# COMHAIRLE CONTAE ÁTHA CLIATH THEAS

# SOUTH DUBLIN COUNTY COUNCIL

Minutes of South Dublin County Council December 2024 Rathfarnham / Templeogue / Firhouse / Bohernabreena Area Committee Meeting held on Tuesday 10th of December 2024 through Microsoft 365 Teams and in Person in the Council Chambers. Today’s Area Committee Meeting was webcast as the Council has extended webcasting to all Area Committee meetings from January 2023. The extension of webcasting Area Committee meetings demonstrates our commitment to promoting transparency and supporting understanding and participation in local democracy.

## **Councillors Present**

Sarah Barnes

Roisin Mannion

Yvonne Collins

Pamela Kearns

Lynn McCrave

Ronan McMahon

David McManus

Justin Sinnott

Alan Edge

## **Officials Present**

Senior Executive Officer Mary Maguire

Senior Engineer John Joe Hegarty

Senior Executive Engineer Andrew O'Mullane

Executive Librarian Sarah McHugh

Assistant Staff Officer Eduardo de Oliveira

Clerical Officer Vikki Cryan

### Prior to the commencement of the meeting, in accordance with Standing Order No 91, and due to the absence of an Cathaoirleach (Area Chair) as a direct result of the recent election of Councillor Ciarán Ahern to Dáil Éireann, it was  agreed by the member of the RTFB AC, that the Chair be taken by Councillor Pamela Kearns.

### **RTFB/392/H1/1224 Item ID:85209 - Minutes**

Minutes of South Dublin County Council Minutes of Rathfarnham / Templeogue / Firhouse / Bohernabreena Area Committee dealing with Housing, Community, Transportation, Planning, Economic Development, Libraries, Corporate, Performance & Change Management, Public Realm, Environment, Water & Drainage held on 12th November 2024 which have been circulated, were submitted, and **APPROVED** as true record and signed.

It was proposed by Councillor D McManus, seconded by Councillor R McMahon, and **RESOLVED** “That the recommendations contained in the minutes of 12th November 2024 be **ADOPTED** and **APPROVED**.”

[H1 Minutes of November 2024 RTFB ACM](http://www.sdublincoco.ie/sdcc/departments/corporate/apps/cmas/documentsview.aspx?id=84551)

## **RTFB/392A/1224 - Questions**

It was proposed by Councillor D McManus, seconded by Councillor A Edge and **RESOLVED** “That pursuant to Standing Order No. 13 that Questions 1 - 8 be **ADOPTED** and **APPROVED.**

## **Community**

### **RTFB/393/Q1/1224 Item ID:85278 - Whitechurch Community Centre**

Proposed by Councillor R. Mannion

To request an update on any redevelopment plans and timelines for same for the community centre in Whitechurch. This amenity is a great asset for the area but requires adequate investment and supports to continue to serve the needs of local residents.

**REPLY:**

The Whitechurch Community Centre is actively supported by the Community Services Dept through a range of advice and supports including funding allocated from a number of our community grant programmes.

The local management committee have had some discussions with Community Services in relation to the re-development of the centre and while on initial review there may be some merits to complete some redevelopment works on the centre in the future, a detailed technical assessment with resources allocated from the Council’s Architectural Services Dept is required.

Currently the centre redevelopment is not contained within the Council’s 3 year capital programme and cannot be progressed until a number of the existing new build community facilities and extension/upgrade of existing facilities contained within the capital programme commitments are progressed. The Community Services Department are committed to have the redevelopment proposal reviewed and technically examined, with a view of how best to progress when technical resources become available.

### **RTFB/394/H2/1224 Item ID:85223 – New Works**

New Works (No Business)

### **RTFB/395/H3/1224 Item ID:85221 - Deputations**

Deputations for Noting (No Business)

### **RTFB/396/C1/1224 Item ID:85211 – Correspondence**

Correspondence (No Business)

## **Housing**

### **RTFB/397/H4/1224 Item ID:85227 – New Works**

New Works (No Business)

### **RTFB/398/C2/1224 Item ID:85214 - Correspondence**

Correspondence (No Business)

## **Planning**

### **RTFB/399/H5/1224 Item ID:85230 – New Works**

New Works (No Business)

### **RTFB/400/C3/1224 Item ID:85217 – Correspondence**

Correspondence (No Business)

## **Transportation**

### **RTFB/401/Q2/1224 Item ID:84954 - Scholarstown Wood TIC**

Proposed by Councillor C Ahern

To ask the manager to please explain in detail why Scholarstown Wood has not yet been taken in charge by the council and provide an update on the current progress?

**REPLY:**

An application for the Taking in Charge of Scholarstown Wood estate has been received by the South Dublin County Council. SDCC has appointed a lead person to this file. This person has recently made contact with the developer on several occasions requesting the required taking in charge information for this estate. To date, there has been little test or as constructed information sent to us for review. We will continue to contact the developer's agent to try to speed up the process. If the developer does not engage meaningfully with SDCC, the completion of the Taking in Charge is difficult. We do in this case have a cash bond in place, which we hold until the Taking in Charge is complete. The holding of cash bonds usually makes the developer keen to progress TIC.

### **RTFB/402/Q3/1224 Item ID:85283 - Rent Free Bikes**

Proposed by Councillor Y. Collins

To ask for an update in relation to rent free bikes in the context of the Wellington Lane Cycle Track

**REPLY:**

The bike library for Bishop Shanahan and Bishop Galvin National Schools was agreed with the NTA. The council will contact the NTA to agree finer details for its implementation and will revert back to the Councillors.

### **RTFB/403/Q4/1224 Item ID:85276 - Footpaths Ellensborough**

Proposed by Councillor R. Mannion

To ask the Manager when footpaths in Ellensborough were last repaired and ask that they be added to next schedule of works as a number of them are posing significant trip/fall risks (pictures available if needed)

**REPLY:**

SDCC direct labour have carried out a number of repairs within Ellensborough Estate over the last 6 years.

We will review the estate and include it on the list for consideration for the 2025 RWP if necessary

[Q4 Photo](http://www.sdublincoco.ie/sdcc/departments/corporate/apps/cmas/documentsview.aspx?id=84403)

### **RTFB/404/Q5/1224 Item ID:85126 - School Warden Service**

Proposed by Councillor J. Sinnott

To ask the manager to outline the criteria for the allocation of a school warden to a school in the Rathfarnham / Templeogue / Firhouse /Bohernabreena area and to advise on the number of schools to be awarded a warden in 2024.

**REPLY:**

School Wardens patrol places where school children cross public roads, and it is their role to ensure that primary school children are assisted with crossing public roads safely when travelling to and from school.

All new requests are examined on a case-by-case basis against certain criteria. This criteria includes usage rates across existing / unofficial school crossings and traffic counts for the peak/ school crossing times on a given school day.

Members may be aware that considerable work is ongoing on the re-assessment of existing and requests for new assisted school crossings which was unavoidably delayed due to resource limitations. As a result of this no new school crossings have been approved in recent years in any of the electoral areas.

Notwithstanding the above, it must be noted that significant works have been undertaken in locations as part of our Active Travel Schemes as well as our involvement in the Safe Route to Schools Scheme which is an initiative that aims to make it safe, convenient, and fun for children to walk and cycle to and from schools, as well as improve children’s safety which is also aimed at minimising dependency on, or requirements for School Wardens.

### **RTFB/405/H6/1224 Item ID:85234 - Proposed Declaration of Roads to be Public Roads**

Proposed Declaration of Roads to be Public Roads (No Business)

### **RTFB/406/H7/1224 Item ID:85232 – New Works**

New Works (No Business)

### **RTFB/407/C4/1224 Item ID:85219 - Correspondence**

Correspondence (No Business)

### **RTFB/408/M1/1224 Item ID:85038 - Pedestrian Crossing Oldcourt Road**

Proposed by Councillor A. Edge, Seconded by Councillor Y. Collins

That ESB be required to provide a timeframe for connecting the new pedestrian crossing on Oldcourt Road.

**The following report from the Chief Executive was read:**

The new controlled pedestrian crossing is now complete with the flashing beacons installed and fully operational. The appointed contractor had supply issues which took some time to resolve.

SDCC apologises for the delay in getting this controlled pedestrian crossing completed. SDCC are confident that the new facilities will make pedestrian movements much safer at this location.

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

### **RTFB/409/M2/1224 Item ID:85124 - Dodder Greenway Update**

Proposed by Councillor Y. Collins, Seconded by Councillor R. McMahon

That this Council furnishes an update and overview on the current phase of the Dodder Greenway from Firhouse Road to Butterfield Avenue

**The following report from the Chief Executive was read:**

[M2 Dodder Greenway Update](F:\\Meetings\\1 Rathfarnham-Templeogue-Firhouse-Bohernabreena\\2024\\Items\\12 December\\M2 Dodder Greenway Update.pptx)

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

### **RTFB/410/M3/1224 Item ID:85281 – Whitehall Road Cycle Track**

Proposed by Councillor Y. Collins, Seconded by R. McMahon

That, in relation to the Whitehall Road cycle track, that this Council reassesses the decision to close the right turn from Whitehall Road onto Rockfield Drive and considers alternatives

**The following report from the Chief Executive was read:**

The Whitehall Road Trial Cycle Scheme is being implemented to provide a 2 - way cycle track on the northern side of Whitehall Road on a trial basis. To ensure the safety of cyclists at the junction of Rockfield Ave and Whitehall Road, it is proposed to ban the left turn and right turn into Rockfield Drive. This will make it safely possible to have the east and west bound vehicle movement go at the same time with the cyclists without the risk of left turning and right turning vehicles cutting across the cycle track. The alternative to this would be to have cyclists have their own green phase / time and this will make the cycle time longer at this junction and thus reducing the efficiency of the junction. It has been established from traffic counts carried out that in the morning peak hour there is relatively very high left turners into Rockfield Drive and this could be as a result of rat running, people avoiding the junction of Whitehall Rd and Kimmage Road West. The number of right turners from Whitehall Road is significantly small and can be catered by alternative routes available.

All these movement that are proposed to be banned at this junction can easily be catered for by alternative routes available without significant delays. The left and right turners can use either the Kimmage Road West Junction or the Whitehall Rd West Junction. The council has previously received a number of complaints about speeding and rat running through Rockfield and Muckross Estates and have installed a number of traffic calming measures to contain these problems. The proposal to ban the right and left turn at this junction will go a long way in solving these problems.

A meeting with the residents to discuss this issue has been agreed and is scheduled for the 17th of December 2024. It is important to note that this scheme will be introduced as a trial as agreed with the Councillors, and it will be monitored over a period of 12months.

Following Contributions from Councillors Y Collins, R McMahon and P Kearns, Andrew O'Mullane Senior Executive Engineer Responded to queries raised and the Motion was **Agreed**.

## **Libraries & Arts**

### **RTFB/411/H8/1224 Item ID:85222 - Library News & Events**

The following report was presented by Sarah McHugh Executive Librarian

Library News & Events

[H8 (i) Libraries Report](http://www.sdublincoco.ie/sdcc/departments/corporate/apps/cmas/documentsview.aspx?id=84410)  
[H8 (ii) Library Event Stats](http://www.sdublincoco.ie/sdcc/departments/corporate/apps/cmas/documentsview.aspx?id=84459)

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

### **RTFB/412/H9/1224 Item ID:85208 - Application for Arts Grants**

Application for Arts Grants (No Business)

### **RTFB/413/H10/1224 Item ID:85228 – New Works**

New Works (No Business)

### **RTFB/414/C5/1224 Item ID:85215 - Correspondence**

Correspondence (No Business)

## **Economic** **Development**

### **RTFB/415/H11/1224 Item ID:85225 – New Works**

New Works (No Business)

### **RTFB/416/C6/1224 Item ID:85213 – Correspondence**

Correspondence (No Business)

## **Performance & Change Management**

### **RTFB/417/H12/1224 Item ID:85229 – New Works**

New Works (No Business)

### **RTFB/418/C7/1224 Item ID:85216 - Correspondence**

Correspondence (No Business)

## **Corporate** **Support**

### **RTFB/419/H13/1224 Item ID:85224 – New Works**

New Works (No Business)

### **RTFB/420/C8/1224 Item ID:85212 - Correspondence**

Correspondence

Responses from Dublin Bus & NTA regarding routes 15 & 15B (Item 84273, October RTFB ACM)

[84273 Dublin Bus Response](http://www.sdublincoco.ie/sdcc/departments/corporate/apps/cmas/documentsview.aspx?id=84404)  
[84273 NTA Response](http://www.sdublincoco.ie/sdcc/departments/corporate/apps/cmas/documentsview.aspx?id=84493)

This report was **Noted.**

## **Public Realm**

### **RTFB/421/Q6/1224 Item ID:85277 - Rathfarnham Graveyard**

Proposed by Councillor R. Mannion

To ask the Manager if there are any plans to re-open the graveyard in Rathfarnham Village or make it accessible to the public again. The area is of historical significance and previous tours were well received so it would be great if it would be possible to reintroduce.

**REPLY:**

There are no plans to open the graveyard in Rathfarnham Village for daily public access due to the sensitive nature of the site. Guided tours were facilitated in the past by the Rathfarnham Tidy Towns group however these have not taken place in recent years. It may be possible to facilitate some limited guided tours again and this option can be examined if required. These tours provide a controlled and safe way to appreciate the site's historical significance while preserving its integrity.

### **RTFB/422/Q7/1224 Item ID:85096 - Removal of Leaves**

Proposed by Councillor J. Sinnott

To ask the manager to provide details of the roads and estate cleaning schedules in relation to the removal of leaves in the Rathfarnham / Templeogue / Firhouse and Bohernabreena areas.

**REPLY:**

In accordance with the scheduled frequencies as set down in the road sweeping contract all main roads in the Rathfarnham/Templeogue/Firhouse/Bohernabreena area are swept monthly and all housing estate roads are swept quarterly. Details of the road and estate cleaning dates can be found at the following link to the road sweeping schedule which is held on the Council's website : [Oxigen Environmental - Oxigen Environmental](https://oxigen.ie/sdcc-route-list)

A leaf removal service is provided as part of the road sweeping and associated services contract and this is provided on a request basis, with Oxigen providing both a leaf sweeping and bag removal service as required by local residents. Leaf sweeping and removal does not operate to a fixed schedule due to the unknown nature of when leaf fall will take place. It is also regularly necessary to make repeated visits to areas where leaf fall is heavy. Requests for leaf sweeping can be submitted by local residents or elected representatives to the [publicrealm@environment.ie](mailto:publicrealm@environment.ie) email address and requests will be scheduled for attention when received.

### **RTFB/423/H14/1224 Item ID:85231 – New Works**

New Works (No Business)

### **RTFB/424/C9/1224 Item ID:85218 - Correspondence**

Correspondence (No Business)

### **RTFB/425/M4/1224 Item ID:85097 - Tree Stump Removal**

Proposed by Councillor J. Sinnott, Seconded by Y. Collins

That the Chief Executive treat a stump at (address provided) where the Council removed a tree some years ago to kill off a crop of fungus mushrooms that pop up on the stump every so often

**The following report from the Chief Executive was read:**

The Council's Public Realm section will arrange for the location of the tree stump to be inspected and will complete the removal of the stump which should resolve the issue referred to here. If any further treatment is required, then this can be carried out once removal of the stump has been completed.

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

## **Environment**

### **RTFB/426/H15/1224 Item ID:85226 – New Works**

New Works (No Business)

### **RTFB/427/C10/1224 Item ID:85210 - Correspondence**

Correspondence (No Business)

## **Water & Drainage**

### **RTFB/428/Q8/1224 Item ID:85279 - Whitechurch Stream Flood Alleviation**

Proposed by Councillor R. Mannion

To ask the Manager for update on Whitechurch Stream Flood Alleviation Scheme, how the scheme is progressing and timelines for completion of works please.

**REPLY:**

Whitechurch Stream Flood Alleviation Scheme received the relevant permissions to proceed in November 2022.

**Stage 1 from St Enda’s Park to St Gatiens Court** commenced in May 2023 and completed in September 2024.

**Stage 2 works from St Gatien’s Court to 1-5 Whitechurch Stream** commenced in Q1 2024, with the construction of the defence walls from St Gatiens Court to St Enda’s Drive. Works included the provision of a trash screen at the inlet to a culvert. Areas of invasive species have been identified and will be removed as part of the works. Works on defence walls at 1-5 Whitechurch Stream has recently been completed with landscaping works currently being finalised. Remaining works will be completed by Q3 2025

**Stage 3 works from Willbrook Lawn to Willbrook Road** will commence in Q1 2025, starting with the tree removal. Areas of invasive species have been identified and will be removed as part of the works. Left bank strengthening works will commence in Q2 2025 in line with Inland Fisheries Ireland seasonal requirements. Once the necessary tree removal and treatment of invasive species is complete, the full scope of remedial works to existing boundary works will be determined. It is anticipated works on the wall will take 12 -15 months.

It should be noted the works to deliver this project is challenging. The site is constrained by private properties and existing infrastructure. Prior to the work staring on site, the full scope of works is difficult to determine until the necessary removal of vegetation and invasive species completed. Once vegetation is removed, surveys have identified additional works to existing walls and have required changes in the work programme. At all times, every effort is being made by SDCC and the OPW to minimise the impact on residents, business owners and road users, whilst ensuring the overall proposed benefit to the completed scheme is not compromised.

Despite the challenges, works has been progressing well, with expected completion date of June 2026.

### **RTFB/429/H16/1224 Item ID:85233 – New Works**

New Works (No Business)

### **RTFB/430/C11/1224 Item ID:85220 - Correspondence**

Correspondence (No Business)

## Meeting Concluded at 15:33

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**An Cathaoirleach**