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

Minutes of South Dublin County Council April 2025 Tallaght Area Committee Meeting held on Monday 28 April 2025

### **PRESENT**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Cllr M. Duff | Cllr D. Richardson |
| Cllr D. Donnelly | Cllr J. Spear |
| Cllr L. Dunne | Cllr N. Whelan |
| Cllr P. Holohan | Cllr A. Smyth |

### **OFFICIALS PRESENT**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Senior Executive Parks Superintendent | Laurence Colleran |
| Senior Executive Officer | Edel Clancy |
| Senior Executive Parks & Landscape Officer | Brendan Redmond |
| Executive Librarian | Michelle Leamy |
| Assistant Arts Officer | Meabh Butler |
| Staff Officer | Mark Brown |
| Assistant Staff Officer | Marian Travers, Bill Fowler |

Councillor M. Duff, presided

Apologies were received from Cllr K. Keane

### **H1/0425 Item ID:86715**

Proposed by Housing Administration

Minutes from Tallaght Area Committee Meeting 24th March 2025.

[Minutes from Tallaght Area Committee Meeting held on Monday 24th March 2025](https://meetings.southdublin.ie/Home/ViewReply/86052)

Minutes of Tallaght Area Committee Meeting held on 24th March 2025 which had been circulated, were submitted, and APPROVED as a true record and signed.

It was proposed by Cllr M. Duff, seconded by Cllr P. Holohan, and RESOLVED:

**Questions**

It was proposed by Cllr M. Duff, seconded by Cllr J. Spear, and RESOLVED:” That pursuant to Standing Order No 1, Questions 1-14 be Adopted and Approved.”

## **Environment**

### **Q1/0425 Item ID:86991**

Proposed by Councillor D. Donnelly

"How often are the ponds in Tymon North and Sean Walsh Park stocked or inspected for new wildlife?"

**REPLY:**

The ponds at Tymon North and Sean Walsh Park are not routinely stocked by South Dublin County Council. However, SDCC supports the natural development of local ecosystems and carry out periodic assessments to ensure the health and biodiversity of these habitats.

There have been some wetland habitat surveys commissioned over the last few years, and while they have predominantly surveyed the habitats, incidental wildlife (mainly waterbirds, small mammals, obvious insects) were noted during the surveys. There are currently no formal wildlife monitoring programme underway for ponds in the parks.

SDCC have also supported bird-ringing projects across the parks for a number of years, up to last year.  That project would have recorded swans and different species of gulls and tagged new generations of cygnets every year.

Members of the public, on occasion, have forwarded sightings of different species.  This includes invasive non-native turtles which have been abandoned, particularly in Tymon Park, and occasionally sightings of mink which are also non-native.

### **H2/0425 Item ID:86732**

Proposed by Environment

New Works (No Business)

### **C1/0425 Item ID:86716**

Proposed by Environment

Correspondence (No Business)

## **Water Drainage**

### **H3/0425 Item ID:86739**

Proposed by Water Drainage

New Works (No Business)

### **C2/0425 Item ID:86726**

Proposed by Water Drainage

Correspondence (No Business)

## **Public Realm**

### **Q2/0425 Item ID:86990**

Proposed by Councillor D. Donnelly

"What is the current protocol for assessing tree rot in the trees on the Tallaght bypass?"

**REPLY:**

South Dublin County Council guided by its *Living With Trees* policy regularly inspects and maintains publicly owned trees. These cyclical inspections assess tree health and check for rot, decay or structural issues. When problems are found, work is scheduled based on risk and condition. Following the completion of an independent arborist’s inspection recently, tree works which include the pruning and removal of defective trees are planned for the linear woodland between Whitestown Stream and the N81 from September onwards. Concerns about other trees in this area can be reported for evaluation.

### **Q3/0425 Item ID:86989**

Proposed by Councillor J. Spear

"Can the manager please widen the footpath on the green between Raheen Road and Cookstown Estate Road (approx. 53.285883, -6.390043, see image) in Springfield, Tallaght to accommodate elderly people on Zimmer frames?"

**REPLY:**

The Council has inspected the footpath on the green between Raheen Road and Cookstown Estate Road to assess its current condition. Grass encroachment had reduced the usable width of the footpath from approximately 2 metres to 1.2 metres. Remedial works have now been carried out to remove the overgrowth and restore the full width of the path.

[Raheen footpath widening](https://meetings.southdublin.ie/Home/ViewReply/85949)

### **H4/0425 Item ID:86737**

Proposed by Public Realm

New Works (No Business)

### **C3/0425 Item ID:86724**

Proposed by Public Realm

Correspondence(No Business)

### **M1/0425 Item ID:86646**

Proposed by Councillor D. Donnelly Seconded by Cllr M. Duff

"This Tallaght area committee calls on the council to come up with a solution to the illegal dumping of rubbish and human excrement as the bushes are becoming overgrown and unsafe on the Cookstown Road top of Kingswood view estate?"

**REPORT:**

The Council has examined the area in question and will commence a clean-up of the dumped materials and some localised strimming works will be undertaken. In addition, the location has been prioritised for vegetation clearance to improve visibility and enable passive surveillance, which will assist in deterring any ongoing anti-social behaviour. These works are scheduled to commence following the end of the bird nesting season on 31st August. To support these efforts members of the public are encouraged to report incidents of illegal dumping directly to South Dublin County Council and to report anti-social behaviour to An Garda Síochána.

[Picture 1](https://meetings.southdublin.ie/Home/ViewReply/85686)
[Picture 2](https://meetings.southdublin.ie/Home/ViewReply/85687)
[Picture 3](https://meetings.southdublin.ie/Home/ViewReply/85688)

There were contributions from Cllr D. Donnelly

The Motion was **AGREED**

### **M2/0425 Item ID:86967**

Proposed by Councillor M. Duff Seconded by Cllr J. Spear

"That this Area Committee calls on the Manager to add a new children's Playspace for Castle Lawns/Balrothery on the New Playgrounds list, for location on the site where the old playground was located, on the open space between Castle Lawns and Balrothery?"

**REPORT:**

South Dublin County Council had a very successful Playground Construction Programme from 2014 to 2020 where around 40 new playspaces were built around the County. That programme has finished, and there is no funding currently allocated to construct additional new play areas. The Council are, however, currently writing a new Play Policy for the County. As part of that the current play provision will be analysed and allow identification of areas where there is a deficit of provision. The Policy will ensure future playground provision is targeted in areas where there is a need and a demand for play facilities. Public Realm will note your request for play facilities in Balrothery and ensure it gets consideration in any future playground construction programme.

There were contributions from Cllr M. Duff, Cllr J. Spear, Cllr P. Holohan and Cllr L. Dunne

Laurence Colleran, Senior Parks and Landscape Superintendent, agreed to come back to the Council with a map of where the play spaces are and identify the areas of most need in the County for new play spaces.

The Motion was **AGREED**

### **M3/0425 Item ID:86978**

Proposed by Councillor J. Spear Seconded by Cllr M. Duff

"This area committee agrees that playspace equipment should be installed in Balrothery urgently to replace the well-used, homemade playspace and ensure the children there aren't left with nothing?"

**REPORT:**

South Dublin County Council had a very successful Playground Construction Programme from 2014 to 2020 where around 40 new playspaces were built around the County. That programme has finished, and there is no funding currently allocated to construct additional new play areas. The Council are, however, currently writing a new Play Policy for the County. As part of that the current play provision will be analysed and allow identification of areas where there is a deficit of provision. The Policy will ensure future playground provision is targeted in areas where there is a need and a demand for play facilities. Public Realm will note your request for play facilities in Balrothery and ensure it gets consideration in any future playground construction programme.

There were contributions from Cllr J. Spear, Cllr M. Duff, Cllr P. Holohan and Cllr L. Dunne

Laurence Colleran, Senior Parks and Landscape Superintendent, agreed to come back to the Council with a map of where the play spaces are and identify the areas of most need in the County for new play spaces.

The Motion was **AGREED**

### **M4/0425 Item ID:86707**

Proposed by Councillor N. Whelan Seconded by Cllr N. Whelan

"This committee requests a review of the Treepark Road is carried out with a view to add extra litter bins?"

**REPORT:**

The Council's approach to litter bin provision follows the Litter Bin Installation Protocol which is set out in the Litter Management Plan, to ensure bins are strategically placed for maximum effectiveness. This protocol prioritises locations such as town and village centres, key pedestrian routes and larger park while discouraging placement in areas prone to illegal dumping and vandalism. Requests for new or replacement bins are assessed based on these criteria including proximity to existing bins (in general a bin is considered not necessary where there is an existing bin within 400m), maintenance requirements and overall service optimisation. The Council will carry out a review of Treepark Road with a view to installing litter bins along footpaths in high-footfall areas, such as near the football pitches and the new exercise loop at the lower end of Treepark Road.

There were contributions from Cllr N. Whelan

Brendan Redmond, Senior Parks and Landscape Officer, agreed that the bins should be installed within the next three to four weeks

The Motion was **AGREED**

### **M5/0425 Item ID:86961**

Proposed by Councillor N. Whelan Seconded by Cllr L. Dunne

"This area committee notes the increase in anti social behaviour and scrambler use in Lanndale park which is affecting the residents of surrounding estates but particularly Lanndale Lawns. Therefore, this AC calls on the manager to replace the broken bollards at Lanndale Lawns onto Lanndale park and review the placement of the footpath coming from the park to the Lawns, it is a massive blind spot which scramblers and scooters approach at high speed posing a safety risk to residents?"

**REPORT:**

The Council is aware of and continues to monitor and resolve the ongoing issues of illegal use of scrambler bikes in specific areas in the County. The Estate Management and Public Realm teams are working closely with An Garda Siochana to discuss locations of concern and to identify and apprehend those responsible. When persons involved in anti-social behaviour are identified as social housing tenants, actions available to the Council will be taken in accordance with the terms of the tenancy agreement. With the assistance of the Council over 20 scrambler bikes have been seized by An Garda Siochana in the Tallaght area since the beginning of 2025.

The footpath connecting Lanndale Lawns to Lanndale Park will be examined in terms of visibility and if improvement works are required these will be scheduled. The Council will replace the broken bollards at Lanndale Lawns onto Lanndale park as requested here.

There were contributions from Cllr N. Whelan and Cllr M. Duff

Brendan Redmond, Senior Parks and Landscape Officer, agreed to look at the footpath with a view to increasing visibility

The Motion was **AGREED**

## **Community**

### **Q4/0425 Item ID:86973**

Proposed by Councillor N. Whelan

"Is the manager aware of funding previously allocated to Tallaght Sports Complex to install a pool pod for accessibility needs within the local community and can an update be provided?"

**REPLY:**

Active South Dublin was allocated €25,450 in 2024 for capital spend on disability focussed equipment.  It was intended to use this funding to install a poolpod in Tallaght Sports Complex however on examination it was discovered that due to the configuration of the pool a higher spec unit costing approx. €50,000 would be required.  Tallaght Sports Complex was unable to meet the shortfall in funding and as a result the project did not go ahead.

### **Q5/0425 Item ID:86976**

Proposed by Councillor L. Dunne

"Following on from Motion Number 6, dated 23rd September 2024, can the Manager confirm whether the itemisation of amenities being prepared by the operators of Tallaght Leisure Centre will specifically include the modernisation of the shower areas, improvements to accessibility standards, and the installation of lockers and changing facilities designed to accommodate individuals with disabilities, as originally requested by this Area Committee and to give an update on progress to date?"

**REPLY:**

Following on from Motion 6 of the September 2024 ACM a detailed list of required upgrades to the facility was received. This list included urgent, medium and long term planned preventative maintenance works.  The modernisation of the showers and improvement to accessibility was included in the list.

A progress meeting was held between SDCC and the operator in February of this year and a schedule for works agreed. A maintenance contract has been put in place to progress works on the identified items.

### **Q6/0425 Item ID:87001**

Proposed by Councillor D. Richardson

"Can the manager report on the ABB building on the Belgard road if this is going to be an IPAS building and make a statement on this?"

**REPLY:**

In May 2024 the Department of Children, Equality, Disability, Integration and Youth (DCEDIY) contacted SDCC to inform them that the owner of the former ABB building had proposed the building to be used as an IPAS accommodation centre. SDCC were asked to share observations, specifically regarding fire or planning on this property.

 SDCC have received no further update and DCEDIY have confirmed that no contracts have been signed regarding this building.

### **H5/0425 Item ID:86910**

Proposed by Housing Administration

Community Grants – Tallaght Area, 2024 Review.

[H5 Community Grants 2024 Review - Tallaght LEA](https://meetings.southdublin.ie/Home/ViewReply/86005)

Edel Clancy, Senior Executive Officer, gave the presentation on Community Grants – Tallaght Area, 2024 Review.

There were contributions from Cllr L. Dunne, Cllr P. Holohan, Cllr A. Smyth, Cllr J. Spear and Cllr M. Duff

The Report was **NOTED**

### **H6/0425 Item ID:86729**

Proposed by Community

New Works (No Business)

### **C4/0425 Item ID:86717**

Proposed by Community

Correspondence (No Business)

## **Housing**

### **Q7/0425 Item ID:86971**

Proposed by Councillor M. Duff

"Can the Manager please advise this Area Committee of the number of one bed, older persons bungalows, in the Tymon/Tymonville/Aongus/Castle Lawns & Park areas, which are vacant for more than three months and what plans are there in place to allocate them?"

**REPLY:**

The Housing Maintenance and Refurbishment section undertake re-let works on vacant housing stock throughout the County to ensure stock is brought back into productive use for letting as soon as possible. The current turnaround time from the date a property is surrendered to the date it is allocated is 20.71 weeks.

There are currently two vacant, age-friendly one-bedroom bungalows in the areas mentioned. The Housing Allocations team is making every effort to identify suitable eligible applicants from the social housing waiting list to ensure these properties are allocated as soon as possible.

### **Q8/0425 Item ID:87000**

Proposed by Councillor D. Richardson

"Can the manager report on why it is taking so long for applications for housing to be processed?"

**REPLY:**

912 social housing support applications were received up to the end of March 2025. We are currently processing completed applications in 11.5 weeks which is within the statutory 12 week timeframe.

It should be noted that processing delays can occur if crucial details or supporting documents are missing from the application. As part of the Council's ongoing digital transformation to provide enhanced and optimal customer service, the Housing Online (HOL) portal provides an online, fully mobile responsive self-service area that allows housing applicants to apply or update their application 24/7.

### **Q9/0425 Item ID:87002**

Proposed by Councillor D. Richardson

"Can the manager prioritize heating breakdowns for Tenants as an emergency and make a statement on this?"

**REPLY:**

The Council categorises all requests for repairs depending on the nature of the problem. These categories are emergency, urgent, routine or cyclical. We endeavour to respond to requests for repairs according to the guidelines below:

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **CATEGORY** | **TIMESCALE** | **EXAMPLE** |
| Emergency | 1 – 5 working days | Smoking Fuse Board, Burst water tank |
| Urgent | 10 working days | Leak under sink unit, Leaking roof |
| Routine | 12 weeks + | Replace toilet cistern, Faulty radiator |
| Cyclical | 1 – 7 years | Leaking gutters, replacement hall door etc. |

To date in 2025, a total of 750 work orders were completed in the Tallaght electoral area in response to problems reported with heating systems. The average number of days for completion of these works was 4.95 days.

### **H7/0425 Item ID:86733**

Proposed by Housing

New Works (No Business)

## **Planning**

### **H8/0425 Item ID:86736**

Proposed by Planning

New Works (No Business)

### **C5/0425 Item ID:86723**

Proposed by Planning

Correspondence (No Business)

## **Transportation**

### **Q10/0425 Item ID:86644**

Proposed by Councillor D. Donnelly

"To ask the manager for an update on the parking problem in the Fernwood area (Springfield) and the double yellow lines?"

**REPLY:**

The proposed location for the new double yellow lines in the Fernwood area (Springfield) has been circulated to the Area Councillors and submitted to An Garda Síochána for statutory approval. Once approval is granted, we will arrange for our lining contractor to carry out the works.

### **Q11/0425 Item ID:86992**

Proposed by Councillor D. Donnelly

"What is the estimated current time frame left at roadstones quarry and what plans are in place at the sight once excavation has expired or finished?"

[Quarry Conditions 1](https://meetings.southdublin.ie/Home/ViewReply/86049)
[Quarry Conditions 2](https://meetings.southdublin.ie/Home/ViewReply/86051)

**REPLY:**

The planning references for this site are Bord Pleanála Case reference: SU06S.SU0061 & SDCC Reference: SDQU05A/2.  Condition 13 of the schedule refers to restoration of the site. (See attached Conditions 1)

A subsequent permission was assessed by SDCC Planning Reference **SD21A/001,** with the following condition relative to restoration:

"The applicant shall update this Plan, once agreed, every 10 years, to take account of changes to phasing arrangements, compliance agreements, land-use zoning or other planning policies which may apply to the site, for the written agreement of the Planning Authority".

A restoration plan was submitted in 2016, and the next due in 2026. (See attached Conditions 2)

### **Q12/0425 Item ID:86970**

Proposed by Councillor M. Duff

"That this Area Committee calls on the Manager to carry out an urgent inspection of the Castletymon District Enhancement Scheme to address the issues of grass growing up through the flagstones, subsidence of the flagstones at the Castletymon Green side of the works and the need for power washing the footpaths and seating areas?"

**REPLY:**

The issue of subsidence has been caused by vehicles, primarily goods vehicles, mounting the footpath. We are looking at installing bollards to deter this behaviour.

The issues with grass growth and power washing are being considered as part of a wider countywide maintenance review of our villages and district centres.

### **Q13/0425 Item ID:86708**

Proposed by Councillor Britto Pereppadan

"To ask the Chief executive to examine a manhole outside 1 Raheen Park, Springfield D24 E4E1 that now cannot be opened due to fresh concrete laid during road works last year?"

**REPLY:**

This issue will be inspected and rectified

### **Q14/0425 Item ID:86972**

Proposed by Councillor N. Whelan

"Compliments to SDCC for the new seating area installed in Ballyroan recently, constructed by Bladebridge. Has the manager any plans to expand these across the County, particularly the Tallaght area?"

**REPLY:**

The bladebridge shelter was a bespoke piece designed as part of the Rosemount Enhancement Scheme.

Currently there is no plan to install any more of these in the county, but sheltered seating options will be considered as part of any future village or district centre scheme.

### **H9/0425 Item ID:86738**

Proposed by Transportation

New Works (No Business)

### **C6/0425 Item ID:86725**

Proposed by Transportation

Correspondence (No Business)

## **Libraries Arts**

### **H10/0425 Item ID:86714**

Proposed by Libraries Arts

Application for Arts Grants.

[Arts grants for approval](https://meetings.southdublin.ie/Home/ViewReply/86031)

Meabh Butler, Assistant Arts Officer, gave the presentation on Applications for Arts Grants

The Report was **NOTED**

### **H11/0425 Item ID:86728**

Proposed by Libraries Arts

Library News & Events

[Libraries Report](https://meetings.southdublin.ie/Home/ViewReply/86041)
[Library Event Stats](https://meetings.southdublin.ie/Home/ViewReply/85913)

Michelle Leamy, Executive Librarian, gave the presentation on Library News and Events

There were contributions from Cllr M. Duff, Cllr P. Holohan, Cllr J. Spear and Cllr A. Smyth

The Report was **NOTED**

### **H12/0425 Item ID:86734**

Proposed by Libraries Arts

NEW WORKS (No Business)

### **C7/0425 Item ID:86721**

Proposed by Libraries Arts

Correspondence (No Business)

## **Economic Development**

### **H13/0425 Item ID:86731**

Proposed by Economic Development

New Works (No Business)

### **C8/0425 Item ID:86719**

Proposed by Economic Development

Correspondence (No Business)

## **Performance Change Management**

### **H14/0425 Item ID:86735**

Proposed by Performance Change Management

New Works (No Business)

### **C9/0425 Item ID:86722**

Proposed by Performance Change Management

Correspondence (No Business)

## **Corporate Support**

### **Q15/0425 Item ID:86677**

Proposed by Councillor P. Holohan

"This Tallaght area committee call on the minister for education to make a statement regarding the funding issues with Sacred heart junior school?"

**REPLY:**

Following on from the emergency motion at the meeting held on March 24th in relation to An Chroi Ró Naofa Soisir/Sacred Heart Junior School, Killinarden,  a letter was sent to the Minister of Education on behalf of this Committee acknowledging the recent advancement of funds and to ask the Minister to urgently intervene by doubling the capitation and the DEIS funding as a matter of urgency.

A response was received through South Dublin County Council's Customer Contact System on April 3rd.  A copy of this response is available under Correspondence Item Cor (10) of this meeting.

### **H15/0425 Item ID:86730**

Proposed by Corporate Support

New Works (No Business)

### **C10/0425 Item ID:86895**

Proposed by Housing Administration

Reply from the Department of Education and Skills in relation to funding for An Chroi Ró Naofa Soisir/Sacred Heart Junior School, Killinarden, Tallaght, Dublin 24. (For Noting).

**REPLY:**

Ms. Edel Clancy

County Hall, Tallaght, Dublin 24

info@sdublincoco.ie

PLEASE QUOTE REF NUMBER ON ALL CORRESPONDENCE

Our Ref: DES-CU-01517-2025

3rd April 2025

Dear Ms. Clancy,

I refer to your correspondence to the Minister for Education, Ms. Helen McEntee TD, in relation to An Chroi Ró Naofa Soisir/Sacred Heart Junior School, Killinarden.

The Department of Education has been made aware of the current situation in relation to the financial position of the school.

The Department is committed to offering all available and appropriate supports to the school as quickly as necessary to avoid any further uncertainty.

Officials from the Department are in contact with the school and the school’s Patron.

Yours sincerely,

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

Stephen O’Brien

Private Secretary