

Contae Átha Cliath Theas Inniu South Dublin County Today

Nollaig 2023

December 2023



Fiagh agus lean Comhairle Contae Átha Cliath Theas ar
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Clondalkin
Local Area Plan



Climate Action
Update



Budget 2024

Message from our Mayor



Dear Resident,

Let me begin by wishing you and yours a very happy and peaceful festive period.

I want in particular to extend my warm wishes to all those who have recently arrived in the County. Our strength in South Dublin lies in our diversity and you are all most welcome here.

In this newsletter, you will find updates for the work your Council has been doing on your behalf over the past twelve months. A huge thank you to all of the amazing staff here in South Dublin County Council who strive every day to make our County the best it can be.

I want also to pay tribute to all the staff in our Community Centres and support services and the amazing and selfless volunteers of South Dublin who give so much to improve the lives of the people of the County and to make this a safe and welcoming place for everyone.

I'm exceptionally proud to be your Mayor and on behalf of myself and all of my fellow councillors, I want to wish you all a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

Alan Edge

Mayor, South Dublin County Council

A Chónaitheoir, a chara,

I dtús báire ba mhaith liom Nollaig fhíorshona agus síochánta a ghuí ort féin agus ar do mhuintir.

Ba mhaith liom ach go háirithe mo bheannachtaí a ghuí orthu siúd go léir a tháinig go dtí an contae le déanaí. Tá. Tá ár n-éagsúlacht mar bhua mór againn in Átha Cliath Theas agus tá fáilte romhaibh go léir anseo.

Sa nuachtlitir seo, gheobhaidh tú nuashonraithe ar an obair atá á dhéanamh ag do Chomhairle ar do shon le dhá mhí dhéag anuas. Míle buíochas leis an bhfoireann iontach ar fad anseo i gComhairle Contae Átha Cliath Theas a dhéanann a dhícheall gach lá ár gComhairle a dhéanamh chomh maith agus is féidir.

Ba mhaith liom tréaslú freisin leis an bhfoireann ar fad inár nIonaid Phobail agus ár seirbhísí tacaíochta agus oibríthe deonacha iontacha agus neamhleithleacha Átha Cliath Theas a thugann an oiread sin chun saol mhuintir an Chontae a fheabhsú agus chun é seo a dhéanamh ina áit shábháilte agus fáilteach do gach duine.

Táim thar a bheith sásta as a bheith i bhur Méara agus ar mo shon féin agus ar son mo chomhchomhairleoirí ar fad, ba mhaith liom Nollaig Shona agus Athbhliain Faoi Mhaise a ghuí oraibh ar fad.

South Dublin County Council Elected Members



Clondalkin

Cluain Dolcáin

Councillor Trevor Gilligan	FF
Councillor Shirley O' Hara	FG
Councillor Kenneth Egan	FG
Councillor Francis Timmons	IND
Councillor William Joseph Carey	SF
Councillor Mark Lynch	Green
Councillor Eoin Ó Broin	SD

Rathfarnham - Templeogue

Ráth Fearnáin - Teach Mealóg

Councillor Justin Sinnott	SD
Councillor Yvonne Collins	FF
Councillor Lynn McCrave	FG
Councillor Pamela Kearns	LAB
Councillor Ronan McMahon	IND
Councillor David McManus	FG
Councillor Laura Donaghy	Green

Tallaght Central

Tamhlact An Lár

Councillor Kieran Mahon	SOL
Councillor Charlie O'Connor	FF
Councillor Mick Duff	IND
Councillor Teresa Costello	FF
Councillor Cathal King	SF

Lucan

Leamhcán

Councillor Ed O'Brien	FF
Councillor Vicki Casserly	FG
Councillor Liona O'Toole	IND
Councillor Paul Gogarty	IND
Councillor Joanna Tuffly	LAB

Tallaght South

Tamhlact Theas

Councillor Patrick Pearse Holohan	IND
Councillor Leah Whelan	SOL
Councillor Dermot Richardson	SF
Councillor Louise Dunne	SF
Councillor Baby Pereppadan	FG

Firhouse - Bohernabreena

Teach na Giúise - Bóthar na Bruíne

Councillor Lyn Hagin Meade	Green
Councillor Lilian Guéret	FF
Councillor Brian Lawlor	FG
Councillor Emma Murphy	FF
Councillor Alan Edge	IND

Palmerstown - Fonthill

Baile Phámar - Cnoc an Fhuaráin

Councillor Guss O' Connell	IND
Councillor Derren Ó Brádaigh	SF
Councillor Madeleine Johansson	PBP
Councillor Alan Hayes	IND
Councillor Shane Moynihan	FF



Party abbreviations

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

New LED Flood Lit Artificial Grass Pitch at Sean Walsh Park

Our new LED Flood Lit Artificial Grass Pitch in Sean Walsh Park, beside Tallaght Stadium, accommodates a full-sized 3G soccer pitch, rugby pitch with a six metre in-goal area for training and underage matches, GAA training pitch and cross field play five aside soccer. It is available for clubs, schools, community sport events, and multi-sport usage.

Our opening hours are:

9.00am - 10.00pm Monday to Sunday.

The first booking was on Saturday 21 October 2023, which was a match between Greenhills AFC and Balscadden FC in the Leinster Senior League. Greenhills won the game 4-3.

Our expected level of use is maximum usage during peak hours. During the off-peak hours, the local school, Old Bawn Community School will be using it regularly during their school term. There are a number of slots still available peak / off-peak midweek and weekends and can be booked on a first come first served basis by all clubs and members of the public through our online booking system here:

Located here: Google Maps: <https://maps.app.goo.gl/3hK3o3FJCuzy4QbX9>

The new artificial grass pitch at Airlie Park, Adamstown, Lucan will be opening very soon so keep an eye on our social media and website area www.sdcc.ie.



Are you registered to vote?



Have you
VOTER.IE'd?

www.voter.ie is Dublin's
portal for registering to vote

Voting legislation has changed

Register and update your details

Make sure you still have your vote

 Comhairle Cathrach
Bhaile Átha Cliath
Dublin City Council
  **dlr**
Comhairle Contae County Council
  Comhairle Contae
Átha Cliath Theas
South Dublin County Council
  Comhairle Contae
Fhine Gall
Fingal County
Council

For those living outside Dublin, visit www.checktheregister.ie



Ar **Vótáil.ie** thú?

Is í www.vótáil.ie tairseach Bhaile
Átha Cliath chun clárú le vótáil

Tá athrú tagtha ar reachtaíocht vótála

Cláraigh agus nuashonraigh
do shonraí

Déan cinnte de go bhfuil
do vóta agat fós

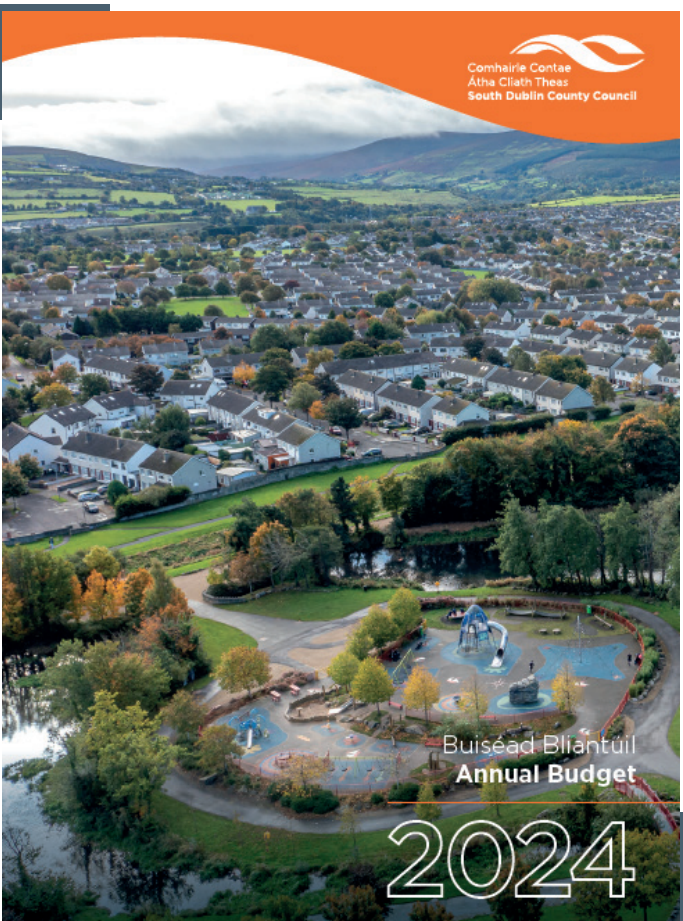
 Comhairle Cathrach
Bhaile Átha Cliath
Dublin City Council
  **dlr**
Comhairle Contae County Council
  Comhairle Contae
Átha Cliath Theas
South Dublin County Council
  Comhairle Contae
Fhine Gall
Fingal County
Council

Dóibh siúd a chónaíonn lasmuigh de Bhaile Átha Cliath, tabhair cuairt ar www.checktheregister.ie

South Dublin County Council's Budget 2024

A budget for 2024 with proposed expenditure totalling €338,321,100 was approved by the Elected members of South Dublin County Council at our annual budget meeting on 16 November 2023.

This represents an increase of 10.5%, or €32,250,700, on the 2023 budget, reflecting the need to maintain and expand our services for a growing and diverse population while also responding to the local impact of various global and national economic challenges.



Pre-budget consultations have ensured a collaborative budget process that reflects and addresses many concerns of our citizens and communities. In responding to those concerns, our intention has been to produce a balanced budget that meets immediate local needs and priorities, maintains and where required, increases resourcing for our frontline services, while also addressing critical future challenges for the County, particularly in relation to climate action, housing and economic development.



In housing, increased funding is provided for more homes through Approved Housing Bodies and leasing, and to support exits from homelessness, as well as €20.6 million to maintain our increasing social housing stock, including €2 million for new planned maintenance works.

An additional €3.5 million is provided to expand our climate actions as we launch a new Climate Action Plan in 2024. This will accelerate retrofitting of our buildings and vehicle decarbonisation along with continued LED street light upgrades and other community climate initiatives.

We also continue our €1 million business support fund and have provided funding for the Innovation Centre in Tallaght (opening in early 2024), the 12th Lock Masterplan and key projects under our new Tourism Strategy.

Investment in social amenities, public realm and infrastructure for local communities also continues with over €2 million for parks upgrades in Cuthberts, Quarryvale, Jobstown and Perrystown and additional funding for community centre management, teenspaces, pitch improvements, litter bins, the library book fund and a new integration team. An extra €1.5 million is provided for footpath, road, lane and tree repairs highlighted by local Councillors along with funding for new initiatives on digital accessibility, water refill points, domestic violence awareness and play streets.

Our financial position this year benefited from an increase to €11.5 million in base funding from Department of Housing Local Government and Heritage.

This has allowed the various new measures to be introduced even with a Local Property Tax reduction of 15%. In addition, given the cost-of-living challenges for households and business, there are no increases in our housing rents or commercial rates. However, we have reduced the refund for rates on vacant commercial properties from 50% to 25% to encourage their productive use and to deter dereliction.

We are able to provide the necessary funding and increases in staffing to service an increasing number of capital projects while also addressing key priorities and planning to meet the needs of our citizens, communities, and businesses in 2024 from a sustainable financial position that allows us to positively shape the future for the County and the Council.

SDCC Scoop two Irish Planning Awards

The South Dublin County Council Planning Team scooped two awards and were highly commended under three separate categories at the Irish Planning Institute's (IPI) Irish Planning Awards 2023



The IPI awards acknowledge a diverse range of projects and plans nationally taking place at a local, county and regional level in complex and dynamic environments. This year's Awards recognised innovation and excellence in Irish planning in eight categories.

The South Dublin County Council Projects that won were:

Workplace of the Year

South Dublin County Council –
#Making it Work_@SDCCPlanning

Research and Innovation

South Dublin County Council – 'Instantaneous Data' –
A South Dublin Approach to Active Land Management

South Dublin County Council also received commendations for the following projects:

Plan Making

Highly Commended – South Dublin County
Development Plan 2022-2028

Urban Regeneration and Heritage

Commended- The Street – Kick starting the Tallaght
Innovation Quarter

Climate Action and Biodiversity

Commended – South Dublin County Council – South
Dublin's Green Space Factor

Mayor of South Dublin County Council Cllr Alan Edge said "Planning in South Dublin is front and centre in helping to meet the various housing, climate change and place making challenges we face. It is a collaborative team and rewarding experience where people are given a real opportunity to learn and to work on a raft of interesting plans and projects."

Christmas Tree Recycling 2024

Arrangements will be in place at these locations from Tuesday 2 January to Saturday 13 January. The service is provided for domestic household trees only with one tree being accepted per household / vehicle.

Lucan

- Beechpark open space
- Sarsfield Park open space
- Haydens Lane car park in Giffen Valley Park
- Foxborough open space

Palmerstown

- Glenaulin Park
- Woodfarm Acres

Clondalkin

- Corkagh Park (St Johns Road car park)
- Corkagh Park (Green Isle car park at Caravan Park entrance)

- Collinstown Park
- Quarryvale Park
- Foxdene open space

Greenhills

- Tymon Park – Limekiln car park
- Tymon Park – Tymon North Road car park

Old Bawn

- Aylesbury church car-park Tallaght (beside the shopping centre)

Firhouse

- Car-park at Dodder Valley Park, Firhouse Road opposite Woodlawn Estate

Rathfarnham

- Rathfarnham Castle Park – car park

Saggart

- Parks Depot on Mill Lane – off Mill Road



South Dublin's new **Climate Action Plan** is on the way!

South Dublin County Council (SDCC) has recently published its Draft Climate Action Plan 2024 - 2029, which outlines the key actions and targets that the council aims to achieve in order to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and ensure climate resilience in the county.

The plan covers five key sectors: energy and buildings, transport, flood resilience, nature-based solutions, and resource management. Some of the main objectives of the plan include:

- Achieving a 50% improvement in the council's energy efficiency by 2030.
- Achieving a 51% reduction in the council's greenhouse gas emissions by 2030.
- making Dublin a climate resilient region, by reducing the impacts of future climate change-related events.
- actively engaging with and informing our communities on climate action.
- Retrofitting of the council's housing stock and public buildings to improve energy efficiency and reduce fuel poverty.
- Increasing the share of sustainable modes of transport such as walking, cycling, and public transport.
- Implementing a range of measures to prevent and mitigate flood risks, such as green infrastructure, sustainable urban drainage systems, and early warning flood systems.
- Enhancing the biodiversity and ecosystem services of the county's natural assets, such as parks, woodlands, wetlands, and rivers.
- Promoting a circular economy approach to waste management, by reducing waste generation, increasing recycling and composting rates, and supporting local reuse and repair initiatives.

To achieve these targets for the Council's greenhouse gas emissions and energy usage, €3.5 Million in new funding is being provided in the Council's 2024 Budget to considerably expand our climate action programme.

Decarbonising Public Lighting

Public lighting is the council's highest energy consumer, accounting for more than half of the Council's overall primary energy consumption at 51%. As public lighting upgrades are essential to SDCC achieving its energy efficiency target, SDCC is committed to achieving further energy reductions in this area.



Decarbonising Buildings

The EU Horizon 2020 DeliveREE project will support the rollout of over €20M worth of energy projects in Dublin, working with SDCC and the three other Dublin Local Authorities. The DeliveREE project will support the retrofit of a range of council facilities such as leisure centres, theatres, libraries, offices, community buildings and landfill treatment sites. This pipeline of projects will be completed over the next four years and is expected to reduce carbon emissions in Dublin by almost 4,000 tonnes per year.

Decarbonising Fleet

As part of our ongoing climate action work, SDCC have developed a Fleet Transition Strategy, which includes five-year and ten-year targets to decarbonise the fleet and ensure the 2030 emission targets are met, through the approach of Avoid-Shift-Improve.

Next steps

Following the Public Consultation process, a Chief Executive's Report and Final Draft Plan will now be provided to the Elected Members who will decide by resolution whether to approve the Final Local Authority Climate Action Plan 2024 - 2029 which will be published in March 2024.

For more information on this process please visit www.southdublinclimate.ie

Exciting €1 Million Community Climate Action Funding Opportunity

South Dublin County Council is delighted to welcome the announcement by the Minister for Environment Climate and Communications of a new Community Climate Action Fund which is being made available to organisations and community groups interested in developing projects and initiatives which relate to the challenge of addressing climate change. Applications can be accepted from the 6 December 2023. The programme will see over €1 million being made available to local, not-for-profit community groups / organisations in South Dublin for Climate Action Projects.

Aims of the Programme

Ireland is aiming to become a climate neutral economy and resilient society by 2050. To achieve a climate neutral economy, it is about dramatically reducing the amount of greenhouse gases that we release into the atmosphere. To achieve a resilient society, we need to adapt our communities to be better prepared to face the impacts of climate change, for example flooding or heat.



Communities can play a critical role in driving such positive change. Communities are encouraged to take actions under the following themes:

- **Community Energy** - helping to improve the energy efficiency of community buildings and small-scale renewable energy projects.
- **Travel** - Solutions which encourage less car journeys in favour of more sustainable modes of transport.
- **Food and Waste** - Supports community food growing initiatives and the reduction of waste (food or other).



- **Shopping and Recycling** - Initiatives which support the circular economy, such as upcycling, library of things and fix-it initiatives.
- **Local Climate and Environmental Action** - Initiatives which supports nature whilst building climate resilience, such as tree planting and sustainable urban drainage initiatives.

Eligibility

There are three categories of grant available ranging from €2,000 up to €100,000. Community organisations must meet the following criteria to apply:

- must be a not-for-profit organisation
- must be registered with a Public Participation Network (PPN) or connected with other collectives such as the Wheel, Tidy Towns and / or be a community group, sports club, community enterprise centre, climate action group, Residents Association or youth clubs with Articles of Association or a Constitution, which hold an AGM, and for which approved minutes are available.
- must be located in the operational area of South Dublin County Council

Please see the following link for more specific fund information including types of projects that will be considered: <https://www.sdcc.ie/en/climate-action/community-climate-action-programme/>

If you feel your group could contribute to the aims of the Programme, please get in touch at your earliest opportunity with the Council's Community Climate Action Officer, Ian Jackson at climatechange@sdblincoco.ie to discuss eligibility and project ideas in more detail.



What is Rightsizing?

Rightsizing means finding a home that’s right for you now and in the future. This might mean moving to a smaller home or somewhere on one level.

Under our Housing Delivery Action Plan 2022-2026, the Council, together with Approved Housing Bodies (AHBs) expects delivery of up to 600 high-quality, new age friendly homes to support older people to age in place and live independently for longer in their own communities.



have commenced for the initial homes becoming available with properties advertised through Choice Based Letting and Rightsizing applications are being progressed from both social housing tenants and private homeowners.

To ensure delivery of new age friendly homes and to meet the needs of local communities across the County, the Council are also exploring additional opportunities for age friendly developments in Citywest, Rathcoole, Clondalkin, Walkinstown and Tallaght though directly delivery and in partnership with Approved Housing Bodies.

The Council’s Rightsizing Policy provides for allocation of age friendly homes to people aged 55 or older through the housing list, transfers (existing tenants rightsizing) or the community list (financial contribution for private homeowners rightsizing). It is intended that 50% of homes in new age friendly housing developments will be used for rightsizing, with priority for tenants transferring from local areas, and one in five rightsizing opportunities will be available to private homeowners through the Community List. For inclusion on the community list, the homeowner must agree that the Council will either purchase their existing home at a discount or accept a financial contribution from the net proceeds of the sale of the property depending on the homeowner’s age.



There are new age friendly homes in Sallymills, Templeogue Village, St. Marks and Maplewood / Fernwood, The Weir and Brady’s Field. In addition, design teams are in place for new developments at St Aongus Green, St Ronan’s Crescent, Pearse Brothers Park and Sarsfield Park with these homes due to be completed in 2024. Allocations

BoxUp comes to South Dublin County Council

South Dublin Local Sports Partnerships and the Community Department have recently introduced Box up to Dodder Valley and Beechfield Park. This is a new and innovative free equipment sharing solution focused on getting those who are least active in our society active. The initiative aims to expand the opportunities for people of all ages and abilities to lead healthier lifestyles through increased access to free sport and leisure equipment.

The lockers, which are solar powered, contain a variety of equipment based on the facilities and amenities in that area, and all equipment can be easily accessed through the use of a free app.



How it works

1. Download the app (Box up) and create an account
2. Select the activity and the locker opens
3. Enjoy activity for up to 3 hours
4. Return material to the locker

A new plan for the managed growth of Clondalkin



Clondalkin is one of South Dublin’s most historic settlements. It has grown significantly since the end of the last Century, and continues to grow into the Twenty First Century. Preparations for a new Local Area Plan for the area, which will be used to manage future growth within the settlement, are currently underway. The production of a Local Area Plan is in response to Objective QDP14 - 3 of the South Dublin County Development Plan 2022 - 2028, which seeks “To prepare a LAP for Clondalkin, the extent of the boundary to be defined, which will be guided by the Local Area Plans Guidelines for Planning Authorities, 2013 (Department of the Environment, Community and Local Government) or any superseding guidelines and which will incorporate:

- **A vision for the development of Clondalkin**
- **Wider urban design principles**
- **Framework plans for larger infill sites**
- **A Conservation Plan**
- **A local Green Infrastructure strategy derived from the County GI Strategy**
- **Local Transport Plan.**



The early stages of the preparation of the Clondalkin Local Area Plan commenced in March 2023, when South Dublin County Council’s Planning Department embarked on a first round of public consultation in advance of the plan with the community. Surveys and workshops took place during March-May 2023. The information gathered during this early period has been published in a Public Consultation Report, which can be read on the Clondalkin LAP website www.clondalkinlap.com. The content of this report is being used to inform further research, survey work and initial proposals that will guide the growth of Clondalkin. Further public consultation will take place in early 2024 to provide feedback and consult the community and general public on early ideas that are emerging for the managed growth of the settlement. It is hoped that the wider Clondalkin community, including schools, community groups, land and businesses owners



and all who live, work and recreate within the area will become involved in the process by contributing to and supporting the creation of a plan that will guide the future development within Clondalkin.

More information on how you can participate and become involved in the Local Area Plan-making process over the next year can be found on the Clondalkin LAP website www.clondalkinlap.com. Please keep an eye out on the South Dublin County Council Social Media feeds and the Public Consultation Portals for up-to-date information.

Legislative Background to the Process

Once the pre-plan consultation period has been completed the local area plan goes through a formal statutory process to become a statutory document. This statutory document will be prepared by the Planning Authority in accordance with the requirements of Sections 18, 19 and 20 of the Planning and Development Act, 2000 (as amended). More public consultation takes place at this stage, with local residents, public sector agencies, non-governmental agencies, local community groups and commercial and business interests prior to being formally adopted by the Councillors in South Dublin County Council.

A Local Area Plan must consist of a written statement and a plan or plans that are consistent with the objectives of the County Development Plan, its core strategy, and any regional planning guidelines that apply to the area of the Plan. The LAP will be guided by the Local Area Plans Guidelines for Planning Authorities, 2013.



As the festive season approaches, **South Dublin Libraries** are gearing up for a programme of Christmas events that promise fun and merriment for all ages!



Lucan Library's Winter Craft Fair:

On Saturday 16 December, from 10 am to 4:30 pm, Lucan Library will transform into a winter wonderland for its Winter Craft Fair. From handmade crafts to unique treasures, there's something for everyone. Children can join in the festivities with Captain Ho Ho making a special appearance at 12:30 pm. Live music follows at 2:00 pm, ensuring a lively and entertaining atmosphere throughout the day.



Castletymon Library:

Beginner Watercolour Painting Class: On 11 and 13 December at 12:00 pm unleash your artistic side in a two-part workshop creating a winter wonderland watercolour

landscape. No experience is necessary, and it's suitable for adults. Booking essential on Eventbrite.

Pyjama Storytime by Torchlight: On 14 December at 6:00 pm, families are invited to wear their PJs, bring a favourite teddy or toy, and join us for a magical Christmas storytime for little ones (suitable for ages 2 years and over). All welcome!

Family Lego Night: Take a break from the Christmas rush on 19 December at 6:00 pm and bring the kids for a chill-out session with Lego!

Ballyroan Library:

Christmas Makerspace: On 12 December at 3:00 pm, children aged 8-10 years can make their own light-up Christmas card. Booking essential via Eventbrite.

Christmas Pyjama Storytime: On 18 December at 6 pm, wear your best Christmas PJs or jumper on for a relaxing evening of bedtime stories, full of festive cheer (for ages 2-5 years). Booking via Eventbrite.

Christmas Toddler Time: On 19 December at 10:00 am, enjoy special festive-themed fun songs and stories with Sarah Sparkles for the little ones. Booking advised on Eventbrite.

North Clondalkin Library:

Christmas Night at NCL: On 13 December, experience 'Music, Mistletoe, and Magic'—an evening of festive delights. All are welcome!

Clondalkin Library:

Christmas Carols with the Local Vocals Choir: On 18 December at 6:15 pm, join in the holiday spirit with an evening of Christmas Carols. Light refreshments will be provided. All welcome!

Christmas Storytime with Santa: On 19 December at 3:30 pm, children aged 3-6 years can enjoy a special Christmas Storytime with a visit from Santa. All are welcome, and no booking is required.

Mark your calendars, and join in the festive fun at your local library! See www.southdublinlibraries.ie for a full listing of events.



Recycle more this Christmas Déan níos mó a athchúrsáil an Nollaig seo

Wrapping paper, Christmas cards, Glass, Cans, Plastic, Christmas trees, Batteries and WEEE can all be recycled, so this Christmas South Dublin County Council is encouraging everyone to recycle. Please visit www.sdcc.ie for Christmas Tree recycling locations.

For more information on how these items & more can be recycled go to www.sdcc.ie
Le haghaidh tuilleadh eolais maidir leis an athchúrsáil, tabhair cuairt ar www.athcliaththeas.ie

Ballymount Civic Amenity 2023 - Christmas Opening Hours.

Monday 18 December	09am - 5pm	Christmas Day Monday 25 December	Closed	New Years Day Monday 1 January	Closed
Tuesday 19 December	09am - 5pm	St. Stephens Day Tuesday 26 December	Closed	Tuesday 2 January	09am - 5pm
Wednesday 20 December	09am - 5pm	Wednesday 27 December	09am - 5pm	Wednesday 3 January	09am - 5pm
Thursday 21 December	09am - 5pm	Thursday 28 December	09am - 5pm	Thursday 4 January	09am - 5pm
Friday 22 December	09am - 5pm	Friday 29 December	09am - 5pm	Friday 5 January	09am - 5pm
Saturday 23 December	9am - 5.30pm	Saturday 30 December	9am - 5.30pm	Saturday 6 January	09am - 5.30pm
Christmas Eve Sunday 24th Dec	9.30am - 3pm Closing Early	New Years Eve Sunday 31 December	9.30am - 3pm Closing Early	Sunday 7 January	09.30am - 5pm

Be Winter Ready

Severe weather challenges all of us. Activities that we take for granted can become difficult or even hazardous when severe weather occurs. However, by taking some simple steps you can reduce the impact of such events.

South Dublin County Council's Severe Weather Assessment Team (SWAT) meets in advance of all storms on foot of any Met Eireann Weather Warnings received. The SWAT is made up of senior staff from across the organisation. The purpose of the meeting is to assess the readiness of the council to deal with the upcoming storm and severe weather events and put in place preventative actions as required.

South Dublin County Council has under the Major Emergency Management Framework, the following plans:

- Major Emergency Plan
- Flood Emergency Plan,
- Severe Weather Plan, and
- Rest Centre Plan.

The protocols for Severe Weather are contained in the plans, and being actioned upon receipt of weather warnings from Met Éireann, are as follows:

Status Yellow: Be Aware - A general notification email is sent to relevant staff across the organisation- inspections of key infrastructure and equipment carried out by relevant departments.

Status Orange: Be Prepared - Triggers a meeting of the Severe Weather Assessment Team (SWAT) comprised of senior management across all departments, who discuss the issues particular to that weather event and agree the appropriate response/ action from each department.

Status Red: Take Action - this should be a comparatively rare event and implies that recipients take action to protect themselves and / or their properties. The SWAT team is now a Crisis Management Team and meets as often as necessary - hourly, twice daily, and so on, depending on dynamics of the weather event, possibly over the conference call facilities. National and Regional Emergency offices are likely also being updated through teleconference at this stage to facilitate inter agency cooperation between the LA, HSE and AGS.

The 2023-2024 Winter Maintenance Plan includes information on the seven gritting routes and also on salt barns and the locations and availability of salt bins.

The seven gritting routes and the associated gritting truck can also have a snow plough attached if this is required, information on the routes are available at [this link](#). The Council has seven gritting trucks and seven snow ploughs.

South Dublin County Council will continue to provide information to citizens through weather events on all available social media including our website www.sdcc.ie

The national winter ready website also has very useful information and can be found at <https://www.gov.ie/en/campaigns/aa78b9-be-winter-ready/?referrer=>

<https://twitter.com/sdublincoco>

<https://www.facebook.com/SouthDublinCountyCouncil>

You can also follow the below Twitter accounts to stay updated:

- @emergencyIE
- @DubFireBrigade
- @ESBNetworks
- @MetEireann
- @gardainfo
- @GardaTraffic
- @IrishWater
- @IWCare
- @opwireland

Download the Severe Weather Chart at www.met.ie/weather-warnings and pin up in your classroom, home or workplace.

Severe Weather Chart

- Status Yellow** Potentially dangerous on a localised scale.
- Status Orange** Infrequent and dangerous weather conditions which may pose a threat.
- Status Red** Rare and very dangerous weather conditions.

This winter-ready booklet produced by the Office of Emergency Planning (OEP) gives information on being prepared, providing practical advice for coping during episodes of severe weather, as well as giving contact details of organisations and agencies that can provide guidance and assistance. The main message is simple - be prepared, stay safe and know where to find help should you need it.

Download the 2023 - 24 booklet on this page or find out more at <https://www.gov.ie/en/campaigns/aa78b9-be-winter-ready/?referrer=>

A Celebration of Female Entrepreneurship in Tallaght

National Women's Enterprise Day took place in October at the Maldrone Hotel, Tallaght. It was a stellar gathering of businesswomen coming together to share, collaborate and support each other, under the theme of Empowering Business Together. Organised by the Local Enterprise Office (LEO) South Dublin in collaboration with Dublin Region (DLR, Fingal, and Dublin City Council), the event underscored the importance of women supporting one another and fostering a culture of innovation and achievement.

Minister of State at the Department of Enterprise, Trade and Employment with special responsibility for Business, Employment and Retail, Neale Richmond, TD spoke at the event and MC on the day was broadcasting stalwart, Elaine Crowley who was joined by the following speakers,

- Ellen Kavanagh: Founder of Waxperts, well-known for her role in creating Ireland's beloved waxing brand and co-hosting the "Ask My Mentor" podcast.
- Sile Walsh: An expert in leadership and organisational development, Sile brought her extensive experience in coaching psychology and inclusivity to the event.
- Cathriona Hallahan: With 35 years of experience as Managing Director for Microsoft in Ireland, Cathriona, a seasoned leader with a passion for change management and leadership development.

These speakers were joined by ambassadors, or "Leading Lights," from various regions including:

- South Dublin's Aine Kennedy of The Smooth Company Ltd, the innovator behind the Smooth Stick™ hair taming wand, recognised as one of Ireland's top 30 under 30.
- Dun Laoghaire's Denise Cullen of Enterprise Solutions, a visionary leader specializing in IT solutions and modern leadership.
- Dublin City's Laura McCarthy of Drink Botanicals Ireland, a brand revolutionizing home cocktail experiences with award-winning products.
- Fingal's Giselle Makinde of Cream of the Crop, a pioneering food tech company dedicated to combating food waste.

The Tallaght event was a testament to the ongoing efforts to celebrate female entrepreneurs and female-led start-ups while encouraging others to pursue their own business ideas. Female entrepreneurship in Ireland

has been on the rise, and the pandemic only accelerated this trend. Female entrepreneurs have shown remarkable resilience and creativity, driving the country's economic growth.



The event comes on the back of a sustained focus on encouraging female entrepreneurs by LEOs, as well as other State agencies like Enterprise Ireland. Those efforts appear to be bearing fruit.

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“49% of females surveyed have said their skills and knowledge in terms of starting a business has increased - that's up from 39% in 2018,” said Breege Cosgrave, Chair of National Women's Enterprise Day. “At the moment we're showing the third highest level of female entrepreneurship start-ups across Europe.

“We have **1,400 women** starting new businesses every month in Ireland,” she added.

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