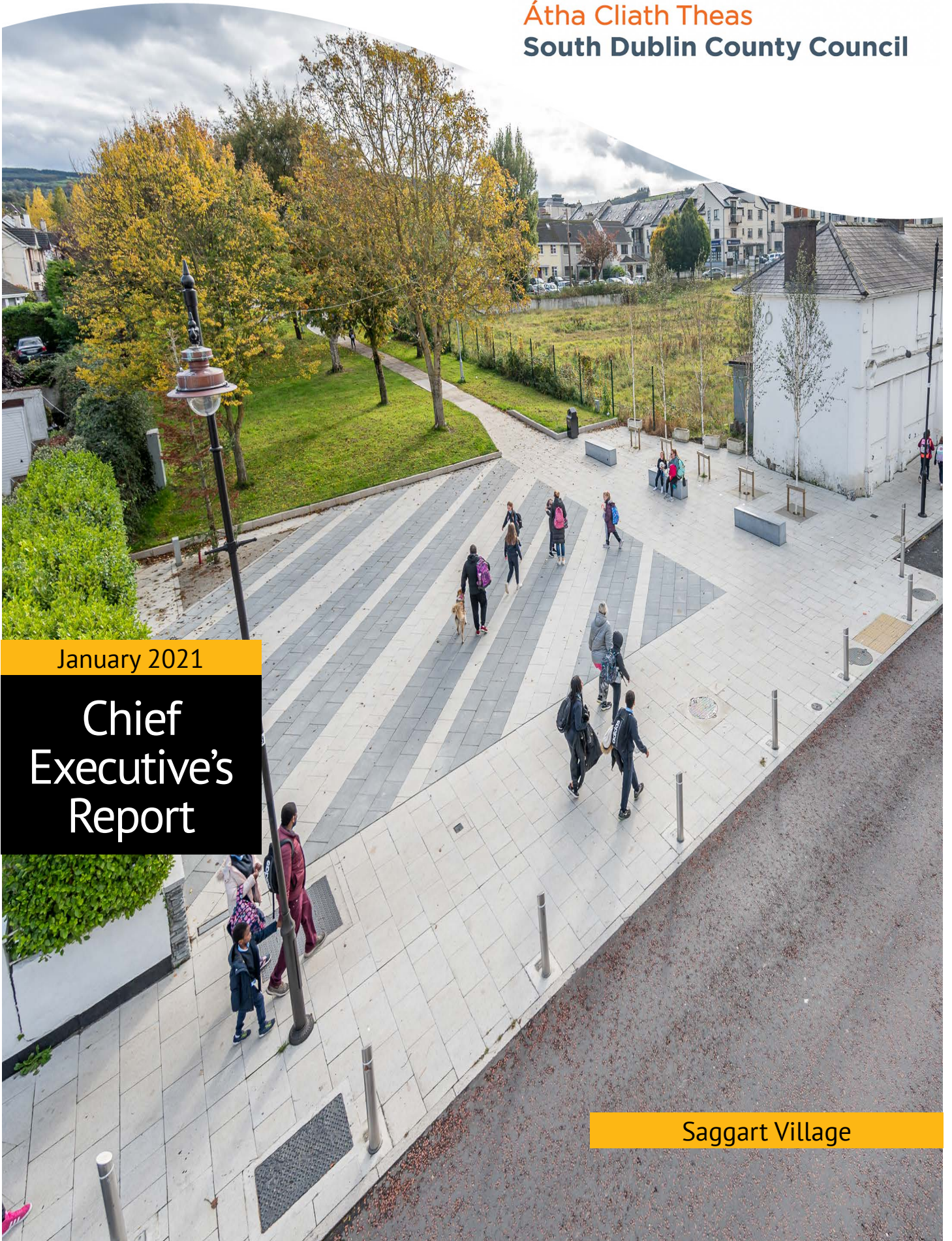




Comhairle Contae
Átha Cliath Theas
South Dublin County Council



January 2021

Chief Executive's Report

Saggart Village

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

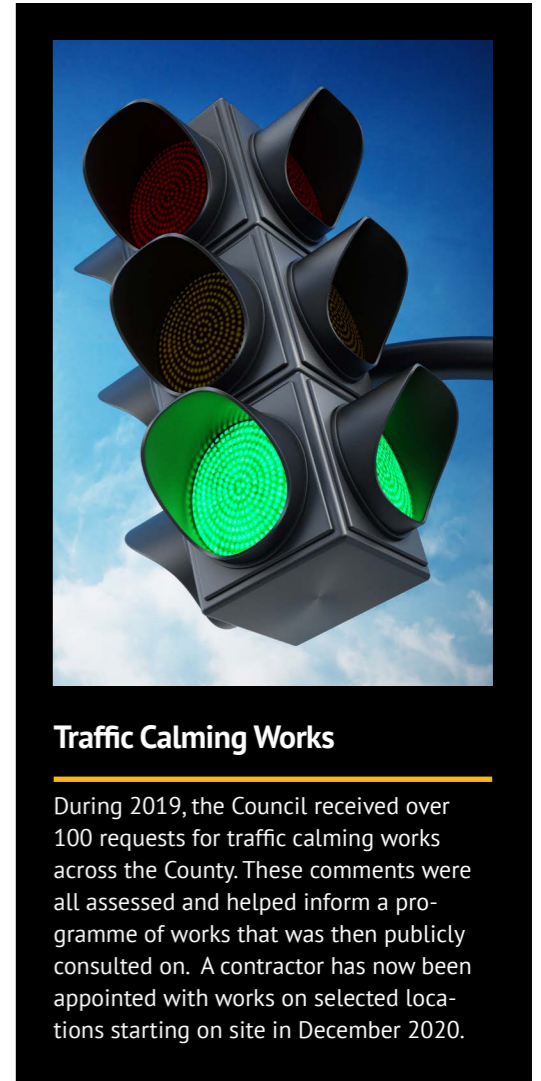
Saggart Village

As part of a County wide villages initiative, South Dublin County Council carried out an upgrade to Saggart Village which has now been completed.

The scheme has brought significant improvements to Saggart by providing more space for people to enjoy this important historic village.

The works were designed with significant input from local businesses and local residents, in particular the Saggart Village Resident Association and Tidy Towns team.

The upgrade works included the creation of a new public plaza, extended and repaved footpaths, new and improved public lighting, planters, notice boards, new heritage welcome signs and resurfacing the roads.



Traffic Calming Works

During 2019, the Council received over 100 requests for traffic calming works across the County. These requests were all assessed and helped inform a programme of works that was then publicly consulted on. A contractor has now been appointed with works on selected locations starting on site in December 2020.

Clonburris Strategic Development Zone (SDZ)

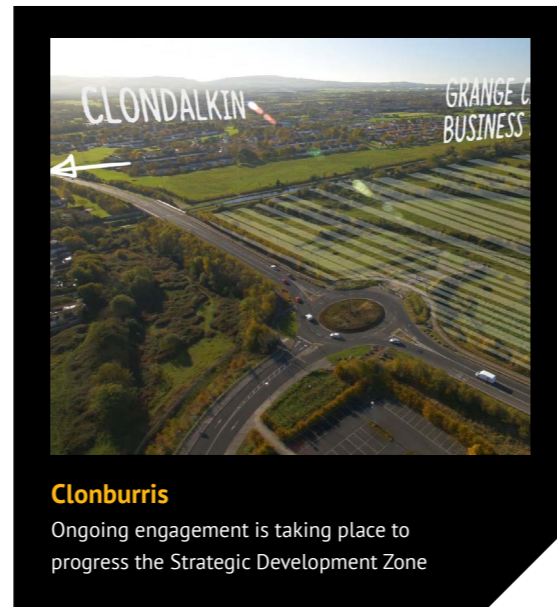
There has been ongoing engagement between the Council, private landowners and state bodies to progress development at Clonburris SDZ. The Council is currently working with landowners to finalise plans for surface water, foul water and water supply and a parks and landscape strategy before development to ensure a high-quality, coordinated approach among all landowners.

In terms of development proposals, the Council is working with Dublin Fire Brigade and the Department of Education and Science to progress sites for a new fire station and a new post-primary school, respectively, within the SDZ lands.

A planning application is being prepared for the main east-west link street and utility corridor on the southern side of the railway line, providing the key access route and utilities for development across all major landholdings. This application will be submitted to the Council in early 2021.

On the Council's lands, consultants have been appointed in recent months to design the first development phase. Pre-planning discussions have also been held with several private landowners, which should lead to planning applications being submitted in 2021.

A significant amount of work has been done to identify, design and cost the strategic infrastructure, common to all landowners. This

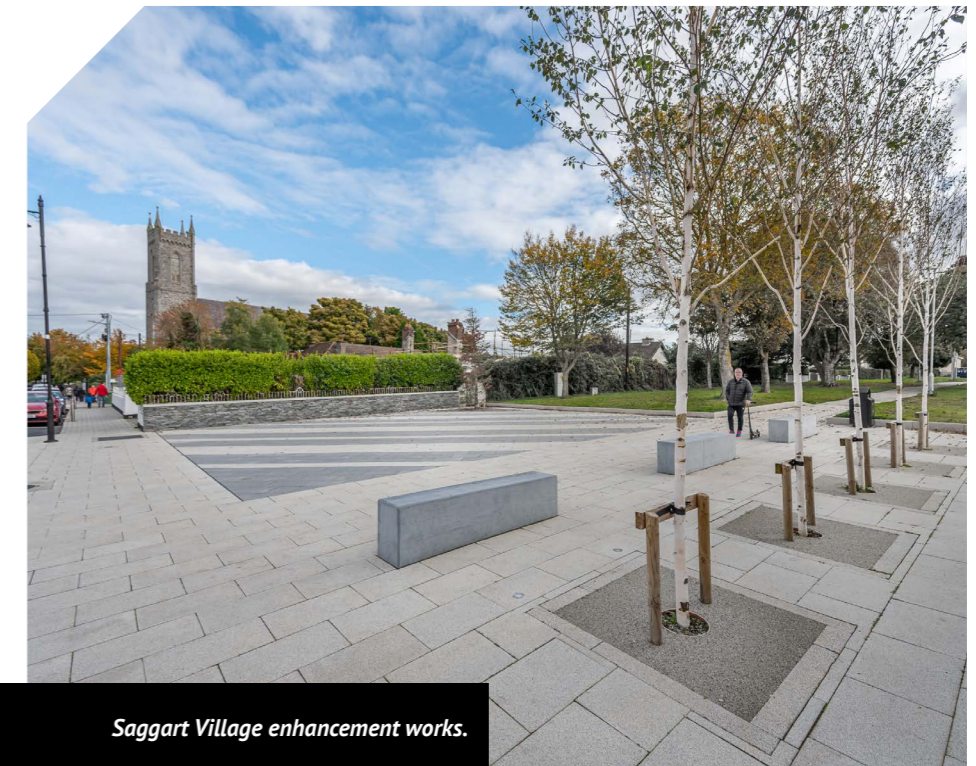


work identified a need for funding assistance to progress the delivery of housing and informed a significant bid for funding from the Urban Regeneration and Development Fund.

Planning Applications

Whilst COVID-19 has changed some of the ways the Council works, it was none-the-less a very busy year in terms of planning. During 2020, the Council received 795 planning applications, which is a reduction of only 53 applications from 2019.

The Council assessed and determined 682 planning decisions and responded to 35 Strategic Housing Developments proposals at different stages in the process. The Council also developed an innovative on-line approach for pre-planning meetings, which allowed for 103 pre-planning meetings.



Saggart Village enhancement works.

HOUSING SOCIAL AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT



Work Commencing on Kilcarbery Joint Venture Housing Development

Construction work is now commencing on the Kilcarbery Grange joint venture housing development that will deliver 1,034 new homes together with community and creche facilities in Kilcarbery, Dublin 22.

310 of the new homes will be for social housing with a further 50 to be provided as discounted homes for sale that will have a combined total discount of almost €1million on the market prices for comparable homes. Additionally, once the national affordable housing scheme is confirmed it is likely that there will also be additional opportunities for affordable purchase

and cost rental homes within the development, further enhancing the tenure mix.

The site, which includes a mix of 1 to 4-bedroom home types including apartments, duplex, terraced and semi-detached homes, was the inaugural project of the Major Urban Housing Delivery Sites (MUHDS) initiative under Rebuilding Ireland with State funding of €2 million used to provide infrastructure to facilitate large scale housing delivery through the Local Infrastructure Housing Activation Fund (LIHAF).

Approval for the site was given by An Bord Pleanála in late 2019 with the first new homes delivered at the end of 2021 and completion of the entire development expected in 2025.



Kilcarbery Grange
Construction work has commenced at Kilcarbery Grange.

Saggart Centre

The maximum available funding of €500,000 has been secured from the Dublin Rural LEDAER programme for the construction of a new multipurpose community centre for Saggart. The project will see the renovation and conservation works of the existing St. Mary's Schoolhouse along with a modern extension.

The project received Part 8 approval from the Council at its May 2020 meeting and following a procurement process the contract for the works has been awarded to JS Dooley Contracting Ltd. who are expected to commence on site in 2021.

Funding for Local Communities

The South Dublin Local Community Development Committee approved additional funding for local and community groups across South Dublin County at its December meeting, meaning that a total of €355,330 now approved under the Department of Rural and Community Development Community Enhancement Programme 2020.

Projects awarded funding include:

- Development/renovation of community centres,
- Community and youth amenities,
- Development of sports/recreation facilities,
- Improvements to town parks and common areas and spaces,
- CCTV equipment,
- Public realm improvements,
- Development of play/recreation spaces,
- Energy efficiency projects.

Full details of the funding allocated is available on www.sdcc.ie.



MacUilliam Estate Name Stone

As part of ongoing work between the Council and local residents in Mac Uilliam Estate in Tallaght, a new name stone and associated landscaping works were provided at the entrance to the estate in December 2020. This has been warmly welcomed by the Mac Uilliam Residents Association who wanted a feature point in the estate around which a sense of pride in the area can develop.



Funding has been secured for the Saggart Community Centre.



ECONOMIC ENTERPRISE AND TOURISM DEVELOPMENT

Unwrapped 2020

Now in its eleventh year, Unwrapped '20, the annual winter festival, moved online in 2020. The theme of the year was 'Shining a Light', a celebration of rebirth and renewal.

Artists and community participants imagined a contemporary fairy-tale featuring the Winter Queen. The Winter Queen bringing a gift of light that revealed what is extraordinary about the places and people of South Dublin County. Over 300 participants welcomed her with illuminated artworks, films, spoken word, music and songs.

- Bringing the Light, a unique film and spoken word piece by Lyndsey Lawlor,
- Singing the Light, a choral piece by Kingswood Community and Youth Choirs,
- Creating the Light, a documentary following the artists and participants as they prepared and presented the event.

Local Enterprise Brexit Supports

On 1 January, the Brexit transition period finished and the United Kingdom left the EU Single Market and Customs Union. Businesses in South Dublin County can contact the Local Enterprise Office at info@leo.sdblincoco.ie for advice and can also visit www.localenterprise.ie/Discover-Business-Supports/Brexit/ for a list of supports.

Providing Business Supports

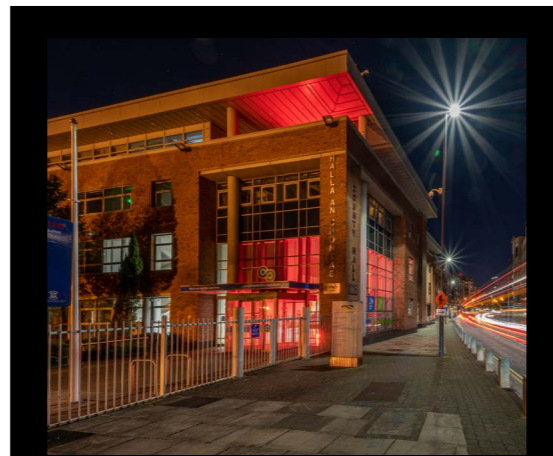
2020 was a very difficult year for many businesses in our County. To help, South Dublin County Council provided a range of supports to businesses to help keep them stay afloat through restrictions and reduced trade.

Through our Local Enterprise Office, we have provided in excess of €32m in direct support across Restart grants, trading online vouchers, business continuity vouchers and Client Stimulus Schemes. The Council has given a Commercial Rates waiver to eligible businesses, including the vast majority of Small Medium Enterprises, for the nine months since the pandemic took hold, supported by a €900 million special funding allocation from the

government.

Financial assistance is one side of our business support. Enabling trade in a safe and responsible environment is the other. The Council has worked with the business community to re-imagine and design our towns so that citizens feel comfortable and safe whilst shopping and going about their business.

The already strong relationship with our businesses has been deepened on the back of strong cooperation from them to ensure appropriate communications and public signage on adherence to public health guidelines.



Business Supports

South Dublin County Council has provided a range of supports to businesses during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Promoting the County

During 2021, a comprehensive marketing campaign for the County will build on the Fáilte tourism campaigns to support the tourism operators in the County following the Covid crisis.

Delivery of the Tourism Event and Festival Grant scheme will continue to encourage event organisers to consider South Dublin County and 'Dublin's Outdoors' in which to hold their events, building on the ongoing success of the Red Line Book Festival, Flavours of South Dublin and other ongoing events.



Unwrapped 2020 - Shining a Light



CORPORATE PERFORMANCE AND CHANGE MANAGEMENT

Social Media Growth

South Dublin County Council recorded significant gains on our social media channels in 2020. The Council operates four primary social media channels spread across Facebook, Twitter, LinkedIn and Instagram.

The number of times our content was shown to people during 2020 grew to approximately 18m, a 42% increase on 2019. In terms of engagement, the number of likes, shares, retweets etc, we received grew by 105% to over 700,000 interactions.

The Council is currently in the process of recruiting a Digital Content Officer to tell the story of our work in a more visual format. 2021 will see increased use of video on social media and a focus on producing easily digestible news and information pieces for our citizens.



Online Consultations

Given the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic, the Council is now running online consultations and live events as we make more of our services available digitally. Recent online consultations have included a well received presentation on the Cycle South Dublin strategy. You can watch that presentation back and find out what is upcoming by visiting www.sdcc.ie/en/services/our-council/live-events.

Women in Local Government

South Dublin County Council has been awarded a grant of €10,000 from the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage under the 'Call for proposals to support females and diversity in Local Government' initiative.

The grant awarded is to carry out research with female and minority candidates that ran in the local elections in South Dublin County Council in 2019, so as to develop an action plan for increased participation informed by the research outcomes.

It is expected that the plan will include targeted initiatives to ultimately increase the number of female and diverse candidates in

the 2024 local elections.

This initiative will build on the 2020 grant awarded to the Council to develop a promotional video in this area which will be released in early 2021.



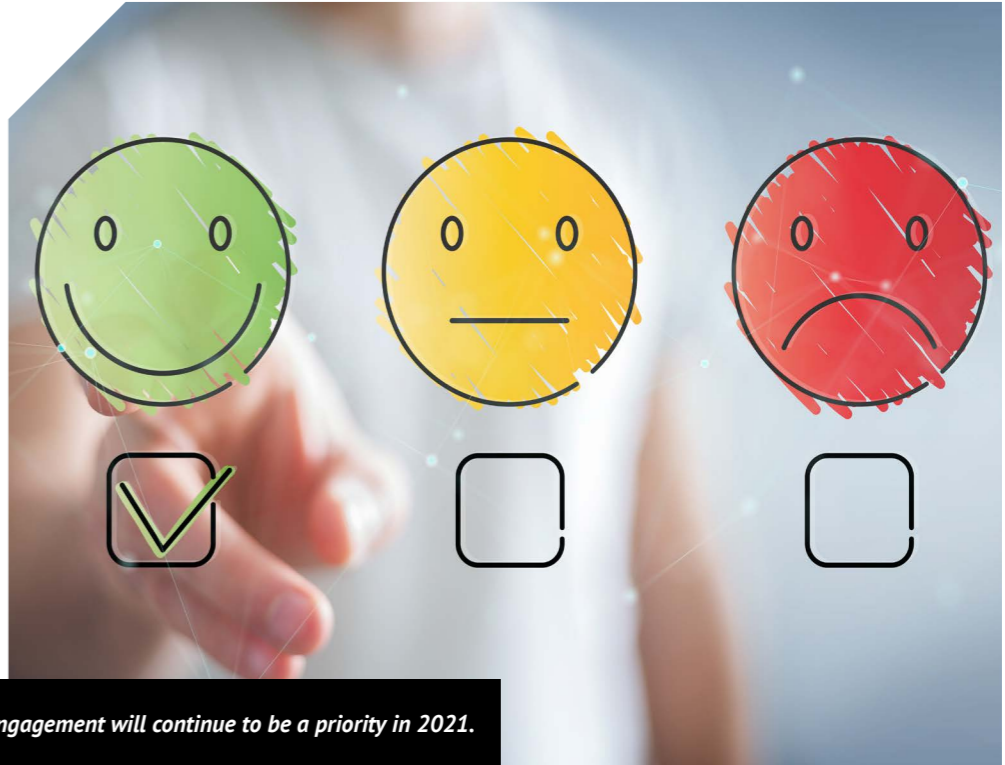
Women in Local Government
The Council has been awarded funding to support participation in local government.

Citizen Engagement

Engaging with people who live in South Dublin County and who access our services underpins the delivery of our work. It helps us to ensure that we meet the needs of the County and its citizens.

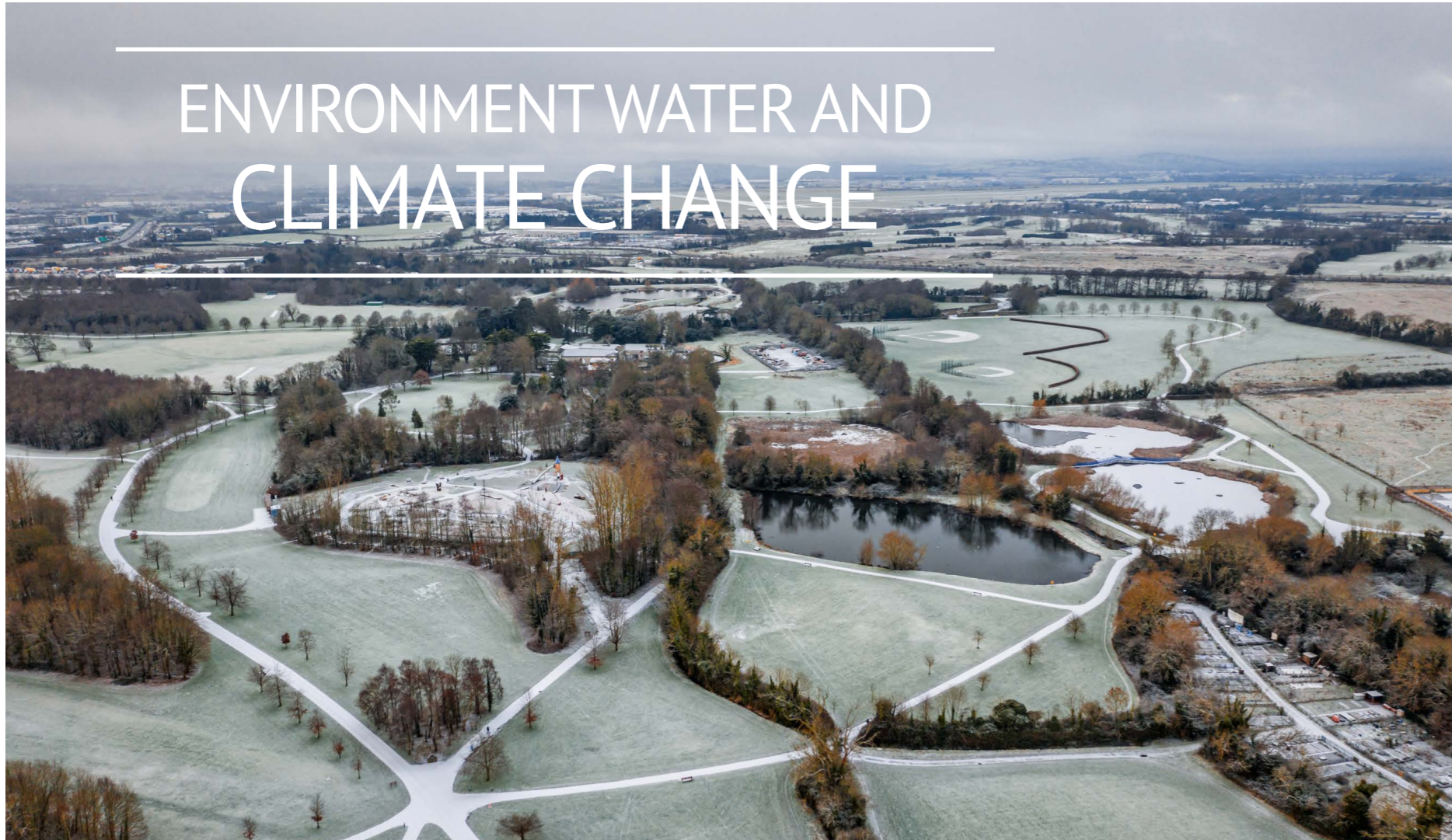
In 2021, the Council will carry out a Citizen's Survey among the County's population to enhance this understanding.

The Behaviour and Attitudes research group has been appointed to carry out this work later this year.



Citizen engagement will continue to be a priority in 2021.

ENVIRONMENT WATER AND CLIMATE CHANGE



Integrated Wetlands

An 'Integrated Constructed Wetland' (ICW) is a series of shallow, interconnected, emergent-vegetated, surface-flow wetland compartments that receive/intercept water- flows from a variety of sources.

Integrated constructed wetlands improve the treatment of water and remove pollutants naturally using plants. An ICW also brings benefits from its associated wetland infrastructure to deliver a wide range of environmental returns, such as the protection and enhancement of biodiversity and improved landscape appearance.

The general construction of the ICWs is they have a standing water depth of approximately 30 cm, are planted with a variety of native Irish wetland plants. They are sparsely planted in the beginning and within a few years, they form lush wetlands.

As part of the Dublin Urban Rivers Life project ICW's are proposed in the Dodder Valley Park, Griffeen Valley Park, Kilnamanagh and in Tymon Park.



Leaf Collection

One of the many services provided by the Council at this time of year is the collection of leaves from housing estates and roads in our County. This work is carried out by the Council's nominated road sweeping contractor Oxigen who work together with our Public Realm administration team to co-ordinate the smooth running of this service along with great support from residents' groups.

Aim for a Healthy Start in South Dublin County Council Parks

Heading into 2021 we thought it would be timely to provide a summary of facilities in our parks that can support communities to keep fit, get some fresh air and improve health and mental well-being. Please remember to follow current public health guidance around COVID-19 if doing so.

All South Dublin County Council parks are available to the public; to access for walking, cycling in a pedestrian priority environment, jogging, dog walking or just wandering along enjoying the fresh air and great scenery. We have over 1,500 hectares of parkland

and public open space with wide, accessible paths in our parks so get out and enjoy!

There are four dog parks located in some of our larger parks throughout the county; these can be found at Griffeen Valley Park and Watertown Park, Lucan; Tymon Regional Park and Corkagh Park, Clondalkin.

For the more active or people wishing to improve their fitness or enhance their walking or jogging session, we have exercise equipment available within several parks. In 2020 we installed water fountains in many of our parks; these are helping support the re-use of bottles and will allow park users to hydrate on the go.



Healthy Start

Make use of your local parks for health and wellbeing in 2021.

Play Spaces Update

The Council's play spaces remain open to children with the recent programme increasing the number of play spaces across the County to 49. The programme has upgraded many of the older playgrounds with natural play space enhancements that facilitate access to nature and provides local access to these valuable spaces for play and development.

The provision of new teen spaces will roll out through 2021 to provide new activity areas and hang out zones for teenagers within our parks. Collinstown Park will see the commencement of a new teen space early this year.



49 Play Spaces are available throughout the County.

INCREASE IN FUNDING FOR TALLAGHT PROJECTS



Further funding has been approved by the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage for a range of innovative projects in Tallaght.

Minister Darragh O'Brien TD has approved an increase in funding to South Dublin County Council for several urban regeneration projects in the Tallaght central area. The funding increase of over €17m brings the total amount awarded to the Council through the Urban Regeneration Fund (URDF) to €31.9m.

This announcement follows the

awarding of a provisional €14.58m to the Council in the summer of 2019 through the URDF. Since being awarded the initial funding, the Council has worked to expand the scope of the innovative plans to redevelop Tallaght town centre. This includes a more ambitious plan for Tallaght Stadium, the development of an innovation centre, a transport mobility hub and an extension to the Airton Road. All of which have been approved by elected

Urban Regeneration Fund

In July 2018, the government announced the Urban Regeneration and Development Fund (URDF). The URDF was established to facilitate the urban regeneration of the State's five cities and other large towns, in line with the objectives of the National Planning Framework and National Development Plan. The URDF helps fund the delivery of key infrastructure projects to enable private and public sector delivery of residential and mixed-use development on brownfield sites within the existing cities and towns. This will ensure that urban areas become attractive and vibrant places in which people choose to live, work, invest and visit.

members of the Council in 2020. As the plans developed, the Council liaised with the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage to seek additional funding to cover the increased scope and associated costs.

The projects the URDF support relates to include:

- Cookstown Link Rd (North/South Link Rd) and Airton Rd Extension (East/West Link Rd),
- Belgard Civic Plaza,
- Innovation Hub,
- New Civic Square and Pedestrian link,
- Mobility Hub,
- Tallaght Stadium Fourth Stand,
- Sean Walsh Park Active Development: Astro Pitches.

In the same timeframe, the Council will commence construction at Belgard Square North of the affordable apartment scheme. This will see 133 apartments developed at a cost of approximately €30m, bringing total immediately planned investment to central Tallaght of €75m.



Artist impression of the Innovation Centre.

SOUTH DUBLIN LIBRARIES EVENTS



South Dublin Libraries are running a range of events for all ages during January.

As the County remains in Level 5 restrictions for the COVID-19 pandemic, South Dublin Libraries are running a range of on-line events in January to boost mental health, provide activities for children and much more.

Four separate workshops or classes take place on Monday 11 January. Winter Wellness and Mindfulness and the Wellbeing Workshop for Adults

will provide participants with the tools to feel calmer during this time whilst classes in beginner's Irish and Sign Language for Babies and Toddlers also takes place. Mindfulness and Irish classes run throughout the rest of the month.

A 6 Week Creative Writing Course with David Butler starts from 12 January that is designed for beginners and improvers. A former lecturer of literature,

Keep Well Campaign

Events run through South Dublin Libraries are just some of the range of activities and resources South Dublin County Council is offering as part of the 'Keep Well' campaign.

The initiative aims to help everyone in South Dublin County to Stay Connected, Stay Active, and look after their mental health throughout the COVID-19 pandemic.

This campaign is aimed at showing people of all ages how we can mind our own physical and mental health and wellbeing by adding healthy and helpful habits to our daily and weekly routines. It will provide guidelines, information, and tips on how we can make a plan to do things that are good for us every day.

Find out more at www.sdcc.ie/en/keep-well-campaign/

David Butler is a multi-award-winning full-time author. His publications include the novels *City of Dis* (shortlisted for the Kerry Group Irish Novel of the Year 2015) and *The Judas Kiss*, and the short story collection *No Greater Love*.

South Dublin Libraries are also setting up a new book club in the new year. *New Chapters Book Club* start on Wednesday 13th January and will be facilitated by award winning writer and filmmaker Caroline Farrell.

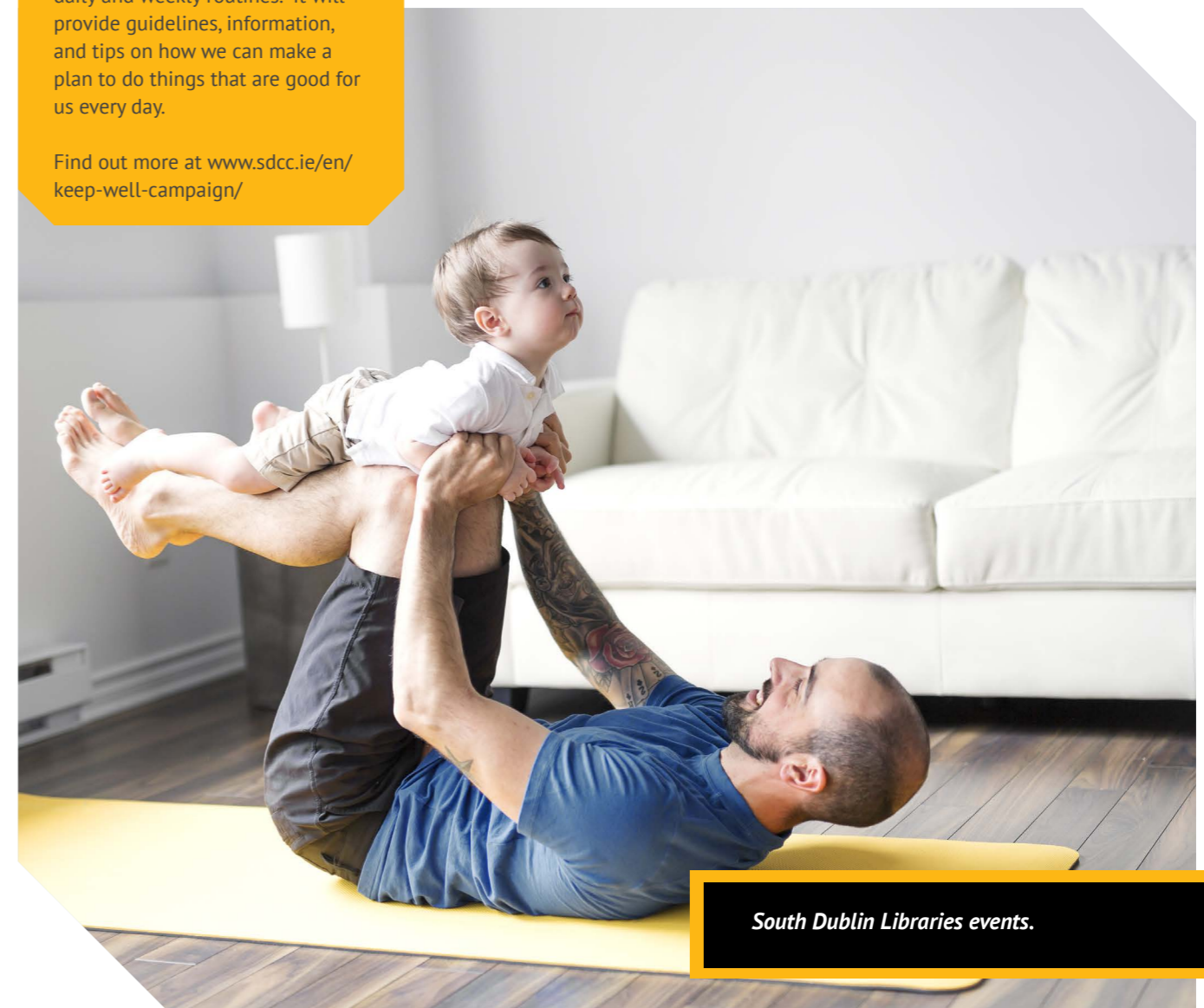
Author and motivational speaker Enda O'Doherty will give a webinar talking about his journey from chronic addiction to bestselling author.

Music Generation South Dublin returns with a six-week online class

for 0 to 18 months that helps nurture creativity and expression through singing, musical games, movement, listening and the use of percussion instruments.

There are also workshops and talks to do with Nature Craft, painting, Irish and American history, STEAM, baby and toddler reflexology and much more.

For a full list of everything that is on and how you can sign up for each workshop, discussion or class, please visit the Events section on www.sdcc.ie.



South Dublin Libraries events.

CLIMATE CHANGE PROGRESS REPORT



South Dublin County Council releases first Climate Change Annual Progress Report and announces significant achievement in energy efficiency.

Climate change remained high on the agenda in South Dublin County Council as the Mayor of South Dublin County, Cllr Ed O'Brien, launched the Annual Progress Report (2020) of the Councils Climate Action Plan and the 2019 Energy Review.

The publication of the Progress Report marks one year since the Council launched the Climate Change Action Plan (CCAP) which has 4 key objec-

tives and 130 actions.

The 2020 update gave an indication on the progress being made on the 130 actions described in the CCAP. Of the 130 actions, 7 have been completed, 111 are ongoing, 11 have not yet started and 1 action has been postponed due to COVID-19 safety operating procedures.

The Energy Review 2019 was also

Nature Based Solutions

Trusting in and collaborating with nature to provide solutions to many of the challenges we face is key to the Climate Change Action Plan. Encouraging nature to play a greater role in our developments will have a multiplier effect on the benefits returned.

By employing softer engineering design methods, we can help nature establish itself whilst realising our objectives. The Council is committed to incorporating natural solutions to drainage and attenuation challenges which help remove pollutants while encouraging biodiversity.

published. The main achievement highlighted in the review was that the Council surpassed its improvement in energy efficiency target of 33% by 2020, one year ahead of schedule, and that we are well placed to meet our 40% reduction in greenhouse gas emissions by 2030.

Achieving this milestone is a result of a sustained effort across all departments within the Council to manage energy and reduce waste. Our new energy improvement target is set at a 50% improvement (over the baseline figure) by 2030. Our progress towards this target is underway, and we will realise it through continued efficiency improvements to our buildings, our fleet and public lighting upgrades.

Copies of both the Annual Progress

Report 2020 and the 2019 Energy Review are available to download on www.sdcc.ie.



The Mayor launching both reports



The most significant regeneration area in planning is the Naas Road Regeneration Study currently underway in conjunction with Dublin City Council. The study led by SDCC will examine 700 hectares of regeneration lands with a focus on repurposing this largely industrial area as a new mixed used/residential zone to be developed, over the period to 2040 and beyond. The study costing €1m which is supported by URDF funding was awarded in the summer of 2020 and will be completed in mid-2021.

The Council exceeded its carbon emission reduction target to 2020 by reducing our baseline by 33.6%. Significant progress made across a range of areas included the contract signing for the Tallaght District Heating project, the approval and advancement of Whitestown, Poddle and Camac Flood Alleviation Schemes and the replacement of a further 2,000 LED public lights. The planning of constructed wetlands, a substantial Tree Planting and Pollinator Programme and EV charging are among the other initiatives being pursued. Also completed was the preparation and adoption of a Biodiversity Strategy.

The adoption of Cycle South Dublin with potential associated investment of over €200m in cycling infrastructure, is a critical component of our active travel and climate strategy going forward. Other projects already underway include the Dodder Valley Greenway.

In terms of economic development work commenced on the access road to the new western 500 acre extension to Grange Castle Business Park while the amenity park and castle restoration project were completed in the main park. We continue to work with IDA Ireland on the promotion of the park to international and indigenous companies.

In a year dominated by COVID-19, it is important to reflect on the significant effort of the Council to maintain essential services, develop critically important infrastructure and plan for the future.

The onset of COVID-19 and the reporting of the first case on 29 February initiated a sustained period of change in our lives, responsive action and reaction to a world pandemic that demanded our utmost attention. As a democratic institution, unit of government and the provider of essential services, the requirement was simply to maintain these services as best possible, while protecting staff and maintaining public safety.

Notwithstanding these challenges, housing construction continued following a short period of construction closure. A further 534 houses were added to stock, while work continued on major projects such as the commencement of Kilcarbery and the tender of Killinarden. A

new Age Friendly Housing Strategy and accompanying Rightsizing Policy have been adopted

In the context of community, recreation and amenity services, notable achievements included the completion of new libraries at Tymon and Clondalkin, the progression of Lucan Pool, new pavilions at Corkagh and Old Bawn, the completion of Kiltipper Park and the substantial advancement of new parks in Adamstown to the value of €15m. The final phase of Tallaght Stadium costing €7m, the construction of a new community centre in Saggart and substantial enhancements to Corkagh Park were brought through planning to commence in 2021.

A FOCUS ON CORPORATE PLAN ACHIEVEMENTS

During this year Saggart village improvements were completed, Templeogue got underway, while €45m of URDF funding was confirmed for urban regeneration works to central Tallaght.

Following the near completion of the Village Enhancement Scheme, Council has now approved its new District Enhancement Scheme with €650k to be invested in two locations annually. Lucan village secured Destination Village status from Fáilte Ireland and tenders have been awarded for the design of the €2.5m enhancement scheme to support its destination status. The planned greenway scheme linking the two canals and passing through Lucan village will also support this initiative. We completed our Play Space Programme bringing total numbers provided to 49 while our Teen Space Programme commenced with an annual funding provision of €500k.



JANUARY STATISTICS REPORT HIGHLIGHTS



Corporate Performance and Change Management

Number of Customer Care queries received	8,756
Number of Customer Care queries closed within deadline	7,909
Web pages opened on Council websites	201,445
Social media reach	1,167,800
Social media engagement	40,918



Economic, Enterprise and Tourism Development

LEO - Number of mentoring sessions	39
Grange Castle jobs sustained	5,328
LEO Projects Approved	4
Business Support Grants Spend	69,865



Environment, Water and Climate Change

Grass cut - hectares	601
Kilometers of road swept monthly	930
Derelict site/dangerous buildings inspections	27
Litter - Fines Issued	73
Tonnes of waste collected - litter and illegal dumping	694
Tonnes of waste collected from street bins	41



Housing, Social and Community Development

Total Housing Stock	9,730
Total housing needs assessed	6,837
Housing maintenance requests received	1,605
Allocations - New Tenancies	65
Number of PRTB inspections	10
Number of actions taken in response to anti-social reports	902
Electrical inspections completed	171

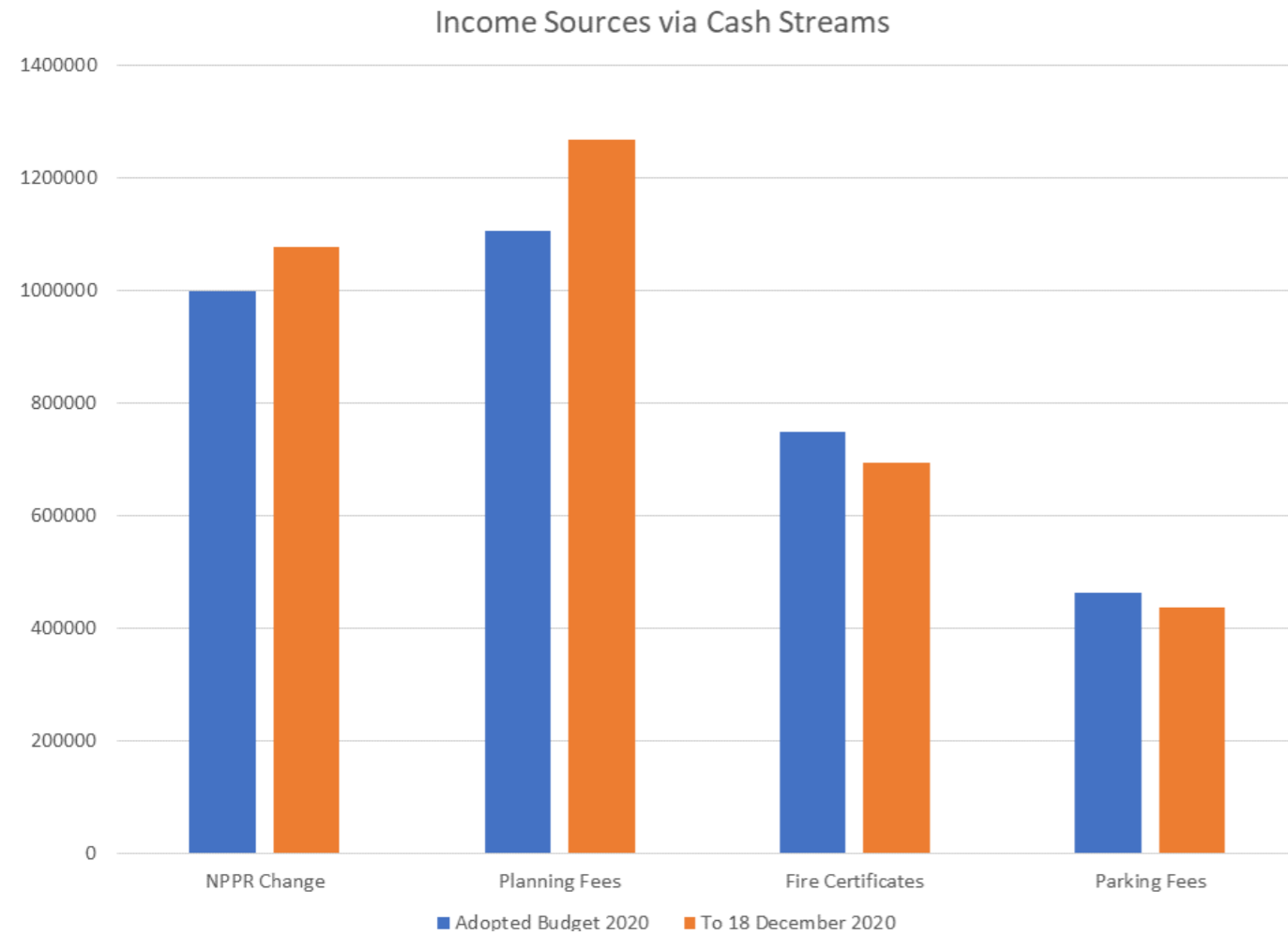


Land Use, Planning and Transportation

Planning applications received - new housing units	32
Area of road repaired in m2	16,920
Planning enforcements initiated	17
Number of public lights in charge	30,264
Number of traffic lights repaired within 24 hours	50

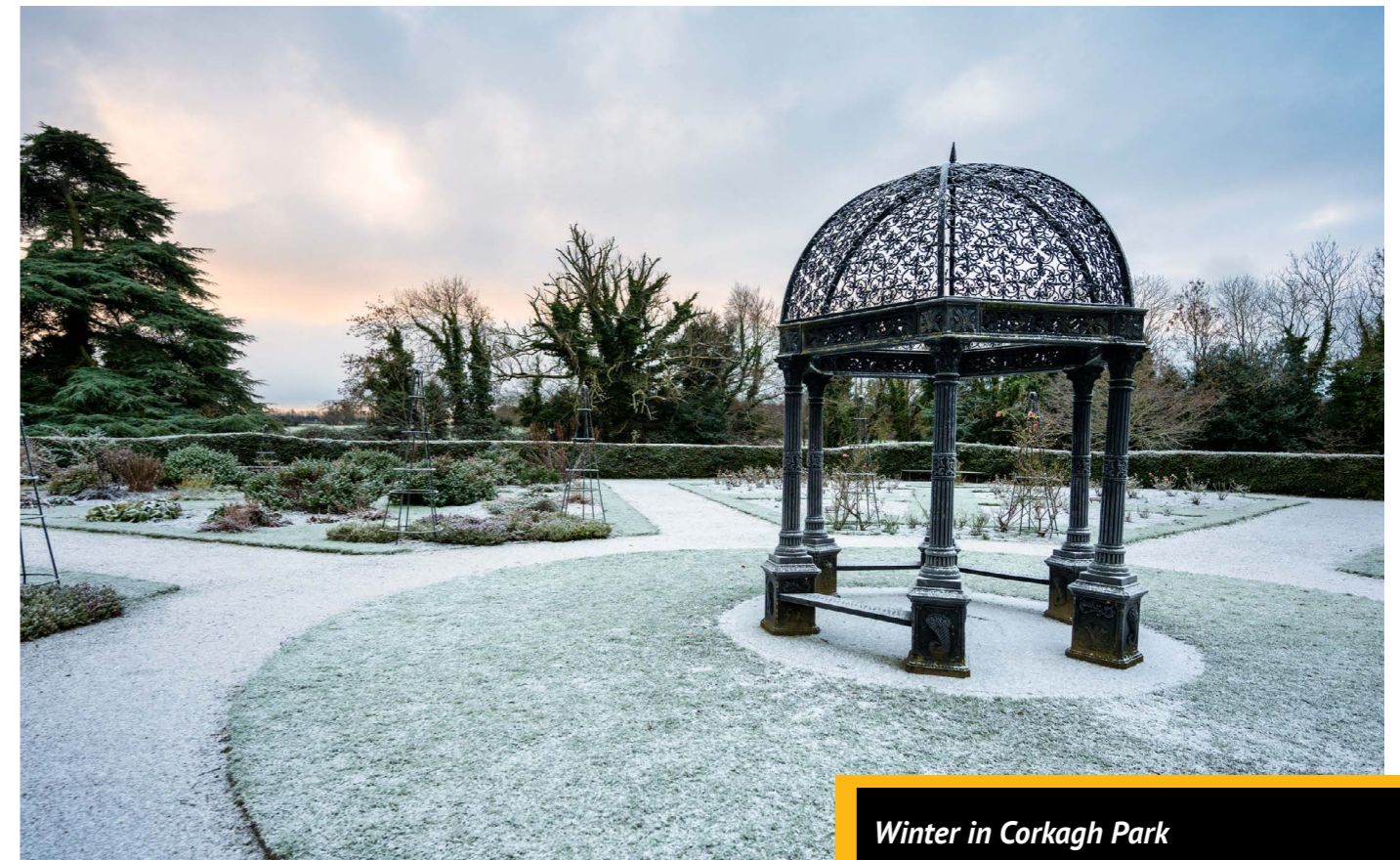
You can view all statistics under the Statistics Report in the Manager's Report headed item of the monthly Council meeting.

FINANCE REPORT



You can view the full Finance Report under the Manager's Report headed item of the monthly Council meeting agenda.

IMAGES OF THE MONTH



Winter in Corkagh Park



Saggart Village works have been completed.

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