

# South Dublin County Council CLIMATE CHANGE NEWSLETTER

02/2021

## TRANSPORT & ACTIVE TRAVEL

Welcome to the second edition of South Dublin County Council's Climate Change Newsletter, which aims to keep the citizens of the county informed on progress being made in delivering the actions of the Climate Change Action Plan.

The transport sector is a significant contributor to climate change, accounting for 19.8% of Ireland's greenhouse gas emissions in 2017. Air pollution as a result of traffic and congestion in the county is also a significant concern.

The Transport chapter in South Dublin County Council's Climate Action Plan aims to change how people in the county move about and commute. Working with a range of stakeholders (Dublin Bus, Luas, Irish Rail, National Transport Authority, Transport for Ireland) we aim to deliver innovative and ambitious projects and actions which will transform how citizens in the County move and reduce harmful emissions.

### Cycle South Dublin Program



Cycle South Dublin is an ambitious programme of work that will provide a well-connected, well designed, and safe cycle network that offers people a credible alternative to using the car.

The draft programme has been prepared against the backdrop of the Council's commitments to sustainable travel; climate change; building stronger local economies and improving personal health and wellbeing.

The Cycle South Dublin Programme proposes a set of 63 projects that would deliver nearly 265km of new and improved cycle lanes over the next eight years. It sets the Council's vision for making South Dublin County one of Ireland's most cycle friendly counties by:

- Providing a comprehensive and connected cycle network
- Making cycling a more achievable mode

of transport for all adults and children

- Improving the cycling identity of the County.

The draft programme identifies four cycle priorities:

- Existing: on-going upgrades to the existing network
- Now: projects to be progressed within the next two years
- Soon: projects to be progressed within the next five years
- Later: project to be progressed within the next eight years

This year the National Transport Authority funding allocation is at an all-time high, €20.7M was allocated to South Dublin alone. This will fund our existing projects; the N81 Transport Planning Strategy, the Dodder Greenway which runs from the reservoirs in Bohernabreena, through Kiltipper Park to the Dodder Valley and the border with Dublin City Council, the Monastery Road, Grange Road and the N81 Jobstown Junction Walking and Cycling Schemes, and other projects at various stages of planning; Wellington Lane Walking and Cycling Schemes and the Canal Loop Greenway.

## Sustainable Travel: Walking

Whether for pleasure or commuting walking is the most sustainable form of transport.

South Dublin County Council is keen to encourage more people out of their cars and onto the streets. Key to this is the design of streets and the public realm. We are working to implement street design guidelines that make streets more inviting to walkers.

If walking for pleasure South Dublin County Sports Partnership organises and promotes walking activities and events around the county.

The following marked routes are listed on the SDCSP website:

- Paths in Tymon Park
- Sli na Slainte walk in Tymon
- Sean Walsh Park Summer Walk Route map
- Waterstown Park Palmerstown Summer Walk Route map



- St. Cuthbert's Park Walk Route
- Killinarden Park Summer Walk Route
- Collinstown Park Summer Walk Route
- Rathcoole Park Summer Walk Route
- Ballyowen Park Lucan Summer Walk Route



## The Dodder Greenway

South Dublin County Council have commenced work on a hugely exciting project – The Dodder Greenway. Once complete, it is envisaged to be over 17km long, linking Sir John Rogerson's Quay in the City Centre to the entrance of the Bohernabreena Reservoirs at Glensmole, South Dublin.

The overall scheme's primary objectives are to deliver a successful Greenway and public amenity which maximises the following:

- Provision of an attractive Greenway and linear park;
- Delivery of a Greenway for pedestrians / cyclists in a low speed, pedestrian priority environment;
- Provision of linkages within the existing linear park system, particularly along roadways and existing road crossings;
- Provision of a high-quality surface whilst minimising maintenance costs;
- Provision of an attractive, enhanced and safe environment;
- Enhancement of landscape and visual quality of the Greenway. The route will be sympathetic to the existing landscape.

South Dublin County Council will be responsible for 14km of the scheme from the Bohernabreena Reservoir to Orwell Park in Rathfarnham. Work has already begun on this exciting phase of the project.

The Greenway aims to enhance the ecological corridor- the scheme should have a neutral to positive impact on local ecology. This will be achieved by including complementary planting and features for flora and fauna, providing ecological linkages and wildlife corridors.

The route will benefit local communities by enhancing existing amenity paths and providing new linkages to adjacent communities and village centres.

The scheme will increase accessibility to local businesses and village centres along the river corridor.

It is envisaged that the route will attract walking and cycle tourists undertaking trails and circuits through the Dublin and Wicklow Mountains.

### Phase 1

Phase 1 of the project saw three new pedestrian bridges being constructed as part of the works:

- Pedestrian Bridge over the River Dodder at Tallaght Bypass (to the rear of the

Bollbrook Centre)

- Pedestrian Bridge over the River Dodder from Kilvere to Riverside Cottages

- Pedestrian Bridge over the River Dodder to Bushy Park (to the rear of Rathfarnham Village)

All three bridges are now in place and due to be opened to the public in June 2021. In addition to the bridges the following will also be carried out as part of phase 1:

- Widening of existing paths in the vicinity of the bridges to create a shared surface minimising impact on the Dodder River
- Construction of new shared approach paths for pedestrians and cyclists
- Upgrade and installation of public lighting where required
- Pavement marking and signage
- Laying of utility services infrastructure
- Associated landscaping works

The next phase has now commenced and will facilitate the parkland linkages between these bridges.

## **News In Brief**

### **Decarbonisation Zone**

Under Action 165 of the National Climate Action Plan (2019) every local authority must identify a “decarbonisation zone” their area. A decarbonisation zone is an area in the County, where we will deliver a range of climate mitigation strategies and adaptation measures. Our aim is to reduce greenhouse gas emissions by up to 7% per annum to 2030 in accordance with national climate action targets.

We are currently identifying where in South Dublin the zone will be located. We will have a plan to deliver a range of projects which will benefit the community, the area and the climate, by the end of the year.

### **Climate Action Week**

The first ever Dublin Climate Action week will take place from 13th- 19th September 2021. Working with the other Dublin Local Authorities and partners the week will showcase Dublin’s climate action progress to its citizens and demonstrate the leadership role of the four local authorities in conjunction with other partners.

To find out more about what is happening over the week keep an eye on our website, [www.sdcc.ie](http://www.sdcc.ie) and our social media pages.

### **New Climate Action Bill**

The new Climate Action and Low Carbon Development Bill is currently going through the Dáil. Under the new wide ranging Bill Ireland will reduce our greenhouse gas emissions by on average 7% per year for the next 10 years . To find out more about the Bill please visit [www.gov.ie](http://www.gov.ie).

### **Pollinator Action Plan**

South Dublin County Council recently launched its Pollinator Action Plan 2021 – 2025. The plan is based on the All-Ireland Pollinator Plan and sets out a range of actions which the Council has committed to carrying out over the next 5 years. Check out the plan at [www.sdcc.ie](http://www.sdcc.ie)

*This newsletter will examine more closely some of the actions we are working on, keeping readers informed on what we are delivering and how we are delivering them. If you would you like to receive a copy of this newsletter, please email [climatechange@sdublincoco.ie](mailto:climatechange@sdublincoco.ie)*