

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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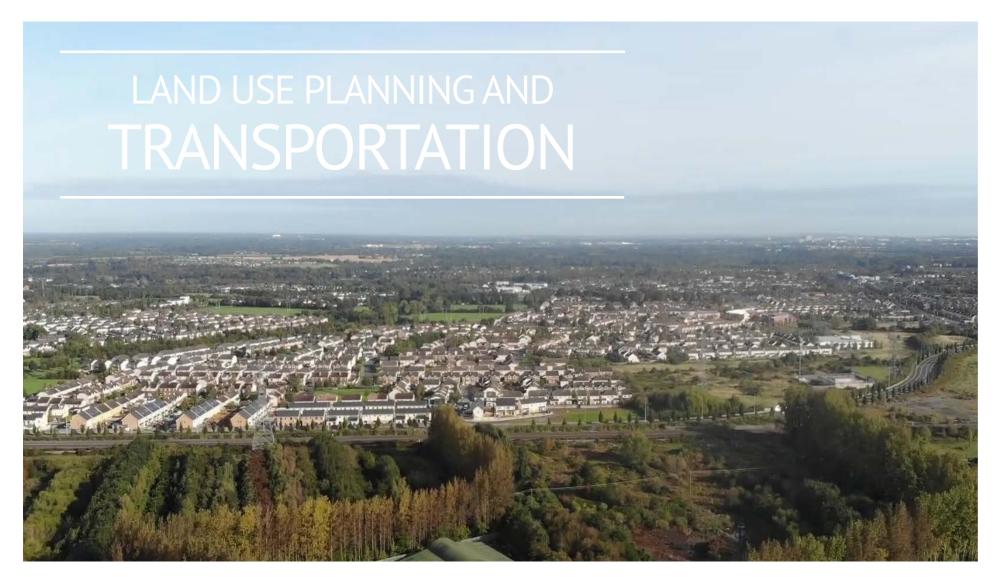
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Bus Connects

Bus Connects is the National Transport Authority's programme to greatly improve bus services in Dublin and other cities. Six of the proposed Bus Connects routes run through South Dublin County. including the Clondalkin to Drimnagh route, Tallaght to Terenure and the Lucan, Liffey Valley, Greenhills and Rathfarnham routes to the city centre.

The latest round of public consultation closed on Friday 17 April and Council officers made a submission. Significant works proposed under Bus Connects include an additional bridge over the M50 and new road construction on Greenhills Road, a pedestrian and cycle bridge over the Long Mile Road / Naas Road junction, major new transport interconnectors at Liffey Valley and the Square shopping centres along with approximately 50km of new or improved cycle lanes. The NTA will now consider submissions and have also announced that given the current crisis they plan a further public consultation during the latter part of 2020.



Tallaght Local Area Plan

A total of 23 submissions were received through public consultation from 13 February until 12 March. The primary issues raised related to plot ratio and building height. A report has now been prepared which takes account of these submissions and is due to be issued to the members in early May for consideration at the June Council meeting.

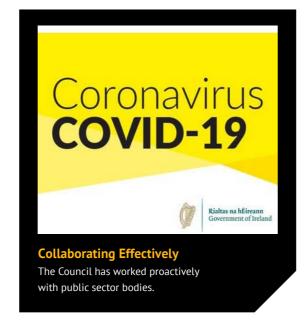
Collaborating during the COVID-19 crisis

he provision of additional medical facilities has become a priority in the development of the government's response to the ongoing COVID-19 crisis and South Dublin County Council has been to the fore in working with fellow public sector bodies to ensure their timely provision. Statutory amendments were recently made by the government to help facilitate speedy construction of works and the Citywest Hotel and Conference Centre was identified as a suitable location in which to locate a 'field hospital' and 'step-down' facility.

Recognising the need for works to commence as soon as possible,

while at the same time ensuring the safety of people in or about the building, South Dublin County Council proactively liaised with Dublin Fire Brigade, the HSE's Fire Prevention Officer and individual Fire Safety Consultants for Citywest to ensure the necessary level of oversight was implemented to enable prompt delivery of the facility.

A Works (COVID-19) Notice In relation to the 'field hospital' at Citywest Conference Centre was submitted to the Council via the Building Control Management System and validated on the same date. This speedy collaboration has enabled the Citywest facility to become the first such location in the country, thereby easing pressure on hospitals in Dublin and the surrounding areas.



Planning during COVID

The Council recognises that planning is a key element in our economy and is continuing to provide services during COV-ID-19. As such, the planning team has adapted its processes to ensure a high quality service is maintained. This includes new planning applications being received by post only and then scanned and validated with staff working remotely to assess and determine applications and hold pre-application meetings. To date, 55 planning applications have been processed, decisions issued on 19 applications and 6 Strategic Housing Development applications have been progressed.



Planning staff have continued to provide a quality service



Essential Construction Work

Following applications by the Council on behalf of Approved Housing Bodies, three sites in the County have been approved by the Department of Housing, Planning & Local Government to complete essential construction work to support housing delivery.

The sites in Burgage Gardens (Newcastle), Cuil Duin (City West) and Coolevan Phase 1 (Clondalkin) will deliver 106 new homes for allocation within six weeks of recommencement specifically to alleviate homelessness, overcrowding or medical needs or to support HAP transfers.

Work recommenced in late April following confirmation by contractors of safe working arrangements, appropriate social distancing and commitments to undertake the works in accordance with all necessary HSE and Government Guidelines.



Housing Mainteance Continues

Our housing maintenance team are continuing to provide responses to emergency and urgent maintenance issues as well as continuing work to return vacant properties to return them to occupancy. In the first four weeks of the COVID-19 restrictions, we have dealt with 811 maintenance requests relating to heating, plumbing and electrical works and inspections.

Co-ordinating the COVID-19 Community Response

n response to Action 4 in Irelands National Action Plan in Response to COVID-19, the Council was mandated to establish a multi-agency South Dublin COVID 19 Community Response Forum. The Forum was subsequently formed on Saturday 28 March 2020 with a wide variety of stakeholders, including: Mayor of South Dublin, ALONE, An Garda Síochana, An Post, Civil Defence, the HSE, South Dublin Volunteer Centre, Traveller Support Group, s Tus Nua / Older Persons Council, Tusla and many more.

The forum is chaired by the Council's Chief Executive, Daniel McLoughlin, and is convened on a weekly basis by way of remote vid-

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eo meetings. Its overall objective is to facilitate and co-ordinate the most appropriate response to the needs of vulnerable people living in the community where their usual supports become unavailable.

The Forum leads the co-ordination of COVID-19 community supports and resilience, including:

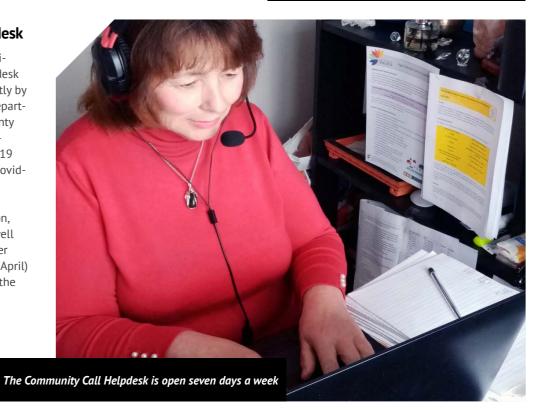
- Identify vulnerable groups and individuals in South Dublin County;
- Ensuring delivery of targeted social care supports and assistance;
- Helping vulnerable individuals in isolation;
- Ensuring the resilience of existing community services;
- Harnessing offers of assistance from enterprises/businesses generally.



Community Call Helpdesk

The Forum has set up a dedicated Community Call Helpdesk operated 7 days a week jointly by the Council'S Community Department and South Dublin County Partnership that can be contacted by calling 1800 240519 (freephone) or by emailing covid-support@sdublincoco.ie.

In its first month of operation, the helpdesk has received well over 1,000 contacts with over 99% resolved (at the end of April) and 70% being resolved on the same day.





Healthy Ireland

Under the Healthy Ireland at Your Library banner, South Dublin Libraries scheduled four wellbeing and coping health talks at the end of April during the COVID-19 lockdown:

- Anxiety
- What Drives our Behaviour
- Parenting and Home-school-
- Mindfulness

The online events, hosted by Jacci Jones, Psychotherapist and Life-Coach culminated in a live Zoom event on 1 Mav.

These events are now available on the South Dublin Libraries website, Vimeo and South Dublin social media platforms. Activity work sheets and day-diary sheets are also available to help boost wellbeing and to help people stay in the moment and record their feelings each day - these pages are printable and can be used by children as well as adults.



Libraries Move Online

South Dublin Libraries continues to deliver a comprehensive programme of events and activities across social media platforms. Library staff have used their skills and ideas to find new ways to reach out and engage with the community including live streamed storytelling sessions, craft sessions, photography exhibitions, local history talks and blogs and much more.

LEO South Dublin Welcomes Expansion of Business Supports

inister for Business, Enterprise and Innovation. Heather Humphreys TD, announced a major expansion of supports for businesses im-pacted by COVID-19, including an expansion of the Trading Online Voucher Scheme and a reduction in the interest rate for Microfinance Ireland loans.

Minister Humphrevs announced the expansion of the €2,500 Trading Online Voucher Scheme through Local Enterprise Offices, for businesses employing up to 10 people.

Welcoming the expansion of business supports, Tom Rooney with Local Enterprise Office South

Dublin in South Dublin County Council said: "For many local businesses, the options for trading are very limited as a result of COV-ID-19. However, there are a lot of opportunities in online selling and by accessing this Trading Online Voucher scheme, small businesses can develop a sustainable strategy for increasing sales."

Frank Nevin, Director of Economic, Enterprise and Tourism Development, said, "Complementing these initiatives, under the Sustainable Business Programme, South Dublin Local Enterprise Office and South Dublin Chamber collaborate together to continue to offer a selection of relevant and training and other supports."



LEO South Dublin are supporting local business through a number of ways.

Project Sums

The immensely popular project sums returned on 22 April offering classes to Higher Level and Ordinary Level maths students with the help of volunteer maths tutors from all walks of life. The request was sent to the volunteers to move the successful Tuesday night grinds to an online format and the response was overwhelming.

Depending on future announcements by the Department of Education, libraries hope to maintain a class per week at least through May and into June.





Staff Wellbeing Platform

Ensuring the physical and mental wellbeing of Council staff is always vital but has never been more so than during the current COVID-19 situation.

The recently launched Staff Wellbeing Platform includes a blend of initiatives across three main central pillars, namely Mental Health, Physical Activity and Nutrition. Each individual pillar can positively impact across multiple areas of wellbeing. It encourages both digital and physical interaction and includes initiatives such as videos, articles, podcasts and online challenges.

Hundreds of Council staff have signed up to the free to use tool and are using its resources for personal wellbeing, professional development, coping with COV-ID-19, financial advice and more. It is just one of the ways the Council is supporting its staff as they continue to deliver a high quality service to our citizens.



May Day Celebrations

The Council lit up County Hall in red to celebrate International Workers' Day 2020. It was particularly important to recognise all our frontline and essential workers during this tough time and acknowledge the huge sacrifices being made in the interest of keeping us all safe. International Workers' Day, or May Day as it is often referred to, occurs every year on the first of May.

Customer Focused during COVID-19

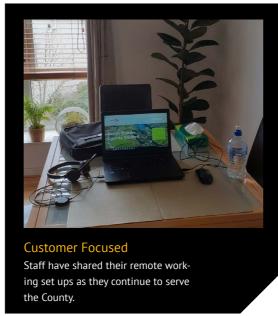
hroughout the COVID-19 lockdown, the Council has remained available to citizens and business even as our physical offices have been closed.

The challenge for the Council during this time was to provide continuity in service delivery in phone, email, and web enquiry forms, including Fix Your Street queries and to ensure that the information provided was correct and up to date in an ever-changing environment.

For this, the Council's Business Continuity Plan identified the services that were essential for the continuity of operations and service delivery and that required remote working capability.

Key to remaining accessible to all was the dedicated customer care team. Typical customer care volumes dealt with by the team include over 500 phone calls per day, and up to 100 email and web enquiry forms. While 50% of calls received with are typically dealt with by the customer care service team directly, the remaining queries are referred to relevant people in each service department.

The team have stepped up to the challenge and are continuing to deliver an excellent service from home as the Council maintains physical distancing in offices.



Communicating With You

The Council has been communicating with citizens throughout the COVID-19 pandemic. A dedicated space has been set up on www.sdcc.ie to gather all COV-ID-19 relevant information with messaging being pushed out to citizens through social media.

In March and April, Council posts were seen over 5,000,000 times across all platforms with around 208,000 engagements on Council content. The focus has been to deliver up-to-date local and national COVID-19 information while promoting campaigns such as 'In This Together' and the Community Call.

Protect each other Stand apart



The Council is promoting local and national COVID-19 information through social media.



Litter Management Plan

The South Dublin County Council Litter Management Plan 2020-2022 was adopted by the Elected Members at their meeting held on Monday 9th March 2020. The Plan is a statutory plan prepared as prescribed in Section 10 of the Litter Pollution Act 1997.

The Plan proposes to address the negative impacts of litter on our county, improve the quality of life and sense of wellbeing of our residents, and enhance our commercial and tourism potential through effective and efficient

- enforcement of legislation and regulation
- management and maintenance of our public realm
- communication, education and awareness

The objectives of the Plan have regard to the mission statement and objectives of the Corporate Plan 2020 – 2024, "to make our county a vibrant and inclusive place for the people who live, visit, work, and do business here, now and for the future".



Parks Are Open!

The Council would like to remind residents that all your local and regional parks around the county remain open for use between 8am and 9pm daily. Car parks are closed so as not to encourage travel from more than 2km distances. The Parks are busiest between 12 midday and 5pm so it would be better to choose a quieter time for your visit where possible.

Collinstown Park – Plans for the Future

he Public Realm team are delighted to announce some very exciting plans for Collinstown Park. This major new development is aimed at improving the lives of young people and families in the area and includes a new playground for children up to the age of 12 and a Teenspace.

The playground has been designed to fit into the parkland landscape and contains a wide range of equipment and many natural play features. We will create an inclusive playspace where children can play together regardless of ability. The main features of the playground will be a large sand play area, swings, slide, climbing frame, climbing trees, monkey bars, gym-

nastic bars, spinning disk, wobble belt and a double zipline. There will also be natural play elements, particularly important for younger children, to encourage as much physical activity as possible.

In conjunction with the playground, an area for teenagers is also proposed. We consulted with over 500 teenagers in the area and, based on their feedback, an innovative new type of space is planned.

Central to the entire proposal will be a parkour or free running area. The provision of wi-fi is also an important part of the space. Music has always been part of youth culture and here teenagers can share music with their friends through the smartphone speaker. There will also be a water font for hydration.



pace are planned for the park.

One-Way Walking Loops

Our parks have undergone considerable changes due to the COVID-19 lockdown. The use of pitches and other facilities for organised games has ceased, events have been postponed, playgrounds have closed and the exercise equipment is also out of use. The use of parks remains a very important outlet for people and parks staff have taken many measures to keep the parks open by ensuring people can use them in as safe a manner as possible. One such measure is the creation of one-way travel loops in some of our parks. Everyone moving in the same direction on these loops assist social distancing measures in our busier parks, allowing people to enjoy their exercise in a safer environment.



IN THIS TOGETHER CAMPAIGN



he campaign aims to help everyone in Ireland to Stay Connected, Stay Active, and look after their Mental Health throughout the Covid-19 Emergency.

The campaign encourages everyone to set a new daily activity which helps them to feel a little healthier or a little happier as we deal with Covid-19. It signposts useful advice to help people of every age group to cope

with the ongoing restrictions, whether they are looking after children, dealing with self-isolation, preparing for the Leaving Cert or coping with cabin fever

In This Together draws together a huge range of activities that you can pursue in your home or your locality, by yourself or with family members or with friends online. There are ideas and activities for people of all ages.

Online Library Services

You can join the library online and get eBooks, audiobooks, online magazines and newspapers for free straight away, or even take language and other courses. Here's how!

Libraries continue to offer a variety of services, such as ebooks and audiobooks, access to digital magazines and newspapers and lots more.

To find out how to sign up online for these services and resources, please visit the following URL:

https://www.sdcc.ie/en/news/on-line-library-services.html

Just some highlights include:

- SDC Sports Partnership live exercise classes including yoga, pilates, at hoem exercise and more
- The Libraries Borrow Box
- Online music classes with Music Generation
- 5 minute crafts with our Library service
- Age Friendly News
- Bouncing baby book club
- LEO online course

In This Together also draws together a huge range of advice and support that is available online for people of all ages, including:

- MindMindR2019 app
- Mental Health Facebook talks

- from 27th to 30th April
- Promotion of our parks and getting back to nature

The initiative brings together National Government, local government, Government Agencies, community and voluntary sectors, and the Community Call Forums around the country.

You can find full details at www. sdcc.ie or on any of our social media channels.

Wellbeing initiatives right across Government are being collated and that information can be easily found on Gov.ie.



FREE CYC-LOK PARKING FOR FRONTLINE WORKERS



South Dublin County Council has made Cyc-Lok bicycle lockers free to use during the COVID-19 restriction phase up to the 5th May.

p to 5 May, South Dublin County Council is offering free parking for frontline workers and others. The Cyc-Lok bicycle lockers are located at Civic Theatre Tallaght and Grange Road Rathfarnham providing secure bicycle parking for long or short-term parking. They also have the advantage of being close to the Luas, Tallaght and the 16, 17, 61 and 75 bus routes from Grange Road. Cyc-Lok's lockers are completely

enclosed and protect bikes and belongings from third-party viewing.

Cyc-Lok is pay-as-you-go parking for your bike and prices start at just €1 for an hour, rising to €3 for twelve hours. Each site caters for twelve bicycles at a time and is available 24/7. All a frontline worker needs to do is use the following code STAYCOVIDFREE on the Cyc-Lok App and is on a first come first served basis.

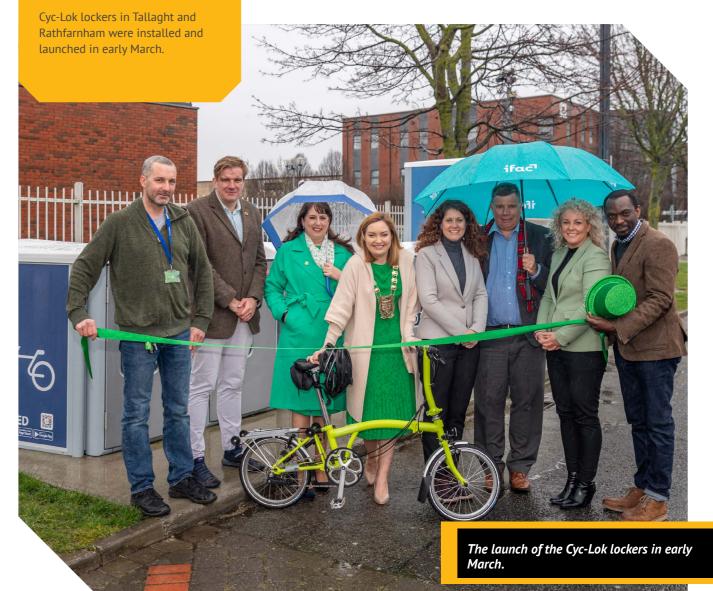
Cyc-Lok

Cyc-Lok Ltd is an Irish company established in 2014 to develop a Europe-wide and, later, global network of secure bicycle parking facilities in response to the increased demand in cycling for recreation and especially for transport in urban commuter zones.

Cyc-Lok is an access controlled modular bike locker system containing 12 separate lockers as part of one unit. It is completely enclosed, protecting bikes from third party viewing, providing safety and security.

To use the service, you need to download the Cyc-Lok app from Google Play or Apple Store, register your details and choose your preferred site and period of use (from 1 to 12 hours). Once your booking is confirmed you will then receive a unique 4-Digit Pin code. Enter this pin code at the unit Tower and press the 'tick key' and a locker will open for your bike and belongings. Shut the locker door and once you return just re-enter the 4-Digit Pin Code and press the 'x-key' to end your booking. Your locker will then re-open and allow you to collect your bicycle.

Users can also enter and re-enter their locker as many times as they wish during a single booking period, just by entering the unique pin code followed by the 'tick-key'. Mayor Vicki Casserly, said: "I am delighted to announce that South Dublin County Council is offering free use of their bicycle lockers for the duration of the current COVID-19 restriction phase up to 5th May. Our frontline workers are doing a great job in keeping us safe and I am delighted we can play a small part in rewarding them for their efforts. These are challenging times and keeping their mode of transport safe and secure will, hopefully, provide them with one less thing to worry about."



TRANSGENDER DAY OF VISIBILITY



gender Day of Visibility 2020 on 31 March 2020 by raising the Transgender pride flag at County Hall.

outh Dublin County Council raised the transgender flag at County Hall, Tallaght, in recognition of International Transgender Day of Visibility on March 31st

Visibility is key to developing an inclusive culture and working environment. If transgender people are invisible in the community, individuals will feel isolated. It is our hope that by encouraging observance of this day

of visibility that we will contribute to building an Ireland where trans people are understood, accepted and respected, and can participate fully in all aspects of Irish society.

Mayor of South Dublin County, Cllr Vicki Casserly gave her message: "I believe that all LGBTQ+ people, regardless of age, ethnicity or disability should be free to express their gender identity and sexuality; however, they

Trans Pride Flag

The trans pride flag was designed by Monica Helms, an openly transgender American woman, in August 1999. Every aspect of the design is carefully chosen to reflect trans identities.

"The stripes at the top and bottom are light blue, the traditional color for baby boys. The stripes next to them are pink, the traditional color for baby girls. The stripe in the middle is white, for those who are intersex, transitioning or consider themselves having a neutral or undefined gender. The pattern is such that no matter which way you fly it, it is always correct, signifying us finding correctness in our lives."

choose, without fear of discrimination or hate".

South Dublin County Council has demonstrated a strong commitment to LGBTQ+ equality and the LGBTQ+ community through a variety of actions, particularly over the past decade. For example:

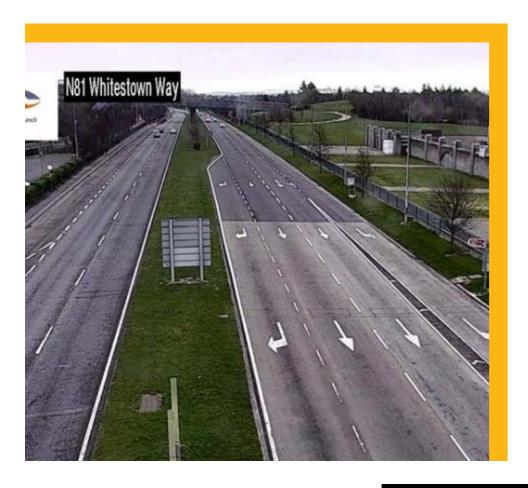
- The Pride Flag is flown over County Hall and Civic Offices Clondalkin in recognition of Pride Week each June.
- Council policies, plans and staff forms are equality proofed on an ongoing basis.
- The South Dublin County Council LGBTQ+ Staff Network was founded in October 2017 and

anyone who identifies on the LGBTQ+ spectrum who is directly employed by the Council, or who is a retired or former employee is welcome to join, and membership is free of charge. The Network provides a staff LGBTQ+ information page through the Council's

SDCC were active members of the **Diversity Champions initiative** and through this membership we have forged strong links with the **Dublin City Council LGBT+ Staff**

In November 2019 the Council passed a motion to fly the Transgender Pride flag from 31 March (International Transgender Day of Visibility), for seven days each year.







COVID-19 has reshaped how we all live our lives in a very short time. It is recognised as the greatest public health crisis of our time that has required the enactment of emergency legislation and the establishment of unprecedented financial and economic supports.

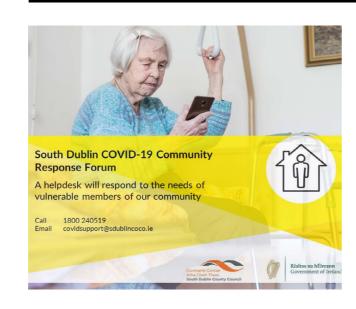
outh Dublin County Council has been working continuously during this time to maintain services. While citizens in the County are being asked to stay at home where possible, council staff are working to maintain parks, keeping streets clean, answering emergencies, maintaining the planning system, co-ordinating Community Response initiatives, housing support services, supporting business, paying creditors and taking your calls in an effort to maintain a degree of normality to essential council services. This has entailed innovative approaches to remote working, online solutions to service provision and community engagement around

children's entertainment, the arts, libraries, keeping fit and looking after our mental health.

Following the announcement by An Taoiseach on Friday March 27th of new nationwide COVID-19 measures to limit the spread of the virus, the Council took the decision to close all Council offices and implement physical distancing practices for staff, while ensuring that the essential services we deliver were provided across all functions. This included providing work from home solutions, alternative shift patterns and rostered hours for those required to travel outside of their homes for work purposes.

SOUTH DUBLIN COUNTY COUNCIL

COVID-19 RESPONSE





In early April, the Council set up the Community Call Response Forum, a co-ordinated community effort to provide supports to at risk citizens during the COVID-19 emergency. Made up of national organisations and local groups, the group has answered the call of over 1,000 people to date and delivered food supplies, medication and more, to vulnerable individuals and groups. Representatives from the Community Call have proactively reached out to older people needing to hear a friendly voice, single parents who might be finding it difficult during this time and the recently bereaved, now living alone having to deal with this devastating

Citizens throughout the County have shown great resilience and respect for the guidance issued by government on physical distancing, while the Council has provided numerous supports for those having to remain indoors. The South Dublin County Sports Partnership provide exercise classes online every Monday through Thursday. MindMindR the Council's mental health app, has been extensively promoted through social media. Music Generation South Dublin are continuing to run music lessons for young people online. South Dublin County libraries have provided numerous initiatives online for all ages.

Aware of the financial strain the COVID-19 emergency is placing on citizens and businesses, the Council has put in place supports and procedures to provide assistance during this time. These include working with local businesses on commercial rates and with tenants experiencing difficulties on rent or mortgage payments. The COVID-19 Community Emergency Fund has been introduced to provide financial support for community groups participating in the Community Call initiative.

We would like to thank all our citizens for the outstanding community response shown to date and look forward to helping maintain that spirit to help us all get through this together.

MARCH STATISTICS REPORT

HIGHLIGHTS



Corporate Performance and Change Management

	5,235
Number of Customer Care queries closed within deadline	4,730
Web pages opened on Council websites	284,724
Social media reach	2,392,235
Social media engagement	109,378



Economic, Enterprise and Tourism Development

LEO - Number of mentoring sessions	30
Grange Castle jobs sustained	5,328
Library visitors	52,192
Visitors to the Civic Theatre and Rua Red	9,982



Environment, Water and Climate Change

Trees pruned	206
Kilometers of road swept monthly	970
Derelict site/dangerous buildings inspections	12
Litter - Fines Issued	13
Tonnes of waste collected – litter and illegal dumping	582
Tonnes of waste collected from street bins	39



Housing, Social and Community Development

Total Housing Stock	9,664
Total housing needs assessed	6,822
Housing maintenance requests received	1,285
Tidy Towns Groups supported	11
Number of Sports Programmes	69
Number of sports programme participants	12,388
Number of PRTB Inspections	128

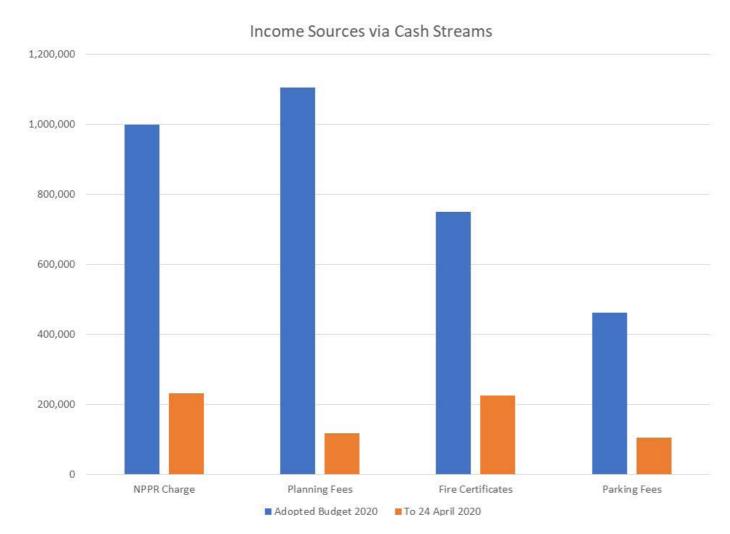


Land Use, Planning and Transportation

Building control inspections	63
Area of footpath repaired in metres squared (m2)	3,875
Public Lighting LED Programme	144
Number of public lights in charge	29,900
Number of traffic lights repaired within 24 hours	78

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 Chief Executive's Report headed item of the monthly Council meeting agenda.

IMAGES OF THE

MONTH





SOCIAL MEDIA





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