



Comhairle Contae  
Átha Cliath Theas  
South Dublin County Council

December 2020

# Chief Executive's Report

Christmas Tree Lights in Tallaght



# About the Chief Executive's Report

South Dublin County Council's Chief Executive's Report is presented to elected members at Council every month and details important achievements across our various departments whilst highlighting key statistics and images from events that took place that month.

The report also highlights major news pieces and puts a focus on an area of the Council that doesn't always get the attention it deserves.

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# LAND USE PLANNING AND TRANSPORTATION

## Dodder Greenway Update

The Council is progressing delivery of the Dodder Greenway walking and cycling scheme. The scheme is 14km and runs from the Bohernabreena Reservoir to Orwell Park in Rathfarnham. This project is co-funded by the European Regional Development Fund and the National Transport Authority.

Currently, three new pedestrian bridges are being constructed, over the River Dodder at Tallaght Bypass, over the River Dodder from Kilvere to Riverside Cottages and over the River Dodder to Bushy Park (to the rear of Rathfarnham Village). All three bridges are now in place and due to be opened to the public in January 2021.

Work is also being carried out on the widening of existing paths in the vicinity of the bridges, the construction of new shared approach paths for pedestrians and cyclists, the upgrade and installation of public lighting where required, pavement marking and signage and associated landscaping works.

**Bus Connects Consultation**

The third round of non-statutory public consultation on the 16 core bus corridors has been launched.

The Core Bus Corridor Projects will see the roll-out of 230km of continuous bus priority and 200km of cycle routes across Dublin. The public consultation runs until 16 Dec 2020.

## Wellington Lane Temporary Cycle Scheme

South Dublin County Council, in conjunction with the National Transport Authority (NTA), are undertaking trial pedestrian and cycle facilities along Wellington Lane/Road from Spawell Roundabout to Templeville Roundabout.

Within the proximity of this area, there are many primary and post-primary schools walking and cycling to and from school. Over the years there have been several road safety incidents along this route for both adults and children as well as a cycle fatality at Templeville Roundabout in 2017.

These temporary measures consist

of improved dedicated crossings at the Orwell Roundabouts and Templeville Roundabout as well as dedicated space for cyclists within the road carriageway that will be physically separated from vehicles via bollards. A six month trial for these measures is proposed.

Before, during and after the six-month trial, we will be carrying out a number of surveys to understand what the current issues are, how the temporary measures are working and what improvements could be made to these measures to increase the overall safety for users. The measures being trialled will inform the Preferred Design Layout for a permanent scheme.



## Built Heritage Scheme

The Built Heritage Investment Scheme (BHIS) is a Government grant scheme that has been run successfully since 2016 and seeks to encourage the leveraging of private capital to invest in several small-scale, labour-intensive projects to repair and conserve Protected Structures and buildings within Architectural Conservation Areas.

Since the introduction of the BHIS scheme, a total of 29 conservation grant projects have been completed in the County totalling €270K awarded to owners of Protected Structure and Council owned properties.



# HOUSING SOCIAL AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT



## New family homes delivered in Cooleven, Clondalkin

Tuath Housing recently welcomed Minister for Housing, Darragh O'Brien to present keys to Cooleven's first tenant, where 83 new-build family homes are being allocated before Christmas under the Council's Allocations Scheme. The 20 apartments and sixty-three houses were delivered by Tuath, with support from South Dublin County Council and the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage.

Minister for Housing, Local Government and Heritage, Darragh O'Brien TD said, "It's a pleasure and a privilege to witness families moving into these new homes and

commencing a new phase in their lives. I believe this Tuath development is a great example of how our AHB's and local authorities work together with my Department for our collective goal of increasing social housing stock and providing homes to those who need them."

Colm Ward, Director of Housing, Social and Community Development in the Council said, "we welcome the development of 83 new homes at Cooleven. Households from our social housing list will be delighted to be moving into their new homes before Christmas. This high-quality development is an important part of our social housing delivery programme in 2020. Working with groups like Tuath Housing is central to housing delivery in the County and we look forward to continued partnership."



### New Homes

The Minister for Housing presented keys to Cooleven's first tenant.

## New Sub-Committee

As part of the ongoing work of the Council's Traveller Accommodation Unit, an Estate and Waste Management sub-committee has recently been established, chaired by Cllr Guss O'Connell and consisting of Elected Members, representatives from Traveller Development Groups and staff from the Council's Waste Enforcement and Traveller Accommodation teams. This sub-committee is working with residents to address local issues including illegal dumping and burning of waste as well as exploring the Traveller economy and new estate management initiatives.

## Social Inclusion Festival 2020

The Council's refocused Social Inclusion Festival to promote social diversity in South Dublin County took place during November with a week-long schedule of over 60 online events over multiple platforms including:

- A 'Virtual Celebration Show – Social Inclusion through the Performing Arts' featuring a variety of acts saw 1,600 votes cast in a grand finale that reached international viewers, including from India, the United Kingdom, and the USA.
- A 'Twitter takeover' of the Council's channel with tweets from our LGBTI+ Community which had over 20,000 views
- Cooking on a budget with Mama Nagi's
- Clondalkin Handcraft and Horticultural workshops.

This year's festival took place between 16 and 22 November and was launched by Mayor Ed O'Brien.



## Housing Maintenance Services

Over the holiday period, 24 December to 4 January, the Council will only be providing emergency housing maintenance services to our tenants. If an emergency should arise during this period, tenants can call the out of hours number 01 4574907. If Council personnel are called out where there is not an emergency, the tenant may be charged the full cost of the call-out. If you smell gas, please call Gas Networks Ireland immediately on 1850 20 50 50.



The Social Inclusion Festival moved online this year.

# ECONOMIC ENTERPRISE AND TOURISM DEVELOPMENT

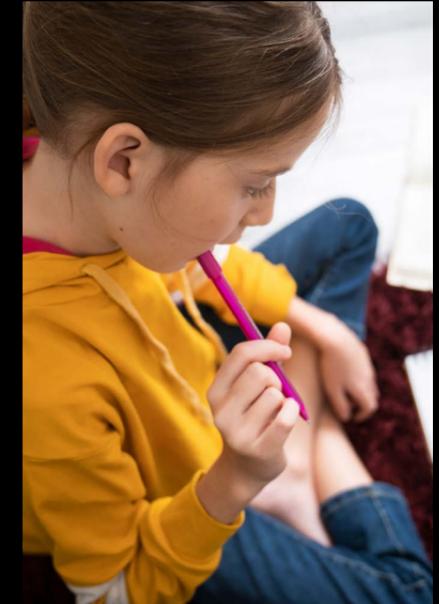


## Melt the Walls Showcased

The Melt the Walls installation in Tallaght has been chosen as a feature project on a newly launched placemaking website. Minister Catherine Martin T.D. and the Irish Architectural Foundation (IAF) launched the 'Reimagine' website in late November.

Reimagine is a nationwide placemaking programme, working with communities across Ireland to co-create and co-design solutions to problems or opportunities they've identified in their locality. The Reimagine project has been supported by Creative Ireland Programme's National Creativity Fund.

Tallaght was selected as one of six towns to work with the IAF on the 'Reimagine' programme. The project ran over 11 months and during that time, hundreds of people in Tallaght spoke about what they would like to see. The public wanted to connect activities in the various buildings, cultural organisations and spaces in Chamber Square, in a way to 'Melt the Walls'.



## Children and Teen Anxiety Talk

An audience of approximately 2,800 tuned in to a South Dublin libraries organised talk on anxiety in children and teenagers. The talk was led by Dr David Coleman, a clinical psychologist, specialising in working with children, teenagers and their families, and received positive feedback from those in attendance. The talk was organised as part of the Keep Well campaign.

## Local Enterprise Office South Dublin Offering Brexit Support

The Local Enterprise Office South Dublin have linked up with KGH Custom Services who are providing workshops suitable for anyone with no prior knowledge in trade and customs procedures as well as those who are looking to review their prior knowledge, especially in the context of the UK leaving the European Union.

Workshop sessions include:

- EU and UK trade tariff
- Trade with the UK and making sense of Brexit
- Special Customs Procedures and Arrangements available in Ireland/EU/UK
- Transit through the UK ("Land bridge")

Please visit the Local Enterprise Office South Dublin website to book your place.



## Local Enterprise Office

Local Enterprise Office South Dublin are offering Brexit related workshops.

The workshop is organised into four sessions, each lasting approximately 45 minutes with appropriate time for breaks. The small group format is designed to provide space for detailed questions and ensure that knowledge is imparted in a practical and engaging way.

## Libraries Reopen

South Dublin libraries reopened to the public on 1 December for limited browsing and print service during normal library opening hours. Browsing in the branches is limited to fifteen minutes and use of public access PCs for printing purposes to ten minutes. Patrons can send their printing from home using the Print Copy and GO app.

All online services will continue to be available 24/7. You will need a valid South Dublin library card, PIN and in some cases an email to access these services.



Libraries have reopened with limited browsing times.



# CORPORATE PERFORMANCE AND CHANGE MANAGEMENT

## Christmas Tree Lights

South Dublin County Council has switched on the lights on the traditional Christmas trees in Tallaght and Clondalkin.

In a very different ceremony this year, the Mayor of South Dublin County, Cllr Ed O'Brien, joined the Unwrapped festival team on Friday 4 December to officially turn on the lights in Chamber Square.

Unwrapped is South Dublin County's annual winter celebration. The theme of this year's festival is 'Shining a Light'. The festival mostly takes place online and runs until 16 December. You can find out more at [www.unwrapped.ie](http://www.unwrapped.ie).

The Council wish all of our citizens a very happy Christmas and a hopeful New Year.



## Cancer Awareness

As November was Men's Health Awareness Month, the Council came together with the Marie Keating Foundation to provide information to staff around prostate, testicular and bowel cancer. Bernie Carter, a nurse specialising in oncology, held an online talk and question and answer session with staff to raise awareness around types of cancer that predominantly affect men.

## Area Committee Meetings

South Dublin County Council hold monthly area committee meetings to provide an opportunity for elected members to highlight issues in their area that otherwise might not be heard at the monthly full Council meeting.

Elected members represent the people of their area and so input on behalf of their community to the Council. Issues or questions raised can relate to such things as local concerns or proposed plans for the area.

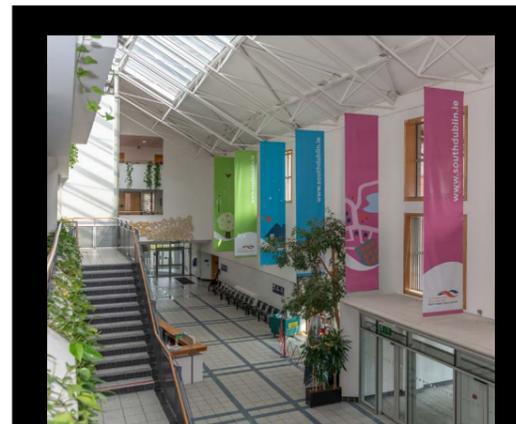
There are four Area Committees in South Dublin County representing the following areas:

- Clondalkin
- Lucan / Palmerstown / North

Clondalkin

- Rathfarnham / Templeogue / Firhouse / Bohernabreena
- Tallaght

For meeting dates, agendas and minutes, please check [www.sdcc.ie](http://www.sdcc.ie). You can also find a list of the elected members who represent each local electoral area on the website.



### Area Committee Meetings

Area Committee Meetings are held monthly to discuss local issues.

## Christmas Service

Residents should note the following arrangements over the Christmas period:

South Dublin County Council will close on 24 December and will reopen on Monday 4 January 2020 at 9.00 am. The Council can be contacted at all times, however, through the emergency number of 01- 4574907.

Please refer to [www.sdcc.ie](http://www.sdcc.ie) for all up-to-date Council guidelines concerning COVID-19.



*The Christmas tree lights have been switched on in South Dublin County.*

# ENVIRONMENT WATER AND CLIMATE CHANGE



## Corkagh Park Playspace

The Council is delighted to report that the refurbishment works at the Corkagh Park playspace have totally transformed the area and that the playground is now open. This is one of the most ambitious playground projects ever undertaken by South Dublin County Council and it is sure to be a source of much joy to local children and visitors to the area alike.

The playground is themed around the heritage of Clondalkin and features a high tower, a viking longboat as well as a wide range of play equipment and several unique play features, all designed around the principles of natural play.

South Dublin County designed and built accessible picnic tables have also been included in the project.



## N81 Landscape Improvements

Following on from the completion of the first phase of landscape improvement works on the N81; work is now set to begin on the next phase of works with Clonmel Enterprises Ltd., appointed to commence the works in December and continue into early 2021. The initial phase saw improvements carried out between the M50 junction and the Avonbeg junction, marking this entrance to Tallaght.

## Climate Action Update

The Council presented the first annual update of the Climate Change Action Plan (CCAP) to the Department of Environment Climate and Communications. This detailed the progress being made on the 130 actions described in the CCAP. Of the 130 actions, seven have been completed, 111 are ongoing, 11 have not yet started and one action has been postponed due to COVID-19 safety operating procedures.

The main achievement presented was that the Council surpassed its improvement in energy efficiency target of 33% by 2020, one year ahead of schedule, and that we are well placed to meet our 40% reduction in greenhouse gas emissions by 2030.

Achieving this milestone is a significant feat, and is a result of a sustained effort across all departments within the Council to manage energy and reduce waste. Our new energy improvement target is set at a 50% improvement (over the baseline figure) by 2030.



### Climate Action

An update has been given on the Climate Change Action Plan

## Mattress Amnesty

Following successful mattress amnesty days held in 2018 and 2019, this year's amnesty went ahead, considering the previous lessons learnt and the current COVID-19 restrictions. This year the Council teamed up with RecycleIT, a social enterprise, based in Crag Avenue, Clondalkin.

The mattress amnesty was held over four weeks, starting on the 19 October, allowing unwanted mattresses from residents of South Dublin area, to be disposed of safely, free of charge. A total 1,065 mattresses were recycled as part of the amnesty, a 25% increase on previous year events.



One of the features of the Corkagh Park layspace

# TALLAGHT DISTRICT HEATING



## South Dublin County Council with support from Amazon Web Services (AWS) and Fortum eNext create Ireland's first publicly owned, not-for-profit energy company.

South Dublin County Council has established Ireland's first publicly owned, not-for-profit energy company, to provide low carbon heat to local community buildings. Trading as Heatworks, the company will deliver the Tallaght District Heating Network, estimated when completed to reduce carbon dioxide emissions in the South Dublin County area by nearly 1,500 tonnes per year.

The network will use excess heat from a customisation to Amazon Web Services' (AWS) recently completed data centre to provide low carbon heat to public sector, residential and commercial customers. AWS will provide recycled heat free of charge to the scheme as part of its broader sustainability activities, and its continued assistance to Ireland in meeting its EU 2030 national heating and carbon-reduction targets. The

## Collaboration

The Tallaght District Heating Network is partly funded by the European Union's Inter-Reg NWE programme (Heatnet), a multi-million euro fund promoting carbon reduction through district-heating in Europe's north-west, by a further €4.5 million from the Project Ireland 2040 Climate Action Fund and through direct funding from the Council.

The collaboration between the Council, AWS engineering teams, Fortum eNext, and the City of Dublin Energy Management Agency (CODEMA) has resulted in a low-carbon solution optimising the potential of recyclable heat combined with additional heat-pump technology – the first example of its kind in Ireland.

district-heating company has contracted Fortum, a large Finnish energy supply company with extensive district-heating experience throughout Scandinavia and Eastern Europe, to carry out the design, installation, and operation of the Tallaght network.

The system will initially heat 47,000 m2 of public sector buildings, 3,000m2 of commercial space, and 135 affordable rental apartments.

The supply of low-cost, low-carbon heat is expected to increase commercial competitiveness, attracting more innovative businesses and development to Tallaght town centre, promoting renewable energy capacity in educational and start-up programmes, as well as helping to mitigate fuel poverty as the network expands over

time.

The project will begin supplying heat before the end of 2021, with initial customers being the Council and the nearby Tallaght campus of the Technological University Dublin (TU Dublin). The council buildings heated by this project in the short term will include SDCC's County Hall and Tallaght County Library followed by the Rua Red arts-hub and Civic Theatre.

By 2024, the heat will also be supplied to nearby developments recently approved with planning permission, including affordable housing units, residential properties and student accommodation.



Tallaght District Heating Network

# KEEP WELL CAMPAIGN



## South Dublin County Council is offering a range of activities and resources as part of the 'Keep Well' initiative.

**T**he Keep Well campaign aims to help everyone in Ireland to stay connected, stay active, and look after their mental health throughout the COVID-19 emergency. Keep Well builds on the "In This Together" campaign which happened earlier in the year.

The Government Plan for Living with Covid-19 Resilience and Recovery 2020-21 highlights the important

role that individual and community resilience will play in contributing to our ongoing response to COVID-19.

This campaign is aimed at showing people of all ages how we can mind our own physical and mental health and wellbeing by adding healthy and helpful habits to our daily and weekly routines. It will provide guidelines, information, and tips on how we can make a plan to do things that are

## A Call to Action

Keep Well is a call to action to everyone across our society. It is an invitation to individuals, communities, voluntary groups, sporting organisations, those involved in creativity and the arts, local heritage and history, businesses, as well as local and national government to find ways to support everyone to discover new activities and routines that will do us good.

The "Keep Well" campaign is focussed on five main themes:

- Minding Your Mood
- Staying Active
- Eating Well
- Keeping in Contact
- Switching Off

good for us every day.

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

Information about activities in South Dublin County will be published on [www.sdcc.ie/en/keep-well-campaign](http://www.sdcc.ie/en/keep-well-campaign) and the Council's social media channels.

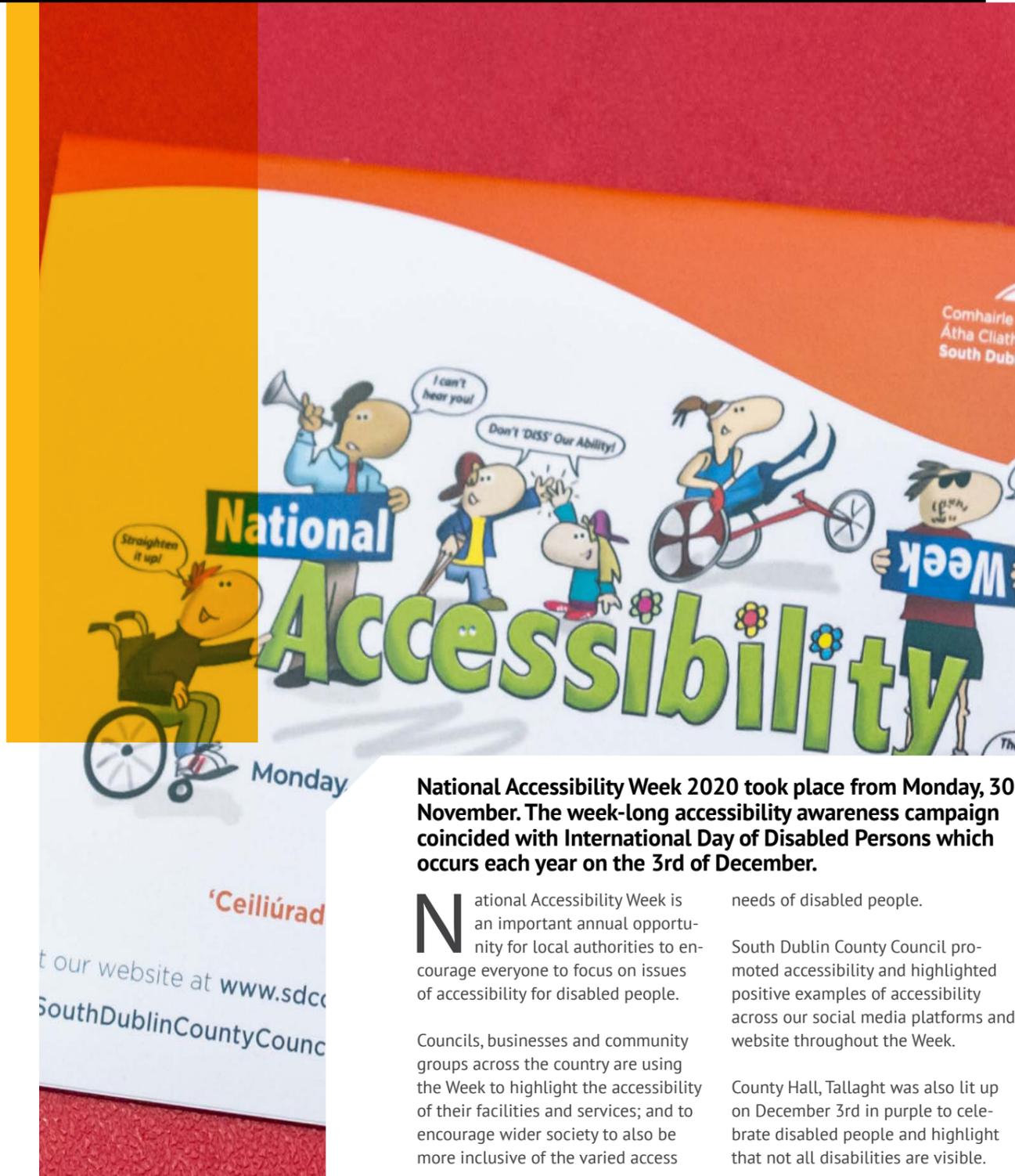
The Council has also established a Community COVID 19 Resilience Fund to assist community and voluntary groups and organisations that are adapting their services and supports to communities affected by the Coro-

navirus pandemic. The funding will be directed to those group aiming to improve their local communities and to recover from the effects of Covid-19 and is part of the Council's measures to support the national "Keep Well" Campaign.



*The Keep Well Campaign*

# NATIONAL ACCESSIBILITY WEEK



**National Accessibility Week 2020 took place from Monday, 30 November. The week-long accessibility awareness campaign coincided with International Day of Disabled Persons which occurs each year on the 3rd of December.**

National Accessibility Week is an important annual opportunity for local authorities to encourage everyone to focus on issues of accessibility for disabled people.

Councils, businesses and community groups across the country are using the Week to highlight the accessibility of their facilities and services; and to encourage wider society to also be more inclusive of the varied access

needs of disabled people.

South Dublin County Council promoted accessibility and highlighted positive examples of accessibility across our social media platforms and website throughout the Week.

County Hall, Tallaght was also lit up on December 3rd in purple to celebrate disabled people and highlight that not all disabilities are visible.

## Inclusive Initiatives

South Dublin County Council warmly welcomes disabled people and assistants to drop in to use the fully accessible Changing Places toilet facility in our offices at County Hall, Tallaght.

This purpose-built toilet facility gives disabled people and assistants more space and the right equipment to take care of personal hygiene, in safety and comfort.

The Changing Places toilet includes additional assistive technology of a hoist, height adjustable adult-sized changing bench, and peninsular toilet (toilet has enough space on both sides for assistants).

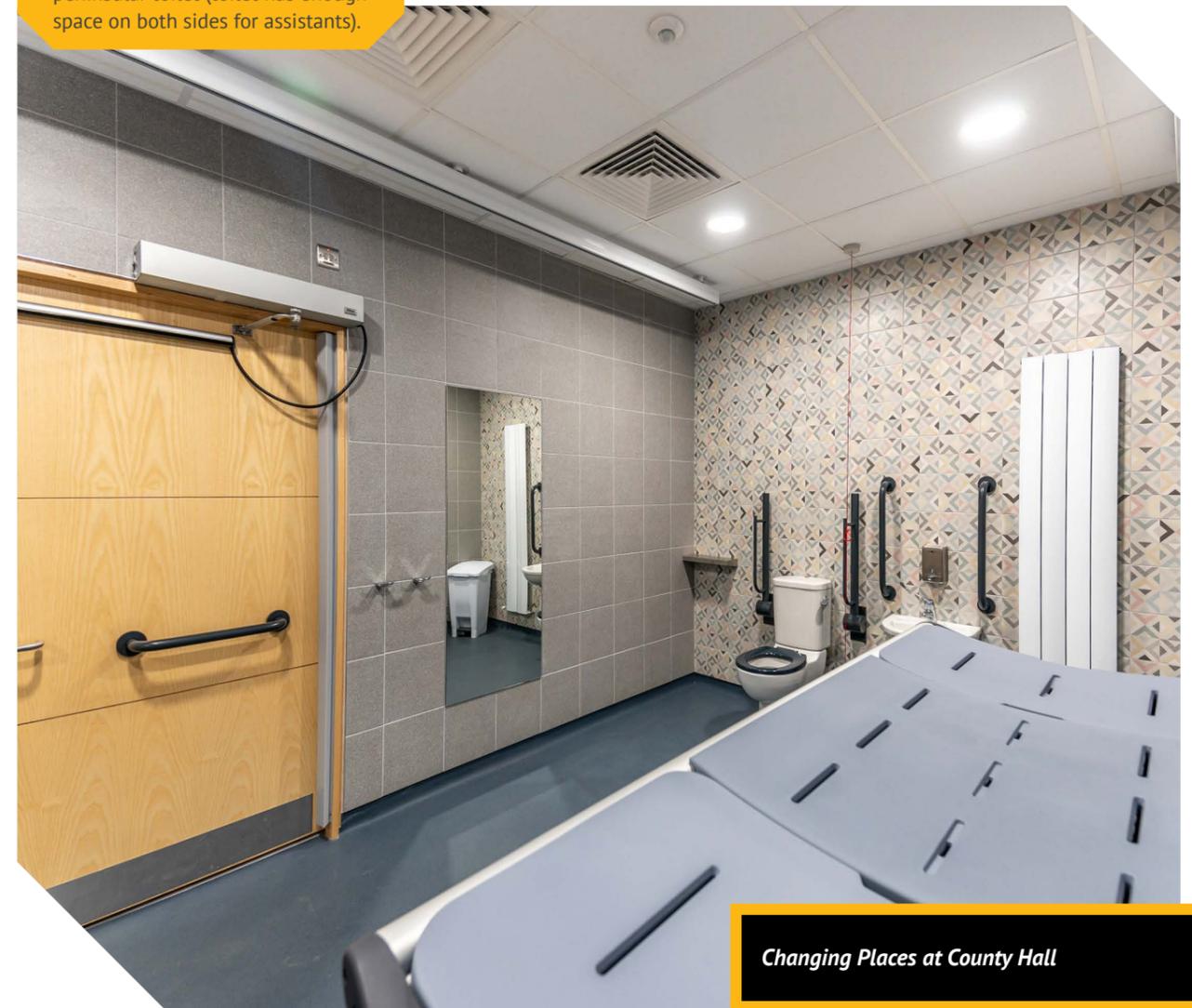
During 2020, South Dublin County Council became the first local authority in the State to become JAM Card friendly.

For those with a learning difficulty, autism, Asperger's or any condition where there can be a communication barrier, the JAM Card allows users to relay to others that they may need a little extra time in a simple, effective non-verbal manner. The JAM Card is useful when on public transport, in a retail or any other customer-facing environment.

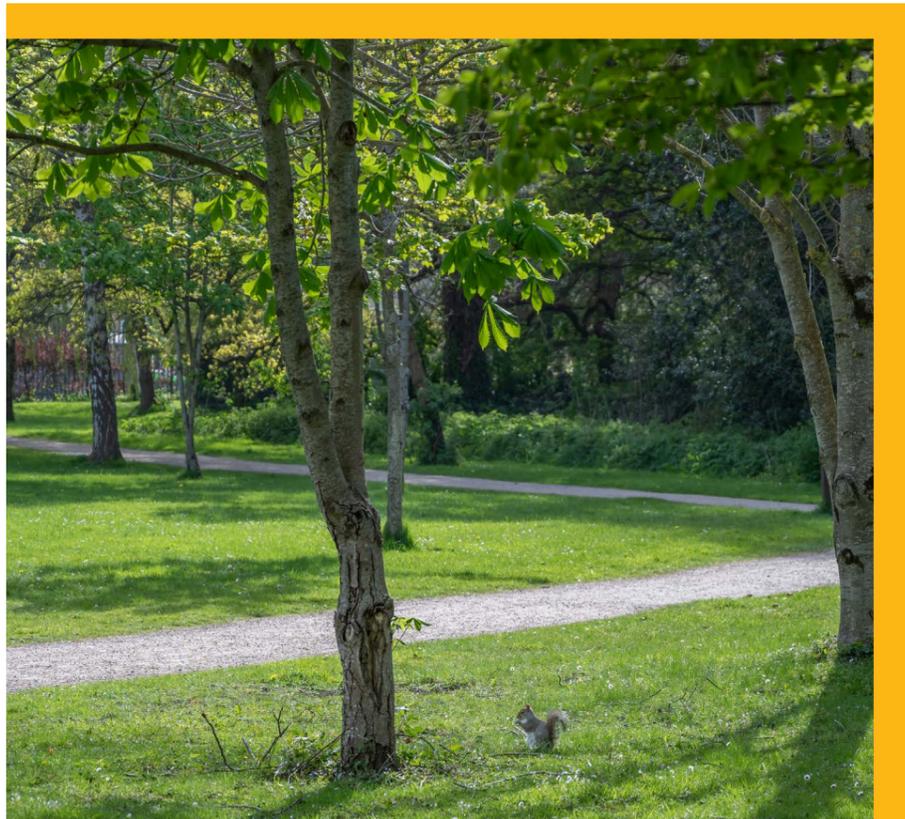
South Dublin County Council will be providing JAM Cards at public counters in County Hall, Tallaght, at the Civic Offices in Clondalkin and across South Dublin libraries. The Council's Customer Care staff will also wear pin

badges to indicate that they are JAM Card trained.

Mayor Ed O'Brien said, "Universal access is essential for the continued growth and sustainability of vibrant communities. South Dublin County Council is strongly committed to equality, inclusion and providing facilities and services that are accessible to all. As COVID-19 restrictions start to ease and retail and commercial facilities re-open I urge all business owners to be aware of providing safe accessible spaces for all members of the community."



*Changing Places at County Hall*



It is anticipated that 10 projects in 2021 will deliver an additional 30km of cycle lanes, all of which will make cycling a better and safer mode of transport within our County.

The Council will continue to support local enterprise and promote South Dublin County through several avenues. The €1,000,000 Business Support Fund will again be available in 2021. The Local Enterprise office will assist the establishment of new and smaller businesses and help existing businesses to grow and develop in scale. During 2021, the Council will also commence construction of the Tallaght Innovation Quarter including the new €14,000,000 Innovation Centre and €50,000 will be available for a new marketing plan for the growing Grange Castle Business Park.

Throughout 2020, appreciation of our public spaces has never been so important and the Council will spend over €20 million in 2021 maintaining and improving our parks, pitches, open spaces and playgrounds. €500,000 is also provided for the general day-to-day running costs of branch libraries to include provision for the new North Clondalkin Library, which should open before the end of 2020 subject to public health requirements, and the new Castletymon Library, which will open in 2021.

Speaking on the adopting of Budget 2021, Daniel McLoughlin, Chief Executive of the Council, said, "The Budget as presented is positive in the context of the plans to support businesses and communities during this difficult time. Substantial plans for immediate investment in physical and social infrastructure will serve the local economy well during construction and society well for decades to come."

**Elected Members for South Dublin County Council have voted to adopt Budget 2021 which provides for approximately €256 million in expenditure on service provision, an increase of nearly 5% on the 2019 budget.**

Specific meetings of the Council were held to discuss the Draft Revenue Budget for 2021 before a vote was held to adopt the budget on Thursday 26 November. A key objective of Budget 2021 is to maintain continuity of services at existing levels to the greatest extent possible, while also ensuring the financial stability of the Council and having regard to the ongoing economic challenges posed by COVID-19 and Brexit. 52% (€138m) of the Council's expenditure will be funded by Rate payers and Local Property Tax payers and the remaining 48% (€130m) is funded from grants, and goods and services provided by the Council.

The Council's ambition to provide high quality housing in attractive locations is emphasised by the provision of €15,288,300 to be spent on planned maintenance and re-letting works on nearly 10,000 homes. In terms of supplying new homes €2,815,000 will be available through the housing loans service including €330,000 for mortgage protection insurance. In addition the Council's Capital budget will enable housing projects initiated by South Dublin County Council, worth over €430 million to commence in the coming twelve months and will include a number of Affordable Housing projects as well as a number of social housing schemes.

# SOUTH DUBLIN COUNTY COUNCIL

## BUDGET 2021

The Council's commitment to climate action is again highlighted in Budget 2021. 2,500 trees will be planted across the County in 2021, €500,000 has been made available to fund the landscape improvements of the N81, the roll-out of our County Pollinator Plan will continue and €300,000 has again been provided explicitly for a Climate Action Innovation Fund, which will help fund new and innovative projects to address climate change. 10,000 public lights have been upgraded under our LED lights replacement plan since 2015, with plans for a further 2,000 lights to be replaced in 2021.

The launch of Cycle South Dublin, our ten-year strategy for the development of cycling as a travel mode of choice, into the future. In addition, €250,000 has been included for the upkeep of cycle lanes bringing the overall budget to €400,000. A further €55,000 has been provided for data analysis including traffic counts and €40,000 for bicycle lockers.



# DECEMBER STATISTICS REPORT HIGHLIGHTS



## Corporate Performance and Change Management

Number of Customer Care queries received	8,061
Number of Customer Care queries closed within deadline	7,302
Web pages opened on Council websites	219,173
Social media reach	1,025,431
Social media engagement	32,971



## Economic, Enterprise and Tourism Development

LEO - Number of mentoring sessions	43
Grange Castle jobs sustained	5,328
Library visitors	7,260
Library items borrowed	45,924



## Environment, Water and Climate Change

Grass cut - hectares	876
Kilometers of road swept monthly	930
Derelict site/dangerous buildings inspections	31
Litter - Fines Issued	37
Tonnes of waste collected – litter and illegal dumping	640
Tonnes of waste collected from street bins	42



## Housing, Social and Community Development

Total Housing Stock	9,726
Total housing needs assessed	7,119
Housing maintenance requests received	1,483
Allocations - New Tenancies	19
Number of PRTB inspections	211
Number of actions taken in response to anti-social reports	759
Electrical inspections completed	130



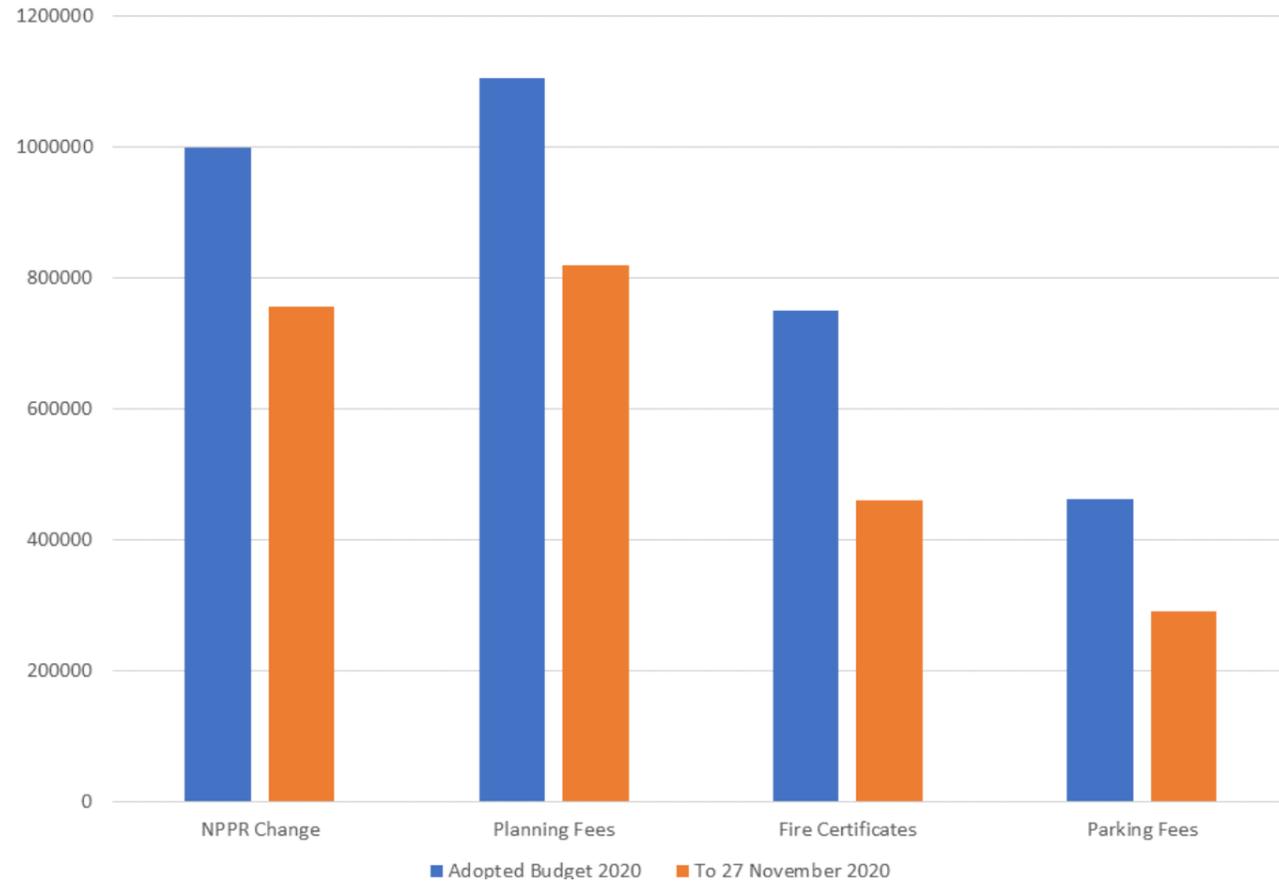
## Land Use, Planning and Transportation

Planning applications received - new housing units	454
Area of road repaired in m2	5,625
Planning enforcements initiated	14
Number of public lights in charge	30,256
Number of traffic lights repaired within 24 hours	84

You can view all statistics under the Statistics Report in the Manager's Report headed item of the monthly Council meeting.

# FINANCE REPORT

Income Sources via Cash Streams



You can view the full Finance Report under the Manager's Report headed item of the monthly Council meeting agenda.

# IMAGES OF THE MONTH



*The Kilcarbery Grange site*



*Infrastructure improvement works continue at Grange Castle Business Park*

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