



Comhairle Contae  
Átha Cliath Theas  
South Dublin County Council

Contae Átha Cliath Theas Inniu

# South Dublin County Today

July 2024 / Iúil 2024

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# South Dublin County Council Elected Members



## Clondalkin Cluain Dolcáin

Councillor Francis Timmons	<b>IND</b>
Councillor William Joseph Carey	<b>SF</b>
Councillor Darragh Adelaide	<b>PBP</b>
Councillor Eoin Ó Broin	<b>SD</b>
Councillor Shirley O' Hara	<b>FG</b>
Councillor Linda DeCourcy	<b>II</b>
Councillor Trevor Gilligan	<b>FF</b>

## Rathfarnham - Templeogue Ráth Fearnáin - Teach Mealóg

Councillor Pamela Kearns	<b>LAB</b>
Councillor Ronan McMahon	<b>IND</b>
Councillor Ciarán Ahearn	<b>LAB</b>
Councillor Justin Sinnott	<b>SD</b>
Councillor Lynn McCrave	<b>FG</b>
Councillor Yvonne Collins	<b>FF</b>
Councillor David McManus	<b>FG</b>

## Tallaght Central Tamhlact An Lár

Councillor Patrick Pearse Holohan	<b>IND</b>
Councillor Britto Pereppadan	<b>FG</b>
Councillor Mick Duff	<b>IND</b>
Councillor Niamh Whelan	<b>SF</b>
Councillor Teresa Costello	<b>FF</b>
Councillor Jess Spear	<b>PBP</b>

## Lucan Leamhcán

Councillor Paul Gogarty	<b>IND</b>
Councillor Vicki Casserly	<b>FG</b>
Councillor Liona O'Toole	<b>IND</b>
Councillor Caroline Brady	<b>FG</b>
Councillor Joanna Tuffy	<b>LAB</b>

## Tallaght South Tamhlact Theas

Councillor Patrick Pearse Holohan	<b>IND</b>
Councillor Kay Keane	<b>PBP</b>
Councillor Dermot Richardson	<b>IND</b>
Councillor Louise Dunne	<b>SF</b>
Councillor Baby Pereppadan	<b>FG</b>

## Firhouse - Bohernabreena Teach na Giúise - Bóthar na Bruíne

Councillor Alan Edge	<b>IND</b>
Councillor Brian Lawlor	<b>FG</b>
Councillor Emma Murphy	<b>FF</b>
Councillor Sarah Barnes	<b>FG</b>
Councillor Róisín Mannion	<b>SF</b>

## Palmerstown - Fonthill Baile Phámar - Cnoc an Fhuaráin

Councillor Shane Moynihan	<b>FF</b>
Councillor Alan Hayes	<b>IND</b>
Councillor Niamh Fennell	<b>SF</b>
Councillor Glen Moore	<b>IFP</b>
Councillor Madeleine Johansson	<b>PBP</b>

### Party abbreviations

Clr	Councillor
PBP	People Before Profit Alliance
SOL	Solidarity
FF	Fianna Fáil
SF	Sinn Féin
SD	Social Democrats
FG	Fine Gael
LAB	The Labour Party
IFP	Irish Freedom Party
IND	Independent
Green	The Green Party
II	Independent Ireland



# Message from the Mayor

Dear Residents of South Dublin,

I am deeply honoured to have been elected as your Mayor and First Citizen of South Dublin County Council. This opportunity to serve our vibrant and diverse community fills me with immense pride and a strong sense of responsibility. I am committed to working tirelessly on your behalf, ensuring that our County continues to thrive and flourish. Our shared vision for a brighter, more inclusive future will be the driving force behind every decision I make and every action I take.

Our sense of community spirit and belonging is what makes South Dublin such a special place. It is the foundation upon which our great County has been built, and it is something we must cherish and nurture. As your Mayor, I pledge to uphold and strengthen this community spirit and commit to working with you to celebrate our diversity, embrace our differences, and work together to create a more united and cohesive community.

In the coming year, my focus will be on listening to and addressing the needs and concerns of all our residents. From improving local services and infrastructure to promoting sustainable development and environmental stewardship, I am dedicated to ensuring that South Dublin remains a wonderful place to live, work, recreate and raise a family. I am eager to listen to your ideas and feedback, and I encourage open dialogue and collaboration as we strive to build a brighter future together.

I am excited to embark on this journey with you, and I am confident that, together, we can achieve great things for South Dublin. Let us move forward with optimism, determination, and a shared commitment to making our community the best it can be.

Warm regards,



**Baby Pereppadan**

Mayor, South Dublin County Council



## Teachtaireacht ón Méara

A áitritheoirí Bhaile Átha Cliath Theas dile,

Is mór an onóir dom é go ndearnadh mé a thoghadh i mo Mhéara oraibh agus i mo Chéad Saoránach ar Chomhairle Contae Bhaile Átha Cliath Theas. Cuireann an deis seo freastal ar ár bpobal spleodrach agus ilchineálach an-bhród orm agus áirím tábhacht na freagrachta seo. Táim tiomanta d'obair gan stad gan staonadh ar bhur son, ag cinntiú go leanann ár gcontae ar aghaidh ag bláthú. Beidh ár bhfís chomhroinnte do thodhchaí níos fearr agus níos ionchuimsithí ina ceann feadhna ar gach cinneadh agus gach gníomh a dhéanaim.

Is mar gheall ar ár spiorad pobail agus muintearas atá Baile Átha Cliath Theas chomh speisialta sin mar áit. Is ionann é agus an bhunchloch ar a tógadh ár dtír álainn, agus is ní é ar gá dúinn meas a léiriú air agus a chothú. Agus mé in bhur Méara, geallaim go ndéanfaidh mé an spiorad pobail seo a choimeád agus a neartú, agus gabhaim orm féin ar n-ilchineálacht a cheiliúradh, glacadh lenár gcuid éagsúlachtaí, agus obair le chéile le pobal níos aontaithe a chruthú.

Sa bhliain atá amach romhainn, díreoidh mé ar éisteacht le agus dul i ngleic le riachtanais agus ábhair imní ár gcuid áitritheoirí uile. Ó fheabhas a chur ar sheirbhísí agus bonneagar áitiúil go forbairt inbhuanaithe agus maoirseacht comhshaoil a chur chun cinn, tá mé tiomanta do chinntiú go bhfanfaidh Baile Átha Cliath Theas ina áit iontach le cónaí, le hobair, le bheith i mbun fóillíochta agus le clann a thógáil inti. Táim ag súil go mór le héisteacht le bhur gcuid smaointe agus aiseolais, agus spreagaim plé oscailte agus comhoibriú agus muid ag iarraidh todhchaí níos fearr a thógáil le chéile.

Tá sceitimíní orm tabhairt faoin aistear seo libh, agus táim muiníneach gur féidir linn, le chéile, rudaí iontacha a bhaint amach do Bhaile Átha Cliath Theas. Bogaimis ar aghaidh go dóchasach, go diongbháilte agus le comhthiomantas an pobal is fearr agus is féidir a dhéanamh dár bpobal.

Le dea-mhéin,



**Baby Pereppadan**

Méara Chomhairle Contae Bhaile Átha Cliath Theas

**South Dublin County Council tries to attract and retain talented and motivated people, from diverse backgrounds and experiences, who will take pride in their work and make a positive difference to the lives of citizens in South Dublin County.**

By working as a staff member at South Dublin County Council you will be making your contribution to this county's development as the best possible place in which to live, work and do business. As a staff member, you will be given a range of opportunities to positively engage with citizens, businesses and communities to make a positive impact upon their daily lives.

Employees are provided with opportunities to learn, develop and grow through staff mobility and career development, a comprehensive training and development programme and the provision of financial assistance to staff undertaking further education.

The Council recognises the importance of work life balance and supports family friendly initiatives such as flexi-time, work-sharing, paid maternity leave (and the newly introduced paternity leave) as well as generous annual leave allowances. There are Crèche facilities on site, a subsidised canteen and free staff parking.

The well-being of employees is a priority for the Council so we provide free annual health checks, flu inoculation, eyesight testing, a confidential Staff Welfare Service, and a range of ongoing health and well-being initiatives throughout the year. Employees can join the Staff Social Club, Credit Union, Golf Society, Hill-Walking Club, LGBTQ+ Staff Network and take part in the numerous social events organised. Staff may also avail of tax saver schemes such as cycle to work and a bus or Luas travel pass.

# Join our team

**We're hiring.**



**Keep an eye on job opportunities on our dedicated careers portal**

**[www.sdccjobs.ie](http://www.sdccjobs.ie)**

## Community Recognition Fund 2024

The Community Recognition Fund was introduced in 2023 to recognise the huge efforts made by communities in welcoming and supporting people coming to Ireland. Through the 2023 Scheme, funding of €50 million was approved for some 900 projects in cities, towns and villages nationwide. We were delighted to award funding to 19 projects from the 2023 fund which enabled the delivery of new sports facilities and upgrade works across many clubs and community facilities in South Dublin County.

Based on the continued impacts on communities throughout the country and the need to support these communities in welcoming new arrivals, a further €50 million is being provided under the Community Recognition Fund 2024.

South Dublin County Council has been allocated €2,249,663 by the Department of Rural and Community Development (DRCD) to deliver projects over 2024 and 2025. The minimum level of funding for an individual project is €50,000 with a maximum of €500,000 applying to any single project.

There will be three separate calls for project proposals in accordance with set application windows. The next application window will open in August and information will be available on the Community Recognition Fund 2024 on our website [www.sdcc.ie](http://www.sdcc.ie).



# Celebrating 30 Years of South Dublin County Council

**This year, South Dublin County Council celebrates 30 years in existence. The Local Government (Dublin) Act, 1993 dissolved Dublin County Council and created three new administrative counties; Fingal County Council, South Dublin County Council, Dún Laoghaire Rathdown County Council, from 1st January 1994 along with the then Dublin Corporation. The inaugural meeting of the new Council took place in January 1994 in the temporary setting of Regional Technical College Tallaght (now the Technological University Dublin Tallaght Campus).**

At that time, there were 26 sitting Councillors. South Dublin Councillors, shown in the accompanying photo (page 6) at that inaugural meeting along with Cathaoirleach, Councillor Don Tipping and John Fitzgerald, County Manager. In 2014, this increased to the 40 Councillors we have today, reflecting the significant growth and expansion of the County over that time. The Council featured some notable names including then TDs and subsequent Ministers Pat Rabbitte and Alan Shatter.

Staff moved to the newly built offices in 1994 to take up their new positions. They had been given the option of moving to a choice of the three new Dublin local authorities (Fingal, South Dublin, Dun Laoghaire Rathdown).

Promotional opportunities, which followed an extended recruitment embargo, provided additional incentives for the move. Another notable change was the introduction of technology, with SDCC being one of the first local authorities to provide all staff supplied with desktop computers. Automated book lending was also introduced then at the County Library, which was delivered along with the new County Hall. Staff found the new offices less accessible with limited public transport options in contrast to today with the introduction of the Luas in 2009 in particular, reflecting the advancement of Tallaght and South Dublin since then.

## Flashback to 1994

In 1994, the County and indeed Ireland were a much different place. As well as the formation of South Dublin County Council, the year marked significant social, cultural and political moments in Ireland and around the world including:

- Mary Robinson was President of Ireland, while Albert Reynolds was Taoiseach until December 1994 when new Taoiseach John Bruton formed the "Rainbow Coalition" government.
- Current president Michael D. Higgins was Minister for Arts, Culture and the Gaeltacht.
- New drink driving laws were introduced in December, severely limiting the volume of alcohol that could be consumed before driving.



Tallaght now

- Nelson Mandela was appointed as the first democratically elected President of South Africa in May.
- Jack Charlton was awarded the Freedom of Dublin City before leading the Republic of Ireland football team in the USA '94 FIFA World Cup, won by Brazil.
- In September, Down beat Dublin by 1-12 to 0-13 in the All-Ireland Senior Football Championship Final
- Offaly scored two goals in a minute to beat Limerick in the All-Ireland Senior Hurling Final by 3-16 to 2-13.
- Shamrock Rovers were crowned champions of the 1993-94 League of Ireland Premier Division.
- Ireland's "Rock 'n' Roll Kids" won the Eurovision Song Contest, which was held in Dublin and featured the debut of Riverdance as an interval act

## South Dublin Census - Then and Now

The population of South Dublin has grown by 44% from 208,739 in 1991 census to 301,075 in 2022.

Polish is now the largest non-Irish nationality in the County with 5,740 people in 2022 compared to 1994 when 6,964 British people made up the largest non-Irish cohort. Along with these population changes, there have also been notable changes in religious status with 91% (190,608) of people in South Dublin identifying as Catholic in 1991 where only 63% (190,131) did so in the 2022 census. This has coincided with a whopping 951% increase in people identifying as "No Religion", moving from just 4,521 people in 1991, to 47,537 in 2022.



## 125 Years of Local Elections

This year marks the 125th Anniversary of the first local elections which took place in early April of 1899. These elections followed the enactment of the Local Government (Ireland) Act, 1898 which provided the legislative basis for much of our present local government system. All of Ireland's local authorities trace their origins directly or indirectly to the elections in April 1899 which were followed by their first Council meetings in the same month. Those inaugural Council elections marked key advances in Irish democracy- the franchise was widened beyond the landed gentry to include householders and it was also the first time that women were afforded voting rights. Local elections are held in Ireland every five years with the polling date set by the Minister for Housing, Local Government and Heritage, allowing people to vote for Councillors to represent them in their local authorities. The 2024 Irish local elections were held on Friday, 7th June along with European Parliament elections, and, in a historic development for local government, a vote for a directly elected Mayor for Limerick.

## Evolution of Our Council

The Council comprised 26 Councillors at its inaugural meeting in January 1994, all of whom had served on Dublin County Council. In 2014, following the Local Government Reform Act 2014, this increased to 40 Councillors. That first Council included just eight women, comprising 30% of total Councillors. However, following the recent local elections, the new Council will now comprise at least 19 women, representing 47.5% of total members. Of the new Council, Cllrs. Paul Gogarty and Joanna Tuffy were both first elected to SDCC in 1999 while Cllr. Trevor Gilligan, first elected in 2004.

## Looking Back on 33 Years of Service - Cllrs O' Connor and O' Connell

After 33 years of service to South Dublin, Councillors Guss O'Connell and Charlie O'Connor announced that they would not seek re-election in the June local elections so we sat down with them to get their thoughts on the past 30 years in South Dublin.

## Tallaght and South Dublin has changed immensely in the past 30 years. What has been the biggest change?

**Guss:** It has absolutely become much more developed. The feature of the County really has been the expansion of the residential areas beginning with Adamstown. That's one of the huge developments that has come forward. I wouldn't have been entirely conscious at the time that it was very agricultural. Lusk and Rush and all that was always the bread basket of Dublin and the country. So I wouldn't have seen it like that, but I would have been very conscious in in the early days about a number of things. One was the Liffey Valley and that had been under serious threat and we had got the special Amenity Area order established. The other one we were anxious to protect was Dublin mountains and we got that into the County development plan that it wouldn't go above a certain height, but apart from that I would have to say that the County as we took it at the time would have been much more sparsely populated obviously than it is now.

**Charlie:** Tallaght was a mere village. I came to Tallaght first; people would say to me "you're not really from Tallaght." No. "How long are you here?" Here now 54 years. I came to Tallaght in 1969 with a job. I went to work in Cookstown Industrial Estate and funny enough, probably cut my political teeth by getting involved in the local Business Committee group that was lobbying for better facilities and services. We used to say that Tallaght had the growing population of a city but still the status of a village and so it was. Tallaght then began to grow very much. The opening of The Square was really the catalyst that set everything off. Even the Council building where we sit now and the hospital and all the facilities around here were fields, full of horses. So that's how Tallaght started. And when I moved to Tallaght first and bought a house in 1972. It was still very much a Village really devoid of facilities and the battle then began. It's completely different and that obviously has provided a particular challenge for the Council because the Council over the years have had to react - not only in Tallaght but in Clondalkin and Lucan and Palmerstown and so on. These areas, as far as population development was concerned, ballooned and that presented its particular challenges and if you look back in the minutes of the various meetings of South Dublin County Council over that period, it reflects that. And they were the issues we were all raising.

## The past 30 years has seen significant challenges for the County. How do you think South Dublin County Council has performed and evolved during these challenges?

**Charlie:** The local authority had to respond to various challenges such as Covid and the Economic crash and I think an evaluation of that period will show that it coped reasonably well. Certainly Covid was a challenge for all of us. It interfered with meetings, made life difficult, but local government evolves and it'll always be there. The challenge is to make sure that it continues to respond to the various

problems. Over the years, myself and Guss are now the only two that can claim they've known all the County Managers, all the Chief Executives and they've all had different styles. I think one of the things that I would applaud is that we now have a County Manager for the first time from the County, who went through the system and who broke the tradition, and that's important for those of us representing the County and also important for the staff who see, even though they might be waiting a while, that that can happen. The work goes on for the management team and the management team has to continue to listen to the community through the reps and get the job done to the best of their ability.

**Guss:** I would certainly say that the Council has risen to the challenge. We've learned from the awful snow that we all got at one stage and we now have an emergency plan in place, which is part of a National Emergency Plan, I would say that the Council today is slicker. It has moved with the times. The staff I think are much more in tune with what needs to be done. There are a couple of things I would be very proud of being associated with. The first one started out its life as trying to get LETS, Local Economic Trading Systems, what emerged out of that debate was Social Credits. So Social Credits was one of the things that I promoted and got in. Making the Development Plan was another one.

### What has been the greatest project the Council has delivered in your opinion and is there any project that you were involved in in the past 30 years that you're particularly proud of?

**Guss:** To make the Development Plan every five years has been a huge achievement and working together with staff. I suppose if you look at the footprint two or three things come out very strongly. I think Tallaght and West Tallaght has benefited greatly. There has been focus and resources put into them and the parks developed in those areas and getting the people to see that they really count. And again in North Clondalkin similarly and the upturn in the economy where you now have far less unemployment. But we still have, as I'm a member of the Partnership as well, you still have significantly higher levels of unemployment and disadvantage in those two areas and across the County. But to go back then to the big achievements, Adamstown itself is the first SDZ and then later on Clonburris as the second SDZ. The second thing was the participatory budgeting, which is the first time it had been done in any local authority in Ireland. I think it has helped, people have seen that yes, you can influence what's being done. So I think participatory budgeting is something I would be particularly proud of.

**Charlie:** Well, of course a lot has happened over the last 30 years in Tallaght alone. The Square certainly is a big thing in the history of the County and the Council clearly helped develop that. And then over the period, we had lots of other very important developments like the Hospital. And I was a member of that Board, nominated through the Council to the Eastern Health Board, and that was important that that gave us an opportunity to have somebody representing local views as that hospital developed. There are other standouts like the Luas, for example. The Council's fingerprints were clearly on that and all the other developments. The National Basketball Arena and other facilities that you would expect

in any major population centre and that's continued to be the case. And of course the big thing for me, Tallaght Stadium. It has been a big part of the Council's life and certainly a big part of my life, to chair the meeting of the Council in a packed gallery at which effectively brought Rovers to Tallaght Stadium and helped develop Tallaght Stadium. The works outside the Council building, the Innovation Centre, the playing pitch beside the Stadium and so on. I'm proud of anything I have contributed to, with others.

### Looking forward, what are your hopes for the new Council and what advice would you give new

I think if any up and coming politician asks me what's the important thing? I would always say listen to the people, because they are coming to you because they want you to do something and believe you can do it. I think we need to work closer with the professionals, that is the permanent staff that are there. We're elected staff and we need to work more closely and pick up what ideas are there, rather than the election.

**Guss:** Well, from day one I have always maintained that the 40 Councillors in the Chamber should work together. It is a contradiction in certain terms, that 40 Councillors who have been elected to go in there and do the best they can for their constituents should then divide into groups and begin debating across the chamber about maybe how things should be done and what should be done in a confrontational manner rather than in a collegiate and cooperative manner. I think politics needs to resurrect itself from a climate we have all contributed to, where we have undermined the concept of democracy by attacking the individual rather than disagreeing with and trying to tease out the issue. Because at the end of our term, they will judge what has been done, not what an individual did or didn't.



Tallaght then

# Where **your** money will go...

Your local property tax and commercial rates will help us to meet many of our targets and improve our services for 2024. By the end of the year, we hope to have hit these targets and more.

## Total expenditure

**€338,321,100**

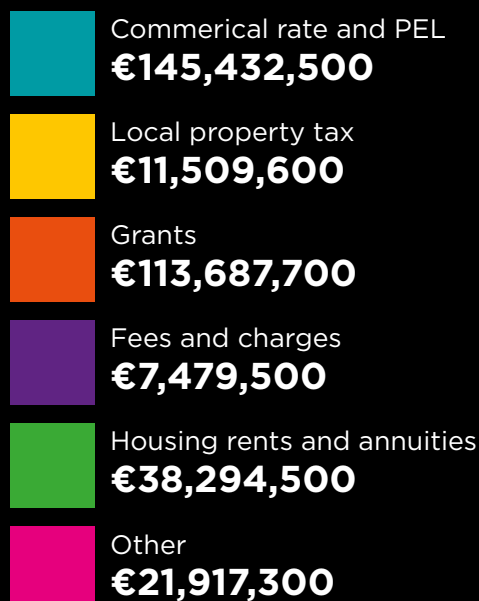
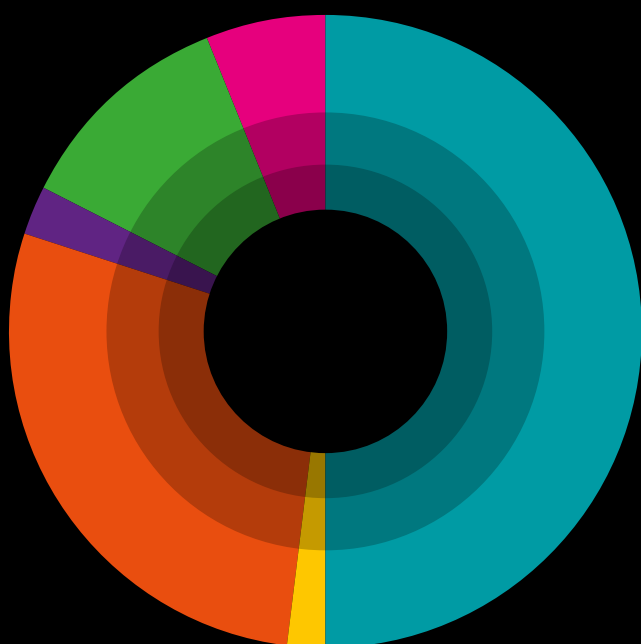
## Total income

**€338,321,100**



## Council expenditure per Citizen

**€1,746**



## Environment, water and climate change



Number of **trees** planted

**3,500**



Climate action initiatives under climate action plan

**125**



Number of **new** playspaces, teenspaces and pitches

**16**



Number of **environmental / climate action** awareness sessions

**225**



## Corporate performance and change management



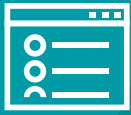
Customer queries received

**40,400**



Citizens actively engaged through consultation portal, €300k Have Your Say and so on

**6,660**



People on the electoral register

**205,736**



Members reps (matters raised by elected members) received

**12,000**

## Economic, enterprise and tourism development



Number of active library members

**60,000**



Number of business support Initiatives

**22**

Expenditure

**€150,000**



Number of jobs created or supported in Grangecastle business park

**8,000**



Number of festivals And tourism events

**8**

## Housing, social and community development



Number of visitors to council leisure facilities

**750,000**



Amount of planned maintenance expenditure

**€10,000,000**



Number of new housing allocations

**700**



Number of participants on council led sports and health and wellbeing initiatives

**120,000**

## Land use, planning and transportation



Amount of new and upgraded footpaths

**67,000**



Amount of new and upgraded cycle paths

**13,500**



Number of public LED lighting upgrades completed

**1,600**



Village and district centre enhancement schemes completed

**2**

# Tallaght Innovation Quarter is officially open



On Thursday 23rd May, the then Mayor of South Dublin, Councillor Alan Edge was joined by the Minister for Health, Stephen Donnelly to officially open the Tallaght Innovation Quarter, which has seen the completion of a €16 million purpose-built innovation centre, Work IQ, as well as an €8 million public realm scheme, which links Work IQ with County Hall, the Cultural Quarter, the future Tallaght Transport Interchange, as well as Tallaght Town Centre. Supported by the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage through the Urban Regeneration and Development Fund, the Innovation Quarter has transformed the urban landscape of Tallaght, supporting its regeneration and the delivery of the Tallaght Town Centre Local Area Plan.

Work IQ will accommodate up to 60 businesses and play a major role in developing start-up enterprises and is projected to support the future creation of over 700 jobs worth €80m to the economy. Key features of this cutting-edge facility designed as a hub for businesses that are serious about innovation, technology and scaling-up will include: private or shared office space and co-working options; a variety of meeting and conference rooms; tailored business supports including training, mentoring, funding supports and skills development; regular onsite networking events, workshops and innovation showcases; and, collaboration opportunities through partners including the Local Enterprise Office Enterprise Ireland, South Dublin Chamber, Technological University Dublin, Tallaght University Hospital and the South Dublin County's many major multinational businesses.

Strategically located on land owned by South Dublin County Council in Tallaght Town Centre, Work IQ is a key part of the new Innovation Quarter Tallaght urban district being developed by the Council that also includes a new cost rental apartment scheme (which, along with Work IQ, will be served by the Tallaght District Heating Scheme, Heatworks) and the new flagship public park called Innovation Square.

The building was designed for South Dublin County Council by a multi-disciplinary team led by McCullough Mulvin Architects and its delivery will complement a combined investment of over €80m in infrastructure projects in the centre of Tallaght, including the aforementioned Innovation Quarter, new link roads, major public realm enhancement, a fourth stand at Tallaght Stadium (making it a 10,000-seater, UEFA Category 4 stadium capacity) and a proposed new Heritage Centre.

Expertly constructed by Clancy Construction Ltd., Work IQ will be operated on behalf of the Council by Oxford Innovation, the organisation responsible for managing the largest network of innovation centres in the UK, housing over 1,000 innovative early-stage businesses.

Colm Ward, Chief Executive of South Dublin County Council commented; *"Today is a landmark day for the Council with the opening of the Innovation Quarter and Work IQ Innovation Centre. We are investing in the economic and social future of South Dublin County, and particularly Tallaght, a place of city-scale befitting such investment. This work maximises the potential of Tallaght town centre to be a hub for innovation, enterprise and culture for many years to come."*

The launch of the Innovation Quarter represents an exciting chapter in the County's development, delivering an urban district of transformational nature, which will support job creation, community development, as well as enhancing the cultural identity of the County.



# South Dublin County Council Publishes New Climate Action Plan

In February 2024 South Dublin County Council adopted our new Climate Action Plan 2024-2029. The new plan responds to the continuing challenges presented by climate change and lays out South Dublin County Council's (SDCC) course of action over the five-year lifetime of the plan.



**The SDCC Climate Action Plan sets out a range of actions across six action areas:**

- Energy and buildings
- Transport
- Flood resilience
- Nature based solutions
- Circular economy and resource management
- Citizen engagement

**The Plan is centred around actions that collectively address four key targets, which are framed by the Climate (Amendment) Act 2021 and the national Climate Action Plan:**

- 50% improvement in the Council's energy efficiency by 2030
- 51% reduction in the Council's greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions by 2030
- To make Dublin a climate resilient region, by reducing the impacts of future climate change-related events
- To actively engage and inform our communities on climate action

## Clondalkin Decarbonising Zone

The National Climate Action Plan 2023 (CAP 23) calls upon every Local Authority in the country to establish a Decarbonising Zone (DZ) in their administrative area. A decarbonising zone is a specific area where a range of solutions are identified in order to reduce carbon emissions in the area. The DZ will act as a test-bed for innovative climate solutions that will look to reduce emissions associated with travel, local businesses, housing and other elements of the local community.

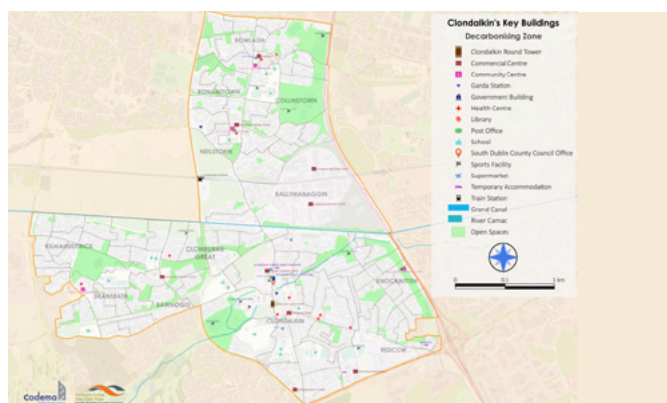
Clondalkin has been chosen by South Dublin County Council as our Decarbonising Zone and we aim to cut emissions in the area by 51% by 2030 with the long-term aim of making Clondalkin net-zero by 2050. South Dublin County Council is currently working with Codema to develop the DZ. A community team, composed of local stakeholders is being set up to help with the development of a DZ plan. The success of the initiative requires the whole community, and everyone will need to play a part in this exciting project. Over the summer we will be working with stakeholders (both internal and external), Councillors, the general public to identify opportunities to reduce emissions in the DZ.

To find out more about the Decarbonising Zone check out Chapter 6 of our new Climate Action Plan or to keep up to date on the DZ please visit [www.dublinclimateactionweek.ie](http://www.dublinclimateactionweek.ie)

## Community Climate Action Fund

Phase 1 of the Community Climate Action Programme opened for applications on December 13th 2023. Applicants could apply to Strand 1 - for local projects, or Strand 1a - for projects with both a South Dublin and Northern Ireland partner. 91 interested groups were engaged with during the application period.

The application window closed on 27th March 2024 with 43 groups completing finished applications, requesting grants totalling € 2,163,585.46, from an allocated SDCC budget of € 1,027,000. Projects are currently moving through the evaluation phase. It is envisaged that successful projects will begin contracting in late summer 2024, after which groups have 18 months to complete their projects.



# South Dublin now live on National Online Planning Portal

South Dublin County Council is now accepting planning applications through the National Online Planning Portal ([Local Government Ireland Planning System](#)). This system provides applicants and agents with an option to submit their planning applications to the Planning Authority in electronic format if they wish to do so.

Agents and applicants can register on the system to create an account, submit documents online with the planning application and submit further documentation at a later stage if necessary. It is also possible for users to view previously submitted applications on their own dashboard on the system.

For more information about how to use the system, you can view the video at the following link:

<https://youtu.be/uQwoa-Zzr2c>

Implementation of the new E-Planning system is an integral step in South Dublin County Council's digitisation of the planning process and is one further step the Council is taking to move towards a more efficient and customer focused planning service. It follows on from the introduction of the Citizen Portal, which has given members of the public the option to submit observations and associated payment on all relevant planning applications online, and the Pre-Planning Online Application System, which gives the option to request a Pre-Planning consultation through an online system.



## SDCC Meetings

Did you know you can access webcasts of our live council meetings, view archived council meetings from the last few months and access any documents or presentations associated with the webcasts. The full Council Meeting meets the second Monday of every month and can be viewed through our website at this link: [Council Meetings - SDCC](#)



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# Red Line Book Festival 2024: Save the Date!

We're delighted to announce that the Red Line Book Festival is back for 2024! Now in its 13th year, the festival is a celebration of all things literary, the power of words and the magic of storytelling.

This year's festival will take place from 14th - 20th October in venues all over South Dublin County and will feature events with local, national and international authors, as well as panels, workshops, theatrical productions, children's events and much more.

Mark the dates in your calendar and keep an eye on [www.redlinefestival.ie](http://www.redlinefestival.ie) for updates!



## Summer Stars

Children of all ages are invited to take part in the Summer Stars Reading programme, which has now started in all branches of South Dublin Libraries. The purpose of the free programme is to encourage reading for fun over the summer.

To help children keep track of their reading, Summer Stars Reading Cards are available at all libraries. Children can record their reading and get recognition and encouragement each step of the way as they collect their rewards. Participants can share reviews of the books they read online at [www.summerstars.ie](http://www.summerstars.ie), where they can also find recommended reading lists for all ages and helpful reading tips.

South Dublin Libraries are hosting lots of fun events as part of the Summer Stars programme. Families can follow their local library on social media to see what's happening near them, or visit their local library to find out more!

### Librarians' top tips for helping kids to find the fun in reading this summer:

- Encourage children to choose stories they are likely to really enjoy
- Try to keep stories appropriate to your child's reading level; if the story is too hard or too easy, they may lose interest or confidence
- Comic books or graphic novels can be a good way to help children to follow the story if they have difficulty reading or are reluctant readers
- Give lots of encouragement and praise for even the smallest accomplishment
- Focus on the enjoyment and fun of reading. If you show an interest in reading and learning yourself, your child will be more likely to follow your lead and explore as well.



# Pride 2024 at South Dublin Libraries



South Dublin Libraries held a vibrant programme of events in celebration of Pride Month throughout June.

The highlight of the month was undoubtedly the involvement of our mobile library and staff in the Dublin Pride Parade on 29th June, showing our support for our LGBTQ+ colleagues and the wider community. Staff marched in the parade from O'Connell Street to Merrion Square and not even the torrential rain on the day could dampen spirits! South Dublin Libraries' active participation in the parade aimed to show solidarity with the LGBTQ+ community and reinforced the message that 'libraries are for everyone'.

In addition to participation in the parade, South Dublin Libraries organised a variety of Pride Month events and highlighted our diverse collection of LGBTQ+ books, films, and other materials which serve as a valuable resource for individuals seeking knowledge and representation, and affirm the role of libraries as inclusive spaces that support all members of our community.

## Parks Opening Hours for Summer 2024

The following is the list of the regional and larger parks in South Dublin County:

- Corkagh Park
- Dodder Valley Park
- Griffeen Valley Park
- Dodder Valley Linear Park
- Rathcoole Park
- Sean Walsh Park
- Tymon Park
- Waterstown Park
- Rathfarnham Castle Park

Opening times for June to August are 10am to 9pm and September from 10am to 8pm.

For further information on our Parks opening hours and maps please visit link

**Parks - SDCC**



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