

April 2021

Chief Executive's Report

ant.

Sean Walsh Park

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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National Tree Week took place in March with the Council marking it in Vesey Park, Lucan.



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way between the Grand Canal and Lucan Village are ongoing until 19 April.





A look at the Council being awarded €186m through the Urban Regeneration Development Fund.





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Lower Dodder Road active travel scheme

key project in the Cycle South Dublin programme of work is the Dodder Valley Greenway. This is a 14-kilometre greenway connecting the foothills of the Dublin mountains at Kiltipper to our boundary with DCC at Osprey Park. There are several sections to this route, including walking and cycling improvements to existing streets around the Dodder Valley, which aim to improve peoples access to the Dodder Valley. One such street is the Lower Dodder Road.

The Council has prepared a scheme to amend the existing vehicle carriageway on the Lower Dodder Road to be one way whilst retaining the existing areas of on-street parking where possible.

The scheme proposes to rationalise the existing traffic calming and increase the width of the existing footway to the riverside. The Council has now initiated a Part 8 process on this scheme and public consultation is currently underway.

The public consultation is open from until April 26.



Lower Dodder Road Public consultation on the Lower Dodder Road active travel acheme is open.

Parking Bye-Laws

South Dublin County Council has a statutory role in managing car parking in public spaces. Marking a significant departure from previous contracts for the management of approximately 800 parking spaces across the county, the Council recently signed a contract with Parkrite as a single supplier for the provision of its Managed Car Parking Services. Previously, six companies were contracted to manage the various aspects of this service.

The new contract which was signed on 1 February 2021 includes services for Enforcement, Cash Collection, Provision of Parking Machines, and the Maintenance of Parking Machines. It is for an initial term of 24 months, with the Council reserving the right to extend the term of the contract for a further period of 24 months, up to four years in total.

In tandem with the request for tender and award of contract, the Council is currently reviewing the Control of Parking Byelaws 2010. The review process, including a

Dublin Uplands Heritage

Under the South Dublin County Heritage Plan, a partnership project has been formed between the Council and other stakeholders with funding support from the Heritage Council. The Dublin Uplands Archaeological Heritage Project is a response to specific archaeological heritage and tourism objectives as indicated in County Heritage Plans and Tourism Strategies, and in the Dublin Mountains Partnership Strategic Plan. Funding has now been secured to facilitate engagement with the upland archaeological record and to progress the delivery of a Dublin Uplands Archaeological Heritage Trail.





(continued) comprehensive public consultation process, is nearing a conclusion. A full report on the consultation, which attracted approximately 330 submissions and observations, will be presented to the Council at the May 2021 Council meeting when it is expected that new ByeLaws will be made. The new ByeLaws will become effective 30 days after their making and notice of the making of the ByeLaws will be published in local media.



Community Grants Programme 2021

he Council's Community Grants Programme has opened for online applications. The programme provides financial assistance to community groups and sports clubs across the County who are responding to locally identified needs by providing a range of activities and services across their communities.

While a broad range of funding is provided annually through community grants including support for community development, sports development and community events, the ongoing impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on the delivery of community, voluntary and sporting activities is also recognised. To address these challenges and

to be as adaptive and responsive as possible to current community needs, the 2021 Grants Programme provides additional grant supports including a Community Centre Re-opening Fund, Operational Supports for Sports Clubs Fund and a Covid Resilience Fund.

Further details, including the Community Grants explanatory booklet and details of how to access the online application forms, are available on the Community Grants section of the Council's website. Groups and clubs wishing to make an application in need of additional support or information can contact the Community Development team by telephone at 01-4149156 or by email at communitygrants@ sdublincoco.ie.



Community Grants Online applications for the Community Grants Programme are open.

€2.9m Funding Secured

The Council has received a 2021 allocation of €2,925,531 from the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage for Housing Adaptation Grants for Older People and People with a Disability in the County. This allocation includes a contribution of €585.106 from Council resources. The means-tested grants can be applied for by homeowners requiring adaptation of their home. The Council continues to process grant applications during COVID-19 restrictions, and prioritise applications for those currently in hospital/care facilities to allow them to return to their home as swiftly as possible.



€2.9m funding has been secured for Housing Adaptation Grants.

The South Dublin Homeless Forum met virtually on 25th March to continue work on facilitating interagency responses to needs and gaps in homeless services. The forum also seeks to maximise supports for homeless persons and client progression from homelessness in South Dublin.

At the forum meeting, the Council's Homeless Services team provided updates on our supports for homeless households and ongoing delivery of housing as well as highlighting the related challenges facing homeless service providers.

Key inputs and updates were also received from representatives of various agencies providing supports to homeless households including HSE and Public Health Nurses, Dublin Simon, Peter McVerry Trust, Focus Ireland, JADD, family hub service providers and the Support to Live Independently programme.



LGBT+ Network

The Council, together with the South Dublin Public Participation Network, are supporting the development of a countywide LGBT+ network. South Dublin LGBT+ Network celebrates diversity and provides a welcoming and nurturing place for LGBT+ people of all ages and backgrounds. The network will also provide a safe space for people in communities where LGBT+ people may face additional hurdles.



North Clondalkin Library pilot project in Tallaght Hospital

s part of the Keep Well campaign, North Clondalkin Library, and in association with Tallaght Hospital, is delighted to pilot a lending initiative to patients and staff in the hospital.

The initial loan will consist of 30 playaways and 30 adult fiction books and will commence in April 2021. Online resources will also be promoted, with particular emphasis on BorrowBox. BorrowBox is an app that allows library members borrow eBooks and eAudiobooks free from their library.

The box of items was delivered by library staff on Monday 15 March to Tallaght Hospital. The resources

were warmly welcomed by Danielle Anderson - Head of Patient Advice and Liaison Services TUH and her team. It is envisaged that the playaways will be used by patients in the Stroke Unit and also by older patients, who are likely to find them very easy to handle because of their small size.



Library Pilot Project A North Clondalkin Library pilot project has begun in Tallaght Hospital.

Acorn Tablet Initiative

South Dublin Libraries have been awarded funding from the Healthy Ireland/Sláinte Care Resilience fund for the purchase of 45 Acorn tablets.

These tablets are designed for ease of use by older people and anyone who finds using a normal tablet difficult. The tablets will come preloaded with the libraries online resources apps including Borrowbox, allowing instant access to thousands of titles. Zoom will also be installed, and this will allow those using them to get connected to library events.

North Clondalkin Library and the new library at Castletymon will pilot a project aimed at connecting nursing homes in the local areas for virtual coffee mornings, storytelling sessions and other engagement activities. Other projects using the tablets including basic classes are being explored and will be developed when our libraries reopen.

Little Learner's Library

South Dublin Libraries' mobile service is offering free deliveries to children with special needs. Parents and children can select toys from the library's Toys, Technology and Training catalogue or ask for books that appeal to them and a mobile library will deliver direct to the family's home!

To avail of the free service, or to request a Toys, Technology and Training catalogue, parents can contact their local library, phone 01-4597834 or email mobiles@ sdublincoco.ie.



The Mayor delivering a Little Learner's box to Cillian Roja and his big brother Shay.



Filíocht 2021

Fógrófar buaiteoir Filíocht 2021, comórtas filíochta Gaeilge South Dublin Libraries 'ar Poetry Day Ireland, 29 Aibreán 2021.

The winner of Filiocht 2021, the South Dublin Libraries' Irish language poetry competition will be announced on Poetry Day Ireland, 29 April 2021.



Trans PRIDE at Work

South Dublin County Council's LGBTQ+ Staff Network and Dublin City Council's LGBT+ Staff Network hosted a "Trans PRIDE at Work" virtual Conference on Wednesday, 31 March.

This event was the third collaboration between both LGBTQ+ Networks, and its purpose was to celebrate and encourage Trans inclusivity in the workplace. The event was an ideal opportunity to support the inclusion and visibility of our trans and non-binary colleagues in the public and civil sector and to discuss challenges that face transgender people in the workplace generally.

The conference included members of the LGBT+ Networks from both

South Dublin County Council and Dublin City Council speaking about their experience and challenges to coming out / being out in work.

The Council also flew the Trans flag in County Hall, Tallaght and the Civic Offices in Clondalkin on 31 March to mark International Transgender Day of Visibility.



Trans PRIDE The Council celebrated International Trans Day of Visibility on 31 March.

Women's Caucus

South Dublin County Council continues its work to directly promote female participation in politics. At the Council meeting in March, support for the establishment of a Women's Caucus was agreed, with the executive committed to engaging with female Councillors in its development. The purpose of women's caucuses is to strengthen cooperation between women in political life across party lines. They can help build the capacity of women councillors; especially newly elected councillors, through formal and informal mentoring and promote women's equality in Local Government.

Services Catalogue

The Council is working with the LGMA on a national project to produce one common catalogue of services, currently estimated at approximately 1000 services. The service catalogue will help to better inform the public about local authority services and how to access them by using common language that is consistent across the sector.

To date, the focus has been on public-facing services, and the following areas have been completed: housing, environment, planning, roads and transportation, economic development, tourism, local enterprise, parks and open spaces, library services, and community services. Work is currently underway on finance, IT and water services.



Support for a Women's Caucus was agreed by the Council.



Lighting Up Buildings

The Council lit up County Hall, Tallaght, and the Round Tower and Civic Offices in Clondalkin twice during March in celebration of St Patrick's Day and to promote Daffodil Day on Friday 26 March.

Daffodil Day is held in aid of the Irish Cancer Society and aims to raise awareness and funding around cancer supports.



Proposed Astro Pitch in Sean Walsh Park, Tallaght

The Council will shortly commence a part 8 planning process for a new Astro Pitch at Sean Walsh Park, Tallaght. The Council has committed to providing facilities to support active recreation for our communities in our Corporate Plan 2020-2024.

The Council completed a Sports Pitch Strategy in 2020 which outlined several recommendations to ensure the supply of sports pitches to meet the projected growth in demand for active, pitch-based recreation over the next 15 years.

The proposed Astro Pitch will provide for increased match play, meet the demand for training provision which is not currently being met,

and remove training pressure from grass pitches with a resultant higher standard of grass pitches. The proposed Astro Pitch at Tallaght is supported by the National Development Plan, Project 2040 Building Irelands Future, National Planning Framework, SDCC Development Plan and the Tallaght Local Area Plan.

The Part 8 for the Astro Pitch at Sean Walsh Park will commence shortly. Once live, details will be available on the Council's consultation portal.



Astro Pitch The proposed location of the astro pitch in the green space to the lefthand side of Tallaght Stadium.

Pollinator Action Plan

The Council's Pollinator Action Plan is our commitment to promoting habitats for pollinators in this county and addressing the rapid decline in our bee populations. We have been working with local community groups, residents' associations, and schools to help raise awareness of the All-Ireland Pollinator Plan. To better support these efforts and to better promote the work being undertaken, we have developed the South Dublin County Pollinator Action Plan and committed to carrying out a range of focused actions to make the County a place where pollinators can survive and thrive.

Decarbonising Zones

Action 165 of The National Climate Action Plan 2019, to 'Extend flagship low-carbon projects to other towns and villages' sets the challenge for Local Authorities to identify and develop Decarbonising Zones where efforts can be harmonised to deliver low carbon projects and develop a deeper understanding of the scope and implementation challenges of decarbonising our economy and society.

Initially, the Council was asked to identify at least one decarbonising zone within the County, and a broad outline of implementable projects and outcomes in terms of potential carbon reductions. At a minimum, these outcomes are expected to meet the Government's national targets on reducing greenhouse gas emissions by 7% annually between 2021 and 2030 (51% reduction over the decade).

Subsequently, we will be tasked with preparing DZ implementation plans to be included in our own Climate Action Plans. The Council is currently working with our energy agency to review the Spatial





(continued) Demand Analysis (SEDA), identify potential locations and develop energy baselines for the Decarbonising Zones. Potential DZ projects can include areas like the below:

- Low Carbon Transport and mobility hubs,
- Energy-efficient buildings,
- Green spaces,
- Energy planning and policy,
- Air quality,

Council Launches Eco Week



calendar and aims to engage South

Dublin County schools in increasing

the environment, by taking simple

steps to live in a more sustainable

Citizen Engagement on **Climate Action**

One of the targets the Council has been set in the Climate Change Action Plan (CCAP) 2019 - 2024 is to actively engage and inform citizens on climate change. Eco Week is just one area the Council fulfils this commitment with much more carried out throughout the year led by a dedicated environmental awareness team.

CCAP is aligned to the Government's 'Climate Action Plan To Tackle Climate Breakdown'. The leadership role of local authorities across Ireland, in tackling the climate crisis, is recognised in the National Plan, together with stimulating local level action across

manner.

week! I am always amazed and delighted to see the variety of activities offered during Eco Week and this year is no exception. From 'Irish Wildlife Trust – Wild for Nature' workshops, to 'Grow your own Garden'. Thankfully, society is becoming more aware of the need to be more in tune with the environment and that it cannot be taken for granted."

sponsibility to reflect on our lifestyle and see if it is supportive, or damaging, to the environment which we will pass onto the next generation."

For more information on Eco Week



Speaking at the launch, Mayor Ed O'Brien said, "Eco week is a wonderful

The Mayor added, "We each have a re-

and environmental awareness events throughout the year contact envawareness@sdublincoco.ie and keep an eye on www.sdcc.ie, Facebook and Twitter.

National Tree Week



National Tree Week took place from 21st March to 27th March 2021 this year. Tree Week is an annual, week-long festival celebrating all the positive aspects of trees.

he theme for National Tree week this year was "Healthy Trees Healthy Planet" promoting tree health and the important role trees play in protecting our planet by taking on climate change and providing natural renewable resources. It also references the health benefits, both physical and mental, that trees and forests provide.

Trees make a major contribution

to the character, appearance, and well-being of South Dublin County. They provide significant economic, social, environmental, ecological, and aesthetic benefits to our communities and to our urban and residential streets, parks and open spaces.

Due to current COVID restrictions, the Council did not organise multiple tree planting events this year. However, the Mayor, of South Dublin County, Cllr Ed

Tree Maintenance Programme

South Dublin County Council operates a 3-year rolling programme of tree maintenance. In line with the Council's Tree Management Policy, the focus of the Tree Maintenance Programme is on entire roads or whole estates.

In addition to the planned whole estate and road programme, reactive and emergency works will be carried out on individually located trees as necessary in order to manage risks to the public. An emergency is defined as a tree that is in immediate and present danger of collapse or causing an obstruction requiring urgent attention. Emergency and reactive tree works

O'Brien celebrated National Tree Week by planting a tree in Vesey Park, Lucan, on Monday March 22. The chosen tree was a Liquidamber tree which is commonly known as the Sweet Gum Tree and is remarkable for its sweet tasting resinous sap. This is an attractive tree with beautiful fiery autumnal colours of bright red, orange, and yellow.

In the last five years, the Council has planted over 6,000 trees across the County and we propose to plant 2,500 trees this year.

Mayor O'Brien said "South Dublin County Council places a very important significance on trees. Our parks and local environment are important places of exercise and enjoyment in the current climate. Trees are so valuable in our lives - adding beauty,



seasonality and benefitting the environment."

He also stated "the Council have planted over 60,000 trees across the County In the last five years and this will increase the County's tree canopy cover and help mitigate the effects of climate change."

Canal Loop Urban Greenway



Plans for an Urban Greenway between the Grand Canal and Lucan Village are underway with public consultation ongoing until 19 April.

outh Dublin County Council is asking people to have their say on a 4.2-kilometre section of emerging concept route that has been identified for pedestrians and cyclists.

To better engage with people, the Council has created a Virtual Consultation Room, which contains online display material on the work carried out so far. The Virtual Consultation Room opened on 9 March 2021

and will be available to view until 19 April. The Council also held four public consultation workshops during March.

Linking the Grand Canal Greenway and Grange Castle Park with Lucan Village via Griffeen Valley Park, the emerging route seeks to provide a safe route for commuters and school children that will help to promote sustainable modes of transport,

Youth Conversation Kit

The proposed Concept Route for a greenway though Lucan will serve approximately 20 schools.

This should make walking and cycling to school quicker, safer and easier. We would therefore like teenagers and schoolchildren to have their say on this.

The Virtual Consultation Room (VCR) contains a survey called a Youth Conversation Kit. The VCR will remain open until 19 April 2021 and the Youth Conversation Kit can be opened on its own with this link:

https://conversationkit.design/conversation/CanalLoopLucan

Using best practice guidelines, the Emerging Pedestrian and Cyclist Concept Route has been assessed against set criteria and seeks to fulfil objectives relating to:

- Promoting Economic Growth & Tourism
- Improving Pedestrian and Cyclist Safety
- Encouraging Physical Activity and Health
- Encouraging Modal Shift for Car Users to Walking & Cycling
- Minimising Environmental Impacts
- Integrating with Transport Plans and Networks
- Improving Accessibility

reduce traffic in the area and reduce carbon emissions. The proposed route would also complete the Griffeen Valley Greenway, support the Greater Dublin Area Cycle Network Plan (2013) and strengthen Lucan's designation as a 'destination town' by Fáilte Ireland.

In addition, the route is identified as route number one in the Council's Cycle South Dublin programme and will form part of Council's plan to deliver a County wide, connected network of safe cycling and walking routes for people.

Cycle South Dublin an ambitious programme of work that reflects the increasing importance of making cycling a realistic and integral part of how people move around the County.

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There is currently 207km of cycle lanes across South Dublin County. In recent years, the Council has been moving in the right direction and in that time we have progressed eight active travel projects totalling approximately 21km of new and improved cycle lanes, however, we recognise that more needs to be done.

The Cycle South Dublin programme proposes a set of 41 projects that would deliver nearly 210km of new and improved cycle lanes across the County within the next ten years.

To take part in shaping the Canal Loop Urban Greenway, and to access the Virtual Consultation Room and its contents, please visit the Council's consultation portal.



Objectives of the Canal Loop Urban Greenway





The Minister for Housing, Local Government and Heritage, Darragh O'Brien TD, announced early in March that South Dublin County Council has been awarded €186.32 million in funding for the major

he Minister for Housing, Local Government and Heritage, Darragh O'Brien TD, announced early in March that South Dublin County Council has been awarded €186.32 million in funding for the major regeneration projects of Clonburris and Adamstown Strategic Development Zones (SDZs) under 'Call 2' of the Government's Urban Regeneration and Development Fund (URDF).

The Council's allocation of €186.32 million of URDF funding was part of a total of €430 million for eight regeneration projects in Dublin announced by the Minister. This represents a significant commitment to South Dublin County and is in addition to eight the Council projects with approved URDF funding totalling €32.09 million under 'Call 1' and which are progressing in Tallaght Town Centre. These projects aim to enhance urban areas to make them more attractive places in which to live, work, visit and invest.

The funding announcement represents a significant commitment to support the delivery of over 9,000 new homes in sustainable communities in west Dublin, based on the principles of compact growth and high-quality placemaking. This funding will bring much needed new facilities to both Clonburris and Adamstown that will not just benefit new residents, but that will also benefit neighbouring communities.

Located on the Dublin-Kildare Railway Line and Grand

A Focus on the

URDF Announcement

Canal, Clonburris is one of the most strategically important land banks in the State. The €176.6 million of URDF funding for strategic infrastructure and amenities in Clonburris represents the highest allocation to any project under the URDF in Dublin. This funding will directly see the delivery of new parks, new community spaces, new streets, bridges and utilities, all of which are crucial to support the building of new homes for people.

Also located on the Dublin-Kildare Railway Line and Grand Canal, Adamstown was Ireland's first SDZ and has the benefit of a detailed and robust Planning Scheme that supports the delivery of up to 8,900 new homes and a population of up to 25,000 people by the time of completion. Some 2,700 homes have already been built at Adamstown, with planning permission in place for a further 2,000 homes. However, more needs to be done to realise the full scale of ambition



for this place.

The €9.7 million in URDF funding for Adamstown will provide for high-quality public spaces and facilities that will facilitate the development of the Adamstown Town Centre adjacent to the train station and the continued rollout of homes around the Town Centre. On foot of this funding. more than 580 new homes will be constructed, which will support the provision of much needed social, affordable and private housing in the west Dublin area. This project will deliver the following strategic town centre infrastructure to serve the existing and new communities:

- Central Boulevard Park,
- Construction of a civic/library, and
- Construction of a district/ town centre plaza/square.

The Government's announcement to allocate South Dublin County Council with over €186m of URDF funding to support the delivery of over 9,000 new homes is hugely welcomed. This funding will have a transformational impact on west Dublin and will support the delivery of new communities at Adamstown and Clonburris. This funding will help us to build new public parks, community facilities, streets and utilities all of which are needed to create new sustainable communities.

This infrastructure will unlock the delivery of much needed new affordable, social and private homes over the next 10 years. These projects in Clonburris and Adamstown SDZs will act as a regional economic driver, supporting employment, job creation and financial investment in west Dublin.

April Statistics Report Highlights



Change Management

anange management	
	8,265
umber of Customer Care queries closed within deadline	7.465
/eb pages opened on Council websites	199,120
ocial media reach	1,756,475
ocial media engagement	64,309



Total Housing Stock Total housing needs a Housing maintenance Allocations - New Ter Number of sports pro Number of actions tal

Land Use, Planning and Transportation

Planning applications received - new housing units	151
Area of road repaired in m2	1,140
Planning enforcements initiated	17
Number of public lights in charge	30,245
Number of traffic lights repaired within 24 hours	59



Economic, Enterprise and Tourism Development

LEO - Number of mentoring sessions	51
Grange Castle jobs sustained	5,328
Library items borrowed	26,272
Library visitors online	2,717



Environment, Water and Climate Change

Trees pruned	338
Kilometers of road swept monthly	880
Derelict site/dangerous buildings inspections	15
Litter - Fines Issued	35
Tonnes of waste collected – litter and illegal dumping	561
Tonnes of waste collected from street bins	38

ssessed	6,655
requests received	1,633
nancies	103
gramme participants	2,444
ken in response to anti-social reports	749
completed	111

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





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