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

Minutes of South Dublin County Council May 2025 County Council Meeting held on Monday 12 May 2025

### **PRESENT**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Adelaide, D. | Lawlor, B. |
| Barnes, S. | McCrave, L. |
| Brady, C. | McMahon, R. |
| Casserly, V. | McManus, D. |
| Collins, Y. | Moore, G. |
| Cosgrave, P. | Murphy, E. |
|  de Courcy, L. | Ó Broin, E. |
| Donnelly, D. | O’Hara, S. |
| Duff, M. | O’Toole, L. |
| Dunne, L. | Pereppadan, Baby |
| Edge, A. | Pereppadan, Britto |
| Farrell, H. | Richardson, D. |
| Fennell, N. | Sheehy, J. |
| Gilligan, T.  | Sinnott, J.  |
| Hayes, A. | Smyth, A. |
| Holohan, P. | Spear, J. |
| Johansson, M. | Timmons, F. |
| Keane, K. | Tuffy, J.  |
| Kearns, P | Whelan, N. |
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### **OFFICIALS PRESENT**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Chief Executive | C. Ward. |
| Directors | J. Frehill, E. Burke, T. Walsh, E. Leech, L. Maxwell, R. Fitzgerald. |
| Head of IT | T. Kavanagh |
| County Architect | C. Harte |
| A/Senior Executive Officer | B. Shannon |
| Senior Staff Officer | K. McLoughlin |
| A/ Staff Officer | D. Murphy |
| Assistant Staff Officer | A. Holohan |

The Mayor, Councillor Baby Pereppadan, presided

Apologies were received from Councillors W. Carey and R. Mannion.

Before the meeting commenced, the mayor asked the members to observe a minute’s silence for Garda Kevin Flatley.

**WEBCASTING NOTICE**

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

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

The Mayor, Councillor 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.

### **H1/0525 CONFIRMATION AND REAFFIRMATION OF MINUTES - FOR APPROVAL**

Minutes of the April Council Meeting held on 14th April 2025 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 Y. Collins.

[April 2025 Council Minutes](https://meetings.southdublin.ie/Home/ViewReply/86094)

### **H2/0525 REPORTS OF AREA COMMITTEES - FOR NOTING**

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

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

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

**b) Clondalkin Area Committee**

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

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

**c) Tallaght Area Committee**

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

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

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

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

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

### **H3/0525 STANDING COMMITTEES ORGANISATION, PROCEDURE & FINANCE - FOR APPROVAL**

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

### **H4/0525 STRATEGIC POLICY COMMITTEES - FOR NOTING**

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

### **H5/0525 REPORTS REQUESTED BY AREA COMMITTEES - FOR NOTING**

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

**QUESTIONS**

It was proposed by Councillor Baby Pereppadan and seconded by Councillor R. McMahon and **RESOLVED**:

### “That pursuant to Standing Order No. 22, Questions numbered Q1 – Q22 be **ADOPTED** and **APPROVED”**

### **Q1/0525 Councillor D. Adelaide**

To ask the Chief Executive to provide details of average wait times for Garda checks on successful housing applicants in 2024 and 2025, including the number of applications.

**REPLY:**

Section 15 of the Housing (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1997 provides for housing authorities to request ‘Garda Checks’ in respect of persons applying for social housing. When an offer of housing with the Council has been accepted by an applicant(s) a request is then issued to the relevant Garda station in respect all persons over 18 years old in the household. Garda clearance must be current at the time of acceptance for a council property.

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Year** | **No. Garda checks requested** | **Turnaround time** |
| 2024 | 3,812 | 11 weeks |
| 2025 to date | 1,211 | 1 week |

It should be noted that there were significant delays in 2024, our Estate Management Team have worked in partnership with the Business Services Unit in DMR South Division and South West Divisions following the introduction of new processes introduced for Garda checks. This has his led to a significant reduction in turnaround times towards the end of 2024, which have continued into 2025.

### **Q2/0525 Councillor D. Adelaide**

To ask the Chief Executive for a report on planned or proposed use of AI technology by the council; including what work is proposed to be done by AI models, what stage of implementation the plan is at, and which department within the council the work relates to.

**REPLY:**

Currently, there isn't an overarching plan or specific roadmap with respect to AI technology within the Council. Consequently, detailed reports as requested on AI projects, stages of implementation, or specific departments involved aren't available.

The Council can confirm that it is open to appropriate use of AI, but that the general policy at present is not to permit the use of AI except under specific approved circumstances where the need arises. Individual AI projects may be considered by the Council but would be subject to stringent risk management processes.

Generative AI (chat/response functionality) is being explored on a proof-of-concept basis within the Microsoft CoPilot environment, however is strictly for a limited number of staff. The engagement with Microsoft's CoPilot for this purpose is due to its inference capabilities, data residency, defined data boundaries, and support for enterprise-grade safeguards, including ensuring the security and privacy of all information input or generated.

With many vendors advocating AI and incorporating it into their products, the Council are mindful of our data protection obligations, the establishment of the European AI Act and Interim Guidelines for Use of AI in the Public Service (February 2024).  The Council will continue to adopt a measured and careful approach as to how we will evaluate projects or proposals prior to implementation and being mindful of the AI Act and guideline provisions.

### **Q3/0525 Councillor D. Adelaide**

To ask the Chief Executive for a report on data centres within the council area with a Planning Register Reference for each centre. This report should include; centres that are operational, that are under construction; and those within the planning process including those being appealed to An Bord Pleanála

**REPLY:**

The attached spreadsheet details the planning applications for data centres within South Dublin.  The details include the planning reference, noting that the first digits indicate the year that the planning application was made. The details include the applicant, the address, the type of permission being sought, description of development, the decision made and any appeal status.

In total, there have been 50 planning applications to date, 18 of which have been amendments to previous permissions.  Of the 50 applications, 6 have been refused by the Council or ABP, with two of the Council’s refusals currently on appeal.

There have been 10 planning applications for data centres since the adoption of the current County Development Plan, with 5 being refused, 4 amendments to previous permissions being granted, and one change of use from a warehouse to a data repository facility being granted.

Details of planning applications are available on the SDCC [Planning Portal - search applications](https://planning.agileapplications.ie/southdublin/search-applications/).

An examination of rates data indicates that there are currently 24 operational data centres within South Dublin.

[Q3(b) Data Centres - Planning Applications](https://meetings.southdublin.ie/Home/ViewReply/86149)

### **Q4/0525 Councillor D. Adelaide**

To ask the Chief Executive for a report on the use of short-term lets within the county. Report to include the methods used to investigate if short-term lets have obtained the appropriate planning permission/exemptions; how many properties the council has investigated and processed for not adhering to short-term letting regulations

**REPLY:**

On 1st July 2019 the government introduced new Regulations which allow for the use of a “house” for the purposes of Short Term Letting, in a rent pressure zone, in restricted circumstances provided statutory notifications are sent to the relevant Local Authority.

* Short term letting is defined as the letting of a house or apartment, or part of a house or apartment, for any period not exceeding 14 days.
* Homesharing (the letting of a room or rooms in a person’s principal private residence - the place where such person normally lives) which is permissible on an unrestricted basis and is exempt from the planning requirements.
* Homesharers are allowed to sub-let their entire principle private residence (house or apartment) on a short term basis for a cumulative period of 90 days where they are temporarily absent from their home.    **Where the 90 day threshold is exceeded, change of use planning permission will be required.**

A homesharer whose principal private residence in a rent pressure zone and who wishes to avail of planning exemptions needs to register this intent with the planning authority and fulfil specified reporting obligations.

However, **where a person owns a property in a rent pressure zone which is not their principal private residence and intends to let it for short-term letting purposes**, s/he is required to apply for a change of use planning permission unless the property already has a specific planning permission to be used for tourism or short-term letting purposes.

This requirement for planning permission only applies to homeowners in [Rent Pressure Zones (RPZs)](https://onestopshop.rtb.ie/rent-pressure-zones) who:

* Let out their entire home (principal private residence) for short-term lets of more than 90 days in total while they are away.
* Let out a second property for short-term lets.

There are a limited number of registrations recorded by SDCC and one application for planning permission was granted in 2024 for change of use from existing residential dwelling to short term stay / guest house.

Planning authorities can avail of a range of measures to enforce against unauthorised short term letting. In SDCC, written complaints regarding alleged unauthorised use of residential dwellings are investigated by the planning enforcement team using the enforcement provisions in Part VIII of the Planning and Development Act 2000 (as amended).

### **Q5/0525 Councillor D. Adelaide**

To ask the Chief Executive for a report on payments made by the council in 2022, 2023, and 2024 as a consequence of legal judgements and settlements with South Dublin County Council tenants, due to damage done to their health or property by mould and damp.

**REPLY:**

There have been no legal judgements or settlements wth tenants for the period 2022-2024.

Damp and mould in a property can be caused by a combination of moisture, temperature within the property, humidity of the immediate environment and tenant behaviour. Due to the nature of our climate, most homes would have some element of dampness and mould that require action by the homeowner to help ventilate, clean, and prevent build up over time. Most of the issues reported are preventable with the positive interaction of the tenant. If a tenant is experiencing a problem with damp/mould, they should submit this as a maintenance request directly through Housing Online system, [**www.hol.sdublincoco.ie**](http://www.hol.sdublincoco.ie/) so that the issue can be investigated.  Our housing maintenance team have also produced practical advice about controlling condensation in the home which is available on  [**www.sdcc.ie**](https://eur04.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.sdcc.ie%2Fen%2Fservices%2Fhousing%2Fmaintenance-and-repairs%2F&amp;data=05%7C02%7Cmconnell%40SDUBLINCOCO.ie%7Cefabbcf4b56145bff72c08dc15ee14fa%7C6a3c00c019d0492da8de95fad8fda1d4%7C0%7C0%7C638409359495212206%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C3000%7C%7C%7C&amp;sdata=LrGrxpMJAq10bYO9CchUam23NxcM95ZVDqm9%2BEfGjKY%3D&amp;reserved=0)

It should be noted that planned maintenance initiatives, such as the energy efficiency retrofit, windows and doors replacement and mechanical ventilation programmes have a positive impact on the control of damp and mould in the home. We are also undertaking property condition surveys across our housing stock and which will also assit with identifing properties with damp and mould issues.

[Q5(b) Controlling Condensation](https://meetings.southdublin.ie/Home/ViewReply/86116)

### **Q6/0525 Councillor L. de Courcy**

To ask the Chief Executive why has South Dublin County Council changed the parameters for the "tenant in situ" scheme, in that the tenant now has to be removed before the sale goes through, thus invalidating the purpose of the scheme in the first place?

**REPLY:**

We have recently been allocated €25 million for acquisitions in 2025 with revised criteria from the DHLGH to focus on the following priorities:

• Tenancy sustainment / tenant in-situ acquisitions

• Older persons and persons with a disability

• Exits from homeless services and

• Buy and renew acquisitions which tackle vacancy.

We have now reviewed current and potential commitments for acquisitions to determine our remaining scope to support acquisitions this year in line with revised DHLGH criteria, funding, and guidance. We have purchased 22 properties to date this year with another 40 properties currently at sale agreed/conveyancing that we are committed to. The remaining potential acquisitions that are at various stages of due diligence in the purchase process are currently being examined in the context of the revised DHLGH funding and criteria.

Where the council acquires a property with a 'tenant in situ' there is no requirement for the tenant(s) to vacate the property.

### **Q7/0525 Councillor N. Fennell**

To ask the Chief Executive how many notifications and/or fines were issued by the litter warden to fast food outlets in the county, in the previous 3 years of 2022, 2023 and 2024, for failing to maintain the required area outside their premises of litter. This response to detail the breakdown by LEA in tabular form.

**REPLY:**

All incidents of illegal dumping reported or detected in any area are investigated by the Council's Litter Warden Service and all dumped material is searched for evidence. Where evidence is found, the appropriate enforcement action is taken under the Litter Pollution Act 1997, as amended. Increasingly, it is found that no personal information relating to polluters is contained within the dumped material, with personal information having been removed or shredded.

The Environmental Complaints System operated by South Dublin County Council provides a statistical breakdown by designated litter warden areas.

The total number of complaints made under the Litter Pollution Act 1997 and investigated by the Litter Warden service between 2022 and 2024 was 4,264. This figure includes 3,242 investigations that were specifically for litter investigations only.

Please see below table of fines issued for the period 2022- 2024 which is divided into South Dublin County Council’s designated litter warden areas.

If there are specific concerns relating to Fast Food Outlets and litter, please contact the Enforcement and Licensing section directly and the matter will be investigated further. Alternatively, complaints can be logged through the SDCC Environmental Complaints System.

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Litter Warden Area** | **2022** | **2023** | **2024** | **Total** |
| Lucan | 70 | 88 | 43 | 201 |
| Clondalkin | 126 | 116 | 93 | 335 |
| West Tallaght | 178 | 163 | 160 | 501 |
| Saggart/Newcastle/E Tallaght | 89 | 87 | 35 | 211 |
| Templeogue/Walkinstown | 54 | 45 | 66 | 165 |
| **Total** | **517** | **499** | **397** | **1413** |

### **Q8/0525 Councillor N. Fennell**

To ask the Chief Executive for the approximate/average cost of tree saplings being planted in the county, and to detail in tabular form, the estimated cost of vandalised trees, resulting in replanting for the previous 3 years, and by LEA.

**REPLY:**

Each year South Dublin County Council undertakes a programme of tree planting to allow for the replacement of any previously removed trees and to assist in the continued effort to expand the tree canopy coverage in the county.  The Council engages contractors whose responsibility it is to supply, plant and maintain trees for a 24 month period to ensure they are successful in establishment. Within this period if a tree fails as a result of natural causes the contractor is responsible for replacing the tree as part of their maintenance programmes.  The cost of planting individual trees varies from year to year depending on the species, size and age of any given specimen. In 2025 the cost of planting and maintaining a standard 12-14cm girth specimen ranges between €106 and €441 depending on species.

Unfortunately tree vandalism is experienced across the county to varying degrees, the chart below represents the number of newly planted trees vandalised across 2022-2024.  When a tree is vandalised the cost of replacement falls on the Council with that cost equating to the costs outlined above.

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Year** | **Area** | **Quantity Vandalised** |
| **2022** | Tallaght | 0 |
|  | Rathfarnham | 54 |
|  | Lucan | 69 |
|  | Clondalkin | 0 |
| **2023** | Tallaght | 66 |
|  | Rathfarnham | 163 |
|  | Lucan | 0 |
|  | Clondalkin | 0 |
| **2024** | Tallaght | 30 |
|   | Rathfarnham | 1 |
|   | Lucan | 14 |
|   | Clondalkin | 74 |

### **Q9/0525 Councillor P. Holohan**

To ask the Chief Executive how many IPAS applicants, per year over the last 5 years, have been accommodated in the south Dublin county area.

**REPLY:**

International Protection Accommodation Services (IPAS) provides accommodation to people who have applied for international protection. It arranges accommodation and co-ordinates other services (including health, social services, welfare and education) for asylum seekers and people who have international protection.

The council does not collate statistics in relation to the number of IPAS applicants resident in the county. The functions in relation to IPAS accommodation services transferred from the Department of Children, Equality, Disability Integration and Youth to the Department of Justice, Home Affairs and Migration on the 1st May 2025.

### **Q10/0525 Councillor P. Holohan**

To ask the Chief Executive what was the year ending total over the last 5 years for people in homeless accommodation in the south Dublin.

**REPLY:**

The table below provides a summary breakdown of the data held at 31st December for households registered as homeless with South Dublin Council for the period 2020-24.

|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
|   | **2020** | **2021** | **2022** | **2023** | **2024** |
| Single Male | 256 | 238 | 242 | 300 |  201 |
| Single Female | 58 | 55 | 65 | 94 |  77 |
| Couples | 16 | 17 | 24 | 24 |  17 |
| Families | 177 | 158 | 165 | 280 |  203 |
| **Total Homeless Households** | **507** | **468** | **496** | **698** | **498** |

In 2024, 265 homes were allocated to homeless households, representing a significant increase compared to 172 allocations in 2023 and the 71 in 2022.

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

### **Q11/0525 Councillor G. Moore**

To ask the Chief Executive that when approving the construction of industrial or commercial estates, does the Council ensure that the buildings are equipped to support three-phase electrical equipment by ensuring the ESB lays the appropriate ground works?

**REPLY:**

The local authority is not responsible for the provision of electrical installations in any private building.

Electrical installations in buildings are certified by the Electrical Safety Supervisory Body (ESSB) who is appointed by the Commission for Regulation of Utilities (CRU).  The ESSB is responsible for running the Safe Electric Scheme. The principal functions of the ESSB include the registration of electrical contractors and, the inspection, auditing and monitoring of electrical contractors and their work and activities with respect to safety.

The design and the proper installation of the Electrical Infrastructure, including determining whether 3-phase is required for the stated use of the building, is managed by the client or developer's competent electrical design and construction team.

These electrical installations (new and additions/modifications) are certified by a registered contractor and the certificate is submitted to the ESSB.

### **Q12/0525 Councillor G. Moore**

To ask the Chief Executive what percentage of industrial and commercial estates within South Dublin County Council have three-phase electrical groundworks installed to support business operations?

**REPLY:**

South Dublin County Council do not have access to records relating to where 3-phase electricity is available in the County.

The ESB will have databases and records of the electricity supply network in the South Dublin County Council local authority area.

### **Q13/0525** **Councillor E. Ó Broin**

To ask the Chief Executive for a report on his mapping of the locations of discarded Nitrous Oxide Canisters and bullets his staff have come across on public land?

**REPLY:**

The matter of discarded Nitrous Oxide cannisters and 'silver bullets' was first raised under motion 9 of the agenda of the July 2021 County Council meeting.  A commitment was given to gather information from customer complaints, representations and information passed on by staff and to map the results of the information gathered.  This exercise commenced in August 2021 and the undertaking given was to carry out the exercise over a 12 month period, with it being completed in August 2022.  The results of the exercise were presented to the October 2022 meeting of the County Council in response to question 13 on the agenda, the report given is set out below.  The situation has not changed in recent years with 'silver bullets' and larger cannisters of Nitrous Oxide still being found in large numbers around the county, in recreational areas where the substance is being used and also on roadsides where the cannisters are being discarded.  The availability of the substance to purchase on line has not changed since then either with it being easily available to purchase for legitimate uses such as in catering and dentistry however there is currently no means by which it's purchase for other purposes can be prevented.  There has been some recent progress in this regard however with the Sale of Nitrous Oxide and Related Products Bill 2025 having been presented to the Dail on 30 April 2025, the bill is now at stage 2 before the Dail.

The use of nitrous oxide is occurring for the most part in public parks, but also in public open spaces and on public roads and streets.  The finds of dumped/used cannisters continue to be recorded however these appear to be random in nature, with finds being recorded in parks where the substance is being used but also being recorded in locations on public roads where it would appear that they are being dumped after use. The small 'silver bullet' cannisters are being found in large numbers, and finds of larger cannisters would now appear to be more prevalent.  As previously reported the sale, purchase, possession and use of this substance is not currently illegal so it would appear that there is little by way of enforcement action open to the authorities in this regard.   The Council will continue to play any role it can in combatting this problem however it is for other agencies to promote the message that the use of this substance for recreational purposes is potentially damaging to a persons health and in some instances has proven to be fatal.

Further reports have been received of finds of cannisters at the locations previously reported and listed below.  Finds have now been reported at the following locations where there had been no previous reports -  Deansrath, Liffey Valley, Alpine, Ashwood, Collinstown Park, Sundale, Neilstown Road, Knocklyon Heights, Adamstown, Delaford, Liscarne, Wheatfield, Johnsbridge, Griffeen Valley, Cushlawn, Canal Way, Oakdale and Ballycragh Park.

**Reply to Q14 on Council meeting agenda of 9 May 2022**

'The motion relating to this matter which was on the July 2021 County Council meeting agenda requested that we map finds of nitrous oxide cannisters.  This exercise has been undertaken by the Public Realm Section since August '21 and in the first report in November '21 finds had been reported at a total of 18 locations and repeat finds and reports had been made about some of these locations.  Those locations included -

* Council parks (Sean Walsh Park, Corkagh Park, Bancroft Park, Killenarden Park, Dodder Valley Park, St Cuthberts Park)
* Housing Estates (Boden Park, Monalea, Aylesbury, Woodford, Quarryvale, Adamstown, Balgaddy)
* Other locations (N7 pedestrian bridge at the Red Cow, Hellfire Club, Cruagh Wood, Grand Canal, Kilakee viewing point).

The exercise to gather this information is continuing, it has been ongoing for 9 months and will continue to August '22 to cover a full 12 month period.  Only larger scale finds are being reported by Public Realm staff, finds of one or two 'silver bullets' are occurring daily across the county through daily cleaning activities and these are not being reported. Since the last report finds continue to be reported in the locations previously listed, large scale finds have since been reported in the following additional locations -

* Bolbrook Estate,
* St Cuthberts Meadows,
* Neilstown Shops,
* Greenfort Estate,
* Rowlagh Estate,
* Finnstown Priory,
* Lealand Estate,
* St James' Road.

The finds indicate use of these cannisters at some of the locations, while in other cases they appear to have been dumped in large quantities at the location of the find.  The finds of larger cannisters of the substance appear to be more frequent now with each of these estimated to be equivalent to approximately 50 'silver bullets'.  It has not been possible to quantify the number of small cannisters found as on occasions they have been found to number in the hundreds at a location.  The data gathered to date shows that nitrous oxide use is occuring across the county however it cannot be used to determine how widespread this use is.  It should be noted that use of this substance is currently not illegal and anecdotal evidence suggests that the cannisters can be easily purchased on-line.

### **Q14/0525 Councillor J. Sinnott**

To ask the Chief Executive if new and revised housing targets, and delivery of additional housing have been received from the Department of Housing and Local Government?

**REPLY:**

The council was set the following targets for the delivery of new build social homes: 772 homes in 2025 and 788 in 2026. Additionally, targets for delivery of affordable purchase and cost rental homes were set at 278 homes for both 2025 and 2026.

These targets were assigned in March 2022 by the Minister for Housing as part of the governments 'Housing for All 'plan. The social housing targets were based on information from our social housing waiting list and data from the 'Housing Need and Demand Assessment' (HNDA), which profiled the demand for social housing in the county. Targets for affordable purchase and cost rental were informed by data from the 'Affordable Housing Demand Assessment'.

The Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage are currently in the process of preparing a new 'National Housing Plan' with revised housing delivery targets for public and private housing.

### **Q15/0525 Councillor J. Sinnott**

To ask the Chief Executive to advise if South Dublin County Council will be supporting or making an application under the national 2025 Town and Village Renewal Scheme which is specifically aimed at tackling vacancy and dereliction, supporting pre-development project costs for future applications, and acquiring vacant or derelict buildings, or lands for regeneration (up to €500,000 per local authority)?

**REPLY:**

South Dublin County Council is considering an application under Town & Village Renewal Scheme 2025; including the recent issue for Expressions of Interest from community groups, business and local stakeholders in accordance with the requirements of the scheme.

Funding is provided through the Department of Rural and Community Development for the 2025 Town and Village Renewal Scheme. The scheme is designed to support the revitalisation of rural Ireland by focusing on stimulating town centre economic and social regeneration. This will be achieved through projects which support sustainable employment creation, town centre resilience and regeneration, enhancing our streetscapes, and bringing vacant and derelict buildings and lands back into use as community multi-purpose spaces through refurbishment and renovation. Eligible towns in South Dublin are Newcastle, Rathcoole, Saggart and Brittas.

The Town & Village Renewal Scheme 2025 is now open for Expressions of Interest from community groups, business and local stakeholders to put forward project ideas under both the Main Scheme and Project Development Measure that will

* drive town centre regeneration
* support town/village centre plaza development
* develop green spaces / recreational amenities in town or village centres
* enhance streetscapes
* support town or village centre markets, e.g. farmer’s markets or artisan markets
* support the provision of infrastructure (e.g. public realm works, service provisions, canopies etc.) to facilitate town or village centre markets (e.g. farmers markets, open-air markets, local trader markets, artisan markets or similar)
* upgrade / refurbish community centres
* bring vacant and derelict buildings back into use as multi-purpose community spaces

The 2025 scheme is targeted at three categories of towns/villages as follows and based on Census 2022 data:

* Category 1: Towns and villages with a population of up to 5,000 people.
* Category 2: Towns with a population of 5,001 to 10,000 people.
* Category 3: Larger towns with a population of up to 15,000 people may be eligible where the application is of a high quality and outlines a strong need for the investment, good value for money and positive outcomes that will have a substantial impact on the town.

The central focus of the scheme will be on Category 1 towns and villages which will receive at least 60% of the overall funding available.

Note:  Population of qualifying towns in South Dublin Administrative Area

* Rathcoole – 5,792
* Newcastle – 4,526
* Saggart – 4,573
* Brittas – 166

**Funding options:**

* Main Scheme: For large-scale projects that will deliver tangible, long-term benefits  – grant funding for projects will range from €50,000 to €500,000.
* Project Development Measure: For early-stage projects requiring feasibility studies, design work, planning to establish well-developed regeneration projects which might subsequently progress to construction stage, subject to the availability of funding – grant funding of up to €50,000 available.

Up to 90% of the total cost of a project under the Town and Village Renewal Scheme may be provided for any individual project.

**Expressions of Interest:**

South Dublin County Council will assess Expressions of Interest received and select proposals for development into detailed applications to be submitted to the Department of Rural and Community Development. Completed Expression of Interest forms are to be submitted by email to tvrs@sdublincoco.ie or by post to Town and Village Renewal Scheme, Public Realm, Environment Water and Climate Change Department, South Dublin Co. Co., County Hall, Tallaght, Dublin 24.

The closing date for receipt of expressions of interest is Friday 23rd May 2025.

### **Q16/0525 Councillor J. Sinnott**

To ask the Chief Executive if details could be provided on the number of applications for the Vacant Property Refurbishment Grant in South Dublin County Council in 2024.

**REPLY:**

The vacant property refurbishment grant is available if you are turning a vacant house or building into your principal private residence. A grant of up to €50,000 is available. If the refurbishment costs exceed the standard grant of up to €50,000, a top-up grant amount of up to €20,000 is available. To get this top-up grant, you must confirm that the property is derelict. This means that the property is structurally unsound and dangerous. The total grant available for a derelict property is therefore €70,000. Applicants must submit an independent report prepared by a qualified professional, along with the application confirming that the property is derelict.

In 2024, the council received 85 applications (as per the date on the application form) with a breakdown as follows:

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Vacant Property Refurbishment Grant Applications 2024** |   |
| Grants paid | 8 |
| At final approval stage | 7 |
| Approval/approved in principle | 50 |
| Applications with Law  | 8 |
| Further information requested | 1 |
| Declined applications | 2 |
| Withdrawn application | 9 |

### **Q17/0525 Councillor J. Sinnott**

To ask the Chief Executive to outline the process for introducing and approving disc parking into a residential estate.

**REPLY:**

The Council manages general parking restrictions and prohibitions via the Control of Parking Byelaws.   These byelaws set out Parking Control Areas (Pay & Display Areas), Parking Charges and Hours of Application.

Parking Control Areas are located both "on-street" and "off-street" and include some residential areas.   These controlled areas are identified and approved through the process of making the Council's Control of Parking Byelaws, which is a reserved function of the Elected Members.

Residential (and visitor) Parking Permits may be provided to residents who make application for same, where they reside in a designated Pay & Display area. Use of such areas are not exclusive to residents with permits, as these roads / streets are "in charge" of the Council and parking may also be available to the general public, at the appropriate charge / display of valid parking ticket.

Detail on parking permits for residents are provided in the South Dublin County Council (Control of Parking) Bye-laws 2021, Sections IV and V. Pay & Display areas are set out in Appendix 3. See link sdcc-control-of-parking-bye-laws-2021.pdf.

New areas or amendments to existing areas can only be introduced when bye-laws are being reviewed and previous byelaws repealed.

The current Bye-Laws came into operation on the 1st July, 2021, and there are no immediate plans to review the bye laws.

### **Q18/0525 Councillor J. Sinnott**

To ask the Chief Executive what is the maximum number of housing units that could be built on existing lands in South County Dublin that is currently zoned for residential development?

**REPLY:**

The current capacity of housing on lands zoned for residential is set out in the Core Strategy of the adopted South Dublin County Development Plan 2022-2028.  This sets out the land capacity within each neighbourhood area to meet the targets set out in the previous NPF based on zoned lands. The Core Strategy included an assessment of deliverability to identify the residential development potential in the County over the 6-year term of the Development Plan.

The Core Strategy ([chapter-2-core-strategy-and-settlement-strategy.pdf](https://eur04.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.sdcc.ie%2Fen%2Fdevplan2022%2Fadopted-plan%2Fchapter-2-core-strategy-and-settlement-strategy%2Fchapter-2-core-strategy-and-settlement-strategy.pdf&amp;data=05%7C02%7Chcraigie%40SDUBLINCOCO.ie%7Ceed4f4b8ee544993b98a08dd8d5d5e16%7C6a3c00c019d0492da8de95fad8fda1d4%7C0%7C0%7C638822154326720999%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJFbXB0eU1hcGkiOnRydWUsIlYiOiIwLjAuMDAwMCIsIlAiOiJXaW4zMiIsIkFOIjoiTWFpbCIsIldUIjoyfQ%3D%3D%7C0%7C%7C%7C&amp;sdata=arkwDmC4Xjn2f7054aKetqjvRlHJjFUh9dBP4pcTAt4%3D&amp;reserved=0)) identifies a total land capacity including long term development land within the County as 990 hectares with capacity to accommodate 42,570 residential units. Excluding capacity within the strategic long-term development areas which were unlikely to be delivered within the 6 year Plan period, the zoned lands were estimated to be capable of delivering 21,490 units. This is set out by neighbourhood area in Table 9 of the County Development Plan.  The Core Strategy recognised that the County had an excess of zoned lands to meet the 15,576-unit target set by the NPF.  This was considered necessary to facilitate a choice in sites to come forward, recognising that not all sites identified as having capacity were likely to be delivered within the Plan period.  The Housing Supply Monitor ([Housing Supply Monitor](https://eur04.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fexperience.arcgis.com%2Fexperience%2F3efef39a761b4a20a727a4eacc9f7bf0&amp;data=05%7C02%7Chcraigie%40SDUBLINCOCO.ie%7Ceed4f4b8ee544993b98a08dd8d5d5e16%7C6a3c00c019d0492da8de95fad8fda1d4%7C0%7C0%7C638822154326758732%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJFbXB0eU1hcGkiOnRydWUsIlYiOiIwLjAuMDAwMCIsIlAiOiJXaW4zMiIsIkFOIjoiTWFpbCIsIldUIjoyfQ%3D%3D%7C0%7C%7C%7C&amp;sdata=HIVNj8dqyyGThsde0HAznhRP8VhMFhXhvzCAQ1YGiag%3D&amp;reserved=0)), developed by the Planning Department as part of the monitoring of the County Development Plan, updates the status of delivery of residential development in the County on a quarterly basis. Since the 2022-2028 County Development Plan was adopted in June 2022, the monitor shows that between Q2 2022 and Q1 2025, 7,149 residential units have been completed.  This indicates that housing delivery within South Dublin is set to meet current targets with 46% of the core strategy target reached in advance of the half way point of the Plan in June 2025.

Based on the current Core Strategy and Housing Supply Monitor data, there is capacity for a further 35,421 residential units on zoned land in the long-term and 8,427 residential units to 2028. These figures are based on the core strategy and may fluctuate as developments come forward on a site-by-site basis having regard to appropriate densities and site-specific characteristics, noting too that new guidelines have the potential to increase densities. Furthermore, it is important to note that the estimated remaining 35,421 unit development potential of lands currently zoned includes the build out of long-term development areas (such as Clonburris, Tallaght Town Centre LAP and part of City Edge), but has not included the full build out of City Edge which has more complex requirements, including existing uses and infrastructure provision, and which may develop over a longer-term timeframe.

### **Q19/0525 Councillor F. Timmons**

To ask the Chief Executive for a detailed report on the Community Insurance initiative launched by Minister Richmond, which allows Local Authorities to obtain insurance for Tidy Towns through a partnership between Irish Public Bodies (IPB) Insurance and local authorities.?

**REPLY:**

On 1st April 2025 Irish Public Bodies in association with the Local Authorities launched a comprehensive insurance policy that will provide insurance cover for Tidy Towns groups. Such groups transform their local community by collecting litter, planting trees & flowers, taking care of parks & other natural areas, and are incredibly valuable to their communities. The insurance scheme was piloted in a small number of local authorities. It is currently being rolled out in South Dublin. SDCC are very excited to introduce this new initiative. A copy of the Insurance Information pack is attached. The Environmental Awareness team will go through this new initiative with each of our Tidy Towns groups over the coming weeks. A meeting with each Tidy Towns group is currently being scheduled by the Tidy Towns Liaison Officer.

**Eligibility Criteria for Insurance Coverage:**

Coverage is automatically provided to any voluntary TT group that meets all of the following conditions:

1. **Primary Purpose**: The group’s main activity is to enhance and sustain the appearance and environmental quality of the community’s public spaces.
2. **Geographic Area**: The group operates within the catchment area of the Local Authority.
3. **PPN Membership**: The group is a registered member of the Public Participation Network (PPN).

[Q19(b) Tidy Towns Insurance Information](https://meetings.southdublin.ie/Home/ViewReply/86121)

### **Q20/0525 Councillor F. Timmons**

To ask the Chief Executive for a detailed report on how South Dublin County Council will address the storage needs of Tidy Towns groups throughout each LEA to ensure voluntary Tidy Towns groups can continue to enhance our areas?

**REPLY:**

SDCC recognises and greatly values the work of voluntary Tidy Towns groups, whose efforts continue to enhance the appearance and environmental quality of towns and villages across all Local Electoral Areas (LEAs). The work of these groups is a vital part of community development and civic pride, and it is important that appropriate supports are in place to allow the groups to operate effectively.

In recent years, a number of Tidy Towns groups have highlighted challenges in accessing secure, convenient storage for equipment and materials. In response to these concerns, SDCC has initiated a review of existing council-owned assets, including car parks, depots, and council owned properties, to identify potential spaces that could be adapted or shared for storage purposes.

This review is currently underway and includes engagement with relevant departments to assess the suitability, accessibility, and security of these locations. Where appropriate, options such as shared-use agreements, minor adaptations, or the provision of containers for storage purposes may be considered.

In parallel, SDCC will consult with Tidy Towns groups to gather more detailed information on their specific storage needs by LEA. This information will feed into a broader strategy to provide consistent and sustainable support across the county.

A detailed report outlining the findings of the review, identified gaps, and proposed next steps will be brought to the Area Committee Meetings in due course.

### **Q21/0525 Councillor F. Timmons**

To ask the Chief Executive for a detailed report on how South Dublin County Council will address communication with local Tidy Towns groups and ask would the Executive have regular communications meetings with Tidy Towns groups to address issues as they arise?

**REPLY:**

South Dublin County Council fully recognises the vital role that Tidy Towns groups play in enhancing our towns, villages, and communities. These volunteer-led groups contribute significantly to environmental improvement, community engagement, and local pride. Ensuring clear and consistent communication with these groups is a priority for SDCC.

At present, communication with Tidy Towns groups takes place through a number of different sections such as the Environmental Awareness section, Public Realm, Roads section etc. However, we acknowledge that a more structured and regularised approach would help strengthen collaboration and support the evolving needs of these groups.

To that end, the Council is actively exploring the establishment of regular communication meetings with Tidy Towns groups on a county-wide LEA basis. These meetings will provide a forum to share updates, discuss challenges, and coordinate support on key issues such as waste management, storage, planting schemes, and grant funding.

We are also reviewing how digital platforms and email bulletins might be used to provide more consistent updates and facilitate two-way communication throughout the year.

To support this, additional resources have been allocated to the Environmental Awareness team, which will be working directly with Tidy Towns. The new Tidy Towns Liaison Officer has contacted all Tidy Towns groups by email and is arranging formal meetings with them. The team is examining ways to enhance ongoing communication and will address emerging issues promptly. Competitions are underway to fill the Environmental Awareness Officer vacancy and to recruit for the new post of Biodiversity Officer; both of these positions will also support Tidy Towns groups.

A report outlining the proposed framework for enhanced engagement — including the potential scheduling of regular meetings — will be brought forward following consultation with each relevant Department and interested Tidy Towns groups.

### **Q22/0525 Councillor F. Timmons**

To ask the Chief Executive for a detailed report into Tidy Towns groups funding as agreed by councillors in the annual Budget by each Tidy Town group and LEA, and that the report address any underspends in budget and how this will be addressed? (2019-2025 period)

**REPLY:**

An annual budget of €100,000 has been allocated for Tidy Town applications, with expenditure reviewed throughout the year. As the budget is classified as a Revenue Code, any residual funds at the end of the year cannot be carried forward to the next year and are reallocated to the Council’s general budget.

In 2019, €85,040 was expended. Subsequent years experienced reduced applications and spending due to Covid restrictions. Despite extensive promotion only two grants totaling €24,000 were awarded in 2022.

Subsequent years have seen an uptake in grant applications and funds allocated, a total of €98,574 was allocated in 2023.

South Dublin County Council acknowledges the critical role of Tidy Towns groups in enhancing towns, villages, and communities through volunteer-led efforts. These groups significantly contribute to environmental improvement, community engagement, and local pride. Effective communication with these groups remains a priority for SDCC. Currently, communication occurs through various sections such as Environmental Awareness, Public Realm, Roads, etc. However, a more structured approach would enhance collaboration and support the evolving needs of these groups.

To this end, the Council is actively considering regular county-wide LEA meetings with Tidy Towns groups. These meetings will serve as forums to share updates, discuss challenges, and coordinate support for issues such as waste management, storage, planting schemes, and grant funding.

Additionally, we are evaluating the use of digital platforms and email bulletins to provide consistent updates and facilitate ongoing communication throughout the year.

To support these initiatives, additional resources have been allocated to the Environmental Awareness team, which will work directly with Tidy Towns. The newly appointed Tidy Towns Liaison Officer has contacted all groups via email and is arranging formal meetings. The team aims to improve ongoing communication and promptly address emerging issues. Competitions are underway to fill the Environmental Awareness Officer vacancy and recruit a new Biodiversity Officer; both positions will also support Tidy Towns groups.

The below table outlines Tidy Towns expenditure from 2019 - 2024.

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
|   | **2019** | **2020** | **2021** | **2022** | **2023** | **2024** |
| Adamstown Big Tree Community | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 7,000 |
| Lucan Tidy Towns | 8,000 | 1,650 | 0 | 0 | 0 |  0 |
| Woodstown Tidy Towns | 10,500 | 0 | 7,000 | 0 | 2,000 | 2,000 |
| Templogue Tidy Towns | 0 | 5,000 | 0 | 0 | 2,000 | 0 |
| Newcastle Tidy Towns | 10,840 | 5,000 | 7,000 | 12,000 | 10,500 | 14,000 |
| Palmerstown Meitheal Tidy Towns | 7,660 | 5,000 | 6,000 | 0 | 2,000 | 0 |
| Brittas Tidy Towns | 4,644 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Ballyboden Tidy Towns | 2,000 | 5,000 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Rathcoole Tidy Towns | 16,206 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 2,750 | 2,335 |
| Tallaght Community Council | 0 | 0 | 1,000 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Tallaght Tidy Towns | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 16,554 | 1,615 |
| Cherrywood Tidy Towns | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 2,000 |
| Clondalkin Tidy Towns | 4,500 | 5,000 | 0 | 0 | 23,261 | 11,575 |
| Clondalkin Tidy Towns | 20,690 | 0 | 0 | 12,000 | 0 | 0 |
| Clondalkin Tidy Towns | 0 | 0 | 7,000 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Saggart Tidy Towns | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 6,715 | 4,000 |
| Tymon North & St Aongus Tidy Towns | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 6,020 | 2,000 |
| Rathfarnham Village Tidy Towns | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 15,000 | 22,500 |
| Knocklyon Network | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 3,534 |
| Repair Café | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 4,640 | 0 |
| Other Grants (Webinars, equipment, etc.) | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 7,134 | 0 |
|   | **€85,040** | **€26,650** | **€28,000** | **€24,000** | **€98,574** | **€72,559** |

### **H6/0525 DECLARATION OF ROADS TO BE MADE PUBLIC ROADS**

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

### **H7/0525 PROPOSED DISPOSAL OF PROPERTIES/SITES - FOR APPROVAL**

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

1. Disposal of fee simple in 9 Rathlawns, Rathcoole, Co. Dublin

It was proposed by Councillor Baby Pereppadan, seconded by Councillor E. Murphy and **RESOLVED:**

That, the disposal of fee simple in 9 Rathlawns, Rathcoole, Co. Dublin be **ADOPTED** and **APPROVED.**

### **H8/0525 CHIEF EXECUTIVE'S REPORT - FOR NOTING**

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

[HI 8 a) Chief Executive's Report - May 2025](https://meetings.southdublin.ie/Home/ViewReply/86183)
[HI 8 b) Statistics Report](https://meetings.southdublin.ie/Home/ViewReply/86175)
[HI 8 c) Finance Report](https://meetings.southdublin.ie/Home/ViewReply/86171)

The reports were **NOTED**.

### **H9/0525 HOUSING DELIVERY - FOR NOTING**

The following report by the Chief Executive, which had been circulated, was presented by Ms. E. Leech, Director for Housing and Community Development and was **CONDSIDERED.**

[HI-9 Housing Delivery Update](https://meetings.southdublin.ie/Home/ViewReply/86136)

A discussion followed with contributions from Councillors F. Timmons, D. Adelaide, M. Johansson, J. Tuffy, P. Holohan, R. McMahon, P. Cosgrave, E. Ó Broin, J. Sinnott and H. Farrell with queries on meetings with councillors, expressions of interest, Tenant In Situ Scheme, percentages of social housing, social housing allocation, breakdowns of the 772 homes from 2024, lands in Ballycullen and vacant property plans.

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

The report was **NOTED**.

### **H10/0525 COMMUNITY & SPORTS DEVELOPMENT GRANTS - FOR NOTING**

The following report by the Chief Executive, which had been circulated, was presented by Ms. E. Leech, Director for Housing and Community Development and was **CONDSIDERED.**

**REPLY:**

 The online rolling application process provides community and voluntary groups who are responding to locally identified needs within their communities with the opportunity to apply for assistance from the Council under the following categories:

* Community Development Grants
* Community Events Funding
* Sports Development Grants

Applications are assessed by the Community Development Team under the following criteria:

* Impact on local community and local community involvement.
* Proven track record of project delivery and non-duplication of activities in the local area.
* Sustainable and value for money projects with clear/accurate costings.
* Existing funds available to the group/alternative funding sources.

Following the assessment process and having regard to the available budget **39** grants totalling **€65,491.00** were approved for **33** local groups summarised as follows:

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Category** | **No:** | **Amount** |
| Community Development Grants | 20 | €26,879.00 |
| Community Events Funding | 10 | €23,207.00 |
| Sports Development Grants | 9 | €15,405.00 |
| **Total** | **39** | **€65,491.00** |

The final list of approved grants together with their respective approved grant amounts is as follows:

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Name of Group** | **Funding Category Applied For** | **Sub-Category of Grant** | **Amount** |
| 103rd Dublin (Willington) Scout Group | Community Development Grant | Major Equipment | €4000.00 |
| 103rd Dublin (Willington) Scout Group | Community Development Grant | Running Costs | € 500.00 |
| 168th St. Aengus Tymon North Scout Group | Community Development Grant | Major Equipment | €4000.00 |
| Boden Wood Residents Association | Community Development Grant | Environmental Improvement | €452.00 |
| Boden Wood Residents Association | Community Development Grant | Running Costs | €280.00 |
| Brittas Community Association Limited | Community Development Grant | Environmental Improvement | €500.00 |
| Citywise Education | Community Development Grant | Community Centre IT Upgrade | €1000.00 |
| Clondalkin Youth Band | Community Development Grant | Running Costs | €802.00 |
| Dominics Active Ladies Club | Community Development Grant | Running Costs | €1000.00 |
| Dominics Ladies Crochet Group | Community Development Grant | Running Costs | €1000.00 |
| Fettercairn Community and Youth Centre | Community Development Grant | Minor Equipment | €2000.00 |
| Little Stars Arch Club | Community Development Grant | Minor Equipment | €2000.00 |
| Lucan South (180th) Scout Group (The Bush Scout & Community Centre) | Community Development Grant | Running Costs | €1000.00 |
| Rathcoole Bridge Club | Community Development Grant | Minor Equipment | €1480.00 |
| St. Judes Men's Shed Club | Community Development Grant | Running Costs | €915.00 |
| St. Judes Men's Shed Club | Community Development Grant | Major Equipment | €4000.00 |
| The Elder Heath & Elder Park Residents Association | Community Development Grant | Start Up | €500.00 |
| The Villagers Association | Community Development Grant | Running Costs | €800.00 |
| Woodview Heights Residents Association | Community Development Grant | Environmental Improvement | €500.00 |
| Woodview Heights Residents Association | Community Development Grant | Minor Equipment | €150.00 |
| Afro In Diaspora Centre | Community Events Funding | Africa Day Celebration | €3000.00 |
| Ballyboden St Endas GAA Club | Community Events Funding | Age Friendly Bealtaine Event | €300.00 |
| Bohernabreena Classic Car Show | Community Events Funding | Village / Community Festival | €7500.00 |
| Educate Congo Ireland | Community Events Funding | Village / Community Festival | €3000.00 |
| Glenasmole Community Association | Community Events Funding | Village / Community Festival | €2950.00 |
| Knockmitten Residents' Association | Community Events Funding | Family Fun Day | €3177.00 |
| Retired Active Men's Social (RAMs) | Community Events Funding | Easter Community Celebration | €200.00 |
| Retired Active Men's Social (RAMs) | Community Events Funding | Age Friendly Bealtaine Event | €150.00 |
| Retired Active Men's Social (RAMs) | Community Events Funding | Age Friendly Bealtaine Event | €130.00 |
| The Unforgettable Women’s Network - TUWN | Community Events Funding | Africa Day Celebration | €2800.00 |
| St Joseph's College | Sports Development Grants | Equipment | €4,000.00 |
| Edmonstown NS | Sports Development Grants | Equipment | €730.00 |
| An Cosan | Sports Development Grants | Equipment | €110.00 |
| Lucan South (180th) Scout Group | Sports Development Grants | Equipment | €375.00 |
| Scoil Chaitlin Maude | Sports Development Grants | Equipment | €890.00 |
| St Martin De Porres N.S. | Sports Development Grants | Equipment | €500.00 |
| Dublin City Hurricanes Baseball Club | Sports Development Grants | Equipment | €3,500.00 |
| Women’s Collective Ireland - Liffey Valley | Sports Development Grants | Programme Delivery | €300.00 |
| Gladiators Club | Sports Development Grants | Programme Delivery | €5,000.00 |

### The report was **NOTED.**

### **C1/0525 REPLIES, ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS & CORRESPONDENCE**

**Replies**

(a) Reply from Minister of Justice in relation to Motion 3 March 2025 Council Meeting

**Acknowledgements**

**Correspondence**

[(a) Reply from Minister Jim O'Callaghan in relation to Motion M30325 March 2025](https://meetings.southdublin.ie/Home/ViewReply/85976)
[(b)(i) Correspondence from Minister Norma Foley](https://meetings.southdublin.ie/Home/ViewReply/85972)
[(b)(ii) Report On Negotiations With Religious Organisations Associated With The Mother And Baby Institutions Payment Scheme Part I](https://meetings.southdublin.ie/Home/ViewReply/85973)
[(c) Sligo County Council Motion regarding the Right to Housing](https://meetings.southdublin.ie/Home/ViewReply/85974)

### **M1/0525 Intrusive Behaviour of Foxes**

 As Councillor W. Carey was not present at the meeting, the motion **FELL**.

That this Council agrees that South Dublin County Council shall develop a policy for dealing with intrusive behaviour of foxes and other wildlife.

### **M2/0525 Housing Unit Allocation**

Proposed by Councillor K. Keane and seconded by Councillor L. Dunne

This Council agrees to implement a system of allocating units from the current housing stock to victims of domestic violence leaving short term refuges, ensuring they do not end up in emergency accommodation.

**REPORT:**

South Dublin County Council do not have a direct role in providing accommodation for victims of domestic violence. Cuan is the new statutory agency under the remit of the Department of Justice dedicated to tackling and reducing domestic, sexual and gender-based violence (DSGBV). The Council remains committed to working fully with all relevant agencies and partners in responding to the needs of victims of domestic violence, within our budgetary and statutory abilities.

A comprehensive review of our Allocations Scheme is due to commence in consultation with the Housing SPC which will include consideration of priority categories for exceptional circumstances.

A discussion followed with contributions from Councillors F. Timmons, N. Whelan, L. Dunne, D. Adelaide, M. Johansson, J. Sheehy, J. Spear, P. Holohan, H. Farrell, E. Ó Broin and L. O’Toole who all spoke in favour of the motion.

Ms. E. Leech, Director for Housing and Community Development addressed the members following the debate.

The motion was **AGREED**.

### **M3/0525 Small Playgrounds**

Proposed by Councillor E. Ó Broin seconded by Councillor H. Farrell.

This Council agrees to create a programme for the installation of small playgrounds in housing estates that want them.

**REPORT:**

South Dublin County Council completed its playspace programme in 2019 following an investment of almost €3 million. This programme was designed to address the deficiency of play opportunities in the immediate environment of children’s homes. It was an innovative programme based on encouraging children into the outdoors to engage in active, imaginative, constructive and social play. The playspaces are designed to adapt to the particular place where they are installed. They focus on creating appropriate settings for play (rather than equipment for children to play with); are located where children live, with the emphasis on natural playspaces; which focus on the type of play that is most important to younger children. The Council's programme was in response to the recognition that play is a very important issue, impacting the health and wellbeing of children growing up in this county. The programme resulted in a significant increase in play provision across the county and within parks and open spaces, playgrounds and natural playspaces now number 63 in total across the county.

Subsequent to the delivery of SDCC's own playspace programme programme and based on the experience derived from it, South Dublin County Council implemented additional, new policies within the County Development Plan to ensure that natural playspaces are provided in tandem with the delivery of residential areas in the current development cycle. These policies are delivering playspaces at pace, close to homes across the county, in tandem with the development of new residential areas.

Public Realm have already initiated work on developing a new play policy, integrating the experience gained during the play space programme and this process will also gather data reflecting the current level of play provision across the county. This includes reviewing the facilities developed as part of the previous play space programme and the significant number of play areas that have been developed as part of new housing developments in the county. In addition, Active South Dublin is also conducting a review of recreational amenities throughout the county, and the findings from this will be integrated into the report on play spaces. Once this analysis is complete it can inform any new play space programme, to ensure that any future installations meet the needs of the community effectively.

A discussion followed with contributions from Councillors F. Timmons, J. Spear, J. Tuffy, J. Sinnott, J. Sheehy, N. Fennell, P. Holohan, K. Keane, E. Murphy, N. Whelan and P. Kearns who spoke in favour of the motion.

Ms. T. Walsh, Director for Environment, Climate Change and Water addressed the Members following the debate.

The motion was **AGREED**.

### **M4/0525 Valid Notice To Quit**

Proposed by Councillor J. Spear, seconded by Councillor K. Keane.

This Council agrees that those in rented accommodation can apply for Homeless Housing Assistance Payment immediately after a valid notice to quit is issued.

**REPORT:**

The Homeless Housing Assistance Payment (HHAP) scheme is operated by the Dublin Region Homeless Executive (DRHE) on behalf of the Dublin local authorities. To qualify for HHAP under this scheme, a household must be accepted as homeless within the meaning of [**section 2 of the Housing Act 1988**](https://eur04.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.irishstatutebook.ie%2Feli%2F1988%2Fact%2F28%2Fsection%2F2%2Fenacted%2Fen%2Fhtml&amp;data=05%7C02%7Celeech%40SDUBLINCOCO.ie%7C1b40d07d374d43ae98a508dce6da3767%7C6a3c00c019d0492da8de95fad8fda1d4%7C0%7C0%7C638639072117033827%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C4000%7C%7C%7C&amp;sdata=ykig%2FUSCiv3NNEgv8gmMhJ4X3Qa5bR997J%2B%2Bu%2Bfv98o%3D&amp;reserved=0) by one of the four Dublin local authorities.

In accordance with DRHE guidelines, the Homeless Unit can approve households for HHAP, twelve weeks prior to their validated 'Notice to Quit' date. To expedite the Homeless HAP assessment process, applicants should submit their Notice of Termination and Threshold validation letter as soon as possible.

As this is a national policy, if agreed the motion would not be implementable by South Dublin County Council.

An amendment to the motion was proposed by Councillor M. Johansson, seconded by Councillor D. Adelaide.

“This Council agrees to write to Dublin Region Homeless Executive (DRHE) and urge them to allow those in rented accommodation to apply for Homeless Housing Assistance Payment immediately after a valid notice to quit is issued”

A discussion followed with contributions from Councillors J. Spear, M. Johansson, and E. Murphy who queried the validity of the amendment.

Councillor M. Johansson withdrew her amendment, seconded by Councillor A. Edge.

Councillor E. Murphy proposed a second amendment, seconded by Councillor Y. Collins.

“That this Council agrees to write to the DRHE and urge them to allow those in rented accommodation who are entitled to apply for Homeless HAP can do so immediately after a valid notice to quit.”

The amended motion was **AGREED**.

### **M5/0525 Exercise Machines**

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

This Council agrees to have accessible, user-friendly exercise machines, not just calisthenics, in all our county parks, to ensure inclusive and diverse ways of exercise for all people within our county.

**REPORT:**

South Dublin County Council is committed to providing accessible, user-friendly exercise opportunities in our parks, ensuring that people of all ages and abilities can engage in physical activity. The Councils approach is guided by the 7 Principles of Universal Design, ensuring that outdoor fitness equipment is inclusive, adaptable, and easy to use for all individuals, regardless of ability or experience. As a signatory to the Barcelona Declaration, SDCC actively works towards removing barriers and promoting inclusivity in public spaces. This commitment was recognised in 2024 when the Council received a Special Mention Award at the  EU Access City Awards for its accessible play spaces which are designed with the same principles as its exercise equipment.

The Council has 25 outdoor exercise locations across the county, including 17 age-friendly exercise stations and 9 calisthenics outdoor gym locations. The calisthenics units are universally accessible, featuring multiple bar heights, rings, and dip bars designed to accommodate users of different abilities, including wheelchair users. Their open design allows for easy manoeuvrability and the variety of equipment supports different fitness levels. The engineered woodchip surface is wheelchair-accessible, providing stability and safe access for all users.

To further support accessibility the Council has installed QR codes at all calisthenics locations which link back to demonstration videos on the Council’s website to help users learn how to use the equipment effectively or more efficiently.  [**Calisthenics - SDCC**](https://eur04.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.sdcc.ie%2Fen%2Fservices%2Fsport-and-recreation%2Fcalisthenics%2F&amp;data=05%7C02%7Cmeetingsadmin%40SDUBLINCOCO.ie%7C21ca8318fdba4fc318de08dd8efa973f%7C6a3c00c019d0492da8de95fad8fda1d4%7C0%7C0%7C638823929118338680%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJFbXB0eU1hcGkiOnRydWUsIlYiOiIwLjAuMDAwMCIsIlAiOiJXaW4zMiIsIkFOIjoiTWFpbCIsIldUIjoyfQ%3D%3D%7C0%7C%7C%7C&amp;sdata=59at7N%2FRIMSokwpmS7c3PeBKzThA1suUauNagRIDsbM%3D&amp;reserved=0)

Additionally, Active South Dublin runs year-round exercise programmes using community centres in winter and parks in warmer months to ensure continued participation in inclusive fitness activities. [**Active South Dublin - SDCC**](https://eur04.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.sdcc.ie%2Fen%2Factivesouthdublin%2F&amp;data=05%7C02%7Cmeetingsadmin%40SDUBLINCOCO.ie%7C21ca8318fdba4fc318de08dd8efa973f%7C6a3c00c019d0492da8de95fad8fda1d4%7C0%7C0%7C638823929118360358%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJFbXB0eU1hcGkiOnRydWUsIlYiOiIwLjAuMDAwMCIsIlAiOiJXaW4zMiIsIkFOIjoiTWFpbCIsIldUIjoyfQ%3D%3D%7C0%7C%7C%7C&amp;sdata=QiE39AMnHTbUxO5QOlYW02S%2BaUN2cWtTPbgarwvvtW8%3D&amp;reserved=0)

The age-friendly exercise equipment mentioned above offers low-impact exercise options in our parks supporting older adults in maintaining mobility, health, and social engagement. Age friendly seating has also been installed in various locations especially at boules courts where demand was identified.

The Council is currently examining the possibility of installing adjustable resistance outdoor gym equipment to enhance inclusive and diverse exercise opportunities in parks. Additionally, where parks are being upgraded or developed, the Council will consider providing accessible exercise equipment in line with the community's needs and requirements.

List of locations below for age-friendly exercise equipment locations:

|  |
| --- |
| Location |
| Waterstown Park |
| Ballymount |
| Kingswood |
| Tymon North |
| Tymon (Willington) |
| Beechfield |
| Glendown |
| Rathcoole Park |
| Griffeen Valley Park (Griffeen Ave) |
| Griffeen Valley Park |
| Hermitage Park |
| Mount Andrew Park |
| Corkagh Park |
| Corkagh Park (Green Isle) |
| Greenhills |
| Airlie Park |
| Tandys Lane |

List below for calisthenics outdoor gym locations:

|  |
| --- |
| Location |
| Tymon (Limekiln) Park |
| Ballycragh Park |
| Griffeen Valley Park |
| Balgaddy |
| Knockmitten |
| Clondalkin Park |
| Quarryvale Park |
| Collinstown Park |
| Jobstown Park |

A discussion followed with contributions from Councillors E. Ó Broin, N. Whelan, J. Spear, H. Farrell, J. Sheehy, M. Johansson, E. Murphy and L. O’Toole who spoke in favour of the motion.

Councillors P. Holohan and V. Casserly highlighted that the current calisthenic equipment is user friendly for all ages and abilities.

Ms. T. Walsh, Director for Environment, Climate Change and Water addressed the Members following the debate.

The motion was **AGREED**.

### **M6/0525 EV Charging**

Proposed by Councillor C. Brady, seconded by Councillor B. Lawlor and **MOVED** without debate.

That this council calls on the Chief Executive to accelerate the delivery of EV charging infrastructure for all new apartment developments across the county where residents have no access to direct frontage.

**REPORT:**

The Dublin Local Authority Electric Vehicle Charging Strategy, published in June 2022, is a comprehensive report, setting out a coordinated approach to deploy EV charging infrastructure within the four Dublin Local Authorities (LAs), to cater for the estimated 138,000 EV’s owned and operating within the Dublin region by 2030. Approximately 75% of EV’s will be predominately charged at the vehicle owners’ residential driveway. The strategy focuses on identifying the appropriate EV charging infrastructure required to support the remaining 25% of EV owners without access to private driveways, across five key areas.

1. Home charging – vehicle charged at the owners’ driveway/garage/shared carpark, typically overnight, with slow chargers (3-7kw).
2. Neighbourhood charging – vehicle charged near owners’ home who do not have off street parking, typically overnight, with slow to fast charging (7-22kw).
3. 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).
4. 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).
5. 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).

The strategy identifies that there is no single charging solution for EV users and that it’s important to deliver sufficient charge points of different types and locations, to ensure each user can charge in a convenient, energy-efficient, and cost-effective manner. The Department of Transport, through the office of Zero Emission Vehicles Ireland (ZEVI), has established a dedicated office charged with supporting consumers, the public sector and businesses to make the switch to zero emission vehicles. The Office leads on the delivery of Ireland’s ambitious targets under the Climate Action Plan. Responsibility for the delivery of the infrastructure will depend on charger type, location and target consumer, with work undertaken by the appropriate parties, including residents, owner management companies’, commercial/private landlords, housing bodies, local authorities and private sector.

In relation to the provision of EV charging in public carparks, the four DLA’s, supported by ZEVI, are working together to actively deliver the objectives of the Dublin Local Authority Electric Vehicle Charging Strategy. In 2024, procurement was completed for a 10-year concession framework agreement, for the appointment of ePower (EV Charge Point Operator) for the design, installation and operation of destination charge points across the county of Dublin. An initial 50 locations identified, of which 14 located within SDCC administrative area, will see EV Fast Chargers (typically 25kw+) installed across the Dublin region in 2025. The sites are in council owned/managed parking areas, typically parks, libraries, council offices, leisure centres and neighbourhood district centres, allowing users of the facilities and local residents access to convenient fast charging. The council will continue to expand the EV charging network in line with the strategy and are identifying additional sites and completing surveys to ensure the appropriate level of infrastructure is in place. Further procurement competitions are planned to allow for the appointment of Neighbourhood EV charge point operator(s) (7-22kw) for areas of shared parking within housing developments that are in the charge of the council.

In the case of apartments and multi-unit developments with shared residents parking, operated by a landlord and or an owner’s management company (OMC), ZEVI, through SEAI, operate the “EV Apartment Charger Grant”. The grant provides financial assistance for the provision of shared EV charging in communal areas whilst ensuring compliance with the Electricity Regulation Act (ERA) 1999. Specific to EV charging and shared parking, the Act prevents individual homeowners installing an electrical supply for EV Charging outside the curtilage of their property. The grant potentially will covering up to 80% of the installation costs with some costs being absorbed by a Charge Point Operator (CPO). The grant process recommends the OMC to partner with an SEAI approved operator who will provide the necessary quotations and technical guidance on the best solution. Once the installation is complete, the operator will be responsible for managing the billing systems and maintenance of the infrastructure. Full details of the grant are available on SEAI website.

([**https://www.seai.ie/grants/electric-vehicle-grants/electric-vehicle-charging/apartment-charging-grant**](https://www.seai.ie/grants/electric-vehicle-grants/electric-vehicle-charging/apartment-charging-grant))

For new developments, as part of the statutory planning process, the councils standard planning conditions for parking associated with apartments and multi-dwellings unit requires a minimum of 20% of the car parking spaces to be provided with electrical connection points, to allow for functional electric vehicle charging on occupation of the development. The remaining car parking spaces must be fitted with ducting for electric connection points to allow for future fit out of EV charging points.  The owners’ management company should engage with SEAI and approved EV Charge Point Operator for the continued operation and possible future expansion of the network.

As per the Dublin Local Authority Electric Vehicle Charging Strategy, there are multiple avenues for the successful delivery of the convenient, energy-efficient, and cost-effective EV charging infrastructure. The council will continue to work to identify suitable locations in its ownership for EV charging and accelerate the delivery where power supply is available, and demand requires it. The council is available to assist and advise owner management companies and other community groups, in order to maximise the potential of available grants for the provision of EV charging within the county.

### **M7/0525 Assisting HSE Advertisement Campaigns**

Proposed by Councillor G. Moore seconded by Councillor L. de Courcy

That this Council agrees to promote and assist the HSE's advertisement campaigns around sexuality transmitted infections specifically promoting free home STI testing kits to help divert the weight off clinics and hospitals. "You, Me and HIV" and "Just Carry One" are examples of their ongoing efforts and initiatives

**REPORT:**

If the motion is agreed, the council will contact the HSE's communications team directly to support their awareness campaigns around sexually transmitted infections. The council will request assets and content to share across our own channels in parallel with the HSE.

An amendment to the motion was proposed by Councillor A. Edge, seconded by Councillor F. Timmons.

“That this Council agrees to promote and assist the HSE's advertisement campaigns around sexuality transmitted infections specifically promoting free home STI testing kits to help divert the weight off clinics and hospitals, promoting access to PrEp and also providing information about trans-inclusive sexual health services. ‘’You, Me and HIV" and "Just Carry One" are examples of their ongoing efforts and initiatives.”

A discussion followed with contributions from Councillors G. Moore, A. Edge who spoke on the original motion and amendment.

A further discussion followed with contributions from Councillors M. Duff, P. Kearns, J. Sheehy, E. Murphy, L. Dunne, D. Adelaide and J. Spear, L. de Courcy, P. Holohan, P. Cosgrave, L. O’Toole, J. Tuffy and F. Timmons.

The Mayor, Councillor Baby Pereppadan suspended the meeting at 18:34.

Meeting resumed at 18:54

Following a review of the amendment Councillor A. Edge withdrew his amendment and made clear his support for his intended amendment.

The withdrawal was seconded by Councillor L. Dunne.

The motion was **AGREED.**

**Motions moved without Debate:**

### **M12/0525 Market Disruptions**

Proposed by Councillor H. Farrell, seconded by Councillor F. Timmons and **MOVED** without debate.

This Council agrees to undertake a review of the preparedness of current South Dublin County Council plans and policies to potential market disruptions to businesses in the county. The review should identify existing support mechanisms available to businesses and determine any additional resources that may be required by SDCC to assist businesses during future periods of economic instability.

**REPORT:**

The Council has just embarked on the preparation of a new Economic Strategy for the County and as part of this process it will examine all relevant plans and policies to ensure that they provide a robust footing to assist businesses in the County in both the short-term and long-term. Allied to this, the Economic Strategy will also review existing support mechanisms to ensure that the appropriate measures are in place to support existing businesses and future investment in the County.

In addition to the above, the Council will actively engage with Enterprise Ireland, the IDA, the Department of Enterprise, Trade and Employment, as well as Failte Ireland as part of the delivery of its services and implementation of its plans, including the Dublin Regional Enterprise Plan, the County Development Plan, the LECP and South Dublin’s Tourism Strategy to ensure that businesses are best supported on foot of any future governmental advice, measures and supports in response to both macro and micro economic changes. This will be supported by continuous engagement with South Dublin Chamber and local businesses to ensure that the Council is aware of any issues that arise amongst local enterprise and appropriate measures can be put in place to address areas of concern during any periods of economic instability.

### **M15/0525 Large Scale Art Initiatives**

Proposed by Councillor L. Dunne, seconded by Councillor F. Timmons and **MOVED** without debate.

That this Council acknowledges the cultural, economic, and social benefits of large-scale street art initiatives, as demonstrated by the success of Waterford Walls & Hit the North Street art festivals and proposes the development of a similar project in South Dublin.

**REPORT:**

The Arts Office is supportive of the principle of such a proposal and are proposing an artist-led approach to the research and development of a new street arts initiative, with a strong emphasis on participation, inclusivity, and meaningful public engagement. We fully acknowledge the cultural, social, and community value that street art brings to public spaces, and we are interested in looking at the potential to cultivate a dynamic, well-curated initiative within South Dublin.

Drawing inspiration from successful models such as *Waterford Walls* and *Hit the North* in Belfast, it is evident that impactful street art programmes are built on a foundation of dedicated resources, a compelling and coherent artistic vision, and long-term, sustainable funding. Both of these projects have evolved significantly over time, growing from modest beginnings into landmark cultural events with strong local and national recognition.

In light of this, we recommend commencing with a focused research and development phase that will ensure a high-quality, context-specific approach. It would also provide a valuable opportunity to shape the identity and framework of the initiative in collaboration with stakeholders, and setting the groundwork for a programme that is both impactful and enduring. In setting the extent of any programme proposed will then inform revenue budget and resource requirements for rolling out such an initiative.

### **M20/0525 Tidy Towns Groups**

Proposed by Councillor F. Timmons, seconded by Councillor R. McMahon and **MOVED** without debate.

That this Council facilitates regular meetings between Tidy Towns groups, to share ideas and suggestions that will help groups in the Tidy Towns competition.

**REPORT:**

South Dublin County Council fully recognises the vital role that Tidy Towns groups play in enhancing our towns, villages, and communities. These volunteer-led groups contribute significantly to environmental improvement, community engagement, and local pride. Ensuring clear and consistent communication with these groups is a priority for SDCC.

At present, communication with Tidy Towns groups takes place through a number of different sections such as the Environmental Awareness section, Public Realm, Roads section etc. However, we acknowledge that a more structured and regularised approach would help strengthen collaboration and support the evolving needs of these groups.

To that end, the Council is actively exploring the establishment of regular communication meetings with Tidy Towns groups on a county-wide LEA basis. These meetings will provide a forum to share updates, discuss challenges, and coordinate support on key issues such as waste management, storage, planting schemes, and grant funding.

We are also reviewing how digital platforms and email bulletins might be used to provide more consistent updates and facilitate two-way communication throughout the year.

To support this, additional resources have been allocated to the Environmental Awareness team, which will be working directly with Tidy Towns. The new Tidy Towns Liaison Officer has contacted all Tidy Towns groups by email and is arranging formal meetings with them. The team is examining ways to enhance ongoing communication and will address emerging issues promptly. Competitions are underway to fill the Environmental Awareness Officer vacancy and to recruit for the new post of Biodiversity Officer; both of these positions will also support Tidy Towns groups.

A Tidy Towns Communications Strategy will be developed in conjunction with the Tidy Towns groups and the relevant sections of the council.

***Meeting ended at 19:00.***

**Motions Not Reached:**

### **M8/0525 Hormone Replacement Therapy**

Councillor L. O'Toole

This Council calls on the Minister for Health to immediately establish a reimbursement system for all Hormone Replacement Therapy (HRT) costs incurred since January 2025. The Government must honour its commitment and ensure women receive the financial relief they were promised in the Budget 2024.

### **M9/0525 Solid Fuel Stoves**

Councillor D. Donnelly

That this Council writes to the Minister for Housing seeking to come up with a solution or grant to allow people to install a solid fuel stove, upgrade their fireplace to avail of a back boiler stove, or even an open fire.

### **M10/0525 Community Group Insurance**

Councillor B. Lawlor

That South Dublin County Council, in association with the Department of Housing and Local Government and Planning, put in place a system of covering insurance for Tidy Towns, Men's Sheds & community groups through our public bodies insurer IPB.

### **M11/0525 Irish Unity**

Councillor N. Whelan

This Council calls on the Minister for Foreign Affairs and the Irish Government to plan and prepare for Irish unity by establishing an all-island Citizens' Assembly and a Joint Oireachtas Committee on Irish Unity, with a view to producing a plan toward unity and working to secure a date for the referendums provided for in the Good Friday Agreement.

### **M13/0525 Trade Union Recognition**

Councillor M. Johansson

That the elected members of this council call on the Chief Executive to recognise all trade unions that staff choose to join, including in instances where staff have left one union and joined another while in the same job.

### **M14/0525 Tenant-In-Situ Scheme**

Councillor R. Mannion

This Council calls on the Department of Housing to reverse any reductions in funding or targets for the Tenant-in-Situ scheme, as well as the introduction of restrictions that will force more people into homelessness.

### **M16/0525 Memorandums of Understanding**

Councillor J. Sinnott

This Council seeks memorandums of understanding with external bodies such as the ESB and NTA, to ensure that graffiti is removed by a certain timeframe, and those bodies take the issue of graffiti removal seriously and commit to providing resources to address graffiti.

### **M17/0525 Active Travel Schemes**

Councillor M. Duff

That this Council calls on the Manager to ensure that future or planned Active Travel Schemes, not yet at the Consultation stage, be it Part 8 or Section 38, involve discussions with the Council's Community Department officers, to better connect with Residents Associations or established groups, in areas of proposed works.

### **M18/0525 Windows and Doors Scheme**

Councillor E. Murphy

That the Chief Executive extends the windows and doors scheme to tenants who have, at their own cost, replaced their windows and doors during the period of their tenancy.

### **M19/0525 Glyphosate**

Councillor D. Adelaide

That this council stops the use of glyphosate by council workers and contractors

### **M21/0525 EU Commission against Hungary**

Councillor A. Edge

In the wake of Hungary's constitutional amendment denying the rights to expression, assembly and non-discrimination to LGBTQ+ citizens and associated draconian surveillance measures, that this Council calls on Ireland's MEPs to push for sanctions and infringement proceedings by the EU Commission against Hungary.

### **M22/0525 IPAS Regulations**

Councillor P. Holohan

That this Council calls on the Minister for Housing, Local Government and Heritage and the Minister for Children, Equality, Disability, Integration and Youth to urgently review the planning and legislative framework used for the development of International Protection Accommodation (IPA) centres, particularly those established under emergency planning exemptions in accordance with S.I. No 376/2023 - Planning and Development (Exempted Development) (No. 4) Regulations 2023 in exercise of powers conferred by Sections 4(2) and 262 of the Planning and Development Act 2000, to ensure that, going forward, the siting of IPA centres involves transparent engagement with local authorities, democratic input from elected councillors, and meaningful public consultation.