

SOUTH DUBLIN COUNTY COUNCIL



REPORT OF THE JOINT MEETING OF THE ARTS, CULTURE, HERITAGE, GAEILGE & LIBRARIES SPC, AND THE SOCIAL, COMMUNITY, EQUALITY & INTEGRATION SPC.

MEETING HELD ON MONDAY 22nd JUNE 2026 @14:00

Venue - South Dublin County Council IT Conference Room & Microsoft Teams

Attended:

Members	Sectoral Members
Cllr. Emma Murphy (Chair)	
Cllr. Alan Edge	
Cllr. Eoin O’Broin	
Cllr. Gino Kenny	
Cllr. Louise Dunne	
Cllr. Niamh Whelan	
Cllr Sarah Barnes	

Apologies:

Cllr. Alan Hayes, Cllr. Baby Pereppadan, Cllr. Dean Donnelly, Cllr. Glen Moore, Cllr. Kay Keane, Emma Kennedy, Yemi Ojo, Noel Galvin, Daire Hennessy, Elaine Vince O’Hara.

Officials present:

Ms Edel Clancy, Acting Director, Community
Ms Sile Coleman, Acting County Librarian
Ms Liz Corry, Senior Executive Librarian
Mr. Brian Carroll, Senior Staff Officer

Minute-taker:

Ms. Geraldine O'Meara, Senior Executive Librarian

The meeting was Chaired by Cllr. Emma Murphy.

Chair Cllr Emma Murphy opened the meeting 14.02 pm and welcomed everyone.

Headed Item 1: Update on the Clondalkin Library Access and Improvement Works

Síle Coleman, Acting County Librarian, presented an update on the Clondalkin Library Access and Improvement Works, originally approved under a Part 8 scheme to improve universal access to the first floor through a new lift, accessible stairs and associated extension works.

Following a detailed scoping report completed in March 2026, it was outlined that the building's existing mechanical and electrical systems are at or beyond end of life. The installation of the proposed lift and stairs would require significant reconfiguration of the plant room, which in turn would have a wider impact on all building services. As a result, it is not feasible to deliver the accessibility works in isolation, and a broader intervention is required.

Three options were considered: a reduced scope project, a phased approach, and a full refurbishment. The reduced and phased options were found to carry high technical risk, increased costs over time, and the likelihood of ongoing disruption and system failure. The preferred option is to proceed with a full refurbishment, incorporating both the accessibility works and full replacement of mechanical and electrical systems, delivering a modern, efficient, and fully integrated building. Members were advised that this revised approach has significant cost implications, with the project estimate increasing from approximately €0.98 million to €2.16 million, resulting in an additional funding requirement of approximately €1.24 million. Potential funding sources, including reserves and grant opportunities, are being explored.

It was noted that the full refurbishment approach is recommended in order to deliver a safe, compliant, accessible and sustainable public library, while avoiding repeat disruption, additional future costs, and potential impacts on the building's protected structure.

The indicative programme was outlined, with detailed design scheduled for mid-2026, tender issue in late 2026, construction commencing in April 2027, and

substantial completion anticipated by October 2027. The SPC noted the update and the proposed revised approach.

Chair Cllr. Emma Murphy invited questions. Cllr. Alan Edge asked about future proofing and sustainability going forward. He highlighted the example of the Civic Offices in Clondalkin of a building that is past saving and asked what we can do to make sure Clondalkin Library does not get to that point. Ms Coleman responded that Clondalkin Library has had no refurbishment in 50 years and the plan proposed will ensure the building is energy efficient and put the library in a better place for the future.

Cllr. Ó'Bróin thanked Ms Coleman for her presentation and said that he was delighted to see the building being preserved and prioritized. He pointed out that the staff in the library had done excellent work within the limits of what they could do in the building. He enquired as to whether the original plan to move the granite archway could be considered again. Ms Coleman responded to say that advice had been taken from the conservation architect that carrying out this work could damage the building further.

Cllr. Louise Dunne enquired about the costs of the project and if the increased budget for option C in the plan would stay the same or would construction costs increase over the timeline of the project. Ms Coleman pointed out that inflation and construction costs could never be guaranteed to stay the same in the current economic climate and that the priority is to future proof the building as not doing so would cost more down the line.

Cllr Emma Murphy asked if the library would be closing during the works and enquired whether there was a current health and safety risk for staff and public regarding electrical upgrade works required. Ms Coleman confirmed that Clondalkin Library would close for the duration of the works and that a temporary library would open in the village to accommodate the needs of the community. While the temporary library will not be able to provide the full service of a bigger branch it would focus on outreach services to schools and keep the profile of the library in the community. Ms Coleman clarified that the electrical upgrade required was to future proof the building and that the library has passed all current health and safety inspections and the building is safe at present for staff and public to use.

The report was **noted**.

Headed Item 2: Any Other Business

Chair Cllr. Emma Murphy invited contributions for Any Other Business.

No other items were raised. Chair Cllr. Emma Murphy thanked members for their attendance.

The meeting concluded at 14.22pm .