



Comhairle Contae
Átha Cliath Theas
South Dublin County Council

March 2021

Chief Executive's Report

Corkagh Park Wildlife



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



Grange Road Walking and Cycling Scheme

The Council is progressing a new walking and cycling scheme along Grange Road between Nutgrove Avenue and St. Enda's Drive in Rathfarnham, Dublin. The scheme is included in the Council's Cycle South Dublin proposed programme of works.

The scheme will consist of 675m of re-configured road, inclusive of on and off-road cycle-tracks, new pavement works, new footways, modern public lighting, relocated bus stops, landscaping and shared accesses. Within the scheme, there will be dedicated school zones and junction improvements at Nutgrove Avenue, Loreto Terrace, Convent Lane, Dispensary Lane, Stonepark

Abbey, and St. Enda's Drive.

Following public engagement, the scheme was approved by Councillors in 2015 but the project slowed for some years due to funding constraints. However, the scheme was recommenced in 2019. Briefings on the scheme were held with the Area Committee and the local schools during 2020 and a contractor was then appointed in late 2020.

Works are due to commence on site once current Covid restrictions are lifted and will be built out during 2021.



Grange Road

A new walking and cycling scheme is progressing.



County Development Plan

The report from the Chief Executive on the pre-draft consultation to inform the preparation of the South Dublin County Development Plan 2022-2028 was provided to the Members on 19 November 2020. This followed public consultation over the period 31 July to 28 September 2020. The report set out the summary of the submissions received and the Chief Executive's opinion and recommendations on the issues raised.

Following consideration of the report, three development plan meetings were held on 27 January, 2 and 4 February 2021 with elected members issuing further strategic direction for the preparation of the Development Plan. The preparation of the Chief Executive's Draft Plan is now underway and will be presented to elected members on 28 April 2021 for their consideration. This will conclude with Development Plan meetings in June, with the last meeting held on 22 June. The amended Draft Plan will then go on public display on 5 July for ten weeks.



Biodiversity Action Plan

Following the adoption at the November 2020 Council Meeting of the SDCC Biodiversity Action Plan, the recommended governance structures to oversee the implementation of the Plan has been put in place. The first meeting of the Internal Steering Group for Biodiversity was held on 2 February, where biodiversity projects for 2021 were identified and agreed upon.

Strategic Housing

Since the introduction of the Strategic Housing Development (SHD) legislation, An Bord Pleanála (ABP) has permitted a total of approximately 7,360 units in 17 SHDs in the County. During 2020, the Council has contributed to the assessment of nine SHD planning applications lodged to ABP over the year. These applications included proposals for 2,949 units. Of these SHDs considered in 2020, ABP has made decisions on seven applications, permitting 2,389 units. The two further SHD applications, totalling 560 units, still await decision from An Bord Pleanála.



County Development Plan

HOUSING SOCIAL AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT



Community Resilience Project for Balgaddy

The Council's estate management and community development team are supporting a community resilience project for the Balgaddy area. This project aims to improve community safety and quality of life for residents in the area by responding to and addressing criminal and anti-social behaviour.

This involves an innovative partnership model between the local community, An Garda Síochána, the Council and other relevant statutory agencies and is supported by the Housing Strategic Policy Committee, the Local Policing Forum and the Joint Policing Committee (JCP).

Training is currently being provid-

ed by Community Action Network (CAN) for several local residents to undertake a local 'Community Crime Assessment' in the area. This community-led mechanism will identify the impact of issues relating to anti-social behaviour and criminal activity in the area leading to a problem-solving approach to tackle such issues with the effectiveness of the responses monitored through repeat assessments over time.

Community Action Network (CAN) has been engaged to lead on the project and are responsible for delivering the training while our estate management team have discussed the aims of the project with local residents to identify and map anti-social issues and complaints.



Community Resilience Project

The Council, An Garda Síochána, the local community and more are involved.



€2.5m Funding Announced

The recently announced 2021 Energy Efficiency Retrofit Programme provided an initial allocation of €2.5 million for South Dublin County Council. This funding is to be used to undertake retrofitting works for 91 homes to bring them to a B2 energy rating standard.

The works under the first year of a national ten year 'deeper retrofit' programme include attic/cavity wall and/or external wall insulation, replacement windows and doors and installation of mechanical heat pumps.

Updates on these works will be provided to local Area Committees and the Housing Strategic Policy Committee as part of our planned maintenance programme as it progresses.



COVID-19 Emergency Fund

A second round of the COVID-19 Emergency Fund is now live with €77,366 available for grants to community groups to adapt services and operations to fit the new COVID-19 reality and join the Government's 'Keep Well' campaign. Grants may also be provided to support groups for running costs, mitigating COVID-19 impacts and supporting vulnerable people. More details can be found on www.sdcc.ie.

Social Housing Sites

Following the re-introduction of enhanced measures for preventing the spread of COVID-19, including the closure of non-essential construction sites from 8 January 2021, certain social housing projects in the County were designated as essential projects which were due for completion by the end of February. Following the extension of this deadline to 30 April 2021, a total of 12 sites and 31 individual properties, totalling 391 new homes, have been designated as essential sites in the County of which works relating to 160 new homes have already been completed.



Several sites have been designated as essential during COVID restrictions.

ECONOMIC ENTERPRISE AND TOURISM DEVELOPMENT

Local Enterprise Week

Local Enterprise Week took place in South Dublin County from Monday 1 March with its most extensive programme ever.

The purpose of Local Enterprise Week is to highlight the range of services and supports available to existing and potential entrepreneurs and micro and small enterprises. Local Enterprise Week is a collaboration between local and Government support groups, with a common goal in 2021 to help small and micro businesses to meet the exceptional challenges presented by COVID 19.

Almost 700 businesses successfully secured a Trading Online Voucher in South Dublin County during 2020 to develop their online capa-

bility. Building on that the week's programme in the County included a number of events to develop e-commerce capability. A keynote presentation was given from the motivational speaker David Meade on how to 'Engage for Success online'. Workshops were also held on Creating a Trading Online Digital Strategy, Enabling your B2B Online opportunities and Data Protection and GDPR essentials for successful e-commerce.

A special Networking Event for Women in Business (NEWS) together with talks and interviews with local successful entrepreneurs also took place over the course of the week. Many other events took place and you can find them and other supports on offer at the Local Enterprise Office South Dublin website.



Local Enterprise Week

Local Enterprise Week moved online for its programme of events for 2021.



National Enterprise Award

Artisan Pizza Company who are supported by the Local Enterprise Office (LEO) South Dublin were announced as winners at this year's National Enterprise Awards held on Thursday 11 February. The awards, which took place virtually were broadcast online from the Mansion House in Dublin, are in their 22nd year and run annually by the Local Enterprise Offices nationwide.

Selecting Artisan Pizza as Regional winners the Judges described being deeply impressed with the business, a robust company who have developed a nationally recognized brand.

'LEO South Dublin are delighted to celebrate the success of Artisan Pizza. The growth and success of this business is down to their incredible work ethic, their attention to detail, the quality and authenticity of their products and their continuous drive to engage on our business development and growth programmes", said Tom Rooney, Head of Enterprise, LEO South Dublin.



International Women's Day

South Dublin Libraries held a series of events between 6 and 11 of March. Events included a talk on women and social norms in American cities between 1900 and 1930, a conversation on women and creativity in a time of COVID, a look at Helena Molony's radical life, Circus 250 - Strong Women in Science for families and more.

Between the Red Lines

Coinciding with Ireland Reads Day on 25 February, South Dublin Libraries ran a new series of events called Between the Red Lines, a spin-off from the Red Line Book Festival with a brand-new programme of Irish voices.

Between the Red Lines events took place over seven days starting 22 February and festival voices this year included acclaimed novelist, Marita Conlon McKenna; previous Red Line Book Festival Writer-in-Residence and award-winning writer Lisa Harding; journalist Manchán Mangan; Patricia Forde; Anne-marie Ni Churreáin; and John Patrick McHugh, among others.



Artisan Pizza company were award winners at the National Enterprise Awards.

CORPORATE PERFORMANCE AND CHANGE MANAGEMENT



Seachtain na Gaeilge

Is cúis lúcháir do Chomhairle Contae Átha Cliath Theas agus Seirbhísí Leabharlainne Átha Cliath Theas, i gcomhar le hÁras Chrónáin Seachtain na Gaeilge Átha Cliath Theas (SnaGÁCT) a sheoladh. Tá Comhairle Contae Átha Cliath Theas bródúil as tacaíocht a thabhairt do Sheachtain na Gaeilge agus don togra Gaeilge Le Chéile a spreagann daoine le Gaeilge a labhairt ina saol laethúil.

Seoladh féile ar líne SnaGÁCT an 15 Feabhra le Méara Chomhairle Contae Bhaile Átha Cliath Theas, An Cmlr Ed O' Brien. Reáchtálfar an clár idir 1-17 Márta.

Tá breis eolais ar fáil, agus bróisiúr a íoslódáil ag www.sdcc.ie nó imeachtaí SnaGÁCT2020.

South Dublin County Council and South Dublin Library Services in partnership with Áras Chrónáin are delighted to bring you this year's Seachtain na Gaeilge Átha Cliath Theas (SnaGÁCT). South Dublin County Council is proud to support Seachtain na Gaeilge as well as the Gaeilge Le Chéile initiative which encourages people to use spoken Irish in their everyday lives.

SnaGÁCT online festival was launched officially on 15 February by Mayor of South Dublin County Council, Cllr Ed O' Brien. The programme will run from 1 – 17 March.

For further information and to download the brochure visit www.sdcc.ie.



Seachtain na Gaeilge

This year's event will take place online from 1 - 17 March.



SPC Programme of Works

Strategic Policy Committee's (SPC's) provide a mechanism for the Council to engage with the Business, Trade Unions and Community and Voluntary sectors in the development of Council policy before the policy is finalised and adopted by the Council. The Corporate Policy Group (CPG) - membership of which is the chairs of all six SPCs together with the Mayor - has oversight of the work of the SPCs and has agreed the new programme of work for 2021 at its meeting in February.

This year the work includes assessing the impact of Covid and identifying support measures, but many policies and critical development issues for the county will also be considered across the six SPCs in the areas of the Arts, Libraries, Irish Language, Economic Development, Tourism and Enterprise supports, Planning and Transportation, the Environment and Climate Action, Housing Provision, Community Development, Social Inclusion and Health and Wellbeing issues.



Smart Dublin Challenge

The Council has joined the other three Dublin local authorities in an innovative Smart Dublin challenge that will see four companies pilot a range of solutions to supply low-cost, retro-fit, technology solutions to alert, monitor and report on when ring buoys go missing or are tampered with. This is part of a challenge that was issued in 2020 to find smarter solutions to address the issue of 'missing' ring buoys.

Women in Politics

South Dublin County Council were awarded a grant from the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage in 2020 of €10,000 to develop a promotional video under the 'Call for proposals to support females and diversity in Local Government' initiative.

The video is currently being finalised for release later this month and will be heavily promoted through the Council's social media channels. It forms part of the Council's work to promote the work of elected members and increase interest in the local elections in 2024.



A Women in Politics video will soon be launched.

ENVIRONMENT WATER AND CLIMATE CHANGE

The Council celebrates National Tree Week 2021

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

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 the ongoing COVID-19 restrictions, the Council will not be organising tree planting events this year, however the Mayor, Cllr Ed

O'Brien will celebrate National Tree Week by planting a tree in Vesey Park, Lucan, on Monday March 22. The chosen tree is a Liquidambar which is commonly known as the Sweet Gum Tree and is remarkable for its sweet tasting resinous sap.

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.



National Tree Week

The Council has planted over 6,000 trees in the past five years.



Community Climate Action

South Dublin County Council is working with the Sustainable Energy Authority of Ireland (SEAI) and Codema - Dublin's Energy Agency to deliver the Sustainable Energy Community (SEC) programme to communities in the County.

A Sustainable Energy Community is one where everyone works together to develop a sustainable energy system for the benefit of the community. This is achieved by:

- Being energy efficient
- Using renewable energy where feasible
- Adopting smart technology solutions

Sustineo has been appointed as local mentors and will be working with South Dublin County Council to help homeowners, sports clubs, community centers, schools, churches and local businesses transition to Sustainable Energy Communities.



Social Credits Scheme

South Dublin County Council's Social Credits Scheme rewards communities who take positive sustainable action to improve their local area. The Social Credits Scheme is open to all community groups in the County and operates three programmes; Paint Enhancement, Minor Landscaping and Clean Up Materials. Contact the Environmental Awareness Office at envawareness@sdbulincoco.ie to join.

RMCEI Plan for 2021

The Council has submitted the 2021 RMCEI (Recommended Minimum Criteria for Environmental Inspections) enforcement plan to the EPA (Environmental Protection Agency) to improve the organisation and effectiveness of environmental inspections and enforcement. This plan cuts across a number of environmental areas such as Waste (both household and commercial), Water, Producer Responsibility Initiatives and Air.

The plan is submitted in February of each year and reviewed by the EPA who publish an annual report on national performances.



Sustainable energy for South Dublin County.

KILLINARDEN PARK CONCEPT DESIGN



The concept design for the upgrade of Killinarden Park has been completed and plans are soon to progress for planning approval.

Landscape architects Nicholas De Jong Associates have completed their concept design for the upgrade of Killinarden Park. The design process involved an innovative community-wide consultation which enabled the community to express their views on the park redevelopment.

The input of local councillors, community activists and the very many

residents who submitted their views has been invaluable in developing the concept now going forward for planning.

The plan also considers the wider plans as identified in the Tallaght Town Centre Local Area Plan to provide a new green infrastructure and amenity corridor along the Whitestown Stream that will connect Killinarden Park with Sean Walsh Park.

Nicholas de Jong Associates has been established since 1984 in the UK and 2001 in Ireland, providing Land Planning, Urban Design and Landscape Architectural services for public and private sector clients throughout the UK, Ireland and many countries overseas.

The park's design aims to create an inviting, safe, and engaging space for the community while ensuring that it connects to the wider open space objective for the County. The project is estimated to cost approximately €2m will be brought forward for planning approval in March 2021.

The design for the park incorporates the introduction of diverse habitat types, enhanced park entrances, up-graded boundary walls and railings, a lit strategic walk/cycle path along the Whitestown stream, two new bridges across Whitestown Stream, a primary oval footpath connecting park facilities which can also double up as an exercise circuit of approx. 1km, linear play trails, two natural play areas, seating, multi-games use area with a skate ramp and social space.



Plans for Killinarden Park

OVER €20M AWARDED FOR ACTIVE TRAVEL PLANS



The National Transport Authority (NTA) awarded South Dublin County Council €20,705,000 to spend on active travel, walking and cycling measures.

South Dublin County Council was recently awarded over €20m for use on active travel plans. This is an increase from €8.9m awarded in 2020 and will be used to deliver the Council's Cycle South Dublin programme of work.

Cycle South Dublin's vision is for the County to become one of Ireland's most cycle friendly counties. It aims to provide people with a well-connected,

well designed and safe cycle network that offers people a credible alternative to using the car.

South Dublin County Council's allocation was part of an announced total of €240m awarded by the NTA to support sustainable transport projects across the country. This year's allocations have increased by just over €130m as compared to last year's and will support the addition of 233

Cycling in South Dublin County

In South Dublin County today, there is nearly 210km of existing cycle lanes. Over the last four years the Council has delivered new cycle lanes at:

- Grand Canal Greenway,
- The Grange Greenway,
- Tallaght to Templeogue walking and cycling route,
- Scholarstown Road walking and cycling route,
- Willsbrook Road walking and cycling route,
- Bawnogue permeability route,
- Monastery Road walking and cycling scheme,
- R120 new Nangor Road to Adamstown with cycle lanes.

new projects to the NTA's investment programme in 2021.

The Council's plans to progress the Dodder Greenway received the highest allocation from the NTA to any local authority with €7.2m earmarked for the works.

Other areas funded included infrastructure upgrades to support the Safe to Schools Programme, permeability scheme for Balgaddy/Esker, works on the N81 Jobstown Junction, Monastery Road, Wellington Lane and more.

Welcoming the news, the Mayor of South Dublin County, Cllr Ed O'Brien, said, "Today's announcement will make a real difference to the delivery of the Cycle South Dublin programme

and the development of sustainable transport options in South Dublin County. This is very good news for our communities, and I am excited to see these projects begin to change how we get to work, schools, friends and family when our county reopens."



Cycling in South Dublin County

PUBLIC ART ON THE N81 ROUNDABOUT



South Dublin County Council would like to invite proposals for a highly visible, sculptural artwork at Glenview Roundabout, Tallaght on the N81.

The public art commission is part of a large scale infrastructure project N81 Landscape Improvement Scheme and will be the first of three commissions in specified locations along the route.

The N81 is one of South Dublin's main transport routes connecting significant numbers of commuters with Dublin city centre. It is only a few minutes drive from the national mo-

torway network. In a typical peak hour, some 1,000 cars pass along the N81 between Tallaght village and the M50. The annual average daily traffic at this location is 31,000.

The N81 corridor also features Tallaght Stadium which is home to Shamrock Rovers FC, Sean Walsh Memorial Park children's play facilities and landscaped parkland. The area has an energy and dynamism that is

N81 Landscape Improvement Scheme

A journey along the N81 in the Tallaght area presents a series of snapshot views of the Dublin Mountains. Identified in the Council's "Tourism Strategy for South Dublin County", as one of its most outstanding and striking natural features. The Dublin Mountain Way is a long distance trail that starts in Sean Walsh Park adjacent to the N81 in Tallaght and ends in Shankill, a distance of approximately 42km

The proposed area for the N81 Landscape Improvement Scheme is the stretch of the N81 from its junction with the N82 into City West to the junction with Old Bridge Road/Cypress Grove Road at the entrance to Templeogue Village. The N81 Landscape Improvement Scheme is currently underway with phase one already completed.

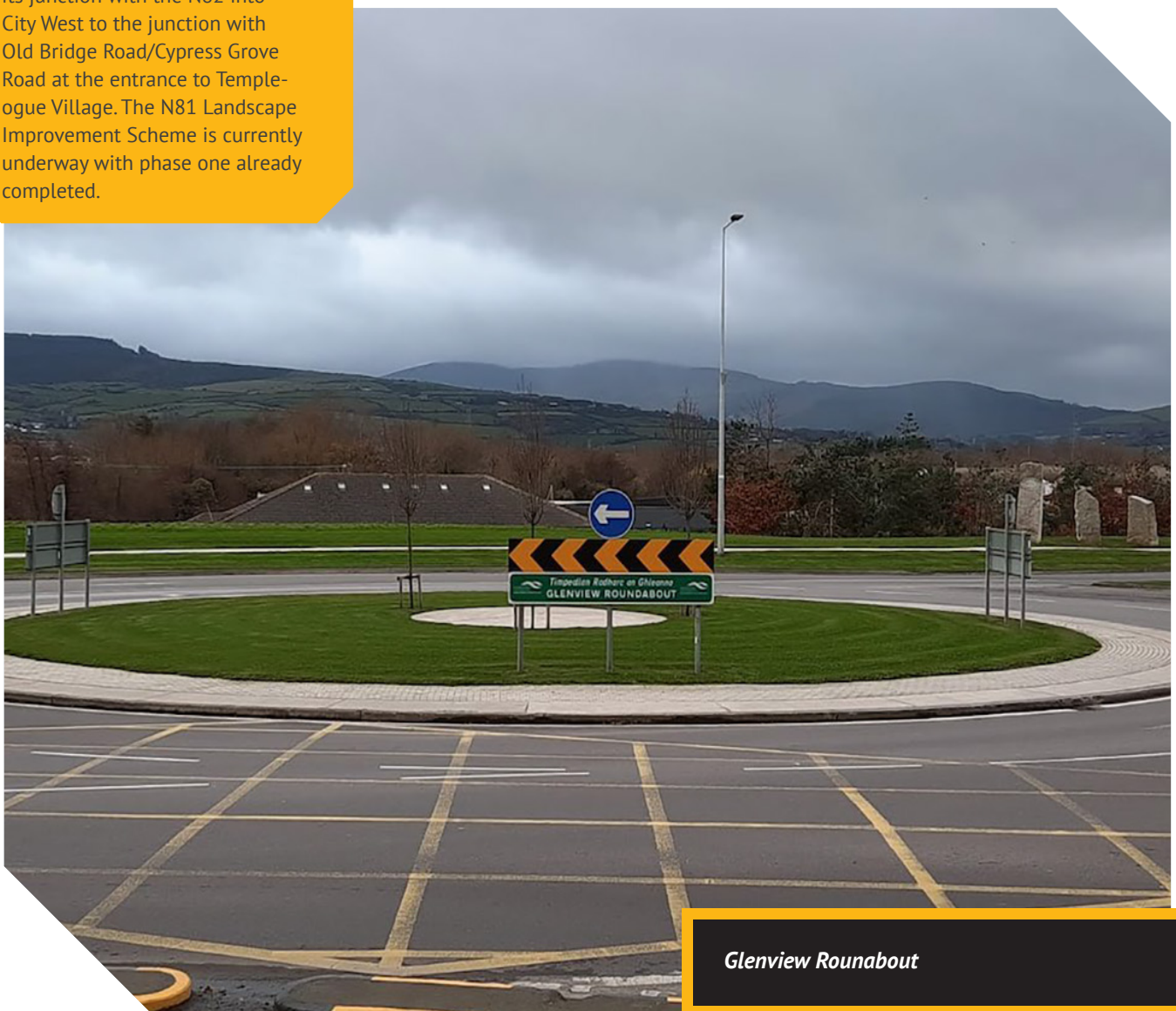
reflected in new residential developments, re-developments and increasing cultural diversity.

This initial project at Glenview Roundabout should be a distinctive inviting gateway piece that marks the main avenue of approach into Tallaght town centre, the business and residential heart of South Dublin County. The sculpture location is in the centre of an existing roundabout.

Submissions should demonstrate the County's energy and dynamism, reflected in new residential developments, re-developments and increasing cultural diversity, in a fresh and colourful way. The County's rich history with its young and vibrant present, are key to the identity of the County.

The value of the initial commission at Glenview Roundabout is €50,000. This amount is fully inclusive of all costs including fees to the artist, any necessary research, production/realisation, installations, insurance, documentation, maintenance file and VAT.

Anyone wishing to submit a proposal for the site can find more information on artist brief and how to enter on www.sdcc.ie.



Glenview Roundabout



The Healthy South Dublin programme continues to deliver actions and events during COVID-19 with focusing on the Keep Well campaign.

The Healthy South Dublin programme, building on Healthy County accreditation for South Dublin in 2016, is managed by the Council in partnership with the South Dublin Local Community Development Committee (LCDC), Children and Young People's Services Committee (CYPSC), Health Service Executive (HSE), South Dublin County Partnership (SDCP), Tallaght University Hospital, Technological University Dublin, Trinity College Dublin Public Health and Primary Care, South Dublin Volunteer Centre, South Dublin County Sports Partnership (SDCSP) and Dublin and Dun Laoghaire Education Training Board (DDLETB).

The multi-agency Strategy for a Healthy South Dublin

2019–2022 contains 38 actions across the themes identified by the National Healthy Ireland Strategy: Healthy Weight, Physical Activity, Mental Health & Wellbeing, Sexual Health, Alcohol and Tobacco with progress overseen and monitored by a Healthy County Steering Group and our local Healthy Ireland Co-Ordinator. Some key initiatives under the strategy include:

- A Social Prescribing project,
- Community Alcohol programme,
- Physical activity events,
- Primary schools sports coaching programme,
- Targeted suicide prevention taskforce,
- Community mental health grants scheme to launch shortly.

A FOCUS

HEALTHY SOUTH DUBLIN





US ON OUTH DUBLIN

While work under the strategy is continuing where possible in the current circumstances, the Healthy County partners in South Dublin County are also focused on the national Keep Well campaign that has been running from November 2020 and is likely to extend through to summer 2021. The campaign supports individual and community resilience as an ongoing response to Covid-19 by helping everyone to stay connected, active and look after their mental and physical health and wellbeing during COVID-19 through a range of online, home and local activities, where restrictions allow.

Keeping active and being outdoors

- Availing of Council parks, walking and cycle trails and more
- Marathon Families 2021

Managing your mood

- HSE online stress control classes
- Mindmindr app

Staying connected

- Health and wellbeing packs for families in hubs
- Digital supports for older people

Eating well

- HSE/Healthy Ireland Healthy Eating Initiatives
- Online cooking demos

Switching off and being creative

- South Dublin Libraries in partnership with the Arts Office and Creative Ireland have organised over 1,400 events

Our Keep Well Campaign web-page on www.sdcc.ie provides an ongoing overview of the range of events and supports in the County.



MARCH STATISTICS REPORT

HIGHLIGHTS



Corporate Performance and Change Management

Number of Customer Care queries received	8,029
Number of Customer Care queries closed within deadline	7,323
Web pages opened on Council websites	209,249
Social media reach	1,358,335
Social media engagement	37,810



Economic, Enterprise and Tourism Development

LEO - Number of mentoring sessions	53
Grange Castle jobs sustained	5,328
Library items borrowed	30,796
Library visitors online	3,168



Environment, Water and Climate Change

Trees pruned	237
Kilometers of road swept monthly	890
Derelict site/dangerous buildings inspections	13
Litter - Fines Issued	56
Tonnes of waste collected – litter and illegal dumping	732
Tonnes of waste collected from street bins	37



Housing, Social and Community Development

Total Housing Stock	9,731
Total housing needs assessed	6,687
Housing maintenance requests received	1,704
Allocations - New Tenancies	21
Number of sports programme participants	269
Number of actions taken in response to anti-social reports	1,217
Electrical inspections completed	105

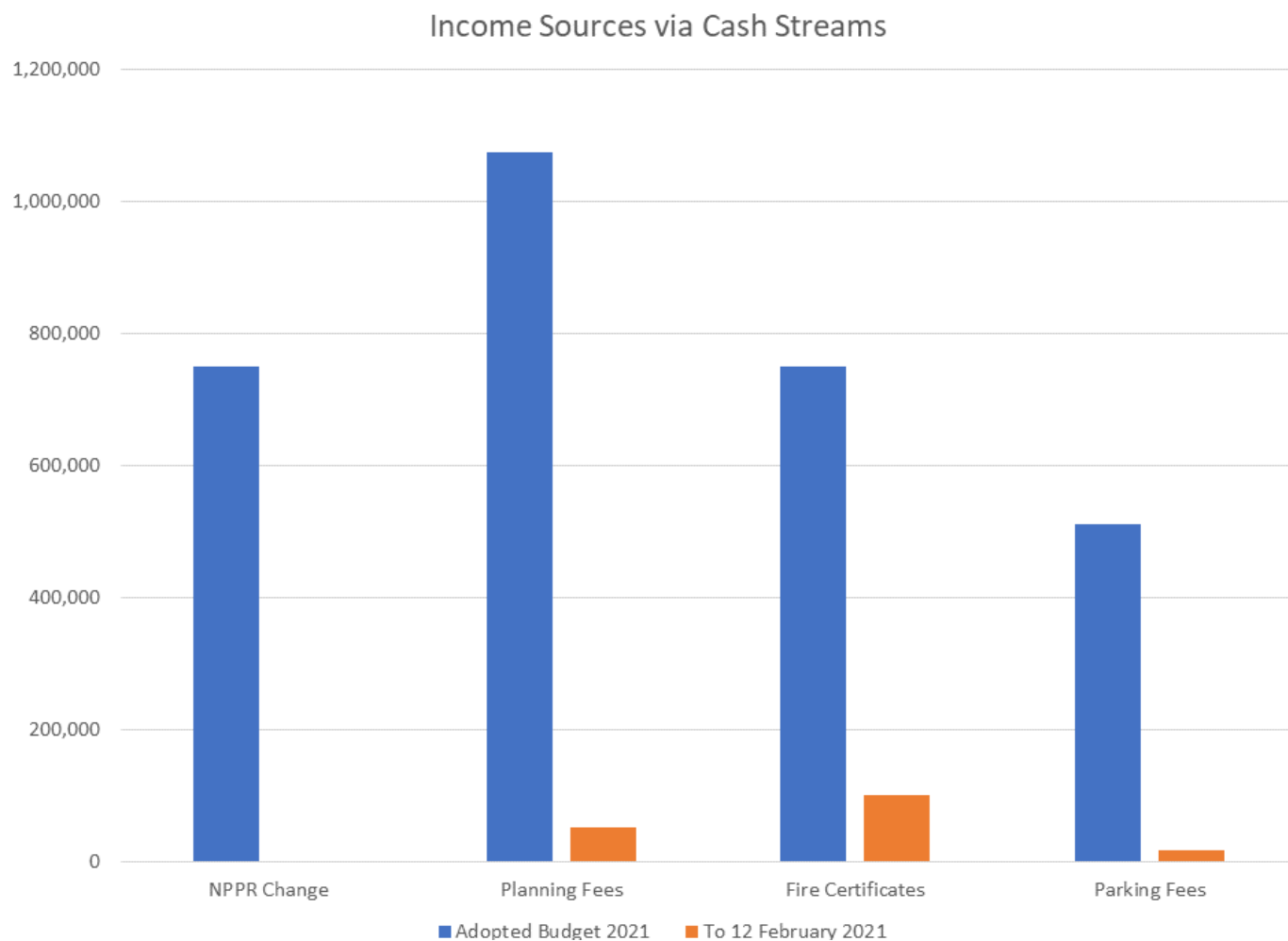


Land Use, Planning and Transportation

Planning applications received - new housing units	6
Area of road repaired in m2	2,580
Planning enforcements initiated	13
Number of public lights in charge	30,220
Number of traffic lights repaired within 24 hours	84

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



Seachtain na Gaeilge launch



Council gritters prepare for icy roads

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