knowledge or experience in finance, audit or accounting, be appointed to the Audit Committee of South Dublin County Council for the period of the Council:

1. Ms Eilis Quinlan, Quinlan & Co Chartered Accountants
2. Ms Ann Horan, Chairperson of the Food Safety Authority of Ireland
3. Mr George Kennington, Partner Audit, Crowe Ireland
4. Mr Martin Nolan, Head of Compliance, Bright Software Group

### **H12/0924 AUDITOR REPORT 2023 - FOR NOTING**

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

[H12 Audit Report](http://www.sdublincoco.ie/sdcc/departments/corporate/apps/cmas/documentsview.aspx?id=83271)  
[H12 Audited AFS 2023](http://www.sdublincoco.ie/sdcc/departments/corporate/apps/cmas/documentsview.aspx?id=83273)

The reports were **NOTED**.

### **H13/0924 PARTHALÁN PLACE - IDENTITY AND CONNECTION - FOR NOTING**

The following report by the Chief Executive, which had been circulated, was presented by Mr. Paul Fusco, County Librarian.

[H13 Parthalán Place Sept-2024](http://www.sdublincoco.ie/sdcc/departments/corporate/apps/cmas/documentsview.aspx?id=83241)

A discussion followed with contributions from Councillors A. Edge, T. Costello, E. Ó Broin, D. Donnelly, M. Duff, J. Spear, K. Keane, W. Carey and P. Holohan, who welcomed the report. Queries were raised in relation to renaming the Tallaght Luas stop, seating in public spaces, inclusion of school children in signage design and the involvement of local artists.

Mr. P. Fusco, County Librarian, responded to the Members’ queries.

The report was **NOTED**.

### **H14/0924 COMMUNITY 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

[H14 Community Grants for Noting](http://www.sdublincoco.ie/sdcc/departments/corporate/apps/cmas/documentsview.aspx?id=83274)

A discussion followed with contributions from Councillors M. Johansson, J. Sinnott, D. Adelaide, J. Tuffy, P. Holohan, N. Whelan, E. Murphy, W. Carey, P. Kearns, L. McCrave, L. Dunne and N. Fennell. Queries were raised in relation to Balgaddy Summer Project, evaluating the impact of the grants, the Community Recognition Fund, community centre investment fund, assistance to clubs/groups, and non- successful applications. .

Ms. E. Leech, Director of Housing and Community Development responded to the Members’ queries.

The report was **NOTED**.

### **H15/0924 REPLIES, ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS & CORRESPONDENCE**

### **M1/0924 Unplayable Pitches**

Proposed by Councillor J. Sinnott seconded by Councillor Edge

This Council notes with concern the increasing number of sports pitches deemed unplayable over the course of winter and spring and the negative impact on local sports clubs and participants. In light of this growing issues this Council requests Council management to investigate further means to improve drainage and the possibility of increasing the number of all-weather pitches available in the County.

**REPORT:**

Data available from Met Eireann shows that the early months of 2024 and 2023 have been extremely wet periods when compared to long-term average (LTA) rainfall in Ireland. Taking data from the nearest weather station at Baldonnell the average annual rainfall is 754mm. Rainfall in 2023 at this location was recorded at 870mm (15% above the LTA) and in the 12 month period from May '23 to April '24 the recorded rainfall was 907mm (20% above the LTA). The months of February, March and April of this year have been particularly wet with average rainfall being exceeded by 48% over those 3 months and this followed an extremely wet second half of 2023 where average rainfall was exceeded by 33%. This left ground super-saturated and unable to carry heavy grass cutting machinery. As soon as weather improved, every effort was made to address this situation and this involved in many cases cutting and lifting the grass, cutting the pitch again and then rolling the pitches to make them playable.  
The table attached to this motion shows records from 2022 to date showing pitch playability in SDCC.

Recognising the challenges in the provision of sports pitches; South Dublin County Council commissioned a Sport Pitch Strategy (SPS) in 2020 to provide the Council with a clear evidence base and set of recommendations for future outdoor sports facility development across the district. A SPS is a strategic assessment that provides an up-to-date analysis of supply and demand for playing pitches (grass and artificial) in the local authority. The strategy and the evidence upon which it is based is delivered using insight from specific Governing Bodies of Sport, national guidance and local stakeholder input. The strategy focused on the following sports: Soccer, GAA, Rugby Union, Hockey, Cricket and Athletics. Meeting pitch demand requires actions on a number of fronts and the SPS defined 5 main actions for the council to deliver; the actions are set out below as follows:

Increase maintenance of existing pitches to improve match play equivalents:  
Following adoption of the strategy the Council has provided additional revenue budget to support these actions. The annual pitch maintenance budget 2024 is €409,000 which covers regular fortnightly maintenance and includes a sum of €150,000 for engagement of specialist contractors to do minor drainage improvements as well as goal mouth repairs and replacement of goal posts. SDCC manage regular grass cutting of pitches by direct labour. A sum of €250,000 has also been provided in 2024 which will facilitate an intensive upgrade of compacted, waterlogged pitches.

The Council’s Public Realm Section has in the past 5 to 7 years installed drainage systems on pitches in Tymon Park (4), Jobstown Park (1), Butler McGee Park (1), Clondalkin Park (1) and Ballymount Park (1). These schemes have been funded through a combination of sports capital funding as well as council own capital and revenue resources, with other funding where available.

A further 4 pitches have received sports capital funding, and these are under tender at present with plans to commence work on 2 of these pitches in late summer 2024. In addition to these; another 10 pitches have been included in the current sports capital funding application and a decision is awaited on these. The installation of such drainage schemes will improve waterlogging and playability issues on those pitches which require this level of intervention.

Develop a revised allocation policy; including pitch sharing and multipurpose use of facilities where appropriate:  
In 2021, the Council introduced a new online Pitch Allocation and Booking system which went live for the 2021/2022 playing season. The South Dublin County Council’s Annual Allocation of Pitches/Sporting Facilities – Policy and Conditions can be found at [www.sdcc.ie/bookapitch](https://www.sdcc.ie/en/services/sport-and-recreation/playing-pitches-and-facilities/allocation-of-pitch-sporting-facilities-policy-and-conditions.pdf). Once clubs are allocated pitches via the online system they are given access to “Pitch Manager” software which enables the club to manage and record all activity on the pitches allocated to them.

The information allows SDCC gather valuable key data to better manage and maintain pitches against a scenario of growing demand. It will also help identity any pitches that are underused and provide more availability for pitch sharing etc.

Reserve ability to change the configuration of pitches:  
This ability is built into the allocation policies, and pitches are swapped out as required/if appropriate. Flexibility in configuration/layout is provided as much as possible at the planning and design stage to future proof pitches to allow for changes as required.

Provide new grass pitches to meet capacity issues:  
New grass pitches are planned and are under delivery/completed as set out below:

Dodder Valley Mt Carmel: (1 athletics track, 1 soccer pitch: Construction completed)  
Adamstown SDZ parks: (1 cricket pitch complete at Airlie, 1 GAA-sized pitch complete at Tandy’s Lane Park)  
Clonburris SDZ parks (1 soccer sized AGP, 5 soccer pitches planned)  
Kiltipper Park Phase 2 (1 GAA sized pitch, 2 soccer pitches now funded, tender imminent)

Fortunestown area (2 pitches via development- built. Additional pitch included in 2023 P8 for Carrigmore Park)

Firhouse/Ballycullen area (1 GAA sized pitch-provided via development)  
Rathcoole park: provision of a larger GAA sized pitch in conjunction with IW works-complete.

Rathcoole area in conjunction with GAA TBC.

Newcastle LAP area (1 small sized pitch-provided via development-built)

Provide Artifical Grass Pitches to augment long term capacity and meet training need:  
At present; there is a council approved and funded 3G Artificial Grass Pitch Programme, based on the recommendations from the SPS and is agreed and underway. 2 No. artificial grass pitches have been delivered (at Airlie Park and Sean Walsh Park) as part of this programme of delivery, the other 3 no. required locations are in the west and east of the county and the new Strategic Development Zone area at Clonburris.

The SPS defined future locations of additional floodlit artificial grass pitches, as it provides evidence based upon local team usage and future team generation rates that would be the predominant users of the facility. The SPS demonstrates that there is a need to provide AGP’s as a vital asset to the local community in terms of a training and match-play facility for clubs, teams and others. The delivery of the SPS is reviewed on a regular basis and implementation is reported and discussed at the relevant SPC. Artificial grass pitches can support far more matches and training sessions compared to regular grass pitches and the sports pitch strategy recommends the provision of 5 No. pitches across the county to allow for an even distribution and facilitate use county-wide as set out above.

[M1(b) Pitch playability details](http://www.sdublincoco.ie/sdcc/departments/corporate/apps/cmas/documentsview.aspx?id=83117)

The Motion was **AGREED.**

### **M2/0924 Suspended Sentences**

Proposed by Councillor P. Gogarty seconded by Councillor L. Dunne.

That this Council, sharing the public outrage at suspended sentences being applied for a succession of extremely violent assaults, calls on the Minister for Justice, the Law Reform Commission and the Judicial Council to ensure that there are meaningful consequences for such behaviour in the future.

**REPORT:**

If this motion is passed, a letter will be issued to the Minister for Justice, the Law Reform Commission and the Judicial Council. The response, when received, will be circulated to the Members.

A discussion arose with contributions from Councillors P. Gogarty, L. Dunne and E. Ó Broin.

Motion was **AGREED**.

### **M3/0924 Wage Rates For Under 20s**

Proposed by Councillor K. Keane seconded by M. Johansson.

That the Chief Executive write to the Minister for Enterprise, Trade and Employment Peter Burke calling on him to implement the recommendations of the Low pay Commission and end sub-minimum wage rates for workers under the age of 20.

**REPORT:**

If this motion is passed, a letter will be issued to the Minister for Enterprise, Trade and Employment Peter Burke. The response, when received, will be circulated to the Members.

A discussion arose with contributions from Councillors K. Keane, C. Ahern, D. Adelaid and J. Spear.

The motion was **AGREED**.

### **M4/0924 Housing SPC Policy**

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

That this Council agrees that the Housing SPC develop a policy for community based supported living for adults with disabilities.

**REPORT:**

The Council's strategic plan 'Housing People with a Disability 2021 – 2026', focuses on the move away from traditional institutional living, to community-based homes. In addition, this plan aims to improve social housing options so that people can have suitable homes with the supports they need to start living, or to continue to live, in their community. The Council is committed to putting disabled people at the centre of our housing policies and to lead in the delivery of quality and appropriate housing options.

The Housing Disability Steering Group (HDSG) meets four times a year.  Membership of the HDSG consists of representatives from the HSE, Disability Sector (reps from Mental Health, Physical, Intellectual and Sensory), Disabled Persons advocates and Approved Housing Bodies. An update is presented to every Housing SPC meeting which provides progress on the activities of the HDSG.

[M4(a) Strategic Plan for Housing People with a Disability](http://www.sdublincoco.ie/sdcc/departments/corporate/apps/cmas/documentsview.aspx?id=83120)

### **M5/0924 Bottle Banks**

Proposed by Councillor N. Fennell seconded by Councillor N. Whelan.

This council calls on the Chief Executive to increase the number of bottle banks in the county.

**REPORT:**

South Dublin County Council aims to improve recycling within its administrative area. Fostering community-based recycling plays a pivotal role in advancing the overarching goal of sustainable waste management and environmental preservation. The [Strategy for the Provision of Local Community Based Recycling Facilities in South Dublin County Council 2023-2029](http://intranet/Cmas/documents/Environment-%20Public%20Realm%20and%20Climate%20Change%20SPC/2023/November/November2023Environment,PublicRealmandClimateChangeSPCMeeting/792ad99a-d46b-46a7-9990-db7883c68059.pdf) sets out the objectives and specific actions to do this.  The strategy was reviewed by the Environment, Public Realm and Climate Change SPC during the course of 2023 with the new strategy agreed by the SPC at the November 2023 meeting.

With respect to the provision of bottle banks, our Waste Management & Compliance team are continually trying to identify new sites. Under the Strategy, it is primarily planned to review Council owned locations for suitability as potential sites as well as engaging with communities, elected representatives and members of the public to identify suitable locations. Each site is assessed against specific criteria which includes but not limited to access for servicing the banks (overhead services, space for turning/parking etc.), proximity to housing (greater than 50m, otherwise consent/consultation with homeowners is required) and supervision of the site.

Unfortunately, meeting these criteria has proved challenging in the past. For example, in the previous Strategy (2015-2021), 31 potential sites were rejected prior to delivery stage. (61% rejected following objection by the owner of the site & 39% objected to at public consultation stage).

Despite, these challenges over the past 12 months, South Dublin County Council has successfully introduced 7 no. of new bottle banks sites. (Newcastle Service Station, Waterstown Park, Thomas Davis GAA Club, Tandy’s Lane Playground Car Park, B&Q Liffey Valley, Dodder Riverbank Car Park & Corkagh Park GAA Pitches Car Park).  In addition to this, it is planned to introduce an additional site at Airlie Park in the coming months.

We will continue to explore potential new sites as well as retaining and improving the existing recycling sites. This includes improving cleaning/maintenance arrangement, painting/artwork and installation of new signage (See attached photo)

There are currently 74 bring bank sites within South County Dublin. These sites vary in location from public car parks, including private shopping centres and community centres as well as sites in open/green spaces on council grounds. Of these 74 sites, 51 have bottle banks available for the recycling of glass. For information, the exact locations of our bring banks can be found via our interactive Bring Bank Map at [https://www.sdcc.ie/en/services/environment/recycling-and-waste/bring-banks/](https://eur04.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.sdcc.ie%2Fen%2Fservices%2Fenvironment%2Frecycling-and-waste%2Fbring-banks%2F&amp;data=05%7C02%7Clmagee%40SDUBLINCOCO.ie%7C6fa5e37c418b44c1d34308dc975ee2f5%7C6a3c00c019d0492da8de95fad8fda1d4%7C0%7C0%7C638551681006907609%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C0%7C%7C%7C&amp;sdata=IlsXCyYNRwd6%2FpC7ejrq4gDR99ioZ10QomxvTiu9sTw%3D&amp;reserved=0).

[M5. Image of Bring banks](http://www.sdublincoco.ie/sdcc/departments/corporate/apps/cmas/documentsview.aspx?id=83249)

A discussion arose with contributions from Councillors N. Fennell, M. Johansson, E. Murphy, F. Timmons, R. Mannion, E. Ó Broin, P. Holohan, C. Ahern and L. Dunne. Queries were raised in relation to kerbside collection of glass, increase and location of further facilities and compulsory provision of bottle bank or return facility at point of sale.

Ms. T. Walsh, Director of Environment, Water and Climate Change, responded to the Members queries.

The motion was **AGREED** in accordance with the manager’s report.

Meeting ended at 19:00.

**Motions Not Reached:**

### **M6/0924 Apartheid Free Zone**

Councillor J. Spear

That Council agrees to make South Dublin County Council an apartheid-free zone and boycott all Israeli goods.

### **M7/0924 Compulsory Purchase Order**

Councillor M. Johansson

That the Chief Executive initiate Compulsory Purchase Order proceedings on all sites that are on the Derelict Sites Register (as published 20/06/2024)

### **M8/0924 Removing Public Bins**

Councillor N. Whelan

This Council calls on the Chief Executive to immediately reverse the policy of removing public bins from this county as a method of reducing illegal dumping of domestic waste and requests that all public bins removed for this reason are replaced as a matter of urgency.

### **M9/0924 Public Health Nurses**

Councillor D. Adelaide

That the Chief Executive to write to the Minister for Health, Stephen Donnelly, calling on him to meet with local representatives regarding the lack of public health nurses in the south Dublin county area.

### **M10/0924 Communications Boards**

Councillor R. Mannion

This Council welcomes and commends the roll out of Communication Boards at playing facilities in SDCC which aim to improve accessibility and inclusive play for children with language difficulties and calls on the Chief Executive look at the feasibility of their inclusion in other parks, pitches or play facilities where appropriate.

### **M11/0924 Housing Adaptation Grants**

Councillor Y. Collins

That this Council writes to the Department of Housing asking that, when assessing eligibility for Housing Adaptation Grants, that the income of the whole household, as opposed to the individual seeking assistance, should not always be taken into account, and that there be flexibility to determine each application on a case by case basis to prevent undue hardship

### **M12/0924 Community Benefit Scheme**

Councillor W. Carey

That this Council calls on the Minister for Enterprise, Trade and Employment to introduce a community benefit scheme to be paid into by companies and business interests that use extensive state resources but offer a low worker/job ratio comparative to industrial norms.

### **M13/0924 Estates Not TIC**

Councillor E. Ó Broin

This Council agrees to develop a method for residents living in estates that have not yet been taken in charge (TIC) to liaise with SDCC on the work needed for an estate to be at the TIC standard.

### **M14/0924 Occupied Territories Bill**

Councillor F. Timmons

That South Dublin County Council notes the decision by the Government to recognise the State of Palestine and now calls on the Taoiseach to pass the Occupied Territories Bill which has been supported at all stages by a majority of members of Dáil Éireann and Seanad Éireann.