



May 2023

# Chief Executive's Report

Minister Darragh O'Brien turning the Sod at the Belgard Cost Rental Apartments

# 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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# Land Use, Planning and Transportation

## Public consultation on phase 1 of the Old Bawn to Ballyboden Active Travel

The Old Bawn to Ballyboden Active Travel Scheme is a key element in SDCC's Cycle South Dublin programme. The project will provide safe and accessible active travel infrastructure, linking the communities of Old Bawn, Firhouse, Knocklyon, and Ballyboden. 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 (see visualisation *left*).

Phase 1 of the project will improve 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. We have now started a four-week informal public consultation period on Phase 1 which will run until May 19th, whereby people can share their views on the scheme to help shape the final design of the scheme.

The scheme is being progressed under section 38 of the Roads Act and not as a Part 8 planning application. Following this consultation the Area Committee will be briefed on the responses received and how we will address any concerns raised.

## NATIONAL ARCHITECTURAL CONSERVATION GRANT SCHEMES 2023

During 2022 a number of architectural conservation projects were successfully delivered under the National Architectural Conservation Grant Scheme.

These schemes are funded by the Department of Housing, Local Government & Heritage and administered and managed by the Councils Architectural Conservation Officer.

The grant schemes continue to contribute towards a number of projects in 2023 in supporting private and public owners/occupiers in the conservation and repair of their historic properties. For 2023 we have been successful in securing €85,528 to support the delivery of 9 projects across the County under the Built Heritage Investment scheme.

In addition to this we also secured €40,000 through the Historic Structures Fund to carry out works to St Luke's Church, Peamount Hospital. This funding will see internal works (including energy upgrading) being completed which is in addition to external repairs and conservation works completed under HSF 2022.

This upgraded facility will be reused as staff training facilities within the Peamount Hospital Complex

## Public consultation on the Castletymon Road active travel scheme

South Dublin County Council, with the support of grants from the National Transport Authority, proposes to improve pedestrian and cyclist safety and facilities in the Castletymon Area. This project, through the re-distribution of the existing carriageway and by improving existing junctions and pedestrian facilities, will allow rapid implementation of safe cycle facilities connecting local amenities and destinations. The scheme will improve walking and cycling through the provision of cycle infrastructure along Castletymon Road, from Main Road to Greenhill Road (R819). The types of work proposed include

- Realigning the carriageway to a 6m wide road to accommodate 2m cycle tracks on each side of the roadway.
- Bus Stops locations will be aligned and upgraded to accommodate the new

cycle tracks. All bus stops location will remain in their general location.

- Junction tightening at all side roads to improve pedestrian and cyclist safety.

The proposed improvement works along Castletymon Road will tie into the Castletymon District Enhancement scheme which began construction in early 2023. The Castletymon Road Active Travel Scheme is also a National Pathfinder Project, an initiative launched by the Department of Transport, which aims to quickly deliver active travel schemes which are innovative and ambitious.

This scheme will be progressed using Section 38 of the Road Traffic Act 1994. As part of this a non-statutory public consultation will be launched in mid May 2023 and will run for 4 weeks

until mid June. This will give the all people and in particular the local community the opportunity to provide their views on the scheme.



Proposed View - Castletymon Road

## Public consultation on the Griffeen Active Travel Scheme

South Dublin County Council in conjunction with the National Transport Authority, are making progress on our Cycle South Dublin programme. In addition to building new cycle lanes we also upgrading the existing cycle network throughout the county. We carried out a comprehensive review of all existing cycle infrastructure across the County. Informed by this work we have now identified that many minor road junctions have substandard cycle and pedestrian facilities through them. The team are proposing to carry out a pilot junction upgrade programme in the Griffeen area later this year.

The aim of this programme is to reduce the crossing distance of cyclists and pedestrians through junctions by raising the footpath and cycleway. This will deliver an improved cycling and walking experience while also providing a traffic calming benefit for the estate. The scheme is currently out to a non-statutory Section 38 of the Roads Act public consultation to inform the public of the proposed improvement works and gather public feedback. It is envisaged that work will commence on this scheme this Summer.



Pilot Junction Upgrade Visualisation



# Housing, Social and Community Development

## New Social Homes at St. Catherine's Row

Tenants began receiving their keys to new social homes in the development at St. Catherine's Row, Killinarden in recent weeks.

The development of twelve new homes comprising seven houses and five apartments, was delivered as part of the Council's **Housing Delivery Action Plan 2022-2026** with funding from the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage under Housing for All, the national housing policy.

Homes in the development have been allocated to households from the social housing list, including those in homelessness and with medical needs as well as some households transferring from other social homes.

Plans for the homes were approved by Councillors in September 2018 and the development was constructed by ML Quinn Ltd. on behalf of South Dublin County Council.



## Plans being Developed for Whitechurch Sports Hub

Following the allocation of funding by the Council in its Three-Year Capital Programme 2023-2025, plans are being developed for a new facility to support multi-sports use in Whitechurch.

Subject to formal agreement between the Council and the Department of Education, the proposal led by current Mayor of South Dublin, Cllr. Emma Murphy, in partnership with Scoil Mhuire in Whitechurch, will see a Part 8 planning application progressed later this year for a new sports facility within the grounds of Scoil Mhuire.

Plans will include boxing facilities, dressing rooms and associated facilities developed for use by local groups including Scoil Mhuire, Whitechurch Boxing Club, Wanderers GAA Club Ballyboden and others.

## Energy Efficiency Retrofit Programme Works in Allenton, Cushlawn and Castletymon

Our housing Maintenance team and contractors are currently completing energy retrofit works to 133 homes in Allenton, Cushlawn and Castletymon estates.

These works, which are funded by the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage under the national Energy Efficiency Retrofit Programme, will see the Building Energy Rating (BER) of the homes increase to B2 rating, reducing the overall energy consumption required to heat the homes by improving the heat retention of the building fabric and upgrading existing heating systems to utilise the latest energy efficient technologies.

Following initial surveys of each property, improvement works are undertaken under the EERP include upgrades to existing attic and wall insulation, replacement of windows and doors and installation of demand-controlled ventilation systems. Improvements to heating systems include upgrading of hot water storage and the replacement of gas boilers with energy efficient air to water heat pumps.

Installation of heat pumps and upgrading the building fabric reduces energy consumption by approximately 65%, with the added benefit of improvements to air quality and heat comfort within the home.

A further 300 additional properties have been identified across the County for energy retrofit works to commence in 2023 under the EERP.



133 homes in Allenton, Cushlawn and Castletymon estates to be retrofitted

## Try One Challenge

In April, our 6-week Try One Challenge programme was launched in April to give local residents an opportunity to try something new for free in their area. Our sports partnership team, working together with the Council's Community Development team have organised activities in thirteen community centres, for a range of ages from toddler and parent dance classes to Tai Chi classes for over 55s.

Approximately 300 people have attended the sessions so far and people can join at any stage with plans to continue programmes beyond the initial six-week period where there is ongoing demand. For details on the participating centres, activities and timetables please contact [info@sdccsp.ie](mailto:info@sdccsp.ie) or see our social media channels.



Chair Aerobics Session in Bawnogue Community Centre

# Economic, Enterprise and Tourism Development



## The Rathfarnham Rebellion Trail goes live on the South Dublin County Heritage Trail App

The addition of the Rathfarnham Rebellion Trail to the South Dublin County Heritage Trail App was officially launched by the Mayor of South Dublin County Council, Cllr. Emma Murphy at Pearse Museum on Wednesday 5th April.

The addition of Rathfarnham as a trail to the app has been funded by The Department of Tourism, Culture, Arts, Gaeltacht, Sport and Media through their Decade of Centenaries programme, and developed in partnership with South Dublin County Council Libraries and the Council's County Promotion Unit.

Rathfarnham is the third village trail to be added to the app, joining Clondalkin and Tallaght. The Rathfarnham Trail has 17 individual heritage points

of interest in and around the village. Rathfarnham village's historical importance to the Irish War of Independence is a key component of the trail. Sites such as Pearse Museum/St Enda's School, Rathfarnham Castle, Butterfield House, Loreto Abbey and the old Rathfarnham RIC Barracks are some of the points of interest for history buffs.

Speaking at the launch the Mayor of South Dublin, Cllr. Emma Murphy said, "I am confident that the launch of the Rathfarnham Rebellion Trail will highlight the area's significance in the Irish War of Independence and promote Rathfarnham as a centre of Irish Culture. The app is a valuable education tool and is an engaging experience for users."



Local Enterprise Office Case Studies

## Release of First Series of LEO South Dublin Case Studies

With more than 3,500 clients, LEO South Dublin has a long history of supporting the start-up sector in the County and having a tangible influence on the economy. Many of these clients have enjoyed huge success, developing creative products, exporting to global markets, employing local people and they continue to go from strength to strength. The success of our future clients is being built on the exceptional achievements of our high growth and established promoters who share their start-up journeys, supports they received along the way and their ambition and growth plans for their businesses with our emerging and early stage start-ups.

To showcase the success stories of our clients, South Dublin LEO is launching a series of case studies, which will help inspire the next generation of start-up businesses in the County. The first of these case studies includes six businesses who are featured in Volume 1, which comprise of Bounce, Tech services company; Food companies Artisan Pizza and Thank Plants; Consumer Fashion and Beauty companies Stride Bootwear growth and Creative Lighting Services company High Res Lighting Limited who are our current 2023 Overall Local Business Award winner.

All Case studies can be viewed on <https://www.localenterprise.ie/southdublin>

## Dublin Mountain's Visitor Centre

The Dublin Mountain's Visitor Centre project is a joint initiative between South Dublin County Council and Coillte, which will expand the mountain's current recreation and cultural offering, while conserving the landscape, ecology and heritage.

The project comprises a new visitor centre, complete with an interpretative exhibition and educational facility, café and shop, increased car parking and road improvements, whilst the proposal will also deliver improved walks and trails, incorporating an iconic tree-top bridge from Montpelier Hill into Massy's Wood.

Following the dismissal of an appeal by the Supreme Court on 24th October 2022, planning permission was granted allowing the project to be progressed. A tender seeking an Engineering led consultancy design team to carry out Detailed Design, Construction and Handover was published on 9th March 2023.

The deadline for submissions was the 5th May 2023, with the appointment of consultants to begin the next phase of the Project by early June 2023.

## RED LINE FESTIVAL presents...



### Red Line Presents

The Red Line Festival is back for 2023! This year's festival will take place from 16th – 22nd October and is a celebration of all things literary, catering for all ages and interests. For 2023, Red Line Presents is a new element of the festival. This is a series of taster events taking place over the summer, leading up to the main Red Line Festival in October. Coming up first:

#### Red Line Presents: Sizzling Summer Reads | Tal-laght Library | Tues 2nd May at 7:00pm

Join Mayor of South Dublin County, Cllr Emma Murphy, County Librarian Paul Fusco and South Dublin author Zoe Miller as they talk to librarian Mags Lynch about their top picks for Summer Reading.

#### Red Line Presents: Catherine Ryan Howard in Conversation with Sinead Cuddihy | Ballyroan Library | Wed 24th May at 7.00pm

Bestselling crime author Catherine Ryan Howard chats to Sinead Cuddihy of Tired Mammy Book Club about her career, her influences, her books and what the future holds.

Booking for all events at [redlinefestival.ie](http://redlinefestival.ie)



Dublin Mountains Visitor Centre



# Corporate Performance and Change Management

## Mayors Mile – Mayors Initiative

As part of this year's Mayors Initiative, Mayor of South Dublin County Council Cllr. Emma Murphy encouraged residents of South Dublin County to get out in nature and into our parks throughout the month of April to complete the "Mayors Mile" with the opportunity to win weekly prizes.

The Initiative, which aims to promote health and wellbeing and encourage movement, encourages people to, run, walk or cycle a set mile in one of Corkagh, Griffeen, Waterstown, Tymon, Dodder Valley and Rathfarnham Castle parks, and then document their completion of the mile by posting a photo on social media with the hashtag #Mayor'sMile.

Any submissions were then entered in a weekly draw to win a Mayors Mile Goodie bag. One overall winner was also chosen at the end of the month to win a brand-new Fit Bit Watch.

The initiative was run in conjunction with the Active Cities team with the help of the Public Realm team and staff in the parks.

The Mayors Mile forms one part of Mayor Murphys Initiative for 2023. The Mayor also wanted to focus promotion on the Comhairle na nÓg Your Mind Matters Mental Health

Campaign where a series of promotional posters were created and designed by the Comhairle members covering general mental health and specific issues that may impact on a young person's sense of mental wellbeing. This year's Mayors Initiative will culminate with the Mayors Awards in late May.



Launch of Comhairle na nÓg Your Mind Matters Mental Health

## 5 Year anniversary of GDPR

As the 5-year anniversary of the GDPR approaches on 25th May 2018, South Dublin County Council continues to prioritise the protection of privacy of all individuals.

The Council has a Data Protection and Information Governance Officer. A culture of strong data protection is promoted by a number of measures, including, the continued delivery of mandatory GDPR training, induction training for new staff, data breach awareness campaigns.

If you have any queries in relation to how personal data is processed, information is available on [www.sdcc.ie/data-protection](http://www.sdcc.ie/data-protection)

## 300k Have Your Say – Submissions Now Closed!

The submission deadline for projects for this year's 300k Have Your Say has now passed, closing at midnight on Friday 21st of April. Residents in the Tallaght South and Saggart Electoral Area were invited to develop and submit project proposals for their local area.

These proposals will be assessed in terms of their community benefit and potential for completion.

This assessment will be conducted by a panel of elected councillors and council staff who will then create a shortlist which will be costed and brought to a public vote on the €300k Have Your Say website and in set locations around the Tallaght South and Saggart.

The community will then vote for their favourite proposals up to the value of €300,000. Following the closure of the voting period those proposals receiving the highest vote with a combined value of €300,000, will be chosen to be worked on by Council staff.

Voting opens on May 15th and runs until May 28th.

For more information, visit Have Your Say - SDCC

## Innovation Strategy 2022-2024

Harnessing the power of innovation to deliver world-class public services in South Dublin County Council

### Innovation Strategy 2022 - 2024

South Dublin County Council have launched the Innovation Strategy 2022 - 2024.

This innovation strategy reflects the need to continuously improve, deliver best-in-class services and tackle the major challenges and opportunities facing both South Dublin County Council and Ireland in the coming years.

To achieve the goals, priorities and actions in our innovation strategy, the Council will adopt a project management approach leveraging key tools to ensure our initiatives are effectively monitored and delivered on time.

The Council's Learning, Development and Innovation team and our Innovation Network will actively plan, manage and monitor the action roadmap to achieve required outcomes.

Voting to begin on 15 May for 300k Have Your Say



# Environment, Water Climate Change

## Participate in public consultations on Jobstown and Quarryvale

The Part 8 planning processes for the rejuvenation of both Jobstown and Quarryvale Parks are underway, transforming these spaces to universally accessible, biodiversity enhancing, community friendly amenity parks.

SDCC wishes to re-invigorate both Jobstown and Quarryvale Park; with a renewed focus on meeting the needs of the communities that live and surround them. Our vision is to create safe, clean environments free from anti-social behaviour for people of all ages to meet, exercise and enjoy nature. The parks should be a source of pride for the local communities and a place they feel ownership of. The Masterplan for each site will also consider the wider green infrastructure/greenways and their connections to other high-quality open space and parks in the County.

The project team included a Social Research Consultant, who completed an initial round of consultations with resi-

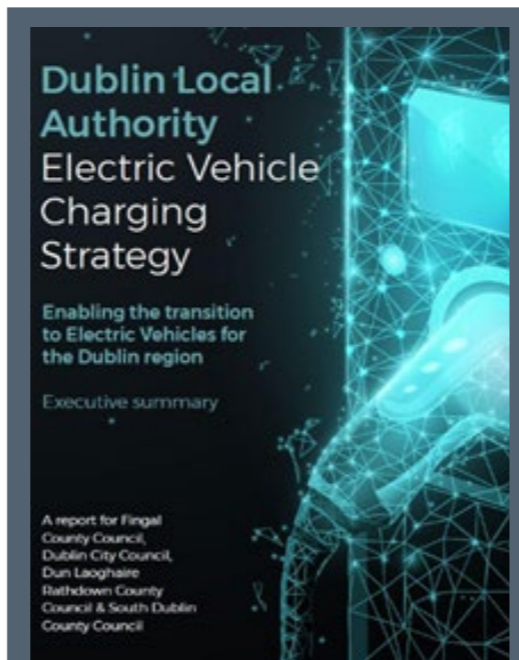
dents, organisations, and interest groups. The findings from this research were incorporated as part of the preliminary designs prior to the projects being released for Part 8.

The part 8 for Jobstown and Quarryvale Parks have now been launched, and citizens are invited to share their thoughts, opinions, and suggestions for the spaces via the SDCC Consultation Portal <https://consult.sdublincoco.ie/en>, by post, or in person at County Hall. The consultation period will run for six weeks, closing on the 18th May (Jobstown Park) and 19th May (Quarryvale Park).

We are pleased to report that both projects are running on time, with a decision on the Part 8 due in the summer of 2023.

Construction is anticipated to begin before the end of the year, with an estimated 10–12-month window for the construction phase of works. We are excited to see the establishment of two upgrad-

ed parks on either side of the County in 2024.



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

## EV Charging in South Dublin Update

Did you know that ZEVI (Zero Emission Vehicles Ireland) was launched by the Minister for Transport, Eamon Ryan T.D., in July 2022?

As Electric Vehicles (EV's) become more mainstream there is an increasing demand for home charging solutions as well as a seamless public charging network. The role of ZEVI is to coordinate and oversee the delivery of these as part of the Government's Electric Vehicle Charging Infrastructure Strategy 2022-2025.

Key initiatives in this plan include:

- Destination Charging Grant for Sports Clubs: The Shared Island Sports Club grant will provide funding to install a network of publicly accessible chargers in communities nationwide through their local sports clubs subject to certain eligibility criteria. If your Sports Club is based on SDCC property or holds a lease with SDCC, please contact us for assistance with your application.

## Draft National Waste Management Plan for a Circular Economy.

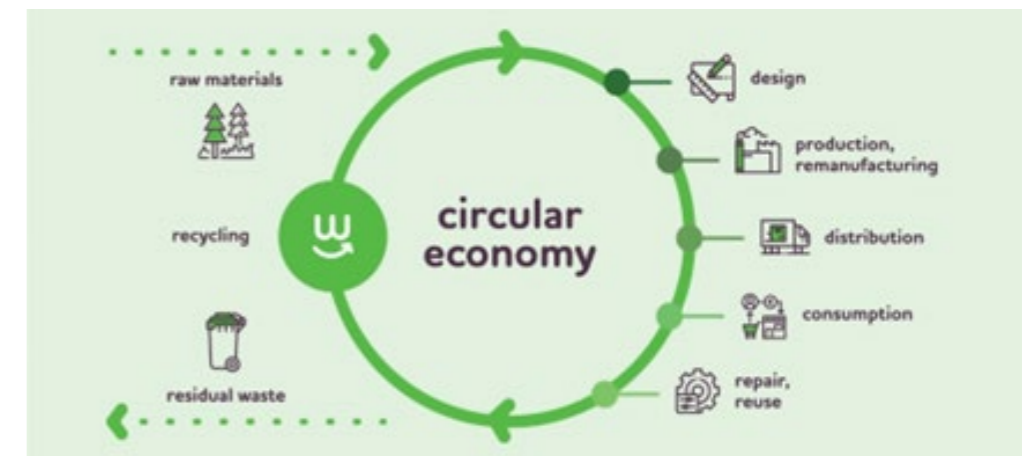
In September 2020 the Government published A Waste Action Plan for a Circular Economy as the country's new waste management policy for the period 2020 to 2025.

Following the publication of the national policy document the three existing Waste Management Planning Regional Offices have prepared a Draft National Waste Management Plan for A Circular Economy.

The new policy and plan seek to embed climate action into all strands of public policy, to shift focus away from waste disposal and look instead at how resources can be

preserved by creating a circular economy. The new policy document contains over 200 measures across various waste areas including the circular economy, municipal waste, consumer protection / citizen engagement, plastics and packaging, construction and demolition, textiles, green public procurement, and waste enforcement.

A Statutory Public Consultation Phase on the draft plan will commence on Wednesday the 3rd of May 2023 and will run until 4pm on Wednesday the 5th of July. The consultation phase will be supported by a communications campaign including press release, press advert, radio, and social/digital media. All information will be available on [mywaste.ie](http://mywaste.ie).



- Apartment Charging Grant: Managed by the SEAI, this allocates funding of up to 80% of the cost of the installation of charging infrastructure at dwellings without access to a driveway, such as apartments, duplexes, and mixed developments.
- EV Home Charging Grant: Managed by the SEAI, this enables tenants or homeowners to apply for a grant of up to the value of €600 towards the purchase and installation of a home charger unit, even when an EV is not yet owned.
- Commercial Fleet Trial: This trial, run by the SEAI, will afford businesses the opportunity to test an EV free of charge for a minimum period of three months. Its purpose is to show, through real world evidence, the benefits, savings and the suitability and viability of EVs in a commercial setting. (Note: applications are now closed due to overwhelming demand).
- Electric Small Public Service Vehicle (eSPSV) Grant: Managed by the NTA, the aim

of the eSPSV grant is to enable owners of small public service vehicles, such as taxis, hackneys and limousines, to buy electric vehicles, championing the electric experience for passengers and drivers in Ireland. South Dublin County Council is actively working with ZEVI, the SEAI, the three other Dublin Local Authorities (DLAs) and other stakeholders to deliver EV charging in line with the approach set out in the Dublin Local Authority Electric Charging Strategy.

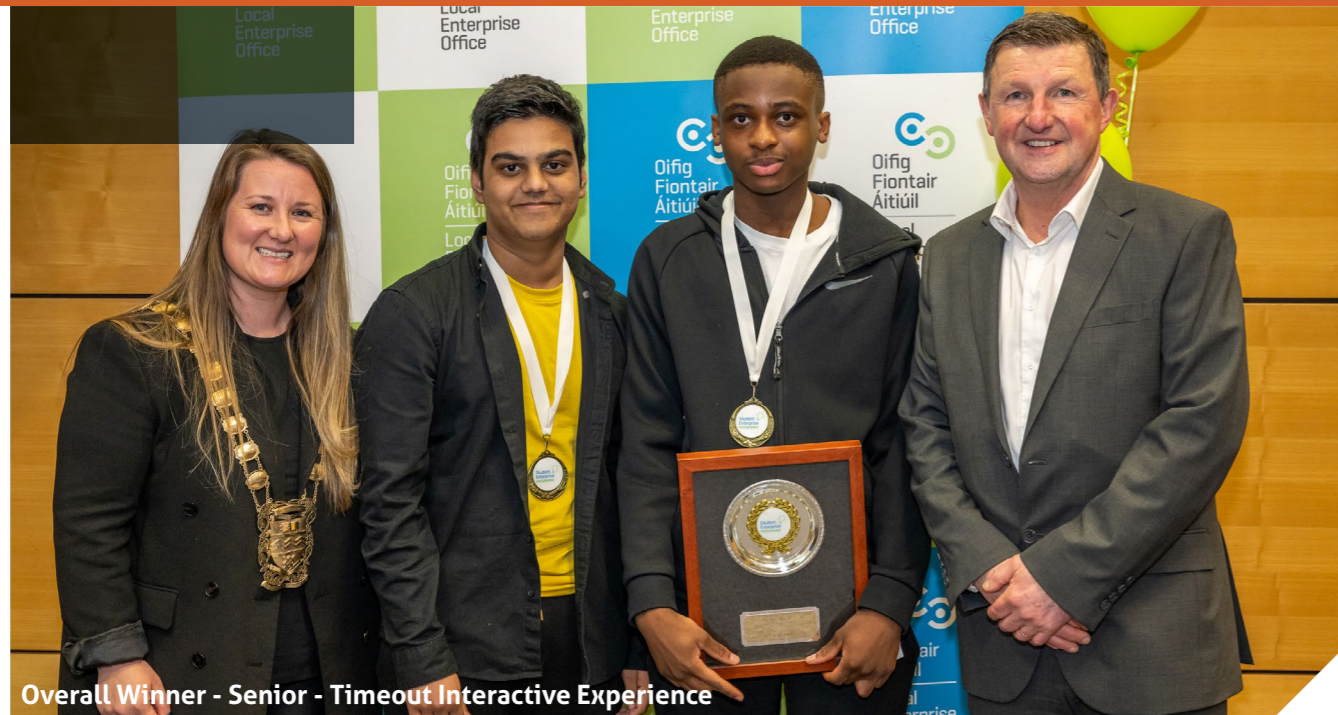
SDCC and the DLAs have recently published a tender for a pilot EV charging scheme. The project comprises the supply, installation, commissioning, operation, and maintenance of destination public EV charging across the Dublin Region. SDCC have identified 14 No preliminary sites to be initially progressed under this project, pending engagement with the ESB regarding network capacity.

Additional information on the Climate Action Plan EV Charging Infrastructure Plan and the Grants mentioned above can be found at:

Draft National Waste Management Plan for a Circular Economy (pictured above)

# Local Enterprise Office

## National Finals of Student Enterprise Programme



Overall Winner - Senior - Timeout Interactive Experience

### South Dublin Students Set to Compete in National Final of Student Enterprise Programme

The stage is set for an exciting showdown at the National Final of the Student Enterprise Programme. Out of over 25,000 entrants, 82 Finalists will compete across three categories on Friday, May 5th in Croke Park.

Each of the 31 Local Enterprise Offices have one representative each in the Senior category with the remaining Finalists spread across the Junior and Intermediate categories. The Finalists span a whole range of sectors from agriculture and design to sustainability and healthcare.

South Dublin is proud to have three fantastic enterprises representing the region at this year National Final. The Senior Finalist, Timeout Interactive Experiences from Rockbrook Park School, offer a real-life immersive game that anyone can sign up to play

in a live environment with the support of a . The Intermediate Finalist is Daniel's Cookies from Greenhills Community College, with his baked goods. Finally, the Junior Finalist is The Simple Things May Not Be So Simple from St. Mark's Community School, who have created children's books supporting them in learning life skills.

These three outstanding businesses have proved their mettle by winning their respective categories at the South Dublin County Final last month. Now they are gearing up to compete at national level. The Student Enterprise Programme has been a fantastic platform for young entrepreneurs to showcase their innovative ideas, and the South Dublin representatives are excited to showcase their businesses at the Final.

Sandra Hickey, Local Enterprise Office South South Dublin said, "Our national finalists are excellent ambassadors for the programme and we wish them the very best of luck on Friday 5th May. These successful students have come through a very successful local student enterprise programmes in South Dublin which had over 620 students from 20 local schools competing to represent the county in the National Final".

Michael Nevin, Chair of the Local Enterprise Offices' Enterprise Education Committee, said; "There is another fantastic selection of Finalists for this year's programme. Across all three categories we are seeing some really innovative thinking and an ambition to solve societal and environmental issues through entrepreneurship,



Overall Winner - Junior - Simple Things Made So Simple

which is really heartening for the future. We're looking forward to seeing them all at the Finals in Croke Park and for those that didn't make the finals this year they will have learned some invaluable skills and will hopefully bring that spark of entrepreneurship into later life."

An initiative of the Local Enterprise Offices to encourage entrepreneurship in secondary schools, the Student Enterprise Programme has seen over 350,000 secondary school students take part in the programme since it first began.

Participating students compete across three categories, Junior (1st year), Intermediate (2nd and 3rd year) and Senior (4th, 5th and 6th year, LVA, LCA and Youth Outreach). Each student enterprise is challenged with creating, setting up and running their own business, which must show viable sales of their service or product. Following the conclusion of county and regional finals, Student Enterprises from across the country will now take part in the Final at Croke Park next month.

In addition to the three categories that students will be grouped under by class, students also had the option to take part in further 'optional

competitions'. This year saw the introduction of three additional categories of optional competitions including – the 'Best Business Website' sponsored by .IE, the "Green Go Getter Award" sponsored by the EPA, as well as the "SMART Business Idea" award sponsored by Folens. These three new awards categories are in addition to 'My Entrepreneurial Journey', 'Social Stars' and 'Intellectual Property' competitions from previous years.

Last year's winner of the Student Enterprise Programme were "Barrellda" – an eco-innovation created by two young farmers from Co. Meath. Barrellda specialise in revamping old, blue polythene drums and recycling them to create meal silos and teat feeders. The young entrepreneurs have won

wide for their sustainability focused project which also addresses the rising costs of farming equipment.

The Student Enterprise Programme is funded by the Government of Ireland through Enterprise Ireland and delivered by the 31 Local Enterprise Offices in local authorities throughout the country. Since the Student Enterprise Programme began in 2003, over 350,000 students have taken part, learning key skills on how to create a business idea, start a business and grow a business. The Student Enterprise Programme also has new range of online resources for 2021 / 2022 at [www.StudentEnterprise.ie](http://www.StudentEnterprise.ie), which will feature regular blogs and houses a full range of Student Enterprise resources for students and teachers.



Overall Winner - Intermediate - Daniel's Cookies



# 300k Have Your Say STEAM Project with Traveller Children Launched



**Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts & Mathematics (STEAM) Project with Traveller Children Launched which was funded through 300k Have Your Say Rathfarnham Templeogue**

We are thrilled to announce that the Project with Traveller Children, funded through the “300k Have Your Say” scheme for Rathfarnham/ Templeogue, has launched this month.

This initiative, which is part of the Council’s ongoing commitment to community development and engagement, aims to empower local

communities and enable them to have a say in how funding is allocated for projects that benefit their neighbourhoods.

The “300k Have Your Say” scheme provides an opportunity for residents in Rathfarnham/ Templeogue to voice their opinions and contribute to the decision-making process on how the allocated funds should

be utilized for community projects. We are grateful to South Dublin County Council for their support and investment in the STEAM Project, recognizing the importance of promoting STEAM education among the traveller children in our community.

The funding received through the “300k Have Your Say” scheme will

go towards delivering engaging and educational workshops, facilitated by MakerMeet, to introduce STEAM concepts to children from the traveller community in South Dublin. The workshops will provide a unique opportunity for the young learners to explore, learn, and develop their skills in science, technology, engineering, arts, and mathematics through interactive and creative activities.

This funding will enable us to create a positive impact and empower the children from the traveller community in South Dublin to pur-

sue their interests in STEAM subjects, fostering their curiosity and learning in a fun and engaging way.

We are excited to see the positive outcomes of the STEAM Project and the lasting impact it will have on the children involved. Stay tuned for updates on the progress of the project in our upcoming newsletters, as we continue to work towards empowering and inspiring young learners in our community through STEAM education.

The project will be delivered in two halves: April/May and September/

October. Details of the April/May programme are as follows:

We are working with MakerMeet who have previously worked with South Dublin Libraries successfully on a STEAM project for Travellers.

Two STEAM workshops will be delivered on each of the following dates to children from Senior Infants to 6th class. They will be delivered in Ballyroan library for the older children and in Scoil Mhuire for the younger children.

- April 25th
- May 9th
- May 16th



# Our Library, Our Future Launch of South Dublin Libraries Development Plan



**The launch of “Our Library, Our Future: South Dublin Libraries Development Plan 2023-2027” was a fantastic occasion that took place at a Family Fun Day in Tallaght Library on April 12th.**

The plan represents a strategic approach to address the challenges faced by the library service, with a human-centred design approach at its core.

County Librarian, Paul Fusco, emphasized that “Our Library, Our Future” is a living document that invites the community to actively participate in

shaping the future of the library service. It sets out a vision for a more relevant, innovative, and impactful library that caters to the needs of the community in South Dublin.

The plan marks the beginning of a five-year conversation between the library and the community, where their thoughts and ideas will be cru-



Family Fun Day at Tallaght Library to celebrate the Launch of the 5 Year Library Development Plan

cial in co-creating the library service. The plan includes an ambitious aspiration statement and key development areas that will guide the library's growth over the next five years. It also outlines the leadership and capabilities needed for success. Importantly, the library is seeking input from both library users and non-users alike, en-

couraging them to share their ideas and suggestions through an online portal accessible via QR codes displayed across the library network and on the library's website, [www.southdublinlibraries.ie](http://www.southdublinlibraries.ie).

The launch event was a huge success, with almost 2,000 people in at-

tendance at the Family Fun Day in Tallaght Library. Attendees enjoyed a wide range of activities such as magic shows, face painting, gaming van, Lego workshops, and a VR experience with AWS Think Big Space, showcasing the library's commitment to providing engaging and innovative experiences for the community.

“Our Library, Our Future” represents an exciting new chapter for South Dublin Libraries as it embarks on a journey to evolve and thrive as a modern library service. The library is eager to hear from the community and invites them to actively participate in shaping the future of the libraries in South Dublin. Together, the library and the community will work towards a shared vision of a library service that is relevant, innovative, and impactful, reflecting the changing needs of the community in the years to come.



Pictured left: Paul Fusco; County Librarian with Cllr. Emma Murphy, Mayor of South Dublin County Council



**Minister for Housing Darragh O'Brien Turns Sod on New Cost Rental Development**

Mayor of South Dublin, Cllr. Emma Murphy, along with Darragh O'Brien, Minister for Housing, Local Government and Heritage, today officially turned the sod to commence a new development of 133 cost rental apartments at Belgard Square North in Tallaght town centre. This South Dublin County Council project represents the first standalone cost rental development by a local authority in Ireland.

The development consists of three studio apartments, sixty-four one-bedroom apartments, sixty-three two-bedroom apartments and three three-bedroom apartments to be delivered in three blocks, ranging from three to eight storeys together with community space and high-quality communal and public open space. The central location is ideal for the rental market with proximity to major employment, retail and education centres as well as excellent transport links and amenities, including the soon to be completed Work IQ Innova-

tion Centre and the Innovation Square public plaza, both of which are also current Council projects.

Building contractors JJ Rhatigan have been appointed by the Council for the construction works with the development expected to be completed and occupied in 2025. The project is being funded by South Dublin County Council with support through the Affordable Housing Fund from the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage under Housing for All, the national housing plan.

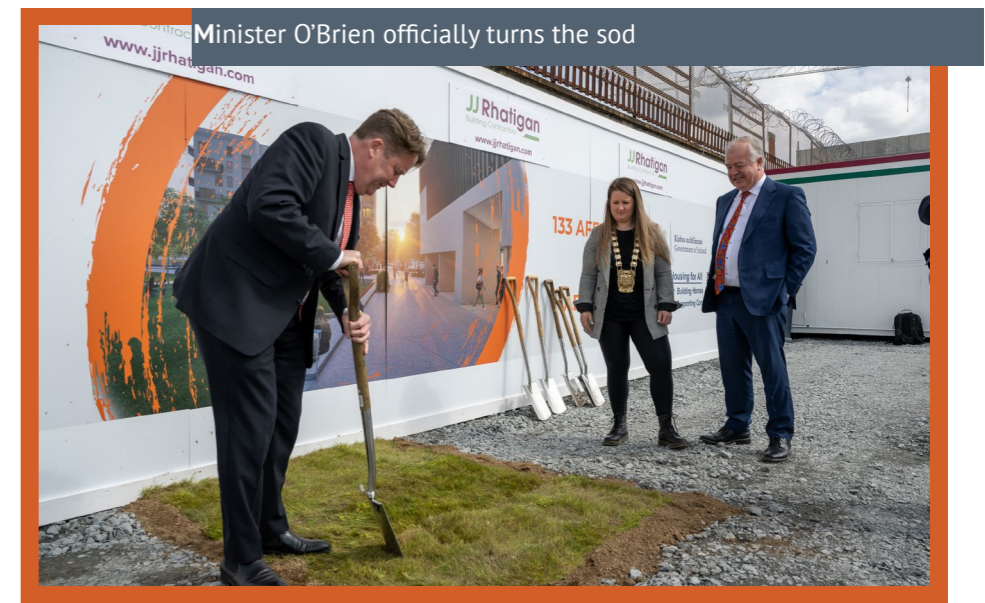
Cost rental housing provides affordable rented accommodation to people on middle incomes who are above the

threshold for social housing but have difficulty affording private rented accommodation. The rent payable by tenants in this development will be directly linked to the cost of building, managing and maintaining the homes and will be at discounted to at least 25% below local market rents through the Affordable Housing Fund subsidy.

Speaking at the official sod turning, Minister O'Brien said: "I am delighted to turn the sod on the State's first Local Authority led Cost Rental Scheme. Cost Rental is a new form of tenure here in Ireland, it's where rents are charged which cover the cost of delivering, managing and maintaining the homes only, so they are not driven

by profits. They are safe and secure rental homes where people can set down their roots if they want to, safe in the knowledge the State is backing them. Under Housing for All we will see at least 18,000 Cost Rental homes delivered across the country by our Local Authorities, our AHBS and the LDA. I want to highly commend Danny and South Dublin County Council for making this a reality," he concluded.

Mr. Danny McLoughlin, Chief Executive, South Dublin County Council said: "Quality, affordable rental accommodation is now and will continue to be a critical element of Government led housing delivery policy. This is the first of many such developments planned by South Dublin County Council. It is a quality development, in what we believe will be a highly sought after location within this new Innovation District. The Elected Councillors who have supported this innovative project



are to be commended for taking this first important step in what is a new broader housing delivery role for local government."

Ger Ronayne, Chief Executive Officer, JJ Rhatigan & Company said: "We are delighted to get started on this

much-needed housing project for the people of Tallaght. We understand the urgency of the need for high-quality affordable housing and we are committed to delivering all 133 apartments by mid-2024. Our use of precast concrete and other modern methods of construction will allow us to speed up delivery, and we are excited to see the positive impact this development will have on the community and the wider area into the future."

Cllr. Emma Murphy, Mayor of South Dublin County Council added: "Today is a landmark day in South Dublin as we show leadership in the provision of housing and are showing innovative housing solutions for the people of South Dublin. As we turn the sod on the first Local Authority led Cost Rental Scheme in the State, we are aiming to provide a Cost Rental option, an affordable long-term rental option to residents in South Dublin who want to work and live in this community. It is a pivotal day for people in Tallaght and throughout the County as we embrace this new model here in South Dublin. I am delighted that the project has the full backing of Minister Darragh O'Brien and his office which will allow for people to embed and thrive here in our local community in Tallaght."

## A Focus On Minister Darragh O'Brien turns the sod on Belgard Apartments



**Minister Darragh O'Brien turning the sod at Belgard**

# Images of the Month



Age Friendly Parking at Quarryvale Community Centre

# Images of the Month



St. Catherines Row Playground Facilities



Tallaght Rowing Blitz



Scoil Mochua LEO Award

# Images of the Month



Sean Walsh Playground Completion

# Images of the Month



Launch of Comhairle "Your Mind Matters" Campaign



Pétanque Court Opening at Griffeen Valley Park

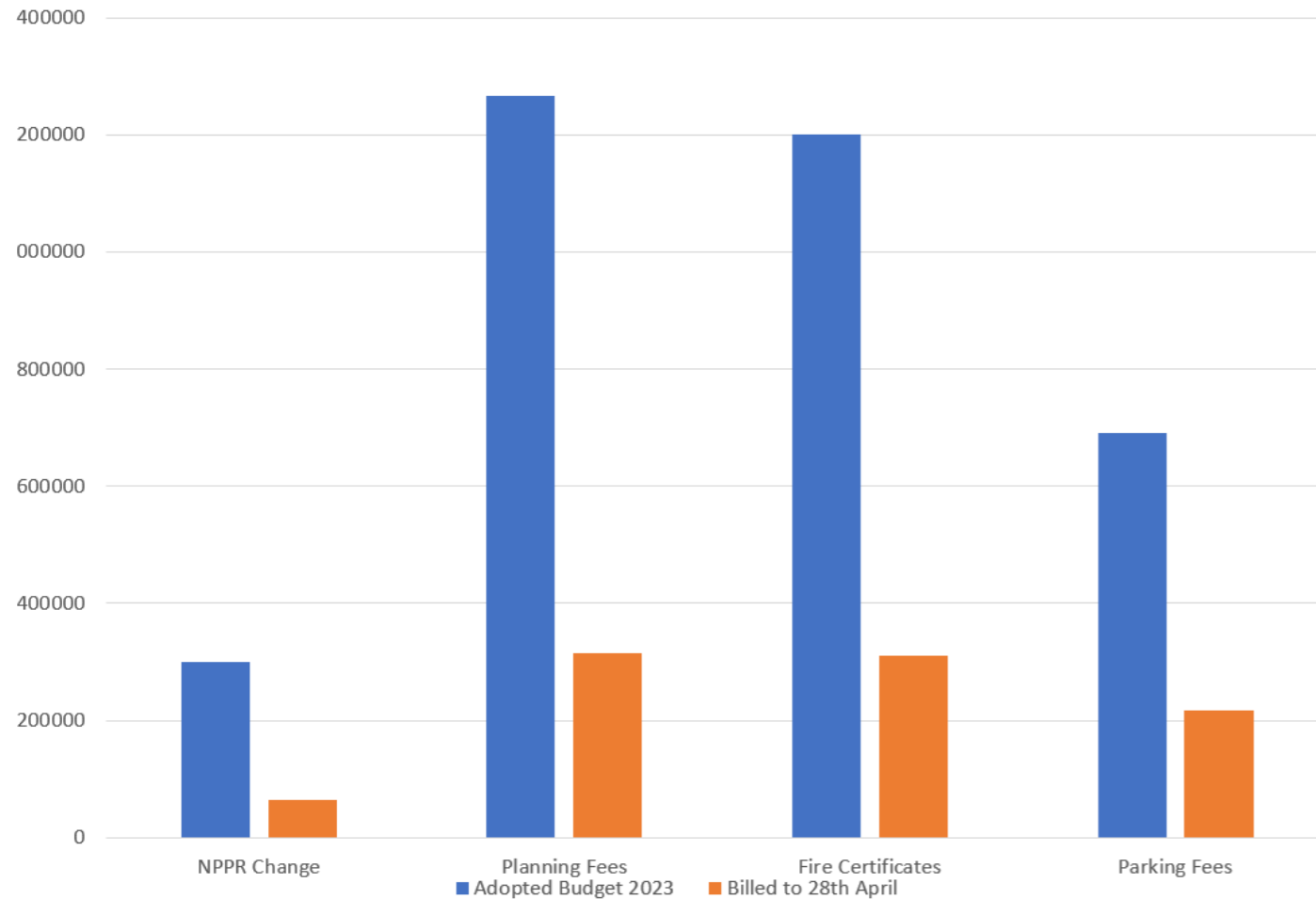


Libraries Family Fun Day

# Finance Report

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