

CONNECT

Nuachtlitir na Saoránach
Citizen Newsletter

FÓMHAR /AUTUMN 2026



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Mayor's Message

A Chónaitheoir, a chara,

Toghadh mise i mo Mhéara le déanaí sa cheantar seo. Is mise Proinsias Timmons agus is mé Méara Chontae Bhaile Átha Cliath Theas. B'údar inspioráide dom an tUachtarán Connolly a d'iarr orainn iarracht a dhéanamh cúpla focal Gaeilge a labhairt anois is arís.

Tá muintir na hÉireann ag maireachtáil le teann cuibhiúlachta agus cineáltais leis na cianta cairbreacha agus is iad a bhí mar bhunchloch faoi stát na hÉireann riamh. Ba cheart dúinn leanúint le hoidhreacht an chineáltais agus leis an gcuibhiúlacht sin atá ionainn i gcónaí, mar is iad na rudai sin a fhágann gur Éireannaigh muidne go smior. Is saibhre atá mo shaol anois a bhuí leis na daoine siúd a tháinig anall chugainn, agus cuid mhór acu ag éalú ó chogadh, gorta agus bochtaineacht. Is iomaí duine acu a bhíonn ag gabháil d'obair dheonach le grúpaí ar nós na Bailte Slachtmhara agus tionscnaimh phobail eile. Ba mhaith liom buíochas mór ó chroí a ghabháil le grúpaí Bailte Slachtmhara, grúpaí cónaitheoirí, lárionaid phobail, lárionaid teaghlaigh agus dreamanna nach iad, a fhágann gurb é Baile Átha Cliath Theas an áit is fearr le bheith ag obair agus ag maireachtáil ann agus le cuairt a thabhairt air. Táim ag súil go mór le bheith ag bualadh leis na grúpaí sin le himeacht na bliana.

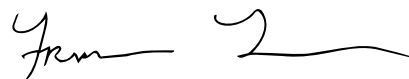
Thug mé tiomantas go ndíreoinn ar shaincheistean sóisialta, agus díreoidh mé i gcaitheamh mo thréimhse mar Mhéara ar dhaoine faoi mhíchumas, agus áirím leo siúd daoine a bhfuil deacrachtaí meabhairshláinte orthu. Geallaim duit go rachaidh mé i gcomhar le gach uile chomhairleoir agus dhuine de bhaill foirne na comhairle chun Baile Átha Cliath Theas a fhorbairt mar chontae ionchuimsitheach, fáilteach agus ilchineálach.

Dear resident, a chara,

I was recently elected as your Mayor, is mise Proinsias Timmons ad Méara Chontae Bhaile Átha Cliath Theas. I am inspired by President Connolly who has asked that we try to use the cúpla focal as gaeilge anois agus arís.

Generations of Irish people have lived with decency and kindness and have been the bedrock of the Irish state. We should always carry on the legacy of kindness and the deep sense of decency that makes us uniquely Irish. My life has been enriched by those who come here, many escaping war, famine and poverty. Many volunteer with groups like Tidy Towns and other community initiatives. I want to say a huge thank you to Tidy Towns groups, residents groups, community centres, family centres and others who make SDCC the best place to work, visit and live in. I look toward to meeting these groups over the year.

I have committed to focusing on social issues and will dedicate my year to people with disabilities, this includes people living with mental health issues. I commit that I will work with every councillor and council staff to build SDCC as an inclusive, welcoming and diverse county.



Cllr Proinsias Timmons
Mayor, SDCC

An Comhairleoir,
Méara, CCÁCT

South Dublin County Council Elected Members

Party abbreviations

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



South Dublin County Council Elected Members

Cluain Dolcáin Clondalkin

Councillor Francis Timmons	IND
Councillor William Joseph Carey	SF
Councillor Gino Kenny	PBP
Councillor Eoin Ó Broin	SD
Councillor Shirley O' Hara	FG
Councillor Linda DeCourcy	II
Councillor Trevor Gilligan	FF

Teach na Giúise - Bóthar na Bruíne Firhouse - Bohernabreena

Councillor Alan Edge	IND
Councillor Brian Lawlor	FG
Councillor Emma Murphy	FF
Councillor Sarah Barnes	FG
Councillor Róisín Mannion	SF

Leamhcán Lucan

Councillor Helen Farrell	IND
Councillor Vicki Casserly	FG
Councillor Liona O'Toole	IND
Councillor Caroline Brady	FG
Councillor Joanna Tuffy	LAB

Baile Phámar - Cnoc an Fhuaráin Palmerstown - Fonthill

Councillor Tanya McDonald	FF
Councillor Alan Hayes	IND
Councillor Daniel Loftus	SF
Councillor Glen Moore	IND
Councillor Madeleine Johansson	PBP



Ráth Fearnáin - Teach Mealóg Rathfarnham - Templeogue

Councillor Pamela Kearns	LAB
Councillor Ronan McMahon	IND
Councillor Paddy Cosgrave	LAB
Councillor Justin Sinnott	SD
Councillor Lynn McCrave	FG
Councillor Yvonne Collins	FF
Councillor David McManus	FG

Tamhlacht An Lár Tallaght Central

Councillor Dean Donnelly	IND
Councillor Britto Pereppadan	FG
Councillor Samantha Duff	IND
Councillor Niamh Whelan	SF
Councillor Adam Smyth	FF
Councillor Jess Spear	PBP

Tamhlacht Theas Tallaght South

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

Recruitment Update – January to June 2026

The first half of 2026 has been one of the busiest periods yet for the Recruitment Team, with significant activity focused on attracting, assessing and appointing talented people across South Dublin County Council.

From January to the end of June, the team advertised 38 recruitment competitions and processed an impressive 2,332 applications. This generated a substantial volume of work, from shortlisting candidates to coordinating interview panels and managing candidate communications.

A total of 620 candidates were invited to interview, with 374 candidates attending. Interviews took place across 73 days, representing 60% of all available interview days during the six-month

period. These figures highlight the scale of recruitment activity required to support Council services and meet workforce needs.

The outcome of this work has been very positive. During the period, 221 job offers were issued, resulting in 131 new employees joining SDCC. Importantly, these appointments included 48 existing SDCC staff members, demonstrating the range of career development and progression opportunities available within the organisation. In addition, 63 paid students and interns were welcomed to the Council, providing valuable workplace experience while contributing to services across the organisation while 27 transition year students and unpaid work experience placements were facilitated.

Recognition for Inclusive Recruitment

We are delighted to announce that the team was presented with a Special WAM Leader Award by AHEAD, recognising SDCC's partnership with the Willing Able Mentoring (WAM) Programme over the past three years and its ongoing commitment to creating inclusive workplaces. The award acknowledges the Council's dedication to providing

meaningful employment opportunities for graduates with disabilities, with four graduates being employed through the programme by year end. This recognition reflects SDCC's continued commitment to fostering an inclusive workforce and ensuring that opportunities are accessible to all members of our community.

Local jobs with rewarding careers

Learn more about life at SDCC and the type of job opportunities we offer by reading our Employee Value Proposition here:



SDCC South Dublin County Council

Opportunity starts here

[Our Employee Value Proposition \(EVP\)](#)



Join us and make a real impact

Sign up for job alerts and follow us on social media:



Visit sdccjobs.ie



Active South Dublin



Emerging Talent Bursary

The Emerging Talent Bursary Scheme continues to provide vital financial support to promising athletes, helping to reduce the costs associated with training, coaching, equipment and competition. This year, €76,000 was awarded to 17 talented athletes across a range of sports, enabling them to focus on their development and progression. The programme plays an important role in supporting the next generation of sporting talent and helping athletes achieve their full potential on the national and international stage.



Active Cities Parks and Trails Challenge

The Active Cities Parks and Trails Challenge is encouraging residents to get outdoors and explore Dublin's parks and walking trails. Using the Dublin Discovery Trails App, participants can discover a range of local routes, enjoy the benefits of being active in nature and be in with a chance to win prizes. The initiative promotes physical activity, wellbeing and greater appreciation of the excellent parks and trails across the city.



Her Outdoors Week celebrates and encourages more women and girls to enjoy the outdoors through a wide range of fun and inclusive activities. Throughout the week participants can try cycling, guided walks, water-based activities and free taster sessions designed for all ages and abilities. It's a great opportunity to get active, connect with others and explore the benefits of outdoor recreation in a welcoming and supportive environment.

School Cross Country Races

Our Primary Schools Cross Country Races returned this September, with multiple events being organised for local primary schools across the county. These races provide a fantastic opportunity for young people to get active, build / develop athletic confidence and enjoy representing their schools in a fun and supportive environment. The programme continues to promote fitness, resilience and healthy lifestyles while encouraging participation and enjoyment for all ability levels.

European week of sports

As part of European Week of Sport, Active South Dublin will be hosting and supporting a range of inclusive activities from 23 to 30 September, encouraging communities to get active, connect with others and experience the many physical, mental and social benefits of regular exercise. Get involved and join the #BeActive movement.





Her Moves

Her Moves is a six week fitness programme for teenage girls, delivered through local secondary schools to encourage greater participation in physical activity. Highly subsidised by South Dublin County Council, the programme provides a supportive and inclusive environment where girls can build confidence, improve fitness and develop healthy lifestyle habits. Open to all abilities, Her Moves aims to create positive experiences of exercise while fostering social connections and wellbeing.

Omni Gym

Ireland's first Omni Gym outdoor fitness facilities at Greentrees Park and Dodder Valley Park are providing residents with free access to high-tech exercise equipment. Designed for all ages and abilities, the inclusive facilities feature adjustable resistance machines and accessible equipment for wheelchair users. Since the start of 2026, the gyms have welcomed 2,980 visits, with an average daily usage of four and a half, highlighting their growing popularity and positive impact on community health and wellbeing.

Schools Swim Programme

The Primary School Swim Grant Scheme continues to support primary schools in providing valuable swimming opportunities for students. The funding helps reduce the cost of swimming lessons and pool access, enabling more children to develop essential water safety skills, build confidence in the water and enjoy the benefits of physical activity. The scheme plays an important role in promoting lifelong participation in swimming and improving water safety awareness among young people.

World Walking Day

On 4 October, Active South Dublin will support World Walking Day by encouraging residents to get outdoors and enjoy the many walking opportunities available across the county. Walking is a simple, free and accessible way to improve physical and mental wellbeing, while also fostering social connection and community engagement. The initiative highlights the value of regular physical activity and promotes greater use of South Dublin's parks, trails and green spaces. (Keep an eye on our social media for updates)



Learn to cycle disability session

Active South Dublin continues its commitment to inclusive programmes and equal opportunities through our Learn to Cycle six week sessions for children and teenagers with physical and intellectual disabilities. These supportive sessions help participants build cycling skills, confidence and independence in a fun, safe, and welcoming environment where everyone can learn at their own pace. The social benefit of learning this life skill for the participants and their families is enormous and this is one of our most prized programmes.

Inclusive Horse Riding

As part of our commitment to inclusion and equal access, Active South Dublin is proud to offer subsidised horse-riding sessions for eight weeks for children with physical and intellectual disabilities. These inclusive sessions create opportunities to learn, grow, and experience the joy of horse riding while developing confidence, social connections, and new skills.



Sports Development Grants

SDCC Sports Development Grants provide valuable financial support to local sports clubs, schools, community groups and organisations, helping to create more opportunities for people to participate in sport and physical activity. The grants support the development of inclusive, accessible and sustainable programmes that encourage active lifestyles, strengthen communities and promote participation for all. In 2026 over €150,000 will be allocated countywide.



Culture of Climate Action



Climate action is not just about infrastructure and projects; it is also about creating a culture where climate thinking becomes part of everyday work and everyday life.

Over recent months, we have continued expanding how we engage, communicate and support climate action across South Dublin.

Highlights include:

Climate Action Website

The South Dublin County Council Climate Action website provides information on the council's plans and initiatives to tackle climate change. It outlines actions to reduce carbon emissions, improve energy efficiency, and support renewable energy across the county. The site highlights projects in transport, housing, and

community engagement, encouraging residents and businesses to take part. It also shares updates on progress toward national climate targets and offers practical advice for sustainable living. To assess the website please visit www.sdcc.ie/en/climate-action/

Climate Action Storymap

The Climate Action Storymap aims to tell the story of how SDCC is delivering climate action both spatially and interactively. It connects climate action directly to local communities, showcasing initiatives and impacts across the county. The intention is to keep communities up to date on what is happening around them with the hope that it inspires additional action by showing what is possible. Above all, we want to continue to evolve how we communicate climate action,

looking to add interactive elements to the experience. The Climate Action Storymap will continue to develop over time and is available on:

www.sdcc.ie/en/climate-action/

Dublin Climate Action Week

Dublin Climate Action Week takes place each year and continues to grow in success, with events organised across the four Dublin local authority areas. The week features a diverse programme for students, residents, and community groups, including energy-focused workshops, district heating information sessions, and guided tours of projects such as Integrated Constructed Wetlands and Flood Alleviation Schemes.

SDCC Energy Awareness Guides

SDCC is looking toward a greener future with the launch of two new educational resources: the 'Heat Pump Myth Buster' and the 'Guide to Smarter Living'. Whether you are a homeowner looking to invest in Solar PV or a tenant trying to understand your new heat pump, these compact



pamphlets, designed by the Climate Action Team, provide a clear, jargon-free roadmap to assist in reducing energy bills and carbon footprints. Key takeaways include:

- Demystifying the Heat Pump
- Heating Habits
- Solar PV Optimisation
- Defeating 'Vampire' Devices
- Efficient Cooking

The provision of clear information will continue with concise guidance on the topic of Health and Climate.

Community Climate Action Programme (CCAP)



Summer 2026 saw the completion of 26 climate projects that have been delivered by local communities. The projects are great examples of climate leadership in the community space, with local people at their core.

Some of the positive effects for groups have been lower energy bills, improved green areas to enjoy, or a closer relationship to growing food. The project funding has encouraged groups to take climate action that otherwise may not have happened, giving people the means

to improve their own communities or organisations and leave their positive trace on what is important to them. Eleven projects have installed solar panels, including Clondalkin Addiction Support Centre, Rathcoole Community Centre and St. Marks Youth and Family Centre. Why is this climate action? The solutions to climate change involve moving our electricity supply to solar and wind, replacing fossil fuels like gas and oil. The 11 groups have created small renewable energy hubs across the county. In total, over 200 kilowatts (kW) of renewable energy will be installed in Phase 1.

Making buildings less likely to lose heat out of their walls, roofs and windows is also climate action, as less energy will be used to heat them, meaning less impact. Installing LED lights and LED floodlights that use significantly less electricity also registers as impactful climate action. 13 projects have delivered in these areas, including Citywise Education, the Clondalkin Citizen's Information Centre, Lucan Harriers Athletics Club, and the 103rd Dublin (Willington) Scout Group.

Encouraging more active and lower carbon travel while encouraging the use of electric vehicles instead of petrol or diesel ones is also central to community level climate action. Five projects focussed on this area including Glenasmole Community



Centre, Kilnamanagh AFC and Three Rock Rovers Hockey Club. Circular economy innovation has also been supported - an electrical recycling initiative by Recycle IT will help reduce the climate impact of creating new electrical materials.

Flooding and heat are two of the most significant climate change impacts. In this area, the creation of a new green space in Bawnogue at ACE Enterprise Park helps to absorb more rainfall during weather events, while native planting helps to cool the air on hot days.

Building on the success of phase 1, a second cohort of projects, with funding worth €1.073 million, will begin later in 2026.

The Community Climate Action Programme is an initiative of the Department of Climate, Energy and the Environment, with funding of €2.24 million available across two rounds for the support of community climate action in the South Dublin County Council administrative area.



SDCC Climate Action Plan (CAP) Update

Work has continued on implementing the actions set out within SDCC's Climate Action Plan 2024–2029. The plan outlines a broad programme of actions focused on reducing emissions, improving resilience and supporting a transition to a more sustainable future for South Dublin County. To find out more on the plan and the 2025 annual report please visit www.sdcc.ie/en/climate-action/

Progressing to Our Targets

Decarbonising SDCC Buildings

SDCC continues to make significant progress in decarbonising its building portfolio as part of its wider Climate Action Plan 2024–2029. A key milestone has been the awarding of a contract for new Energy Performance Contract (EPC) across six of the council's highest energy-consuming facilities. These include major offices, libraries, and leisure centres, classified as Significant Energy Users (SEUs). By focusing on these buildings, SDCC is taking a targeted, high-impact approach, reinforcing that energy efficiency upgrades deliver maximum carbon savings. Measures under these EPCs are expected to include improvements such as advanced heating and ventilation systems integrating renewable energy technologies such as heat pumps, solar PV, LED lighting upgrades, and building management system optimisation.

In parallel, SDCC is investing in on-site renewable energy generation. In 2025, a contract was awarded for the installation of Solar Photovoltaic (PV) systems across

an initial 11 council-owned buildings, targeting libraries and community centres. Works are underway, with installation works scheduled to begin shortly, marking a major step in reducing reliance on grid electricity and lowering operational emissions. Once completed, these systems will contribute significantly to reducing energy costs and carbon output across council operations.

Alongside these capital projects, SDCC is continuing to embed energy efficiency practices across all services and facilities. The appointment of a dedicated Energy Officer in 2025 represents a strategic commitment to strengthening energy governance and performance monitoring.



This role will be instrumental in driving behavioural change, improving energy data management, and coordinating retrofit initiatives across departments. A key objective for 2026 is achieving ISO 50001 Energy Management Certification, which will formalise SDCC's approach to continuous energy performance improvement.

Collectively, these actions demonstrate SDCC's proactive and structured approach to decarbonisation—combining large-scale infrastructure upgrades with organisational and operational improvements to deliver long-term, sustainable reductions in energy use and emissions.

Decarbonising SDCC's Fleet

SDCC is continuing its transition from Internal Combustion Engine (ICE) vehicles to more sustainable alternatives, supporting the goals set out in the Climate Action Plan 2024-2029. The Council is committed to increasing the number of electric and alternative fuel vehicles within its fleet, while ensuring that vehicles selected are both fit for their intended purpose and meet operational requirements. Each vehicle type will undergo a thorough assessment to ensure it can effectively fulfil the council's operational needs while contributing to its climate targets. In 2025, eight EVs were acquired, replacing internal combustion engine vehicles. In Q1 2026, two large electric vans were delivered, with a further six medium electric vans on order. All EV acquisitions represent direct one-for-one replacement of ICE vehicles. These additions will bring the percentage of EVs in the fleet to 11%. As SDCC's EV



fleet continues to grow, with considerable investment planned over the next two years, 100% of our diesel road vehicles are now running on Hydrogenated Vegetable Oil (HVO). The HVO initiative will serve as an interim measure, while the necessary EV charging infrastructure is implemented for our smaller fleet. HVO will also provide a more sustainable approach for the larger vehicles in which there is currently no electric alternative. Work is underway to transition our machinery to a more sustainable fuel source.

EV charging

SDCC and our appointed Charge Point Operation, ePower, are progressing with the installation of destination EV charge points across 15 locations, predominately in carparks of public parks and amenities operated by SDCC, allowing users access to fast charging at destinations. The EV chargers located at Dodder Valley Old Bawn Pavillion, and Dodder Valley R114 (Cherryfield carpark) are now 'live' and available to use. Two more sites are currently being commissioned and it is expected that the chargers at Corkagh Park and Tandy's Lane, Adamstown Park will be open for use in September. All sites are suitable for all EV charger types and accessible for all users. Helpful guidance and FAQs will shortly be published on SDCC's Climate Action website - <https://www.sdcc.ie/en/climate-action/>

Environmental Awareness Engagement and Campaigns

SDCC continues to support the Green-Schools Programme, which is a successful student-led education programme with 135 schools registered across South Dublin County. In the last two years 49 schools have been awarded or renewed their Green Flag. On top of Green-Schools Programme SDCC also runs environmental workshops during Eco-Week where in 2025 over 50 schools were involved in more than 100 free workshops.

SDCC has continued to maintain an active environmental awareness engagement and communication programme through several environmental initiatives such as:

Picker Pals

The Picker Pals programme is a free environmental education programme for young kids that take it in turns in bringing home a Picker Pack and pick litter with

their family around their local area. The programme was in partnership with An Taisce and promoted the National Spring Clean Month of April.

Stop Food Waste

Stop Food Waste is a national campaign that provides citizens information and tips on how to make the most of their food and avoid food waste. You can find out more on their website here [Stop Food Waste](#) - Reduce your food waste and save yourself money!

WEEE Recycling

SDCC promotes WEEE Recycling throughout the year to highlight to citizens what can be recycled and brought for proper disposal and where this can be done across the county.





Biodiversity Week

Biodiversity Week happens each year in the month of May. This week is all about connecting citizens with nature and the importance of biodiversity. SDCC participates each year and you can find out more on www.sdcc.ie or by accessing the National Biodiversity Week website here [Home - National Biodiversity Week](#).

Sustainable Development Goals Week

Sustainable Development Goals Week provides a platform to raise awareness, share knowledge and foster partnership to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals.



Decarbonising Zones

Ireland has established 41 Decarbonising Zones (DZs) nationwide, including 29 urban, six part-urban, and six rural areas, covering over 530,000 people. These zones, mandated for each local authority, act as testing grounds for localised climate action, including retrofitting, renewable energy, and biodiversity initiatives, aiming for a 51% emissions reduction by 2030.

Clondalkin is our Decarbonising Zone (DZ) and represents a collaborative opportunity for the council and local stakeholders to work together to reduce carbon emissions and support a more sustainable, resilient community.

During 2025, we undertook extensive engagement across Clondalkin, through public surveys, local events, and workshops with residents, businesses,

and community organisations. These conversations shaped the forthcoming Decarbonising Zone Implementation Plan, which is now being finalised by the Climate Action Team.

Ahead of the plan's publication, SDCC has advanced the following initiatives within the DZ:

- A new electric Green Machine Sweeper has been purchased for Clondalkin. As part of the fleet decarbonisation programme, this electric unit replaces a petrol-powered machine.
- Climate Innovation Programme: Delivered in partnership with Trinity College Dublin and Munster Technological University, this free training programme supported local businesses in translating climate theory into practical, cost-saving actions. Through hybrid learning, real-



world projects, and expert guidance, participants developed actionable plans to reduce emissions, cut waste, and improve operational efficiency—demonstrating that climate action and economic resilience can progress together.

- **Community Climate Action Projects:** Several community organisations—including Clondalkin Addiction Services Programme, Oakfield Trust, Round Towers GAA, and ACE Enterprise Park—implemented impactful projects such as energy retrofits, solar PV installations, and EV charging infrastructure. These initiatives highlight how community-led action can reduce emissions, enhance local facilities, and lower energy costs.
- **Regions Putting Energy Efficiency First (REEF) Project:** Launched in 2025, the REEF Interreg Europe project is being delivered within the Clondalkin DZ to promote the EU's Energy Efficiency First principle. Working with European partners, the project aims to identify good practices that can help reduce energy use in the zone. In collaboration with Codema, SDCC carried out a detailed analysis of barriers to energy efficiency. Workshops with stakeholders and councillors helped shape a roadmap for future policy improvements. The next phase will focus on sharing knowledge with European partners and identifying best practices to inform future iterations of the council's Climate Action Plan.

A range of actions are progressing within the DZ, including:

- Upgrading public lighting
- Continuing the social housing retrofit programme
- Delivering the Energy Cloud Pilot in Clondalkin

- Running the Climate Innovation Programme with Trinity College Dublin and Munster Technological University
- Preparing Bike Libraries for launch in 2026
- Expanding bike-sharing options
- Developing an energy education programme for communities (starting 2026)
- Advancing the Bawnogue District Enhancement Scheme, with the inclusion of sustainable measures



Energy Cloud

One of the projects started in the DZ was our partnership with Energy Cloud, an innovative social enterprise dedicated to using surplus renewable energy to benefit those who need it most.

Across Ireland, wind farms often produce more electricity than the grid can handle. Currently, this 'surplus' energy is simply switched off or wasted. Energy Cloud uses smart technology to divert this clean, renewable energy - at no cost - to heat hot water tanks in social housing. It is a creative solution that turns a technical challenge into a social opportunity.

The initial pilot commenced in early 2026 and focused on offering the opportunity to homes in Dunawley, located within the Clondalkin Decarbonising Zone.

In addition, SDCC is looking to begin installing Energy Cloud technology as part of our standard relet process.

SDCC's expansion of Dog Warden service



SDCC has recently increased the number of Dog Wardens employed by the local authority from two to four. This expansion follows a review of the Council's Control of Dogs operations and reflects additional supports provided to local authorities by the Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine.

The increase in staffing recognises the growing and increasingly complex role of local authorities in the area of dog control. Dog Wardens perform a critical function in promoting responsible dog ownership, ensuring compliance with relevant legislation, and contributing to the safety and wellbeing of communities across the county.

The duties of SDCC Dog Wardens include:

- Responding to complaints relating to stray and nuisance dogs
- Carrying out inspections to ensure compliance with dog licensing requirements

- Investigating and addressing incidents involving dangerous dogs
- Maintaining a visible presence throughout South Dublin County
- Supporting operations undertaken by An Garda Síochána, where required
- Promoting dog welfare awareness and responsible dog ownership
- Enforcing the provisions of the Control of Dogs legislation

Members of the public can contact SDCC Dog Warden service directly by telephone at 01 414 9213 or by email at:

dwarden@sdblincoco.ie.

South Dublin County Council remains committed to promoting responsible dog ownership and ensuring effective dog control measures throughout the county. Further information is available on the Council's website, including guidance on responsible dog ownership.

Link: [responsible-dog-ownership11.pdf](#)



Pollinator Action Plan

Delivering for Nature and Communities: SDCC Pollinator Action Plan 2026–2030

SDCC continues to place biodiversity at the heart of how public land is managed with the launch of the SDCC Pollinator Action Plan 2026–2030. The Plan builds several years of sustained delivery and sets out a clear programme of action to support pollinators while enhancing the quality, resilience and enjoyment of public spaces across the county.

Since first partnering with the All Ireland Pollinator Plan, SDCC has progressively transformed the management of parks, open spaces and road verges across the county. Today, approximately 210 hectares of meadows are actively managed throughout South Dublin, exceeding the 2021 - 2025 target by 51%. These meadows carefully cut and collected on an ecological schedule allow native wildflowers to flower and set seed, improving food sources and nesting habitats for bees, butterflies, hoverflies and other insects. Ongoing surveys confirm year on year improvements for pollinators and biodiversity, reflecting the effectiveness of this nature based approach.

Pollinator friendly actions now extend well beyond meadows. Since 2017, all parks, playgrounds and public gardens have been glyphosate free, with chemical use reduced across Council operations. More than 7.5 million pollinator friendly bulbs have been planted across 90 locations,

providing critical forage in early spring and later in the season. SDCC has mapped 1,720 kilometres of hedgerows across the county, with over 400 kilometres actively managed as ecological corridors on Council controlled lands. Building on this work, a Hedgerow Restoration Programme was successfully trialled in 2026 and is now being rolled out countywide to restore and strengthen hedgerows for biodiversity, connectivity and landscape resilience. In parallel, a growing programme of mini woodlands has delivered over 44,000 native trees in partnership with schools and communities. Collectively, these measures are also delivering climate benefits, with reduced mowing practices alone estimated to prevent 116 tonnes of CO² emissions each year.





The new Pollinator Action Plan sets out 30 targeted actions to be delivered between now and 2030, ensuring pollinator friendly principles are fully embedded across planning, design, capital projects and day to day operations. The Plan also places strong emphasis on public engagement and shared ownership, recognising the importance of community understanding and support. Clear pollinator signage, an expanded pollinator webpage, park ranger led walks and effective use of social media have built on strong existing public awareness, helping to reinforce understanding of visible management changes such as reduced mowing and sustaining positive levels of public engagement. National recognition through Pollinator Awards for Tymon Park and Waterstown Park further demonstrates the quality, consistency and credibility of SDCC's approach.

The SDCC Pollinator Action Plan 2026–2030 reflects a practical and deliverable commitment to protecting existing biodiversity, improving habitat quality and strengthening ecological connectivity countywide. The Plan is guided by a clear long term vision for South Dublin as a connected and resilient county, where pollinator and biodiversity friendly habitats support nature, strengthen climate resilience and enhance quality of life for all who live, work and do business here. By continuing to manage land in ways that work for nature, climate and people, South Dublin County Council is helping to ensure that pollinators and the wider environment we all depend on can thrive long into the future.

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 takes place on the second Monday of every month and can be viewed through our website at this link: [Council Meetings - SDCC](#)



YOUR VOICE MATTERS AND YOUR VOTE IS IMPORTANT

Checktheregister.ie is now **Voter.ie**,
the new home of electoral registration.

If you're 16 or 17 and want to pre-register to vote, you can now do so at **Voter.ie**.
Once you turn 18, you will be automatically added to the register.

To find out more, visit [Voter.ie](https://voter.ie)



Voter.ie

MyGov **id**



Rialtas na hÉireann
Government of Ireland

Active Parks



Park Upgrades

Kiltipper Park occupies a unique position in the County, located where the suburbs meet the countryside, in the foothills of the Dublin Mountains. This beautiful park offers an excellent amenity for walking or running and beautiful views of the city and the Dublin Mountains. The Dublin Mountains Way runs through the park, stretching alongside the River Dodder and then onwards around Bohernabreena Reservoir and through the Dublin Mountains.

The recently completed Phase 2 developments represent a significant enhancement of the park's facilities. Key improvements include the extension of the existing car park, upgrades to

footpaths and the northern pedestrian entrance, renovation of the existing hedgerows, SuDS swales, and the construction of a new GAA pitch and two soccer pitches with associated drainage works. A winter bird food crop has been established to support ground nesting birds. In addition, new accessible picnic areas have been introduced, ensuring the park can be enjoyed by all members of the community.

The landscaping works carried out as part of this project have also been carefully designed to support biodiversity and to promote the long-term sustainability of the park. South Dublin County Council has adopted a new Play Policy, The Nature of Play 2025–2030, setting out a clear vision for play across the

county. The policy aims to ensure that all children and young people have access to safe, high-quality and inclusive play opportunities close to home, supporting their health, wellbeing and development. A key objective of the policy is to ensure that children can access play opportunities within a 10-minute walk of home, helping to create more playable neighbourhoods and support everyday outdoor activity.

Over the next three years, the Council will invest €6.6 million in the continued delivery of play facilities across South Dublin. This investment will support the upgrade of existing playgrounds, as well as the development of new playspaces in areas where gaps in provision have been identified.

The programme will focus on providing engaging and inclusive environments, with an emphasis on natural play, accessibility and a variety of play opportunities for different age groups.

Community engagement will play a key role in the delivery of these projects. The Council will carry out consultations with schools, online surveys and workshops with local residents, helping to shape the design and layout of individual playspaces.

Residents are encouraged to keep an eye on the Council's social media channels for updates on consultations, design proposals and upcoming playground openings.



Whitestown Greenway Opens New Routes for Walking, Cycling and Wellbeing

The Whitestown Greenway marks a significant investment in the local area, delivering a new 640m pedestrian and cycle route along the Whitestown Stream, linking Killinarden Park and Sean Walsh Park.

This new route enhances connectivity, encourages active travel, and forms a key part of a wider network of existing and planned routes, including the Dodder Greenway, the Citywest to Rathfarnham Cycle Scheme, and the N81 Cycle Scheme. It also improves links to the Dublin Mountains Way trailhead, opening further opportunities for recreation and wellbeing. The

scheme was designed with ecology and biodiversity in mind. A notable design feature is the inclusion of a lighting scheme which is designed to dim when the route is not in use. This is to protect the natural habitat of bats, which are common along this corridor. There is also a new controlled pedestrian crossing at Whitestown Drive.

Funding acknowledgement

These projects have been supported by the Department of Rural and Community Development and the Gaeltacht through the provision of funding through the Outdoor Recreation Infrastructure Scheme (ORIS), and the Department of Culture, Communications and Sports via Sports Capital Grants.





Opening Hours for South Dublin Parks

From September, opening hours will adjust slightly, running from 10am to 8pm.

The parks included in this schedule are:

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

Lucan House Grounds is open to the public on Saturdays, Sundays and Bank Holidays from 11am to 7pm. Each offers a unique space for relaxation, exercise, and connection with nature. To find maps and more details about each park, visit <https://www.sdcc.ie/en/services/sport-and-recreation/parks/>

Expanding Active Travel Infrastructure



Active Travel South Dublin

Active travel is defined as travelling with a purpose using your own physical energy. It involves sustainable modes of transport such as walking, cycling, or wheeling (using non-motorised scooters, skateboards, wheelchairs, or mobility aids) to commute to destinations like work, school, or the shops.

The benefits of increased participation in active travel include:

- **Reduced Congestion:** Increased active travel can lead to a transfer of local short distance trips to active travel modes
- **Environmental Impact:** Increased active travel and consequent reductions in traffic volumes will reduce carbon emissions and lower dependency on fossil fuels, directly improving local air quality.
- **Physical and Mental Health:** Increased active travel replaces sedentary commutes (sitting in a car) with daily physical activity, decreasing stress and improving well-being.

Cycle South Dublin

SDCC is continuing to progress the Cycle South Dublin Programme. This plan proposes 45 routes, delivering roughly 263 km of new and upgraded cycle lanes over 10 years. These routes aim to link key destinations: schools, villages, town centres, and existing regional cycling networks. The aim of this programme is to tackle growing traffic congestion and its environmental, economic, and health impacts by promoting cycling as a viable alternative to car travel.

The project is being delivered in partnership with the National Transport Authority. We are currently halfway through the project life cycle and have already delivered substantially improved modern cycle tracks across 69km of SDCC's road network.

An ongoing scheme in this programme is the Grand Canal to Lucan Urban Greenway scheme that has been broken into three phases. This phase consists of a four metre shared path, entry treatments, and road crossings to improve connectivity and access to four local schools, Lucan Leisure Campus, and the amenities within Griffeen Valley Park. The project also included the planting of over 100 trees and new native meadow areas, enhancing biodiversity and placemaking along the route. Other phases of this scheme are currently in concept development and preliminary design stages. The project was delivered with funding support from the National Transport Authority.

Some other recently delivered schemes include D24 Neighbourhood Cycle Network Phase 2 and Dodder Greenway Phase 5 at Butterfield Avenue and Firhouse Road. Upcoming schemes include Knocklyon to Ballyboden Active Travel Scheme with provision of new/improved active travel facilities between Knocklyon and Ballyboden and Old Bawn Road Active Travel Scheme with new/improved active travel facilities along Old Bawn Road, Tallaght.

Cycling is positioned as a key element in improving mobility and expanding sustainable travel options across the county. Cycling in the Dublin Metropolitan Area prevents 671 serious long-term health conditions each year. The physical activity benefits from cycling prevents 56 early deaths annually (Walking and Cycling Index, 2025).

To find out more on Active Travel visit [Active Travel - SDCC](#).



SDCC Libraries



The Red Line Book Festival returns from 12–18 October 2026, celebrating its 15th anniversary with more than 40 events taking place across South Dublin.

One of the highlights of South Dublin County's cultural calendar, this year's festival brings together some of Ireland's best-known names alongside exciting new and emerging voices, with a programme spanning fiction, memoir, poetry, politics, history, music, comedy and more.

Curated by librarians from South Dublin Libraries, the festival is all about bringing authors and audiences together and making literature, ideas and culture accessible to everyone.

Big names and new voices

This year's programme features Cecelia Ahern in conversation with Ryan Tubridy, Louise O'Neill with Senator Lynn Ruane, actor and author Ardal O'Hanlon with Rick O'Shea, and a special evening of performance, spoken word and conversation with Emmet Kirwan.

Other highlights include broadcaster Miriam O'Callaghan, internationally acclaimed novelist Sarah Waters, bestselling crime writer Sophie Hannah, comedian and writer Justine Stafford, British novelist Imani Thompson, historian and broadcaster Anthony Delaney, and journalist and author Siobhán Fenton.

Audiences can also enjoy Reel Flamenco, a vibrant performance bringing together Irish traditional dance and Andalusian flamenco through music, movement and storytelling, presented as part of EU Presidency programming.





A huge Family Fun Day

On Saturday 17 October, Tallaght Library, Parthalán Place and The Civic will come together for a packed Family Fun Day.

Parthalán Place will be transformed into a living history encampment, complete with Viking displays, a 20-foot Viking longship and live birds of prey.

Tallaght Library will host free drop-in entertainment and creative workshops, including messy play, Dungeons and Dragons, comic-making, superhero mask-making and Cartoonify Yourself with artist Phillip Barrett. At The Civic, bestselling author and illustrator Karen Harte will lead an interactive draw-along session and an amazing show presented by beloved children's author Alan Nolan.

Supporting new creative talent

Folk musician Bríd Lyons is this year's Red Line Book Festival Songwriter in Residence. Over five weeks, she will mentor emerging talent through workshops exploring lyric writing, melody and developing an individual creative voice.

Speaking at the festival launch, Festival Director Sarah Elaine McHugh said:

"The Red Line Book Festival has always been about bringing people together through great books and exciting ideas. As a festival curated by librarians, we want the programme to reflect the range of communities we work with every day. In our 15th year, I'm really proud that we're continuing to bring big names and new voices to libraries and venues across South Dublin while making our festival welcoming and open to everyone."

Events will take place at The Civic, Rua Red, Rathfarnham Castle, Áras Chronáin, Aon Scéal Cafe and SDCC Libraries from 12–18 October.

Tickets are on sale now. Visit redlinefestival.ie for the full programme and booking information. ISL interpretation will be available at selected events.





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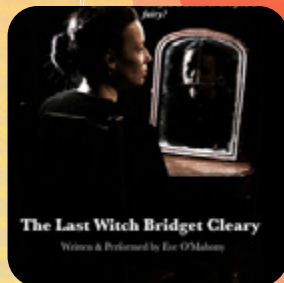
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01 414 9000

info@sdublincoco.ie

www.sdcc.ie