



April 2023

Chief Executive's Report

Minister Eamon Ryan at the official launch of Heatworks Energy Centre

About the Chief Executive's Report

South Dublin County Council's Chief Executive's Report is presented to elected members at Council every month and details important achievements across our various departments whilst highlighting key statistics and images from events that took place that month.

The report also highlights major news pieces and puts a focus on an area of the Council that doesn't always get the attention it deserves.

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LED upgrade programme continues

To date, the Council has upgraded 17,500 (SOX) public lights to LED throughout the County but about 8,000 of these SOX public lights remain. These 8,000 lights are some of the trickiest to upgrade as they are old and are not compliant with current regulations.

Resolving this issue with ESNB has been slow and has impacted on our upgrade programme. Working with ESNB and the CR, in January 2023 we signed an agreement on how we can jointly address the technical and safety issues presented by these lights.

We are now able to move forward again in conjunction with ESNB. To test our agreed new way of working with the ESNB, we have agreed to progress upgrades in three estates across the County. These three pilot estates include works to Rathfarnham Wood, which is due to commence in April, and at Redwood Clondalkin, both of which will follow in due course. Once these works are completed, we will understand all the likely issues and based on that information we will be able to agree a more ambitious upgrade programme with the ESNB.



South Dublin County Council Active Travel secures new Bike Library

South Dublin County Council Active Travel Unit has been successful in their application for a Bike Library to be run out of two large primary schools in Templeogue, Bishop Galvin and Bishop Shanahan in late 2023.

Both schools are part of the Safe Routes to School programme which encourages parents with their children to cycle to school safely reducing car congestion and creating a safe, healthier environment for everyone. Funded by the NTA & Active Travel at SDCC, families can borrow either an e-bike, cargo bike or foldable bike for a set period during the school term at no charge.

This programme was initially piloted successfully in Harold's Cross which had significant congestion issues, with parents positively transitioning to the bike library from their cars.

Informal public consultation on a new Active Travel scheme from Tallaght to Knocklyon to start in April

The Cycle South Dublin programme identifies the 'Tallaght to Knocklyon' scheme as a key element in delivering a safe and connected cycle network across the County. This route would link the communities of Old Bawn, Firhouse, Knocklyon, and Ballyboden.

The scheme will allow people of all ages and abilities to incorporate healthier, more sustainable travel choices into their daily lives.

The route will connect into other active travel projects already being progressed in the area including the D24 Neighbourhood Cycle Network, Dodder Greenway, Avonbeg, Wellington Lane. An essential component of the scheme will be linking high quality routes with key trip generators, such as schools, workplaces, community facilities, and residential areas.

Phase 1 of the project will be progressed under Section 38 powers and will transform the streetscape of Old Bawn Road and Knocklyon Road as well as focussed interventions on Firhouse Road which will eliminate weak points from the, mostly high-quality, existing walking, cycling and public transport facilities.

There have been several discussions on the scheme to date with local Cllrs, schools and businesses in the area over the last year to help inform the design. We are now ready to launch a four-week non-statutory public consultation in April giving residents, businesses, community organisations and people from all walks of life a further opportunity to shape the design and delivery of this important project.



LED upgrade programme continues at Rathfarnham Wood Estate

Informal engagement with the local community begins in Clondalkin to support to the preparation of the Clondalkin Local Area Plan

The early stages in the preparation of a Local Area Plan (LAP) for Clondalkin has commenced. As part of this preparation, a consultation strategy has been drawn up to reach out to as wide an audience as possible. The consultation will help to feed into a draft vision for Clondalkin guiding the early preparation of the LAP. The first phase of the consultation will be a survey which went live on 27th March and will be open to the public for a three-week period. This will allow those interested to give their views on Clondalkin, what it is like to live in and visit, the things that are good about it and where people see opportunities to improve.

Over the course of April and May there will be further opportunity to engage with the Council through face-to-face workshops and webinar sessions, including specific sessions for youth and for disabled persons. Later in the year, further consultation events will be held to provide feedback to the public on progress. Details of exact dates and venues for the different events will be publicised in due course.



Round Tower Visitor Centre Clondalkin



Housing, Social and Community Development

Sod Turned on New Housing and Community Facility Development in Balgaddy

On Thursday 30th March 2023, Mayor Emma Murphy officially turned the sod to commence the development of 69 new social homes and a new community centre in Balgaddy, Lucan.

The Mayor was accompanied at the event by the Council's Chief Executive, Daniel Mc Loughlin along with local Councillors and Council staff as well as representatives from Cunningham Contracts, who are the appointed contractor for the project.

The development is located between Tor an Rí Walk and Foxborough Lawn and will see a mix of one, two and three-bedroom homes delivered across various

typologies including two-storey houses, duplexes and apartments.

These new social homes form part of our housing construction programme under the Council's Housing Delivery Action Plan 2022-2026 and are being funded by the Department of Housing Local Government and Heritage through the Social Housing Investment Programme under the national Housing for All policy while the community centre is being delivered by the Council through its capital programme.

The overall development is expected to be fully completed by mid-2024.



29 Affordable homes now available in Kilcarbery Grange

New Affordable Homes Being Launched in Kilcarbery

This month will see the next phase of 29 affordable homes being made available for purchase in the Kilcarbery housing development. This joint venture between the Council and local development consortium, Adwood Ltd. will deliver over 1,000 social, affordable, cost rental and private homes by 2025.

The affordable homes, which will be ready from summer 2023 are supported by the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage's Affordable Housing Fund under the national Housing for All policy.

Indicative prices range from approximately €265,000 to €330,000 depending on the size/type of the property and the eligible applicants' purchasing power. Homes will be allocated to eligible applicants in accordance with the Council's Scheme of Priority for Affordable Dwelling Purchase Arrangements.

For more details on the application process please see www.sdcc.ie.

New Family Hub Opens in Clondalkin

The Council, in collaboration with Peter McVerry Trust, has opened a new family hub in Clondalkin. We, along with the other Dublin Local Authorities and the Dublin Regional Homeless Executive are responding to significant additional demand for supported family accommodation across the Dublin region, and this new facility will be an important addition to the options available for families, particularly those with connections in the Clondalkin area.

Family hubs offer stability to families while they pursue longer term accommodation through HAP supported private rented accommodation, with the help of on-site key workers, or social housing tenancies.

The new family hub meets a long-standing objective of providing supported emergency accommodation in the Clondalkin area and will accommodate up to ten families that are currently staying in hotels or B&Bs.

The facility includes a play space for children as well as cooking and laundry facilities and communal recreational space.



Sports Partnership Rowing Programme

In a March of many weathers the local Sports Partnership Schools Indoor Rowing programme was extended with the addition of outdoor water sessions.

Students from Collinstown Community College, St Aidan's Community School, Coláiste de hÍde, St Paul's Greenhills and Coláiste Bride all took to the water, transferring the skills and learning from their indoor training programmes onto local waterways.

More local schools are set to take to the water in the coming months all culminating in a Grand Canal Dock Blitz event on 4th May.



New Family Hub in Clondalkin



Economic, Enterprise and Tourism Development

International Women's Day Celebrations in County Library Tallaght

On Wednesday, March 8th, the County Library Tallaght hosted a series of events in celebration of International Women's Day. The day-long event showcased South Dublin's emerging female talent with a performance from Katie and Caoimhe, two members of South Dublin's newest all-female rock band, The Hex. The duo performed a variety of their own compositions, as well as covers from popular artists such as The Cranberries, The Dubliners, Nancy Sinatra, and Oasis. The full Hex band has promised to return for World Music Day in June, providing an exciting opportunity for fans of the genre.

In keeping with the theme of this year's International Women's Day, DigitALL: Innovation and technology for gender equality, the library hosted "IT and

Coffee", a staff-led coffee morning. Visitors were invited to bring their devices and receive one-on-one assistance with downloading the library's apps, as well as learning about additional technological resources that the library provides.

One of the highlights of the day was a panel discussion on women's rights, hosted by The Women's Collective Ireland. The discussion looked beyond equality to #EmbraceEquity, exploring the ways in which we can create a more equitable society for all women. The insightful and informative discussion helped to inspire and empower those in attendance.

Additionally, the library launched the Sonas - Freedom from Domestic Violence Exhibition as part of their International Women's Day programming.

The exhibition featured 16 portraits of victims of femicide and filicide. Representatives from Sonas were on hand to showcase their services and discuss the exhibition with visitors.

Tallaght's International Women's Day celebrations were a great success, bringing together community members to celebrate the accomplishments of women and discuss the challenges that still need to be overcome. It was a wonderful opportunity to showcase South Dublin's emerging female talent and the library looks forward to hosting similar events in the future to continue to promote gender equality and empower women in the community.



Students at the Student Enterprise Awards held at TUD

LEO Student Enterprise Programme

Local Enterprise Office South Dublin have announced that teenage entrepreneurs from the South Dublin area will represent South Dublin at this year's Student Enterprise Programme National Finals on Friday 5th May. The Finals make a return to Croke Park for the first time since 2019.

The students all took part in the County Final on 23rd March 2023, which was held at the Technological University Dublin, Tallaght. An estimated 620 students from 20 schools took part in the annual programme locally.

In the Junior Category, the students representing South Dublin at the National Finals from The Simple Things Made So Simple at St. Mark's Community School.

In the Intermediate Category, Daniel's Cookies from Greenhills Community School will be representing the county at the Finals.

In the Senior Category of the competition, South Dublin will be represented by students from Timeout Interactive Experiences at Rockbrook Park School.



Mobile Libraries Take Part in St. Patrick's Day Parades

South Dublin County Council's Mobile Libraries took part in the St. Patrick's Day Parades in Lucan and Clondalkin this year with the aim of promoting the Mobiles service, and the library service as a whole. The parades were very well attended and supported locally, and the Libraries Team were delighted to play a part, and with the really positive reaction that the Mobiles received.

The Mobile Library service visits 36 public stops each week, as well as visits to primary schools each week during term time. The Library@Home service continues to deliver books to over 100 vulnerable people on a monthly basis in the community and they also facilitate regular outreach events to nursing homes, secondary schools, special education centres and the refugee reception centre at Citywest.

Clondalkin Sculptures

South Dublin County Council have announced the commissioning of two new compelling and highly visible artworks that connect thematically with the heritage of Clondalkin.

The artworks which will contribute to a strong and unique sense of place are funded by South Dublin County Council, the NRA as part of the Monastery Road Improvement Scheme, and the Department of Housing, Heritage under the Per Cent For Art Scheme.

Following a community consultation, artists were invited to submit proposals. As a result, An Chluain by artist Holgar Lonze was selected for a site adjacent to the Woodford Roundabout, Monastery Road, Clondalkin.

A second artwork, Origami Monk - The Monk of Clondalkin by artist Ngaire Jackson, identified through the same competition has also been commissioned and will be located at the junction of New Nangor Road and 9th Lock Road, close to the site of former Clondalkin Paper Mill. This 3.5m tall artwork is due to be installed in September 2023.



An Chluain Sculpture by artist Holgar Lonze



Corporate Performance and Change Management

Women's Caucus of SDCC host event in County Hall to mark International Women's Day

Members of the Women's Caucus of South Dublin County Council last night held a panel discussion in County Hall Tallaght to mark International Women's Day.

The Panel was represented across the political spectrum with Mayor of South Dublin County Council, Cllr. Emma Murphy, Chair of the Women's Caucus Cllr. Vicki Casserly, Cllr. Pamela Kearns, Cllr. Lynn Hagin Meade, Cllr. Louise Dunne and Cllr. Carly Bailey discussing the role of women in politics, the benefit of female participation and the importance of continued growth in the numbers of women engaging in local democracy.

Speaking after the event, Mayor of South Dublin County Council, Cllr. Emma Murphy said, "I am delighted to see such a prominent event happening in South Dublin Coun-

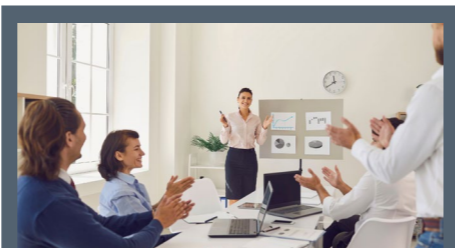
ty Council to mark International Women's Day 2023. When the Women's Caucus was established two years ago on International Women's Day it marked a significant moment for female public representatives past and present. This event will portray the role of public representatives and shine a light on the challenges of being a public representative in South Dublin".

Cllr. Vicki Casserly, Chair of the Women's Caucus also said, "This event is a great opportunity to discuss the positive and meaningful impact of women in politics and encourage participation to others within the community."

The event also marked the official launch of South Dublin County Council's "Your Vote Your Voice - an easy-to-read guide to voting" booklet which explains the voting process in Ireland. The purpose of the booklet is to provide information on how to exercise your right to vote, such as information on the

different types of elections and voting that takes place in Ireland and how you register to vote.

This booklet is an action delivered under the South Dublin County Council Public Sector Equality and Human Rights Duty Framework. The Framework aims to fulfil South Dublin County Council's commitment under our Corporate Plan and the legal requirement under Section 42 of the Irish Human Rights and Equality Act 2014.



Workplace Wellbeing Day

Re-use of Public Sector Information

Under the "Re-Use of Public Sector Information (PSI) Regulations, available on www.psi.gov.ie, information posted on www.sdcc.ie may be downloaded and re-used free of charge with certain exceptions, list of which are available on our website.

Public Sector Information owned by SDCC and not available on the website can be applied for in writing to the Freedom of Information Officer; foi@sdblincoco.ie

In certain circumstances, a charge may apply and information released is subject to the terms and conditions of the latest Public Sector Information Licence.

Workplace Well Being Day 27th April

This Year South Dublin County Council is participating in workplace well-being day by facilitating a series of events which will be hosted in the HR General Training Room for all staff members. These Events will sample in yoga, mindfulness and other activities that promote health and wellbeing.

Started in 2015, the nationwide campaign aims to help improve employee health through promoting better nutrition and physical activity in workplaces.

The only national day in the EU specifically dedicated by business to shine a spotlight on employee health and wellbeing, it is marked by companies across Ireland celebrating a range of health and wellbeing activities in the workplace, with up to 1,000 companies participating annually.

Should staff have any suggestions on activities or programs they would like to see sampled on the day, please contact cdinnegan@sdblincoco.ie



South Dublin County Council Launch "Your Vote, Your Voice" Guide to voting handbook

South Dublin County Council's "Your Vote Your Voice - an easy-to-read guide to voting" booklet which explains the voting process in Ireland was officially launched in conjunction with International Womens Day.

The purpose of the booklet is to provide information on how to exercise your right to vote, such as information on the different types of elections and voting that takes place in Ireland and how you register to vote.

This booklet is an action delivered under the South Dublin County Council Public Sector Equality and Human Rights Duty Framework. The Framework aims to fulfil South Dublin County Council's commitment under our Corporate Plan and the legal requirement under Section 42 of the Irish Human Rights and Equality Act 2014.



International Womens Day Discussion Panel with compère Izzie Solan



Environment, Water Climate Change

Increased ambition for Climate Action by South Dublin County Council

In 2019 the Dublin Local Authorities published what were the first Local Authority Climate Change Action Plans (CCAP) in the country. The SDCC Plan set out 6 action areas with 154 actions that the Council would undertake in the areas of energy & buildings, transport, flood resilience, nature-based solutions, resource management and citizen engagement.

The policy and legislative context relating to climate action has developed since the publication of the Council's CCAP; the publication of the **National Climate Action Plan 2023** seeks to put Ireland on a more sustainable path, cutting emissions, creating a cleaner, greener economy and society, and protecting the country from the consequences of climate change.

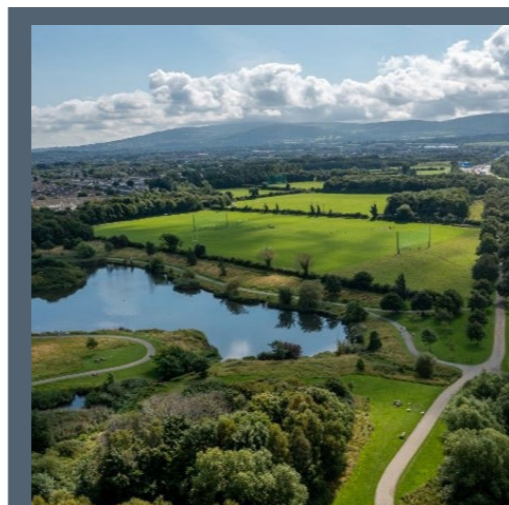
Under the **Climate Action and Low Carbon Development (Amendment) Act**

2021, the Minister has instructed Local Authorities to prepare a Climate Action Plan for 2024 to 2029 by the 24th of February 2024, and we are initiating the statutory plan making phase now.

The IPCC Sixth Assessment Report (AR6) summarises the state of knowledge of climate change, its widespread impacts and risks, and climate change mitigation and adaptation. Changes in annual global surface temperatures are presented as 'climate stripes', with future projections showing the human-caused long-term trends.

We want all citizens of South Dublin to input to this improved Plan. A public consultation process will be launched in September 2023; and this will be an opportunity to get involved and shape the Plan.

In the meantime, our existing Climate Change Action Plans and progress reports can be accessed at <https://sdcc.ie/en/climate-action/>



Climate Action Plan for 2024 to 2029 by the 24th of February 2024

Our climate team also publishes a climate action newsletter, which you can subscribe to by emailing us at climatechange@sdblincoco.ie

Social Credits Scheme

South Dublin County Council's Social Credits Scheme rewards communities who take positive sustainable action to improve their local area. Over the last four years almost 200 new applications were received from residents' associations, schools, volunteer and environmental groups throughout South Dublin.

The Social Credits Scheme currently incorporates three programmes

- Paint Enhancement Scheme - provides groups with up to 60 litres of paint and equipment to carry out minor enhancement projects in their area including the removal of graffiti.
- Minor Landscaping Scheme – provides a site assessment by a horticulturist (if required), equipment, plants and bulbs to groups to carry out minor enhancement projects in their area.
- Clean up materials – Groups who sign up are provided with bags, hi-vis vests, gloves

Making a difference! - National Spring Clean, Dublin Community Clean-up and Social Credits Schemes

The Mayor of South Dublin County, Cllr Emma Murphy in the company of Tymon North & St Aongus Tidy Towns helped launch National Spring Clean month recently. National Spring Clean is Ireland's largest anti-litter initiative, running throughout the month of April, interested community groups who are planning a community clean-up during the month can apply online at: <http://www.nationalspringclean.org/>.

The Mayor also launched Dublin Community Clean-up which will take place across Dublin on Saturday 22 April. This county-wide event, which will be Dublin's largest clean-up event is being organised by Dublin's Four Local Authorities, An Taisce and partners. Get your community, friends and family involved and from the mountains to the sea let's make Dublin litter-free.

The organisers are again asking all volunteers around Dublin to join forces and organise clean-ups around the cities, to make this Dublin's biggest clean-up event ever. To register, visit www.dublincommunitycleanup.ie.

and litter pickers. The Council know will arrange for the collection of bags.

How to apply?

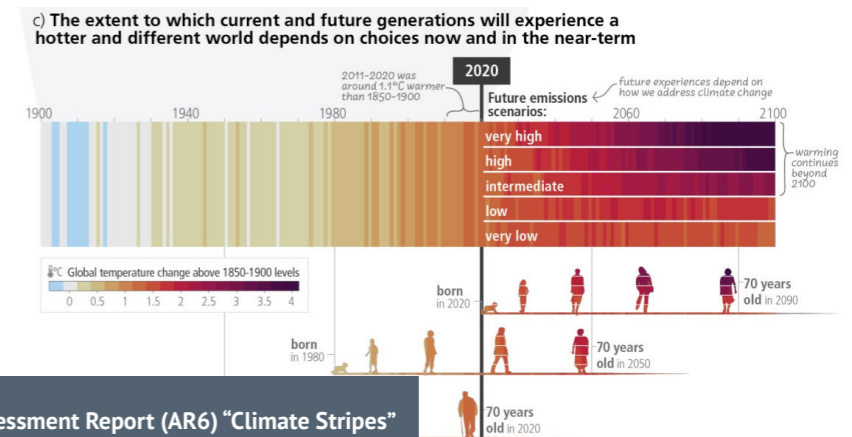
Application forms can be downloaded on the Council Website Environment Pages or contact the Environmental Awareness Office at envawareness@sdblincoco.ie.

Testimonials

Tymonville Residents Association is now up and running with the assistance the Social Credits Scheme offered us. The Environmental Awareness department

guided us through our application for the Minor Landscaping Project were we got plants and tools for the upkeep of the rockeries in our local area. As a group of volunteers, we do our utmost to keep our costs down and the plants go a long way." – **Michelle Lambe Tymonville Residents Association**

"**Firhouse Community Collage Parents Council** would like to thank SDCC for their tireless efforts to help us put together a garden of remembrance in a very tired overgrown and disused piece of ground...Having provided us with paint, plants & tools to get our garden finished, it is now a credit to us and the council for their tireless efforts in helping us." – **Nathalie Ward Chair Firhouse CC parents council**



The IPCC Sixth Assessment Report (AR6) "Climate Stripes"



Dublin Urban Rivers LIFE (DURL) project delighted to win ESRI Ireland Award

The Dublin Urban Rivers LIFE (DURL) Project recently scooped an ESRI-Ireland Annual Standout Success award in the category of Data Management and Collection for its Domestic Misconnection Assessment IT Application. The Project's GIS-based approach seeks to improve stormwater quality in rivers in South Dublin County and Dun Laoghaire-Rathdown County by making it quicker and cheaper to find pollution originating from houses.

An overwhelmingly positive reception has been received at doorsteps by our Assessors for the project, with 6,000 houses assessed to-date. For more information see www.dublinriverlife.ie

300k Have Your Say Tallaght South & Saggart



300k – Have Your Say 2023 launched and workshops held across Tallaght South and Saggart

Tallaght South and Saggart residents are invited to have their say on Participatory Budgeting as 300k – Have Your Say 2023 launched!

The Mayor of South Dublin County Council, Cllr Emma Murphy, officially launched the ‘€300K – Have Your Say’ initiative for the Tallaght South & Saggart electoral area at the Brookfield Youth and Community Centre on Monday 13 March 2023.

An amount of €300,000 has been allocated for the electoral area, which takes in Ballinascorney, Kiltipper, Killinarden, Jobstown and Fettercairn

and of course Saggart, which includes Brittas. Saggart is included as the boundary redraw in 2019 meant Saggart is now part of the Clondalkin Local Electoral Area, however as the area did not get to partake in the initiative at the time, it is included in this years running, as it would have been prior to the boundary redraw.

Tallaght South and Saggart residents attended workshops in the below locations where they discussed how they would like to see a budget of €300,000 is spent in the local area.

- Tuesday 21 of March St Marys GAA, Saggart

- Wednesday 22 of March Jobstown Community Centre
- Wednesday 29 of March Killinarden Community Centre
- Tuesday 4 April Online Workshop

This is part of South Dublin County Council’s ‘300K-Have Your Say’ which facilitates citizens in the local community to directly decide how to spend a portion of the public budget.

Speaking on the initiative, Mayor of South Dublin County Council, Cllr. Emma Murphy said, “I was delighted to be in Brookfield to officially launch the final round of the 300k – Have your Say initiative.

Workshop which took place in St. Mary's GAA Saggart



This initiative is about enabling people to have a greater voice on local priorities and giving our citizens the opportunity to get involved and have a say and a vote in how this extra funding can be used to benefit them and their communities through direct investment in their area; and to shape the services they use and address the issues that are important to them in their community.”

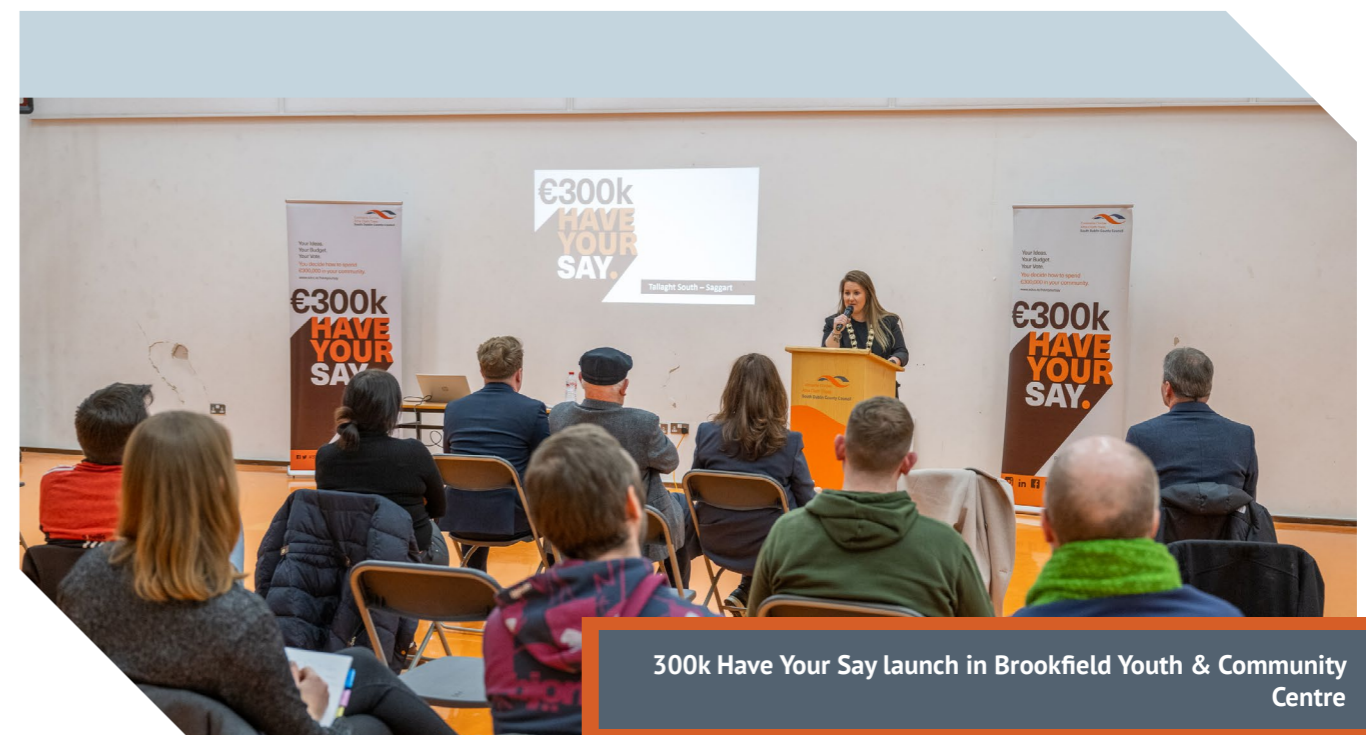
In May, proposals having been as-

essed and selected, will be costed and put forward for a public vote.

Would you like to see a new playground in your area or how about an allotment or street sculpture or a new safe area for teenagers to hang out? No matter what it is, go and have your say and submit your idea. This is your area, your money and your vote!

If you cannot attend any of the workshops, you can still make a submis-

sion via the online portal up until April 21st.



300k Have Your Say launch in Brookfield Youth & Community Centre

Bringing Vacant Homes Back in to Use

Vacant Homes Action Plan



Rialtas na hÉireann
Government of Ireland



Supports to Bring Vacant Homes Back in to Use

Under the national Vacant Homes Action Plan, funding of €150 million is available from central government to local authorities for projects to activate vacant properties and derelict sites. Together with the creation of a dedicated new Vacant Homes Officer position, the Council has a range of supports available to assist with buying, leasing or selling a vacant property as follows:

Vacant Property Refurbishment Grant

The Vacant Property Refurbishment Grant is available to first-time buyers or "fresh start" buyers. The grant is worth up to €30,000 to buyers of properties that have been vacant for at least two years. This is subject to upper limits for different types of work, having regard to a reasonable cost assessment by the local authority.

(*You are a 'fresh start' applicant if you previously owned a home, but you no longer have a financial interest in it because: you are now divorced, separated, or your relationship has ended, and/or you have gone through personal insolvency or bankruptcy.)

Derelict Property Top-up Grant

In addition to the Vacant Property Refurbishment Grant, if the property you are buying is derelict you may

qualify for a top-up grant of up to €20,000.

Repair and Lease Scheme

This scheme assists owners of vacant residential properties with the cost of improvement works. The property must be vacant for at least one year and there must be a social housing demand for property in the area. The maximum funding allowable is €60,000 per unit to tackle vacancy. The minimum lease term is 5 years, and the maximum is 25 years depending on the cost of the works.

The Buy and Renew Scheme supports local authorities in purchasing and renewing housing units in need of repair and making them available for social housing use, where the Council determines its suitability for social housing. It aims to help tackle the problem of dereliction and to improve an area's appearance. As a complementary initiative to the Repair and Leasing Scheme, it provides the option for suitable properties to be purchased rather than leased, if that is the property owner's preference.

Although South Dublin County Council currently has the lowest vacancy rate in the country at 1.4% of properties, with Tallaght Central the electoral area with the lowest rate of vacancy nationally at 0.7%, we still want to know if you are aware of a property vacant in your local area so we can explore the best way to bring it back into use. If you are aware of an empty/vacant private home in your area, please register the property at www.vacanthomes.ie. Any vacant homes identified, will be investigated by the Vacant Homes Officer to examine the possible options to bring this property back into occupancy, helping to provide a sustainable response to local housing needs.

Buy and Renew Scheme

Register a Vacant Home



Useful links for further information on the grants/schemes available:

- www.gov.ie/vacancy
- www.vacanthomes.ie
- <https://bit.ly/VacantHomes-SDCC>

High Res Lighting Wins Top Award At South Dublin Local Enterprise Awards



High Res Lighting took the Overall Award at this year's South Dublin Local Enterprise Awards which took place at the Louis Fitzgerald Hotel on Thursday evening 9th March last.

High Res Lighting who started out as a pure lighting design company have, over the past few years expanded into the world of virtual production and green screen replacement for large film and TV production companies and studios. High Res Lighting are currently one of the few leading companies in this field in Europe having successfully delivered pro-

jects for Netflix, Amazon Prime, Apple TV+ and a number of film productions

Along with the overall winner, nine category winners were announced on the night. The Innovation Award went to My Cloud PA, which is an integrated platform to optimize your day today business activities.



Award Winners together at the Local Enterprise Awards

The One to Watch Award went to Niamh DeBurca of SproutPlans, which provides bespoke financial advice digitally and the Entrepreneurial Spirit Award to Jolene Cox of One Yummy Mummy for her online Subscription Family cooking club. Our Export Award was won by Bernard Ryan of StepLift, which provides safety and ergonomic solutions to various industries both Nationally and Internationally.

The Best Start Up Award went to Ciara

O'Hare and Greg Howie of NZ Caps Ltd, who manufacture artisan PC peripherals such as handmade sculpted keycaps, keyboards and illustrated desk mats/mouse pads. Feebee Foran of Forager, provides 100% natural skincare products from hand-picked wild foraged weeds. While also offering educational foraging walks to help people understand the beauty of our native Irish plants, Forager picked up the Green Business Award.

With the expansion and diversity of new businesses starting up in the county, the Food / Drink sector is always a very strong category in South Dublin. This year the Award went to Aisling Tuck of Oh Happy, which produces plant based baked goods, and Naked Bakes which is bake at home plant-based cookie dough.

The 'NEWS' / Women in Business Award went to Eimear Fahy for Accessories4babies, which specialises in high quality eco friendly weaning products. While the inaugural SCENE (Creative Economy) award went to Audrey Corrigan of Aud Design for her jewellery company, which uses precious and semi precious metals and stones.

All of the Award-winning businesses are supported by the Local Enterprise Office South Dublin and will share a €14,000 investment fund. The Overall winner High Res Lighting will go on to represent South Dublin in the National Enterprise Awards later this year.



My Cloud PA team take a selfie with Mayor Emma Murphy after winning the Innovation Award



Minister Eamon Ryan officially opened Tallaght District Heating Network and Energy Centre - Ireland's first publicly owned, not-for-profit energy company.

Minister for the Environment, Climate & Communications and Transport, Eamon Ryan TD and the Mayor of South Dublin County, Councillor Emma Murphy, officially opened South Dublin County Council's (SDCC) Tallaght District Heating Network at the Heatworks Energy Centre in Tallaght.

Trading as Heatworks, Ireland's first publicly owned, not-for-profit energy company, is now providing low-carbon heat to public buildings in the area. The development of this innovative, low-carbon initiative has been led by SDCC with the assistance of its energy agency, Codema.

The network initially will provide heat to 32,800m² of public buildings. Customers of Heatworks include SDCC and Technological University Dublin (TU Dublin). Buildings heated by this project include County Hall, Tallaght County Library, the SDCC Innovation Centre- Work IQ, and 133 affordable apartments, which will connect in early 2025. The university buildings include the Main Building, the Sports-Science, Health and Recreation Building, followed by the new Catering

College (CAET), to be completed in 2024.

The network uses excess heat from Amazon Web Services' (AWS) data centre to provide low carbon heat to the network customers. AWS has included heat-collection systems in their new facility which provides this recycled heat at no cost as part of its broader sustainability commitments. HeatWorks will assist Ireland in meeting its EU 2030 national heating and carbon-reduction targets. It is estimated that in this first phase of delivery, the carbon emissions reduction in the Tallaght area will be over 1,500 tonnes per year.

Heatworks contracted Fortum, a large Finnish energy company with extensive district-heating experience throughout Scandi-

navia and Eastern Europe, to carry out the design, construction, operation and maintenance of the Tallaght District Heating Network.

South Dublin County Council initiated this pilot project, to exemplify the environmental value and potential of District Heating in Ireland. The collaboration between SDCC, AWS engineering teams, Fortum, and the Dublin energy agency Codema has resulted in a low-carbon solution, optimising the potential of recyclable heat combined with innovative heat-pump technology – the first example of its kind in Ireland.

The Tallaght District Heating Network was partly funded by the European Union's Interreg NWE programme (Heatnet), Project

Ireland 2040 Climate Action Fund, SEAI and through direct funding from SDCC. In the Government's Climate Action Plan 2023, the increased ambition is that Ireland will reach up to 0.8 TWh of district heating by 2025 and up to 2.7 TWh by 2030.

Speaking at the Official Opening, **Minister Ryan said**; "This is a leading example of how energy that would otherwise be wasted is now being used to heat local public buildings, a university and people's homes, and I know that there are plans to go beyond this in time. It's also a working demonstration of smart private-public partnership and an indication of the transformative role that district heating can play in our new more energy efficient and decarbonised energy mix. In our Climate Action Plan 2023, we have set out our increased ambition for district heating. I anticipate that our district heating steering group will shortly publish its recommendations on how we can reach these targets, led by our local authorities and facilitated with private sector involvement as is the case here in Tallaght."



Heatworks Energy Centre building

Councillor Emma Murphy, Mayor of South Dublin County Council said; "It gives me great pleasure to be here for the official opening of such an innovative project in South Dublin. Through the delivery of a project of this scale and ambition, South Dub-

lin County Council are truly leading the way when it comes to climate change innovation and sustainability in Ireland, which citizens in the county can be incredibly proud of. We look forward to seeing the next step come to fruition, when the district heating network will provide sustainable heating to new homes in the Tallaght area."

Mike Beary, AWS Country Lead said; "AWS has been investing in Tallaght for 15 years now and we are proud to be a part of the community. We love the ambition and spirit of innovation that this first-in-the-nation project embodies. HeatWorks will benefit our neighbours for years to come and help the country meet its 2030 renewable energy targets."

A Focus On

Tallaght District Heating Network Official Opening



Minister Eamon Ryan at the launch of Heatworks

Images of the Month



Holy Rosary Primary School visit to County Hall

Images of the Month



Brian Cody speaking at LEO Enterprise Week



Balgaddy Calisthenics



Templeogue Womens Shed

Images of the Month



The Hex who performed at International Womens Day

Images of the Month



Eco Week Launch at Firhouse Community College



National Tree Week

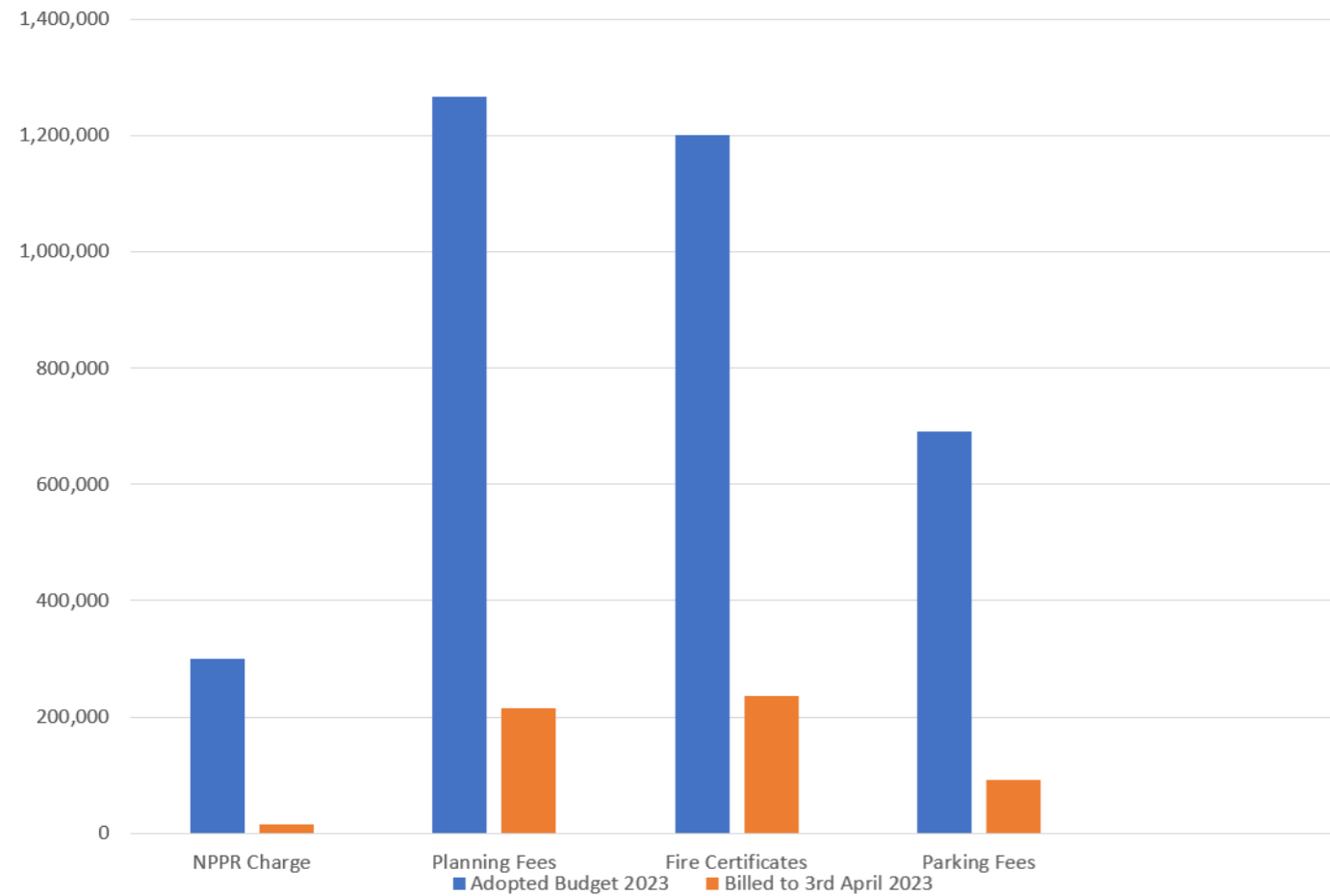


Whitechurch Flood Alleviation Scheme Launch

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