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

Minutes of South Dublin County Council Clondalkin, Newcastle, Rathcoole, Saggart and Brittas Area Committee Meeting dealing with Corporate Support, Performance & Change Management, Environment, Water & Drainage, Public Realm, Housing, Community, Transportation, Planning, Economic Development and Libraries & Arts held on Wednesday 18th June 2025.

### **COUNCILLORS PRESENT**

Councillor Darragh Adelaide Councillor William Joseph Carey

Councillor Linda de Courcy

Councillor Trevor Gilligan

 Councillor Eoin Ó Broin

 Councillor Shirley O’Hara

 Councillor Francis Timmons

**Apologies:**

Cathaoirleach, Councillor Shirley O’Hara presided.

### **OFFICIALS PRESENT**

Senior Executive Officer Ms. Sharon Conroy,

Senior Executive Parks Superintendent Mr. David Fennell

Senior Planner Ms. Hazel Craigie

Senior Executive Engineer Mr. Andrew O’Mullane

Administrative Officer Ms. Barbara Reilly, Mr. Ralph McGarry, Ms. Maria Nugent

Road Safety Officer Ms. Orlaith Maguire

Executive Librarian (Senior Librarian) Ms. Aoife Horan

Area Community Officer Ms. Aoife Troy

Local Sports Co-ordinator Mr. Thomas McDermott

Senior Staff Officer Mr. John Savage

Assistant Staff Officer Ms. Róisín Ralph

Assistant Staff Officer Ms. Ciara O’Neil

Clerical Officer Ms. Jennifer Murphy

### **C/281/25 – H1 Item ID:87532 – Confirmation and Re-affirmation of Minutes of Meeting Held on 21st May 2025**

The minutes of the May meeting of the Clondalkin, Newcastle, Rathcoole, Saggart and Brittas Area Committee meeting dealing with Libraries, Economic Development, Performance & Change Management, Corporate Support, Public Realm, Environment, Water & Drainage, Community, Housing, Planning and Transportation held on 21st May which had been circulated, were submitted and **APPROVED** as a true record and signed.

[Minutes of 21st May 2025.docx](http://intranet/cmas/documentsedit.aspx?id=87532&itemTxt=H-I1)

It was proposed by Councillor S. O’Hara, seconded by Councillor F. Timmons, and **RESOLVED:**

“That the recommendations contained in the minutes of 21st May be **ADOPTED** and **APPROVED.”**

**C/282/25 – QUESTIONS**

Questions 1-15 were proposed by Councillor S. O’Hara and seconded by Councillor F. Timmons:

“That pursuant to Standing Order 16, Questions 1 to 15 be **ADOPTED** and **APPROVED.”**

**Planning**

**C/283/25 – Q1 Item ID:87687 – Planning Enforcement - Boherboy**

Proposed by Councillor Eoin Ó Broin.

To ask the Chief Executive for an update on planning enforcement case SDCC V Boherboy Properties ltd, SJM Properties, Brigid Wall and Ann Connors?

**REPLY:**  This planning enforcement case remains before the courts, and has been adjourned to 18th July 2025 for mention.

**C/284/25 – Q2 Item ID:87689 – Report on proposal for housing and school on Rathcoole site**

Proposed by Councillor W. Carey

To ask the Chief Executive if this committee can receive a report on proposal for housing and school on Rathcoole site.

**REPLY:**  Planning application (SD23A/0336) for a school off Coolamber Drive Rathcoole was granted permission by SDCC in December 2024. This decision was subject to a third-party appeal. An Board Pleanala (ABP-321696-25) upheld the decision of SDCC to grant permission in May 2025. The related reports are publicly available on the planning portal. The enquiry in relation to any potential housing proposals to adjoining lands is best addressed to the housing section, as any related proposals would likely be in the form of a Part 8 applications proposed by that Section, as subject lands are owned by SDCC.

**C/285/25 – H2 Item ID:87527 – New Works**

(No Business)

**C/286/25 – C1 Item ID:87514 – Correspondence**

(No Business)

**C/287/25 – M1 Item ID: 87692 – Vape Shops, in the centre of our villages and close to schools.**

Proposed by Councillor W. Carey and seconded by Councillor F. Timmons.

That this Area Committee agrees that the proliferation of "Vape Shops", in the centre of our villages and close to schools, is an undesirable development in our communities and therefore calls for the banning of these shops within a distance of 500 metres.

The following report by the Chief Executive which had been circulated was **READ:**

Planning application decisions are taken based on the County Development Plan 2022-2028 and any relevant local area plans, no policy is contained within these documents in relation to vape shops.

It is important to note that even if such policy were to be incorporated into the policy framework it would have very limited effect on the ground. This is because shops benefit from significant exemptions under the Planning and Development Regulations 2001 (as amended). This means a wide range of commercial and retail premises in our villages and communities could be changed to vape shops without planning permission. This makes the planning system unsuited to the management of vape shops.

For example, it is possible to change the use of one type of shop to another, without planning permission (Article 10). It is also possible to change use from a wide range of commercial uses (e.g. restaurant, public house, betting office, car showroom, funeral home, arcade) to use as a shop (including vape shop) without planning permission (Article 6, Class 14). In addition, the term shop is widely also defined under the Planning and Development Regulations (2001) as amended and includes such uses as hairdresser, dry-cleaner, post office etc (Article 5).

A discussion followed with contributions from Councillors W. Carey, F. Timmons, L. de Courcy, E. Ó Broin and T. Gilligan.

Ms. Hazel Craigie, Senior Planner responded to the members queries, and the motion was **AGREED.**

**Transportation**

**C/288/25 – Q3 Item ID:87370 – Traffic Study for Rathcoole, Saggart and Newcastle**

Proposed by Councillor F. Timmons

To ask the Chief Executive has there been any update on the traffic study for Rathcoole, Newcastle and Saggart?

**REPLY:**  The objective to carry out a traffic study for Rathcoole, Newcastle and Saggart is in the County Development Plan 2022-2028.

I attach an extract of that objective below:

"SM6 SLO 1: To investigate the need to carry out a traffic and transport study for Rathcoole, Saggart and Newcastle and the surrounding areas following the publication of the GDA Strategy review to 2042 which will clarify the context within which the road network in the area will function and to include a review of HGV movement."

There has been little progress on the delivery of this objective due to resource constraints.  It is hoped to get a traffic study commenced by competent consultants by the end of 2025.

**C/289/25 – Q4 Item ID:87567 – New Nangor Road resurfacing.**

Proposed by Councillor F. Timmons

To ask the Chief Executive when is the New Nangor Road to be resurfaced and can the potholes not be filled in in the meantime?

**REPLY:**

Gas Networks are concluding their work over the coming weeks and following that a teleco company has a section of ducts to be laid on Nangor Road.

Once these works are completed the resurfacing of the road will be carried out.

It is envisaged that this will take place during July/August

**C/290/25 – Q5 Item ID:87580 – Taking in Charge Process.**

Proposed by Councillor S. O’Hara

To ask the Chief Executive to explain the 'Taking in Charge process' and what happens if a builder doesn't comply.

**REPLY:**

Taking in charge application process:

When a residential development is completed in accordance with all the conditions and particulars of the planning permission, the developer may make a written request to the Planning Department to have the estate taken in charge (roads and services). The application may be made using the Councils Taking in charge application form.

The developer will also be required to submit a letter of compliance from a Consulting Engineer stating that all Civil Engineering works have been carried out in accordance with the granted planning drawings and specification. If no drawings and specification exist, i.e. they were never submitted as part of the planning process, then the Consulting Engineer will be required to certify and state the standard to which all works have been constructed. A copy of the Consulting Engineers professional insurance indemnity certificate is also required.

Where required the developer will provide the required personnel to assist the local authority staff in checking the information supplied such as the ‘’ as constructed drawings’’ or inspecting the site as required. Where it is apparent that a developer, despite guidance provided, has offered services that are not to standard, the costs of inspection etc by Council staff to clarify works required to meet the taking in charge standard, may be charged to the developer’s security bond.

The required Taking in Charge Standards required for all public infrastructure are available at the following link address:   [**https://www.sdcc.ie/en/services/planning-building-control/bonds-taking-in-charge/completion/taking-in-charge-policy-standards/**](https://www.sdcc.ie/en/services/planning-building-control/bonds-taking-in-charge/completion/taking-in-charge-policy-standards/)

When all the quality and specification requirements be met, a recommendation is made by the Building Control Section to have the roads and services taken in charge. The statutory procedure for taking in charge is then put in place by the Roads Department, in accordance with Section 11 of the Roads Act 1993.  This will involve a statutory public consultation, a report on submissions and a final full Council decision on whether to take the roads and services in the housing estate into the Council's charge.

The developer has the option to not offer the roads and services in an estate for taking in charge.  These are often called gated estates and may remain private and managed privately by the developer or by an owner management company.

There is also an option for the residents to request a plebiscite vote under section 180 of Planning and Development Act 2000.
This requires councils to take in charge the roads and services of an estate once requested by a majority of homeowners if the estate was built under a planning permission that included public infrastructure.

**C/291/25 – Q6 Item ID:87674 – Footpath maintenance**

Proposed by Councillor E. Ó Broin.

To ask the Chief Executive if there have been any cases in the last two years in the Woodford/Knockmitten area of Clondalkin where contractors engaged under the footpath maintenance programme, have been asked to redo their work after work has been inspected by SDCC staff?

**REPLY:**

None of the footpaths laid in the last 2 years in Woodford/Knockmitten area have needed to be redone following post works inspections.

**C/292/25 – Q7 Item ID:87694 – Planned works on footpath outside Sacred Heart School**

Proposed by Councillor W. Carey.

To ask the Chief Executive if they will discuss alternative options for the planned works on footpath outside Sacred Heart School with Sruleen Residents Association and the school parents committee. They have expressed concerns about the viability of reinstating grass verge which is vulnerable to heavy footfall.

**REPLY:**

The re-instatement of the grass verge alongside the school is consistent with the layout along St. Johns Drive and will provide a better environmental benefit to the area while also providing a better buffer between pedestrians and the roadway. Heavy footfall at schools is tidal and the existing 1.8m wide footpath has sufficient width to accommodate the volume.

**C/293/25 – Q8 Item ID:87696 – Resurfacing of Nangor Rd.**

Proposed by Councillor W. Carey.

To ask the Chief Executive when we can expect resurfacing of Nangor Rd following the extensive works that took place over the past 12 months.

**REPLY:**

Gas Networks are concluding their work over the coming weeks and following that a teleco company has a section of ducts to be laid on Nangor Road.

Once these works are completed the resurfacing of the road will be carried out.

It is envisaged that this will take place during July/August

**C/294/25 – H3 Item ID:87529 – New Works**

(No Business)

**C/295/25 – H4 Item ID:87531 – Proposed Declaration of Roads to be Public Roads**

(No Business)

**C/296/25 – C2 Item ID:87516 – Correspondence**

(No Business)

**C/297/25 – M2 Item ID: 87681 – Gaelscoil na Camóige**

Proposed by Councillor E. Ó Broin and seconded by Councillor F. Timmons.

That this Area Committee agrees that a School Traffic Warden will be employed outside of Gaelscoil na Camóige, Clondalkin on all school days of the 2025-2026 school year.

The following report by the Chief Executive which had been circulated was **READ:**

School Wardens are appointed to dedicated school crossings to aid school children to safely cross the road to access schools.

There is a dedicated school crossing (Ref SC - 028) located at the pedestrian lights on Watery Lane, Clondalkin which serves children attending Gaelscoil na Camóige.

An appointment will be made to this crossing in time for the new academic year.

It should be noted that there is difficulty being experienced nationwide, in recruiting and retaining sufficient School Warden numbers.  As a result, going forward it is becoming necessary for all stakeholders to consider alternative options to ensure that primary school children cross public roads safely to get to school.

A discussion followed with contributions from Councillors E. Ó Broin, F. Timmons and T. Gilligan

Ms. Barbara O’Reilly, Administrative Officer & Orlaith Maguire Road Safety Officer responded to the members queries, and the motion was **AGREED.**

**Libraries & Arts**

**C/298/25 – H5 Item ID: 87519 – Library News & Events**

The following report was presented by Ms. A. Horan, Executive Librarian

[Library News & Events](http://intranet/cmas/documentsedit.aspx?id=86849&itemTxt=H-I13)

A discussion followed with contributions by Councillors S. O’Hara, F. Timmons and T. Gilligan.

Ms. A. Horan, Executive Librarian, responded to members queries and the report was **NOTED.**

**C/299/25 – H6 Item ID: 87525 – New Works.**

(No Business)

**C/300/25 – H7 Item ID: 87533 – Application for Arts grants.**

(No Business)

**C/301/25 – C3 Item ID: 87512 – Correspondence**

(No Business)

**Economic Development**

**C/302/25 – H8 Item ID: 87522 – New Works**

(No Business)

**C/303/25 – C4 Item ID: 87510 – Correspondence**

(No Business)

**C/304/25 – M3 Item ID: 87695 – Virtual Reality Tour of Round Tower**

Proposed by Councillor W. Carey and seconded by Councillor F. Timmons

That this Area Committee agrees that SDCC introduce "virtual reality" system to provide a tour of the Clondalkin Round Tower at Bru Chronain.

SDCC provides a dedicated mobile app that provides multilingual audio tour of Brú Chrónáin Round Tower Visitor Centre. The tour is available in five languages. This app is available free from the Apple App Store and the Google Play Store. This app compliments the free in – person guided tours provided by the Clann Chrónáin tour guiding group. There is no cover charge to enter the centre. The exhibition facilitates self-guiding too if the visitor so wishes.

The Council would be interested in exploring the option of developing a ‘virtual’ tour of the round tower in line with the virtual tours provided at the Council’s community centres.

It should be noted that the Round Tower at Brú Chrónáin is under the auspices of the Office of Public Works (OPW) and permission to explore this option would be a matter for them. The Round Tower is a protected structure and national monument, with the views to and from the tower integral to its protected status.

The Council has no role in the management and maintenance of this structure.

If the committee agrees, the Council will make contact with the OPW to explore this option.

A discussion followed with contributions from Councillors W. Carey, S. O’Hara, F. Timmons, T. Gilligan and E. Ó Broin.

Mr. Ralph McGarry, Administrative Officer responded to the members queries and the motion was **AGREED.**

**Performance & Change Management**

**C/305/25 – H9 Item ID: 87526 – New Works**

(No Business)

**C/306/25 – C5 Item ID: 87513 – Correspondence**

(No Business)

**Corporate Support**

**C/307/25 – Q9 Item ID:87684 – Christmas Lighting in Clondalkin.**

Proposed by Councillor E. Ó Broin.

To ask the Chief Executive for an update on the organisation of activities around the lighting of Clondalkin Christmas Tree in December 2025?

**REPLY:**

The Communications Unit is working with the County Promotion Unit to plan the Council’s Christmas events for 2025. In addition to the usual Christmas tree lighting in Tallaght, a bigger event is being planned at the Clondalkin Civic Offices.

The Clondalkin event will include several local carol singing groups, as requested. Both units are also looking into the possibility of setting up a Christmas market to go along with the tree lighting in Clondalkin.

**C/308/25 – H10 Item ID: 87521 – New Works**

(No Business)

**C/309/25 – C6 Item ID: 87509 – Correspondence**

(No Business)

**C/310/25 – M4 Item ID: 87487 – School Transport.**

Proposed by Councillor E. Ó Broin and seconded by Councillor F. Timmons

That this Area Committee agrees by writing to Bus Éireann, that Bus Éireann should allow pupils who availed of their school transport system to access the temporary building for Rathcoole Educate Together Primary School in City West, to also be able to avail of Bus Eireann school transport to attend their new school temporary building for 2025-2026 which is in Newcastle, Co. Dublin.

The following report by the Chief Executive which had been circulated was **READ:**

If the motion is agreed, a letter will issue to Bus Éireann as outlined above.

A discussion followed with a contribution from Councillor E. Ó Broin.

Ms. S. Conroy, Senior Executive Officer, responded to the members queries, and the motion was **AGREED.**

**C/311/25 – M5 Item ID: 87570 – Request for gate to be opened between Scoil Muire, Scoil Aine, Scoil Ide & St Josephs.**

Proposed by Councillor F. Timmons and seconded by Councillor S. O’Hara

That this Area Committee writes to the Principals and Chairpersons of Scoil Mhuire, Scoil Aine, Scoil Ide and St Josephs and request that the gate between Scoil Mhuire & Scoil Ide is reopened between 8.30-9.00am, 1.15-1.45pm & 2.15-2.45pm for the travel safety of students accessing all the schools.

The following report by the Chief Executive which had been circulated was **READ:**

If the motion is agreed, a letter will issue to Principals and Chairpersons of the schools as outlined above.

A discussion followed with contributions from Councillors F. Timmons, S. O’Hara, L. de Courcy, T. Gilligan, E. Ó Broin and W. Carey.

Ms. S. Conroy, Senior Executive Officer, responded to the members queries, and the motion was **AGREED.**

**C/312/25 – M6 Item ID: 87588 – Citywest Hotel – Gym & Swimming Pool.**

Proposed by Councillor F. Timmons and seconded by Councillor S. O’Hara

That this Area Committee agrees to write to the Minister and Taoiseach about the state purchase of the Citywest Hotel and request that there is a guarantee that the gym and swimming pool facilities remain open to the public after purchase and that the Government consider handing over part of Citywest grounds to the Council for a community benefit - facility gain.

The following report by the Chief Executive which had been circulated was **READ:**

If the motion is agreed, a letter will issue to the Minister and Taoiseach as outlined above.

A discussion followed with contributions from Councillors F. Timmons, S. O’Hara, L. de Courcy and W. Carey.

Ms. S. Conroy, Senior Executive Officer, responded to the members queries, and the motion was **AGREED.**

**Public Realm**

**C/313/25 – Q10 Item ID: 87485 – Locking the barriers in Corkagh Park carpark.**

Proposed by Councillor S. O’Hara.

To ask the Chief Executive to put in place formal arrangements for the locking of the barriers in the Corkagh Park carparks to prevent misuse of the amenity.

**REPLY:**

Arrangements are in place to lock the three car parks at Corkagh Park in line with park closing hours. For operational reasons, the car parks are closed in sequence. Some car parks therefore close in advance of the official closing time. Where the closing time varies from the official closing time, the earlier time is prominently displayed in the car park.

As part of the upgrade works taking place in Corkagh Park new gates will be erected at the St John and the Green Isle Road car parks. These gates will be automated. This will provide greater flexibility in relation to the opening and closing times of the car parks. It is also proposed to include the automation of the gate at the Outer Ring Road car park in the draft improvement works programme for 2026 which will be presented to area committee next January.

**C/314/25 – Q11 Item ID: 87623 – Preservation of Fairview Oil Mills and St Cuthberts Church.**

Proposed by Councillor F. Timmons.

To ask the Chief Executive to put in place formal arrangements for the locking of the barriers in the Corkagh Park carparks to prevent misuse of the amenity.

**REPLY:**

A Conservation Engineer has been engaged to carry out a detailed structural survey of the Oil Mill and to develop recommendations for works necessary to render the structure safe and secure. An initial report has been received with recommendations to carry out enabling works to allow for a more detailed survey. These enabling works are being progressed.

Once the structural survey report has been received it is proposed to tender for a specialist contractor to carry out works based on the report recommendations.

The complex nature of the structure and the large area that it covers will result in the project being phased over a number of years having regard the ecological constraints and availability of funding through the Built Heritage investment Scheme (BHIS) or the Historic Structures Fund (HSF) if applicable.

SDCC fully recognise the historic significance of the ruined Church of St Cuthbert’s and the important contribution it makes to the appreciation of local heritage. The site comprises the curtilage of three Protected Structures - St. Cuthbert’s Church (DU017-038001-), the associated graveyard (DU017-038002-), and the moated site (DU017-038003-). The three sites are also collectively entered as one in the Record of Protected Structures, ref RPS133. The protection and enhancement of these important features forms an integral part of the current upgrade proposals for the park. Given the sensitive nature of the archaeological site the following sequence of events were proposed:

* Vegetation clearance to allow for structural condition survey of the church and graveyard
* Detailed condition survey and assessment of church and graveyard
* Updated Archaeological Assessment

At present the works to the park are paused following serious anti social behaviour. The Council is currently in discussions with the contractor regarding return to site and completion of the works.

**C/315/25 – H11 Item ID: 87528 – New Works**

(No Business)

**C/316/25 – C7 Item ID: 87515 – Correspondence**

(No Business)

**C/317/25 – M7 Item ID: 87643 – Wheelchair accessible gates.**

In accordance with Standing Order No. 13, it was **AGREED** by the Cathaoirleach in consultation with the Members to vary the sequence of business and consider Motion 7 & Motion 11 in tandem with this item as they were of a similar subject matter.

Proposed by Councillor T. Gilligan and seconded by Councillor S. O’Hara.

That this Area Committee replaces the current gates around Corkagh Park, Cherrywood, etc, with wheelchair accessible gates.

The following report by the Chief Executive which had been circulated was **READ:**

The access into Corkagh Park at Cherrywood Crescent has been fitted with a vehicle control gate designed to provide universal access for pedestrians, wheelchairs and prams. The opening of the gate takes cognisance of wheelchair access requirements and is constructed in a manner that facilitates it while restricting access for unauthorised vehicles. While the gate is compliant for universal access it has been subject to a further review following representation on behalf of a resident who is experiencing difficulties accessing the park through this entrance.

SDCC would be amenable to modifying the current design to a 'chicane' type system to allow greater accessibility. Prior to carrying out a modification it should be noted that it may make the park more vulnerable to access by scramblers etc. Arrangements will be made to have the gate modified subject to the approval of this motion.

In relation to other universally accessible vehicle control gates around the park, there are no current proposal to replace or modify them.

A discussion followed with contributions from Councillors T. Gilligan, W. Carey and F. Timmons.

Mr. David Fennell, Senior Executive Parks Superintendent responded to the members queries, and the motion was **AGREED.**

**C/318/25 – M11 Item ID: 87693 – Corkagh Park carpark entrances. This motion was taken with M7.**

Proposed by Councillor W. Carey and seconded by Councillor F. Timmons.

That this Area Committee agrees that contractors working on Corkagh park improvements ensure that car park entrances are secured each evening to prevent access to vehicles after opening hours.

The following report by the Chief Executive which had been circulated was **READ:**

Arrangements are in place for the Park Rangers to lock the three car parks at Corkagh Park in line with park closing hours. For operational reasons, the car parks are closed in sequence. Some car parks therefore close in advance of the official closing time. Where the closing time varies from the official closing time, the earlier time is prominently displayed in the car park.

As part of the upgrade works taking place in Corkagh Park new gates will be erected at the St John and the Green Isle Road car parks. These gates will be automated. This will provide greater flexibility in relation to the opening and closing times of the car parks. It is also proposed to include the automation of the gate at the Outer Ring Road car park in the draft improvement works programme for 2026 which will be presented to area committee next January.

A discussion followed with contributions from Councillors T. Gilligan, W. Carey and F. Timmons.

Mr. David Fennell, Senior Executive Parks Superintendent responded to the members queries, and the motion was **AGREED.**

**C/319/25 – M8 Item ID: 87675 – “Happy to Chat” Bench.**

Proposed by Councillor E. Ó Broin and seconded by Councillor S. O’Hara.

That this Area Committee, as a small measure to build community and help with loneliness,  agrees that a bench in Clondalkin Village or Corkagh Park or in the garden of Brú Chrónáin will have a, 'Happy to Chat', sign attached. See examples of such signs and an online article on the background to the initiative. [**https://www.bbc.com/news/uk-wales-50000204**](https://www.bbc.com/news/uk-wales-50000204)

The following report by the Chief Executive which had been circulated was **READ:**

The Public Realm Section would be open to exploring the ‘Happy to Chat’ sign proposal for a bench in Corkagh Park. In doing so, the council needs to consider the needs of all park users and would not want to impose a ‘Happy to Chat’ requirement on benches that may be currently used by people who want quiet time for solace or reflection. Putting a ‘Happy to Chat’ sign on such a bench would be counterproductive.

There would need to be a demonstrated demand for such an initiative to consider the matter fully. If there is an interested group willing to take this on board by putting up temporary signs, they should contact the Public Realm Section to discuss the matter further.

A discussion followed with contributions from Councillors E. Ó Broin, S. O’Hara and F. Timmons.

Mr. David Fennell, Senior Executive Parks Superintendent responded to the members queries, and the motion was **AGREED.**

**C/320/25 – M9 Item ID: 87683 – Sensory Garden in Rathcoole Park.**

Proposed by Councillor E. Ó Broin and seconded by Councillor S. O’Hara.

That this Area Committee agrees that as part of the redevelopment of Rathcoole Park that a Sensory Garden be considered for the area nearest the Fitzmaurice Roundabout, that is to say the corner of the park opposite the entrance to Avoca, and thus add to the Dog Run which has been agreed and the Pump Track which is being considered.

The following report by the Chief Executive which had been circulated was **READ:**

Over the past two years South Dublin County Council has invested €60,000 in enhancing the two formal gardens in Rathcoole Park with a strong emphasis on biodiversity, pollinator-friendly planting and sensory elements. Two key areas were upgraded as part of this investment, the former rose garden near the Beechwood Lawns entrance and the Time Capsule Garden located at the pedestrian entrance off Fitzmaurice Road. These spaces now feature scented planting such as lavender, textured foliage and groundcovers to encourage tactile interaction, colourful seasonal planting to stimulate visual interest and quiet seating areas that support calm sensory experiences.

It should also be noted that public parks are by their nature sensory landscapes. When designing parks, playgrounds, and public realm areas the Council integrates sensory features into the layout and planting to create inclusive, engaging environments. These elements stimulate touch, sight, scent, and sound and ensure the park caters to a wide range of visitors. The Council will continue to incorporate sensory and inclusive design principles that enhance the experience for all users.

A discussion followed with a contribution from Councillor E. Ó Broin.

Mr. David Fennell, Senior Executive Parks Superintendent responded to the members queries, and the motion was **AGREED.**

**C/321/25 – M10 Item ID: 87691 – Kilmahuddrick/Kilcronan land.**

Proposed by Councillor W. Carey and seconded by Councillor F. Timmons.

That this Area Committee agrees that this council develop the area, traversed by overhead powerlines, between Kilmahuddrick Road. and Kilcronan Grove into a positive amenity for use by residents. This should be carried out in conjunction with residents’ representatives groups in the area.

The following report by the Chief Executive which had been circulated was **READ:**

The area in question is approximately 900 sq meters in size. It has a zoning objective RES in the County Development Plan 2022-2028 which is to ‘Protect and/or improve residential amenity’. An assessment will be carried you to determine the most appropriate use for the area. This assessment will have regard to the presence of services including the overhead power lines. The power lines in particular will place a burden on the land and will restrict the type of use that can be made of the land.

A report on the findings of the assessment including recommendations will be presented to the ACM in September.

A discussion followed with contributions from Councillors W. Carey, E. Ó Broin and F. Timmons.

Mr. David Fennell, Senior Executive Parks Superintendent responded to the members queries, and the motion was **AGREED.**

**Environment**

**C/322/25 – H12 Item ID: 87523 – New Works**

(No Business)

**C/323/25 – H13 Item ID: 87775 – Safe School Zones Programme**

The following report was presented by Mr. A. Mullane, Senior Executive Engineer.

[Safe School Zones Programme](http://intranet/Cmas/documentsedit.aspx?id=87775&itemTxt=H-I13)

A discussion followed with contributions by Councillors W. Carey and E. Ó Broin.

Mr. A. Mullane, Senior Executive Engineer, responded to members queries and the report was **NOTED.**

**C/324/25 – C8 Item ID: 87507 – Correspondence**

(No Business)

**Water & Drainage**

**C/325/25 – Q12 Item ID: 87688 – Update on Motion 7 October 2024**

Proposed by Councillor E. Ó Broin.

To ask the Chief Executive how Motion 7 from the October 2024 Clondalkin ACM has been followed up in terms of the water and drainage concerns raised?

**REPLY:**  SDCC met with the Property Owner in October 2025 to obtain access to the site. The SDCC Engineer also met with Residents at this time. SDCC carried out a follow up inspection and a preliminary survey of the site, which identified potential issues with the level of fill on the raised land.

The Property Owner installed a small land drain to the rear of the residents affected, but it has not appeared to fully address the issues.

A further meeting was held with the Property Owner on the 15th April 2025, where they provided confirmation to SDCC that they have engaged both an environmental consultant and a design consultant to address the issues associated with their lands and have committed to liaise with SDCC during the design process.

SDCC will continue to engage with the Property Owner and Residents.

**C/326/25 – H14 Item ID: 87530 – New Works**

(No Business)

**C/327/25 – C9 Item ID: 87517 – Correspondence**

(No Business)

**Community**

**C/328/25 – H15 Item ID: 87518 – Deputations for Noting**

The following report was presented by Ms. F. Keane, Administrative Officer and E. Clancy, Senior Executive Officer

[Deputations for Noting](http://intranet/Cmas/documentsedit.aspx?id=87518&itemTxt=H-I15)

The report was **NOTED.**

**C/329/25 – H16 Item ID: 87520 – New Works**

(No Business)

**C/330/25 – H17 Item ID: 87702 – Emerging Talent Bursary Scheme 2025**

The following report was presented by Mr. T. McDermott, Local Sports Co-Ordinator

 [Emerging Talent Bursary Scheme 2025](http://intranet/Cmas/documentsedit.aspx?id=87702&itemTxt=H-I17)

A discussion followed with contributions by Councillor E. Ó Broin.

Mr. T. McDermott, Local Sports Co-Ordinator, responded to members queries and the report was **NOTED.**

**C/331/25 – C10 Item ID: 87508 – Correspondence**

(No Business)

**C/332/25 – M12 Item ID: 87368 – Clondalkin Autism Friendly town committee.**

Proposed by Councillor F. Timons and seconded by Councillor S. O’Hara

That this Area Committee requests that SDCC work with Clondalkin Autism Friendly town committee in making Clondalkin an Autism friendly town.

The following report by the Chief Executive which had been circulated was **READ:**

Our community department welcomes the motion regarding collaboration with the Clondalkin Autism Friendly Town Committee. We recognise the importance of creating inclusive communities and would like to confirm our ambition for the entire administrative area to become autism friendly.

We have already engaged with subject matter experts to identify best practices and develop a comprehensive approach. Initially we will pilot the autism-friendly scheme in Templeogue. This pilot will allow us to assess the practicalities of implementation, gather key learnings, and refine the approach before extending the programme to other areas across the county, including Clondalkin.

We acknowledge the excellent work already undertaken by local groups such as the Clondalkin Autism Friendly Town Committee and look forward to building on these efforts. We are committed to working collaboratively with local communities, stakeholders, and advocacy organisations to ensure the initiative is inclusive, sustainable, and impactful.

By taking a phased and informed approach, we aim to create a more accessible and supportive environment for all residents, particularly those with autism, across South Dublin County.

A discussion followed with contributions from Councillors F. Timmons and W. Carey.

Ms. Aoife Troy, Area Community Officer, responded to the members queries, and the motion was **AGREED.**

**C/333/25 – M13 Item ID: 87565 – Anti Social Behaviour.**

Proposed by Councillor F. Timmons and seconded by Councillor S. O’Hara

That this Area Committee calls on SDCC to look at a Fund for a "breaking down barriers" initiative that would aim to tackle anti-social behaviour in Newcastle, Saggart, Rathcoole and Clondalkin and other areas in our county! And that SDCC liaise with An Garda Síochána on this initiative.

The following report by the Chief Executive which had been circulated was **READ:**

The Community Department, Interagency Section and Housing, Estate Management Section work closely with An Garda Síochána to address anti-social behaviour in the county and regularly attend the Newcastle, Saggart, Rathcoole, and Clondalkin Community Safety Forum and public meetings. These established partnerships provide a strong platform for the development and coordination of targeted initiatives to address anti-social behaviour.

In addition, SDCC is currently in the process of establishing the new Local Community Safety Partnership (LCSP), which will adopt a multi-agency, community-based approach to enhancing safety across the County. Once in place, the LCSP will be in a position to explore and identify suitable funding opportunities and programmes, such as the proposed “Breaking Down Barriers” initiative, aimed at tackling anti-social behaviour in Newcastle, Saggart, Rathcoole, Clondalkin, and other areas in the county.

The Council is committed to continuing its collaboration with An Garda Síochána and other stakeholders to support safer, more inclusive communities.

A discussion followed with contributions from Councillors F. Timmons, S. O’Hara and E. Ó Broin.

Ms. Maria Nugent, Administrative Officer, responded to the members queries, and the motion was **AGREED.**

**Housing**

**C/334/25 – Q13 Item ID: 87622 – Emergency Accommodation**

Proposed by Councillor F. Timmons.

To ask the Chief Executive what plans has he to address the huge need for Emergency and Family Hub Accommodation in our LEA?

**REPLY:**  The Dublin Region Homeless Executive (DRHE) operated by Dublin City Council is the lead statutory authority on the response to homelessness and adopts a shared service approach across the Dublin region on behalf of SDCC, Fingal County Council and Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown County Council.

The DRHE manages the tendering process for the provision of properties for the use of emergency accommodation for both private emergency accommodation (under lease or contract) and emergency accommodation managed by NGO’s.

This council, in conjunction with the Dublin Region Homeless Executive (DRHE), will continue to actively explore potential options for additional family hubs and other supported accommodation in South Dublin.

Within South Dublin County, family hubs are currently provided at:

* High Street Family Hub (Abberley): a privately managed facility with 58 rooms (including 9 large family rooms) which is currently fully occupied with 54 households, some of whom require more than one room due to family size.
* Firhouse Family Hub: managed by Respond Housing with 20 rooms and currently fully occupied by 20 households.
* Springfield Family Hub: also managed by Respond Housing and fully occupied accommodating 12 households in 12 family rooms.
* Cappaghmore Family Hub: recently opened facility managed by Peter McVerry Trust, comprising of 8 rooms for smaller families and fully occupied.

**C/335/25 – Q14 Item ID: 87685 – Round Gardens**

Proposed by Councillor E. Ó Broin.

To ask the Chief Executive what the social housing arrangement at Round Gardens off Garters Lane in Saggart is in terms of if SDCC own or lease some or all of the units there?

**REPLY:**  South Dublin County Council currently leases 31 units within the Round Gardens development in Saggart, Co Dublin. There are additional units within the development which are not leased by SDCC.

**C/336/25 – Q15 Item ID: 87698 – Age Friendly automation**

Proposed by Councillor W. Carey.

To ask the Chief Executive if consideration can be given to providing automated opening on all entrance and lobby doors in properties allocated for 'Age Friendly tenancies'.

**REPLY:**  South Dublin County Council does not typically include assistive technologies such as automated doors as part of the standard specification for Age Friendly homes. However, we are committed to ensuring that all homes are designed with future adaptability in mind. This means incorporating features that allow for the easy integration of assistive technologies as residents’ needs evolve over time, particularly to support ageing in place.

This proactive design approach aligns with the principles of Universal Design, which emphasises flexibility, accessibility, and the ability to accommodate changing physical and cognitive needs. By designing homes that are future-ready, SDCC supports residents in maintaining independence and quality of life in their own homes for as long as possible.

**C/337/25 – H18 Item ID: 87524 – New Works**

(No Business)

**C/338/25 – C11 Item ID: 87511 – Correspondence**

(No Business)

### The meeting concluded at 5:11 P.M.

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 **Cathaoirleach**