

### **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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A look at the range of supports and initiatives the Council provides to support communities.







### **Traffic Management**

A significant amount of traffic repair and improvement works are undertaken by the Council each month. These works are identified by our elected members, the public and priority works identified by the team.

For each job a site inspection is needed, a design needs to be prepared, works agreed and then delivered on-site. Depending on the type of works needed, it would be carried out by a mixture of our traffic crews or by appointed contractors. The typical types of work include; road markings and lines, traffic signage, signal damage or malfunction, traffic calming and speeding works, works to address parking management issues, works to improve pedestrian and cycling safety concerns, as well as pedestrian crossings and drop off and pick up locations for schools.

In June 2021, a total of 16 traffic management jobs were completed and for July a total of 21 works are anicipated to be carried out.



### **Belgard North Link Road**

On Tuesday 29 June, the new Belgard North Link Road opened to traffic. There are still some minor works to complete around the edges of the site. This new road will form part of a wider integrated road network which will result in the creation of a new permeable street connecting up to Airton Road and further south to Tallaght Town Centre.

### **Dart + Southwest Project**

he DART+ Southwest Project is a rail improvement project that will provide a sustainable, electrified, reliable and more frequent rail service between Hazelhatch station and Dublin City

The project has reached the first public consultation stage where submissions were invited up to 23 June 2021. The Council produced a submission report outlining the important impacts the proposed project will have within the South Dublin County area. The submission included twelve main observations on the emerging preferred option that are of particular concern to our local authority.

Some of the key issues raised were:

- The importance of the project delivery timelines to support strategic development within South Dublin County.
- The location of the supporting ESB substations in the County.
- The generation and management of construction traffic by the project.
- Environmental management protocols within South Dublin County. For example, waste management.
- Key utility links required across the four track lines within South Dublin County.

A second round of public consultation will be held in late summer 2021 and the formal statutory consultation period will commence in Spring 2022.



### **Grant Awarded**

The Community Monuments Fund was established in 2020 to allow capital investment for essential conservation works to our valuable historic architectural sites and structures. Last year saw large scale conservation repair and stabilisation work being completed at St Finian's Esker, which was partially funded under the Community Monuments Fund

The CMF is running again this vear and South Dublin County Council has been awarded further funding for the St Finian's Esker site.



Further funding has been secured for the St Finian's site.



### Inspired@SouthDublin

The Inspired@SouthDublin summer series returns this year for activities throughout July and August including the following:

- Free Park Fit and Park Yoga sessions in Corkagh Park, Collinstown Park and Bulter McGee Park with separate sessions for adults and teenagers (with free yoga mats for the first 25 people signing up for Collinstown and Butler McGee Park sessions),
- Walking and Pilates sessions for Over 55's in Corkagh Park,
- Boxercise and yoga for 9-12 year old children in Brookfield Youth and Community Centre,
- An indoor rowing programme for men in North Clondalkin.

Further details at www.inspiredsouthdublin.ie or by emailing our sports partnership team at: info@ sdcsp.ie



### **Summer Projects 2021**

The Summer Projects programme supports local youth services and voluntary summer project organising committees with their supervised programmes of recreational and educational activities for young people. The Council provides financial supports to projects that have adapted their plans to provide a range of summer activities for local young people in line with public health guidelines.

### **Healthy Homes Project**

ealthy Age Friendly Homes (HAFH) is a new programme that is currently being rolled out in nine local authorities across the country, including South Dublin County Council. The project, which builds on the recent Rightsizing Strategy adopted by the Council, is a partnership between Age Friendly Ireland, a shared service centre hosted by Meath County Council operating the national age friendly programme in local authorities, and Sláintecare, the government's ten-year programme for reform of the health care sector.

The goal of the initial phase of the HAFG Programme is to support people to live in their own home with dignity and independence, for as long as possible, avoiding the

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premature transition into longterm residential care. The ambition is to enable older people to live longer, healthier lives in their own homes and to be and feel part of their own communities.

Once referred to the programme, an individual assessment of a person's health, housing and community, technology and social care needs will take place. Following this assessment, a bespoke person-centered suite of supports will be developed to meet their particular needs, preferences and priorities.

For further information please contact Edel Byrne, Local Coordinator - Age Friendly Homes South Dublin by emailing info@sdublincoco.ie



### **Housing First**

Housing First is an internationally recognised, evidence-based support to provide accommodation for long-term homeless individuals with complex needs who have been rough sleeping and/or in emergency accommodation. Since the introduction of the model in 2018, thirty-four Housing First tenancies have been created in South Dublin County in partnership with Peter McVerry Trust with nine of these tenancies commencing in 2021. Even where the tenancy is not sustained, these supports will continue to subsequent tenancies as part of ongoing actions to address homelessness.





#### **Small Business Scheme**

The expanded Small Business Assistance Scheme for COVID (SBASC) is now open for applications. Closing date for this scheme is 21 July 2021.

Phase 2 of this scheme has been expanded to include those that had previously been ineligible.

Businesses working from non-rateable premises are now eligible to apply and if they meet the other eligibility criteria of the scheme will receive a grant under this scheme of €4,000.

Businesses with a turnover between €20,000 and €49,999 are also now eligible to apply if they meet the other eligibility criteria and will receive a grant of €1,000. SBASC gives grants to businesses who are not eligible for the Government's COVID Restrictions Support Scheme (CRSS), the Fáilte Ireland Business Continuity grant or other direct sectoral grant schemes. This scheme aims to help businesses with their fixed costs, for example, rent, utility bills, security.



#### **Evaluations Committee**

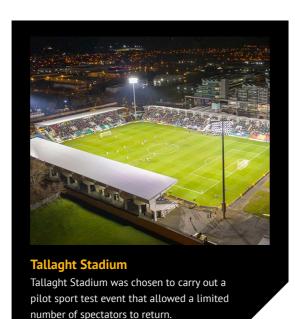
The Local Enterprise Office South Dublin held its Evaluations and Approvals Committee meeting on the 24 June, the third such meeting of the year. At the meeting, the committee approved applications from six businesses with a total grant support value of €179,500.00 which included support for eight jobs. This brings the total for 2021 to €583,634.42 approved in grants.

## Tallaght Stadium chosen as pilot venue for a return of spectators to sport

allaght Stadium was identified along with the RDS and Turners Cross as a test venue by the Government for the return of spectators to sports events as part of the re-opening of society. The FAI, IRFU and GAA formed a tri-party group who in turn worked directly with the Department of Tourism, Culture, Arts, Gaeltacht, Sport and Media, for the last number of months, the result of which saw two Shamrock Rovers fixtures in June selected as part of the series of outdoor pilot sport test events programme.

Match management for these games was overseen by Shamrock Rovers, the FAI, Tallaght Stadium management and Gardai. A total of 1,000 spectators were allowed at the selected games on 11 and 25 June. Patrons were allocated seating based on strict social distancing measures and had to adhere to specific guidelines regarding entry to the stadium. Each spectator attending required a ticket, with seats allocated and names recorded in case of a contact tracing requirement.

The pilot sport test events allow the different sports bodies and Stadium operators to put in place and test out the necessary safety measures to continue to allow for the safe return of spectators. It is hoped that as restrictions continue to ease the number of spectators allowed to attend League of Ireland fixtures will continue to increase.



#### **Behind Glass**

Behind Glass: An Interactive Historical Mystery was held in the Round Tower in Clondalkin.

Behind Glass was a live interactive historical mystery show. An item is broken in the museum and the spectators must work out a 'whodunnit' by solving puzzles and questioning the suspects. Among the suspects are Katharine Tynan, St.Cronan, the Vikings, and others. This was one of the first live events held by South Dublin Libraries since the start of the pandemic. It was a fully seated live event and each show was open to 25 people who had prebooked in pods of up to 4 people.





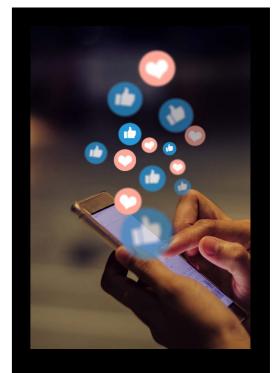
### **Women in Politics**

A multi-year Women in Politics campaign launches in July. The campaign aims to provide resources and information for women interested in participating in local government. The campaign will initially launch on social media and will promote a dedicated Women in Politics section on www.sdcc.ie.

South Dublin County Council is committed to encouraging women from all backgrounds to get involved in local politics. The dedicated website section will contain a range of election information, resources, studies and more to help women run for election.

These resources will continuously be added as we build towards the local elections in 2024 so make sure to check back on this page.

The campaign video was funded through a grant from the Department of Housing, Planning and Local Government to support females and diversity in Local Government.



### Social Media

South Dublin County Council social media posts were seen approximately nine million times in the first half of 2021. Council posts also recorded close to 300,000 interactions (likes, retweets etc) during that timeframe. The Council operates four primary social media channels spread across Facebook, Twitter, LinkedIn and Instagram.

### New Mayor and Deputy Mayor Elected

t the Annual Meeting of South Dublin County Council held on Friday 25 June 2021 in County Hall, Tallaght, Councillor Peter Kavanagh (Independent) representing the Clondalkin Electoral Area was elected Mayor of South Dublin County.

Councillor Peter Kavanagh was proposed for Mayor by Councillor Liam Sinclair (An Rabharta Glas – Green Left) and was seconded by Councillor Shane Moynihan (Fianna Fáil). Following a roll call vote Councillor Kavanagh was deemed elected to the Office of Mayor.

Tributes were paid to the outgoing Mayor, Councillor Ed O'Brien (Fianna Fáil) and Deputy Mayor, Councillor David McManus (Fine Gael), who thanked their fellow Councillors, Chief Executive, Daniel McLoughlin and the management and staff of the Council for their help and support during their term in office.

Councillor Laura Donaghy (Green Party) representing the Rathfarnham -Templeogue Electoral Area was elected Deputy Mayor. Councillor Donaghy was proposed as Deputy Mayor by Councillor Suzanne McEneaney (Green Party) and seconded by Councillor David McManus (Fine Gael).

Mayor Kavanagh thanked his fellow elected members for their support in his acceptance speech and pledged to work towards an inclusive South Dublin County that is welcoming for everyone.



A new Mayor and Deputy Mayor was elected at the Annual General Meeting in June.

### Mayor's Initiative

The outgoing Mayor of South Dublin County, Cllr Ed O'Brien, held his Mayor's Initiative event on Thursday 17 June to provide citizens of the County with a shared space to reflect on the year gone by.

A pillar of light was shone through the night from Tallaght Stadium as Mayor O'Brien invited people to take a moment to pause and step outside to pay tribute to all those who have worked on the frontline in the fight against COVID-19 and to reflect on what has been a difficult year for many.





### Two new playspaces open

South Dublin County Council opened two new playspaces in June, the first at Firhouse, Killinninny Road and another at Willsbrook in Lucan. Spirits were high on Tuesday 15 June when then-Mayor of South Dublin County, Councillor (Cllr) Ed O'Brien celebrated its official opening with the cutting of the ribbon. The Mayor was assisted by locally elected representatives Cllr Emma Murphy and Cllr Deirdre O'Donovan, with local residents and officials also in attendance.

On a sunny afternoon on 9 June then-Mayor O'Brien also officially opened the playground at Willsbrook Park. The Mayor paid tribute to the local community for their support of the popular park and playground at Willsbrook and the work of the Council staff in managing the project and maintaining the playground.



### **Anti-Dumping Initiative 2021**

The Council has successfully secured funding for several projects to be carried out in 2021 under the Anti-Dumping Initiative. The funded projects include the return of the mattress amnesty following a successful 2020 when over 1,000 matresses were collected. It also includes improvements to Kiltalown Lane and a pilot domestic bulky waste collection service called Bulky Waste Pilot Scheme.

### Outdoor activities in South Dublin County

utdoor activities will be the theme of this summer and South Dublin County Council is providing additional bins and outdoor facilities across the County. 25 temporary toilets have been installed across nine main public parks.

Thirty additional litter bins have been provided across the County and temporary bins have been deployed at peak times to cope with the rising demands and increased visitor numbers to our parks. Nine 1,100 litre commercial wheeled bins have been installed in car parks of the regional parks as a temporary measure.

Additional seating and picnic

tables are also being installed in several parks.

South Dublin County Council has adapted areas to temporarily permit commercial activity (fitness, yoga classes and more) in any outdoor space or park, persons organising such events are required to have permission authorising the use of the space at agreed times.

Other new activities include the recent addition of the callisthenics and function workout area at Tymon Park (Limekiln entrance). This is the first of its kind in Ireland designed to an international competition standard. The new facility has already become very popular with park users.



### **Pollinator Plan**

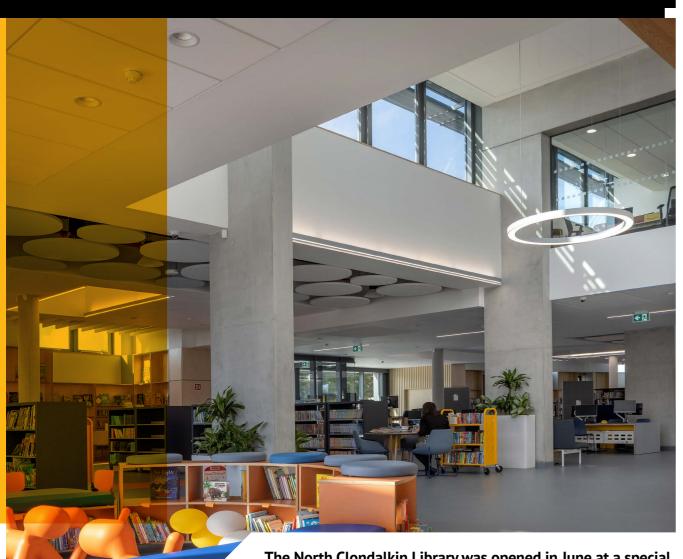
Providing access to nature is an important part of the Councils' provision of recreational amenity, studies have shown a decrease in cortisol (stress) levels for people when they have access to green space. The Council's Pollinator Plan is in force, with summer meadows now visible in our parks and open spaces, hosting a variety of flowers and grasses and supporting a large number of butterflies and other pollinators.

The Council will mow these meadows and bulb areas later in the year or in early Spring 2022 (depending on the meadow) and allow them to re-emerge in 2022.



in early Spring 2022 g on the meadow) and g to re-emerge in 2022.

# North Clondalkin Library Opened



The North Clondalkin Library was opened in June at a special launch event involving then-Mayor Ed O'Brien and Minister of State, Joe O'Brien.

he Minister of State with responsibility for Community Development and Charities, Joe O'Brien T.D, joined the Mayor of South Dublin County, Cllr Ed O'Brien, in North Clondalkin on 9 June to open South Dublin County Council's newest library.

North Clondalkin Library is a brandnew state of the art library in the heart of the community. The new library in North Clondalkin was identified as a priority in South Dublin County Libraries' Development Plan. An expanding youth population and a strong demand for services from local schools and community groups underpin the need for innovative services to be implemented for young people in this locality. The new library will be ideally positioned as a key resource in the North Clondalkin area to promote inclusiveness and help young people

Creative Studio

The North Clondalkin Library includes an innovative Creative Studio. The Creative Studio is a free to use digital maker space facilitating the creation of music recordings, podcasts, videos, digital stories, and oral histories. At the centre of this space is a recording booth providing library patrons with access to a variety of audio and video recording equipment and software.

The idea of introducing The Creative Studio is to engage with younger people in particular - energise them and upskill them in digital media, with a view to expanding their horizons on future career possibilities.

to reach their potential.

South Dublin County Council invested €5.2 million towards the overall cost of the library with the Department of Rural and Community Development contributing €1 million from its Library Capital Programme.

North Clondalkin Library includes a lecture hall, an exhibition space, a digital training suite as well as a smaller meeting room. Further facilities include easy to use self-service units, extensive seating, a large study area, an internet café, as well as printing and photocopying facilities, adult tablets and free wi-fi available throughout the building. The children's area has a dedicated storytelling area, junior tablets, a sensory wall for those with additional needs, child

friendly shelving and seating, and a wide range of books and DVDs for the little ones

Speaking at the launch, Cllr Ed O'Brien, then-Mayor of South Dublin County, said, "I am delighted to open the North Clondalkin Library today and to see the facilities the library will offer the local community."

Mayor O'Brien added, "The new library offers extensive seating and study areas, an Internet café, as well as 3-D printing, adult and childrens' tablets and free Wi-Fi throughout the building. North Clondalkin Library also offers a Changing Places facility, two accessible gardens for outdoor events and specialist sensory equipment for those with additional needs, making it a welcoming space for everyone."



# Council shows its Pride



uring Dublin Pride 2021, South Dublin County Council civic buildings and Tallaght Stadium flew the new, inclusive Pride flag which is the original six stripe design with the addition of colours to represent Trans, Bi, Poly, Ace, Progress, Pan, and Intersex communities.

The Council flew this new inclusive Pride flag as a symbol of the Council's commitment to the equality and inclusion of all the people of our wonderfully diverse and vibrant County. We do this to show our support, and respect, to LGBTQ+ members of our staff, County, and wider society.

South Dublin County Council has demonstrated a strong and ongoing commitment to LGBTQ+ equality and the LGBTQ+ community through a variety of actions. In addition to flying the Pride flag:

### Dublin Pride

The theme for Dublin Pride 2021 was Community, with a focus on promoting the vital work of LG-BTQ+ organisations and services.

A Virtual Pride Parade took place on Saturday, June 26 as part of a full-day entertainment programme. This was in addition to several events held online and at venues in Dublin.

The new South Dublin LGBT+ Network was featured in the official Dublin Pride Guide along with a History of the Pride Parade and a message from then-Mayor Ed O'Brien.

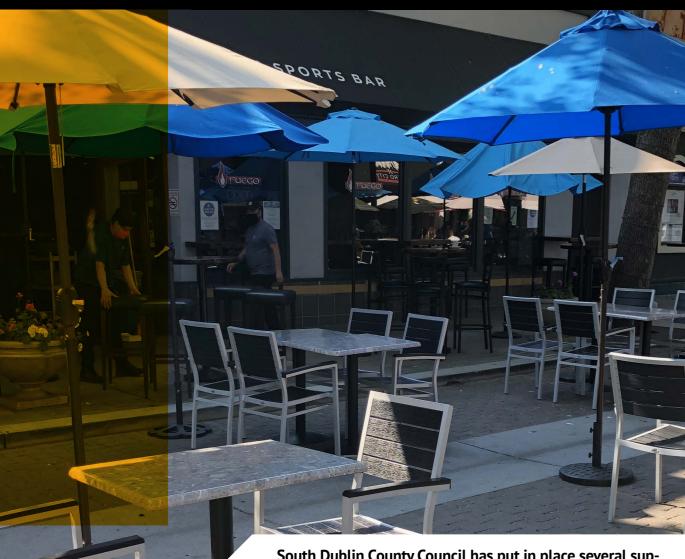
- The Transgender Pride flag is flown on 31 March for International Transgender Day of Visibility.
- Council policies, plans and staff forms are equality proofed on an ongoing basis.
- The South Dublin County Council LGBTQ+ Staff Network was founded in October 2017 and anyone who identifies on the LGBTQ+ spectrum who is directly employed by the Council, or who is a retired or former employee is welcome to join. Membership is free of charge.

On raising the flag in Tallaght Stadium, Mayor O'Brien said, "I'm delighted to be joined by my fellow councillors and members of the LGBTQI community to raise the Pride flag here at Tallaght Stadium. It's the first occasion on which the Pride Flag has been flown in Tallaght outside of the South Dublin County Council's offices. So it is a really proud day for the LGBTQI community and for South Dublin County Council."

He added, "I'm delighted to be bookending my year as Mayor by acknowledging the part that the LG-BTQI community play in South Dublin County."



# Supporting an Outdoor Summer



South Dublin County Council has put in place several supports and initiatives to encourage people to have an Outdoor Summer.

outh Dublin County Council has a number of supports available to businesses, the local community, artists and performers as we all try to 'Think Safe, Think Outdoors' this summer. We have gathered details on a few together here but you can find more details on www.sdcc.ie.

### Al Fresco Dining

The Council is accepting applications

for financial sup-port under a new scheme for tourism and hospitality businesses across the County. Hotels, cafes, restaurants, public houses or other tourism and hospitality businesses and attractions where food is sold for consumption on the premises can now apply for outdoor dining grants of up to €4,000 to help transform their outdoor dining capacity ahead of the summer months.

### Visit Our Parks

Our parks and playgrounds remain open throughout the County with our parks teams maintaining the spaces for everyone to enjoy. Anti-litter campaigns are taking place and a grant of €200,000 through the Litter Infrastucture Support Grant Scheme will see the Council invest in new and improved bins and more litter collection servic-es. Inspired@SouthDublin has also organised a range of events including free park yoga sessions and more.

You can find more details on outdoor summer activites in the Environment section of this report and a full list of our parks and other outdoor activities by visiting the Dublin Outdoors website.

The scheme will provide for up to 75% of the ex-VAT cost of equipment purchased/installed with a maximum allowable contribution of up to €4,000 per applicant and is open for applications until 30 September 2021. Over 80 applications had already been received in June with 47 having received approval in principle.

The Council has delivered a parklet in Lucan and have plans to deliver a large parklet in Templeogue Village over the summer as part of the village improvement scheme. We have also supported businesses in Rathfarnham to take over public realm space to provide areas for outdoor dining.

#### **Local Live Performance**

Since Minister Catherine Martin

announced the Local Live Performance Scheme for Local Authorities in support of local live performers, South Dublin County Arts Office has been working in partnership with local producers to plan a programme of live outdoor performance events for July, August and September around the County.

These will include Sunday morning jazz, afternoon blues/rock, early evening trad and classical concerts, dance and theatre performance and events for children, including a day featuring New Music South Dublin Commissions for Children. The deadline for the Arts Office call out to performers and producers is 20 July and more details can be found on www.sdcc.ie.







## The Council has a large selection of grants, initiatives and schemes available to support communities and community groups.

n working to support local communities, South Dublin County Council provide a wide range of grants and assistance to community, voluntary and sports groups across the County. Here we give a brief overview of just some of the supports on offer.

A total of 149 applications for South Dublin County Council's **Community Grants** programme in 2020 saw over €227,000 awarded to several community and voluntary groups. Community Grants include funding for:

- Community facility management assistance and running costs,
- Community group set-up costs, running costs and equipment,
- Local community events and festivals including

summer projects and family fun days.

We currently have a **COVID Resilience Grant** to help community organisations adapt and innovate in response to the impacts of the pandemic in their local area while our local community officers are also available to provide a range of additional advice and assistance.

Later this year the Council will launch the 2021 Community Infrastructure Fund which will provide up to €350,000 of funding for local community groups and sports clubs to assist with the cost of constructing new facilities or modernising and expanding existing facilities.

**Sports Development Grants** through the sports partner-

## A Focus on

# **Grants and Supports**

ship provide funding to clubs for equipment and operational costs as well as personal sports grants for local sportspersons representing Ireland at international level.

The Council's **Estate Management** team provide materials, equipment, funding for local events and advice for residents' groups in local authority estates while local **Tidy Towns** groups are supported in their work by the public realm, environmental awareness, roads, and community sections of the Council and with annual grant support totalling €100,000.

The Council also has a range of environmental grants and supports available. The **Social Credits Scheme** supports community groups and individuals who take ownership of their environment and improve their local area by



carrying out pro-environmental actions such as community cleanups, maintenance of community gardens, weeding of footpaths. In 2020, 57 groups signed up to the different elements of the Social Credits Scheme. This is on top of the countless weekly, fortnightly, and monthly collections that take place in the County.

The **Community Environment** Action Fund promotes sustainable development by supporting small-scale environmental projects at local level. Eligible projects should support and complement national environmental policies such as those on waste, biodiversity, climate change, air, water, sustainable development, and more. A wide variety of projects and schemes have been supported under the Fund in previous years including, for example, community gardens, allotments and compost schemes, rainwater conservation schemes, educational initiatives. South **Dublin County Council co-funds** projects with the Department of the Environment, Climate and Communications.

The Anti-Litter Anti-Graffiti
Awareness Grant funds public education and awareness initiatives in relation to litter and graffiti. A portion of the allocation is used to fund projects which have a particular focus on voluntary initiatives by community and environmental groups and on involving schools and young people in anti-litter and anti-graffiti awareness actions.

€300k Have Your Say is the Council's participatorary budgeting initiative that provides individuals and groups the opportunity to put their ideas and projects to a public vote for funding. The 2021 edition is soon to launch in Tallaght Central.

Further details on all of these supports and grants can be found on www.sdcc.ie.

## July Statistics Report

# Highlights



### Corporate Performance and Change Management

	6,533
Number of Customer Care queries closed within deadline	5,805
Web pages opened on Council websites	222,725
Social media reach	1,840,441
Social media engagement	64,258



### **Economic, Enterprise and Tourism Development**

LEO - Number of mentoring sessions	53		
Grange Castle jobs sustained	5,328		
Library items borrowed	63,527		
Library visitors online	4,559		



### **Environment, Water and Climate Change**

Trees pruned	455
Kilometers of road swept monthly	890
Derelict site/dangerous buildings inspections	25
Litter - Fines Issued	36
Tonnes of waste collected – litter and illegal dumping	569
Tonnes of waste collected from street bins	49



#### Housing, Social and Community Development

Total Housing Stock		
Total housing needs assessed	100	6,854
Visitors to leisure centers		1,176
Allocations - New Tenancies		39
Number of sports programme participants		10,331
Number of actions taken in response to anti-social reports		757
Electrical inspections completed		66



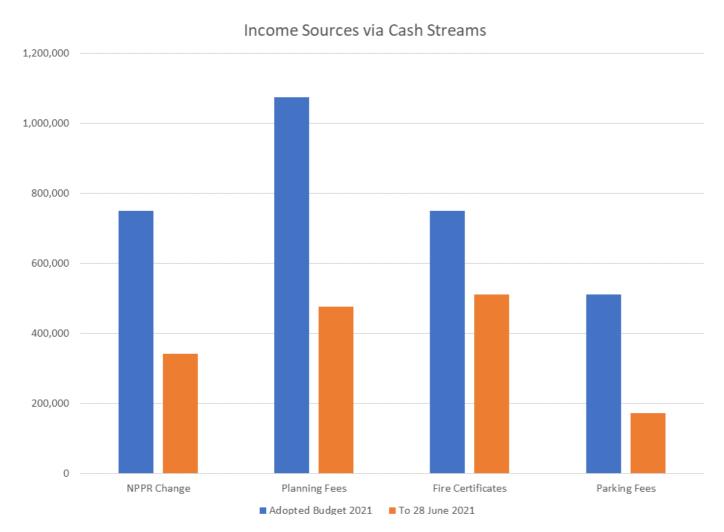
### Land Use, Planning and Transportation

Planning applications received - new housing units	311
Area of road repaired in m2	14,182
Planning enforcements initiated	27
Number of public lights in charge	30,242
Number of traffic lights repaired within 24 hours	57

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

### Finance

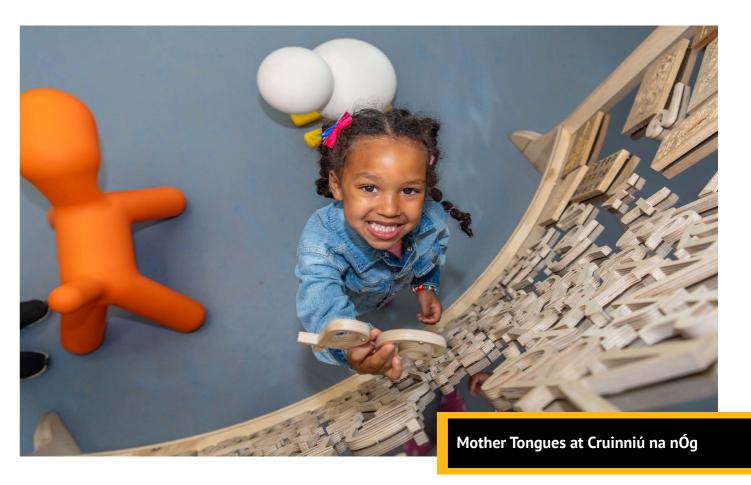
# Report



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

## Images of the

# Month





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