



**dlr
times**

SPRING 2024

LOOK INSIDE
Celebrating
30 years of dlr
Spring into Heritage

Taking Action Together

Adoption of New Climate Action Plan 2024-2029

 **dlr**
Comhairle Contae County Council

INFORMATION AND NEWS FROM DÚN LAOGHAIRE-RATHDOWN COUNTY COUNCIL

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libraries.dlrcoco.ie

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The dlr times is available in Irish at dlrcoco.ie/dlritimes

Message from An Cathaoirleach



Welcome to the latest edition of the *dlr Times*. This special celebrates the Council's 30th anniversary, providing a look at our history and our future.

In 1994 Dún Laoghaire Borough Council was abolished and Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown County Council was formed. I was first elected as a Councillor in 1991 and have been fortunate to see many changes over the last 30 years first-hand.

The county expanded beyond Dún Laoghaire and now covers from Rathfarnham down to Bray. 28 Councillors made up this new Council, an increase from 15 in Dún Laoghaire Borough Council. As time passed and the population increased additional Councillors were added, I am currently one of 40 representing 6 electoral wards.

A new Chain of Office was created to represent *O Chuan go Sliabh, from the Mountains to the Sea*. Its imagery represents different aspects of our larger County: a Viking ship for maritime areas, an oak branch for the ancient wooded nature, a triangle for part of the Dublin mountains and more.

While many changes have occurred, our vision is to continue to create a progressive and vibrant County that is attractive, inclusive and accessible for everyone.

CLLR. DENIS O'CALLAGHAN

CoCo Markets

PEOPLE'S PARK & DLR LEXICON, Dún Laoghaire
Sunday 11am-4pm

MARLAY PARK
Rathfarnham, Dublin 16

Saturday 10am-4pm & Sunday 11am-4pm



EMERGENCY TELEPHONE NUMBERS

Out of Hours: 01 677 8844
[after 5pm + weekends]

Homeless Persons: 1800 724 724
[after hours services]

Irish Water: 1850 278 278
[24 hours]

Your dlr parks



BLACKROCK PARK

TIME: Open Access

CABINTEELY PARK

TIMES: Sep 8am to 8pm | Oct 8am to 7pm | Nov – Jan 8am to 5pm | Feb 8am to 6pm | Mar 8am to 7pm | Apr 8am to 8pm | May – Aug 8am to 10.30pm

DEER PARK

TIME: Open Access

FERNHILL PARK & GARDENS

TIME: 9am - 6pm

KILBOGGET PARK

TIME: Open Access

KILLINEY HILL PARK

TIME: Open Access

MARLAY PARK

TIME: Sep 9am to 8pm | Oct 9am to 6pm | Nov – Jan 9am to 5pm Feb – Mar 9am to 6pm | Apr 9am to 9pm | May – Aug 9am to 10pm

PEOPLE'S PARK

TIME: Dec – Mar 8am to 4.30pm Apr – May 8am to 7.30pm | Jun – Sep 8am to 8pm | Oct – Nov 8am to 7.30pm

SHANGANAGH PARK

TIME: Open Access

Recycling information



BALLYOGAN RECYCLING

Ballyogan Road

TELEPHONE: 01 291 3600

TIME: Mon – Fri 8.30am to 5.30pm Sat 9.30am to 5.30pm | Sun/Bank Hols 10.30am to 5.30pm.

CLOSED: Christmas Eve – St. Stephen's Day, New Year's Day, Easter Sunday.

EDEN PARK RECYCLING

Summerhill Road, Glashule

TIME: Mon – Thur 8.30am to 4pm Fri – Sat 8.30am to 3.30pm.

CLOSED: Sunday, Bank Holidays, Public Holidays.

SHANGANAGH RECYCLING CENTRE

Cemetery Car Park, Shankill

TIME: Mon – Thur 8.30am to 4pm Fri – Sat 8.30am to 3.30pm.

CLOSED: Sunday, Bank Holidays, Public Holidays.

Your dlr libraries



dlr Lexlcon

Haigh Terrace, Dún Laoghaire

TEL: 01 280 1147

TIME: Mon – Thur 9.30am – 8pm
Fri to Sat 9.30am – 5pm | Sun 12noon – 4pm

BLACKROCK

Blackrock Town Hall, Main Street

TEL: 01 288 8117

TIME: Mon, Wed, Fri & Sat 10am – 1pm, 2pm – 5pm | Tue & Thur 1.15pm – 8pm

CABINTEELY*

Old Bray Road, Cabinteely

TEL: 01 285 5363

TIME: Mon, Wed, Fri* & Sat* 10am – 1pm, 2pm – 5pm | Tue & Thur 2pm – 8pm

DALKEY**

Castle Street, Dalkey

TEL: 01 285 5317

TIME: Mon, Wed, Fri & Sat 10am – 1pm, 2pm – 5pm | Tue & Thur 1.15pm – 8pm

DEANSGRANGE**

Clonkeen Drive, Deansgrange

TEL: 01 285 0860

TIME: Mon 10am – 5pm | Tue to Thur 10am – 8pm | Fri & Sat 10am – 5pm.

DUNDRUM

Upper Churchtown Road, Dundrum

TEL: 01 298 5000

TIME: Mon, Fri & Sat 10am – 1pm, 2pm – 5pm | Tue to Thur 10am – 8pm

SHANKILL*

Library Road, Shankill

TEL: 01 282 3081

TIME: Mon, Wed, Fri* & Sat* 10am – 1pm, 2pm – 5pm | Tue & Thur 2pm – 8pm

STILLORGAN

Unit J (First Floor), Stillorgan Shopping Centre

TEL: 01 288 9655

TIME: Mon, Tue & Wed 10am – 5pm | Thurs 10am – 8pm | Fri & Sat 10am – 1pm & 2pm – 5pm

* Libraries with an asterisk are open either Friday or Saturday – please contact them for further details.

** Libraries with *My Open Library* service which offers extended hours to library members outside normal opening hours, from 8am to 10pm, 7 days a week. Contact library staff for details on how to register.

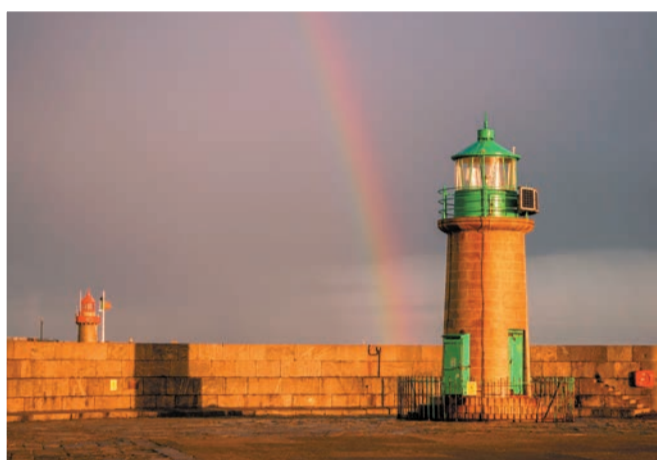
- On Bank Holiday weekends, all libraries are closed Saturday, Sunday & Monday.

HAVE YOUR SAY ON PUBLIC CONSULTATIONS

We are committed to ensuring your voice is heard when it comes to the decisions that affect you & your neighbourhood in Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown.

Our consultation and engagement platform dlrcoco.ie/haveyoursay allows you to have your say and tell us what your priorities and concerns are for the County.





Building a sustainable future

Adoption of New Climate Action Plan 2024-2029



The dlr Climate Action Plan for 2024-2029 has now been adopted by our elected members and sets out to actively inform and engage the residents, workers, and visitors to our County, on taking action through innovative programmes and partnerships.

Engaging with communities, businesses, and other sectors is crucial in achieving a positive behavioural shift towards climate action. By reducing greenhouse gas emissions and mitigating the impacts of climate change, we are working towards a sustainable future for 2030, 2050, and beyond.

The plan features a range of actions across six thematic areas:

ENERGY AND BUILDINGS	
TRANSPORT	
FLOOD RESILIENCE	
NATURE-BASED SOLUTIONS	
CIRCULAR ECONOMY AND RESOURCE MANAGEMENT	
COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT	

Through these actions, we aim to make a tangible difference in our County's response to climate change. Climate Change knows no boundaries, and collaboration with stakeholders in our County and surrounding local authorities is essential.

The Community Climate Action Fund, with over €883k available, will support community-led projects addressing energy, travel, food waste, recycling, and local climate action.

Key elements of our climate action strategy are buying electric vehicles where possible or, alternatively, vehicles powered by biodiesel, all street lighting being efficient, and maintaining its ISO 50001 standard for energy efficiency. We also promote a Digital First approach to delivering our services, putting as much of our business and application processes online as possible and providing opportunities for our employees to undertake blended working to improve their quality of life and reduce our travel related climate impacts.

The Decarbonising Zone of Dún Laoghaire and Blackrock will serve as a model for emission reductions and sustainable practices. By embracing the ten-minute neighbourhood concept, we aim to create a community where essential services are accessible by walking, cycling, or public transport. This approach will enhance the quality of life for all residents and visitors in our County.

We would like to extend our gratitude to the elected members, interested groups, and statutory bodies for their contributions to the development of this plan.

Scan the QR code to find out more or go to our website:

<https://www.dlrcoco.ie/climate-action-plan-2024>





A message from An Cathaoirleach, Denis O'Callaghan

2024 is underway and so are many projects and events to benefit citizens and communities in our County.

Last year we exceeded housing targets, delivering over 900 homes between the build programme, Part V, leasing, HAP and RAS. This is a great achievement that I hope to see continue. Progress is already being made on social housing delivery as we recently opened 27 Part V social homes in Kiltiernan Wood with Minister for Housing Darragh O'Brien and Tuath. 24 additional cost rental homes will be delivered in phase 1, with a further 48 homes early this year. I am glad to hear that the first affordable purchase homes in Shanganagh, the largest social and affordable scheme in the Country, will be available this year.

We are committed to making communities more environmentally responsible and energy-efficient and there was a fantastic turnout at the recent Community Climate Action Programme workshop. We have over €883k available for community climate projects and I look forward to seeing the implementation of innovative projects that work in hand with our Climate Action Plan 2024-2029. We also hosted the Zero Emission Buildings Summit earlier this year which was a great success.

As we look towards the future preservation of history is key. I was pleased to meet attendees at the inaugural dlr People's Archive Day, hosted by our Heritage Section, which provided expert information and advice on caring for family memorabilia and historic records.

Inclusion remains at the forefront of many projects. I recently launched the dlr Age-Friendly Magazine 2024, containing advice and guidance on a variety of issues for older people, and am looking forward children making use of a second generation, We Go Swing in Kilbogget Park, allowing more accessible play.

This year marks the 30th anniversary of Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown County Council. I was first elected a Councillor in 1991 and since then have seen the changes not only in the formation of the Council but in our County as well, as we expanded from Dún Laoghaire Borough to Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown.

I hope to see you join me at some of the many events and opportunities dlr will be holding in 2024.

CLLR. DENIS O'CALLAGHAN



A message from Chief Executive, Frank Curran

It has been a busy start to the year with the adoption of the Climate Action Plan by our elected members. The new plan sets out to actively inform and engage residents, workers, and visitors to our county on taking action through innovative partnerships and programmes. By working together, we can reduce greenhouse gas emissions and mitigate the impacts of climate change.

We have installed air quality sensors across the county, to further improve our understanding of local air quality. We aim to foster a collaborative effort towards cleaner and healthier air quality for all.

This year we been allocated €22 million from the NTA to progress 46 schemes to support the rollout of cycling and walking infrastructure. As part of our commitment to delivering improved tree cover and native forests, we aim to plant 10,000 native trees this Spring with the help of community volunteers.

This year we will be appointing a design Team to produce a Dún Laoghaire Harbour Masterplan to guide the development of the Harbour into the future. The design and planning phase of the proposed National Watersports Campus will start this year with the ultimate aim to increase participation in all watersports through the provision of high-quality infrastructure. This year 89 cruise ships will call to Dún Laoghaire Harbour bringing a total of 143,000 passengers and 61,000 crew to the area.

The Failte Ireland funded Killiney beach facility will proceed to Part 8 planning this year. The proposed facility will include hot showers, changing and toilet facilities, secure storage, induction spaces, equipment washdown and orientation points for watersports enthusiasts. New libraries are under construction at Stillorgan & Ballyogan and a proposed new swimming pool and gym at the Samuel Beckett Centre will go to Part 8 this year.

In housing, we aim to be on-site in Glenamuck and Ballyogan this year to progress social and cost rental homes. In Cherrywood 4,896 homes have been granted permission, with approximately 1,396 completed and 635 under construction. The accessibility ramp will be completed this year which will improve access to the Dún Laoghaire Baths. The contract is also due to be signed on the Glenamuck Distributor Road Scheme.

We have a variety of events coming up including the Eggscapade at Blackrock Park and Coastival returns this Summer. I hope you and your family will take some time to enjoy our parks and natural spaces as we start to enjoy the beginning of Spring.

FRANK CURRAN

Ratepayers Support Grant for 2024

Our Budget for 2024 retained numerous grants and supports for businesses including the Ratepayers Support Grant for eligible ratepayers whose 2024 rates bill is less than €20,000. Grant payments are graduated depending on the level of rates payable and the grant varies from 8% to 14%. To qualify for the Ratepayers Support Grant, you must pay in full by 1st July, 2024 or sign up to pay your rates by direct debit prior to that date. If you sign up to pay by direct debit and subject to meeting the other terms and conditions of the scheme, your grant will be applied automatically to your account this year by reducing your November and December direct debt payment.



Please scan the QR code for full details including terms and conditions or go to our website www.dlrcoco.ie/commercial-rates/ratepayers-support-grant-2024

Please contact us as soon as possible to put the necessary agreement in place to ensure you qualify. Telephone 01 205 4821 or 01 230 6621 or email: rates@dlrcoco.ie

Air sensors installed across Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown

We have installed air quality sensors across Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown, to further improve our understanding of local air quality. Currently, four sensors are available, with more to be added this year. These new sensors are specifically designed to measure crucial air pollutants such as Particulate Matter (PM) and Nitrogen Dioxide, as well as providing real-time weather data. With the installation of these sensors, we aim to foster a collaborative effort towards cleaner and healthier air quality for all. The data collected will empower people who live, work, and visit the county with insights into air quality, assisting in the development of informed decisions and proactive measures to address air pollution concerns. The sensors are available to view on airly.org or download the AIRLY APP to your mobile via Google play Store or App Store. More information about air quality is available on dlrcoco.ie



10,000 trees to be planted this Spring!

Our Parks Department have been busy working with volunteers to make a significant impact to our local environment. As part of our commitment to delivering improved tree cover and native forests, we have been planting native trees in February and March 2024.

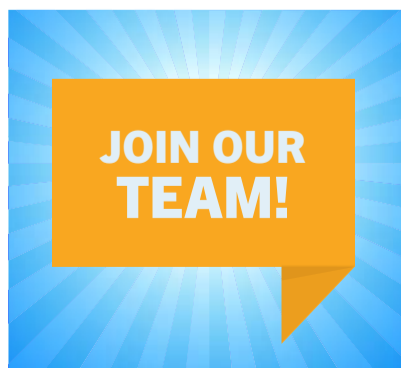
Our local volunteers are making a direct, positive, and long-term contribution to their local area. There are many benefits to having more trees including improving air quality, habitat for wildlife and offsetting carbon.

Find out more by emailing us at parksconsultations@dlrcoco.ie

Join our team!

Dún Laoghaire Rathdown County Council is your workplace of choice if you are energetic, creative and target driven. Avail of excellent career opportunities across our administrative, professional, creative, technical and general services.

Dún Laoghaire Rathdown County Council provides a wide range of services to citizens, businesses and visitors to the County. Broaden your horizons and extend your experience while playing your part in delivering our challenging and exciting work programmes. www.dlrcoco.ie/job-listing



Increased Cost of Business (ICOB) Grant available for small & medium sized businesses!

As part of Budget 2024, the Government signed off on a package of €257m for the Increased Cost of Business (ICOB) Grant as a vital measure for small and medium businesses. This initiative is funded by the Department of Enterprise, Trade & Employment.

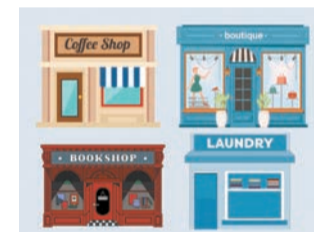
The grant is available to qualifying businesses as a contribution towards the rising costs faced by businesses and is based on the value of your Commercial Rates bill from 2023.

For qualifying businesses with a 2023 Commercial Rate bill of <€10,000, the ICOB grant will be paid at a rate of 50% of the business's Commercial Rate bill for 2023 and for qualifying businesses with a 2023 Commercial Rate bill of between €10,000 and €30,000, the ICOB grant will be €5,000.

Eligible businesses will receive a once-off grant payment. The amount of the grant payable to eligible businesses is based on the value of the Commercial Rates bill the business received in 2023. However, it is not a Commercial Rates waiver and businesses should continue to pay their Commercial Rates bill as normal.

Find out more at dlrcoco.ie

Calling all business owners! Apply now to improve your shopfront



Business owners carrying out shopfront improvements may be eligible for a grant of 50 per cent of the cost (before VAT) of the works, subject to a maximum grant of €5,000 per premises. Scan the QR code for more details or go to our website:

<https://dlrcoco.submit.com/show/48>



dlr Sports Partnership

The dlr Sports Partnership Team is excited to announce their continued efforts in promoting physical activity and sports participation in the community. Last year, they organised and delivered a wide range of training courses, workshops, and targeted physical activity programmes for all ages, reaching over 11,200 participants.



The team supported 37 sports clubs with sports grants and secured over €171,500 in dormant accounts funding. Active Cities Dublin initiatives such as BoxUp, Map my Park, Boules Courts, Be Active Night, and Teen Space were also successfully launched. Looking ahead to 2024, the dlr Sports Partnership Team has even more plans in store.

Don't miss out on the opportunity to get active and be a part of this growing community. Find out how you can get involved by visiting www.dlrsportpartnership.ie



Historical map of the Old County Boundary

Your County's Evolution!

The origins of the Irish county structure can be traced back to the Anglo-Norman invasion of the 12th century. The boundaries we are familiar with today were fully in place by 1606 with the formation of Wicklow. In the mountains, the O'Byrnes (later owners of Cabinteely House) and the O'Tooles had held out against the new county order. What is now Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown had been partly within The Pale and partly "Beyond The Pale"- parts of the Pale boundary ditch are still visible here.

By the 19th century, the area was made up of four Townships and one Rural District: Blackrock, Dalkey, Killiney & Ballybrack, Kingstown (Dún Laoghaire from 1920) and Rathdown Rural District no. 1. Three major administrative changes have given us the current county:

- In 1930, the four townships became Dún Laoghaire Borough Corporation (with fifteen elected members).
- In 1985, three electoral counties were formed and sat as Dublin County Council with a total of seventy eight elected members (of which fifteen specifically represented Dún Laoghaire Borough Corporation).
- In 1994, Dublin County Council was abolished, and the three current counties: Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown, Fingal and South Dublin were formed. The new Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown County Council met for the first time on 10th January 1994, with all twenty-eight elected representatives present. Their number increased to forty at the time of the 2014 Local Elections.

Following extensive remodeling and expansion, Dún Laoghaire Town Hall became Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown County Hall, and officially opened in 1997, when Council staff, who had been scattered in temporary offices throughout the town, were finally brought together. At the same time, an office was opened in Dundrum to accommodate the needs of people throughout the enlarged County. County Hall was further renovated in 2018, and a new Council Chamber was opened to accommodate all of the Elected Members, as well as customers.



While Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown is the smallest administrative county in the State by area (126.1km²), at the time of the last Local Elections, in 2019, we hit the national headlines as the first in the history of the State to have 50:50 split of men and women Councillors.

The county stretches from the outskirts of Bray to the edge of Booterstown Marsh on the coast, with UCD and Marlay Park at the boundaries with South Dublin and Dublin City, and Tibbradden and Glencullen at its highest points – truly Ó Chuan go Sliabh. The new County Crest was adopted, after public consultation, in 1993, with symbols representing aspects of the county's history;

- the Oak Branch symbolizes nature and woodlands, with a commitment to conservation,
- the Irish Crown recalls King Laoghaire and the Borough crest,
- the Shamrock comes from the old seal of the Rathdown area,
- the Viking Ship recalls the coastal history and the Mountain and the Waves tie in with the area and with the County Motto.

In 2008, the official Heraldic Crest was complemented by the introduction of the dlr brand, which visually represents both the Crest and the Motto, and is used universally today.



Grant of the 1993 Coat of Arms by the Chief Herald's Office



Elements from the dlr brand, introduced in 2008

Looking ahead to the future

As we look to the future, Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown County Council will continue to invest in resilient local economies and enhance the quality of life for our residents. With a population of over 233,000 and anticipated growth to 250,000 by 2031, the county offers some of the best natural, cultural, and sporting amenities in Ireland. Our current budget of €275 million enables us to deliver over 1,000 services, including housing, planning, transport, infrastructure, parks, culture, creativity, environmental protection, and climate action. This also allows us to provide numerous community amenities that enrich the lives of our citizens.

Housing

Our County Development Plan has zoned land to accommodate up to 26,000 new homes over the next five years. It includes growth in the existing neighbourhoods, the new mixed-use district of Cherrywood and the strategic employment location of Sandyford. The theme of connectivity continues with the concept of the ten-minute neighbourhood, where people can walk, cycle or use public transport to access their day-to-day needs in new residential communities at Old Connaught, Rathmichael, Woodbrook, Shanganagh, Kiltiernan, Glenamuck and Ballyogan. The new town of Cherrywood, Ireland's largest urban infrastructure project located in the Cherrywood Strategic Development zone, is projected to have a population of 25,000 residents, more than 8,000 new homes, a retail-led town centre, six new schools, three major parks, and three LUAS stops.



Construction at Shanganagh Castle 2024



Climate First

Our 'Climate First' approach is fundamental to development; our Decarbonising Zones in Blackrock and Dún Laoghaire will become exemplars for locally led projects as we play our part in transitioning to a climate resilient, biodiversity rich, environmentally sustainable and climate neutral economy by 2050. We are the first Dublin Local Authority to comply with the ISO50001 Energy Management System. We are currently retrofitting all of our social housing stock and 100% of our public lighting will be LED. We are upgrading our public buildings, swimming pools and social housing with sustainable options as we move away from fossil fuels. This is highlighted by our award-winning

housing for older persons at Beaufort which saw an increase in BER ratings from an E1 to an A3 rating and a significant reduction in calculated energy use of approx 80% on the pre-energy usage. Construction continues at Shanganagh Castle Estate on 597 social, cost rental and affordable homes; the largest residential scheme in Ireland certified to the passive house standard, with the scheme's hot water and low heating demand provided by a heat pump-based district heating system.



Active Travel, Air Quality and Better Public Spaces

With more than 20,000 users per week, our award-winning Coastal Mobility Cycle (CMR) Route in Dún Laoghaire town connects urban villages, bathing places, walks and parks and encourages local commuter and recreational cycling. Our Active Travel routes will continue to build more effective linkages to connect our local towns, improve air quality and create better public spaces.

Dún Laoghaire Harbour

Dún Laoghaire Harbour is embarking on an exciting transformation that will pave the way for a vibrant and inclusive future. The Harbour Master Plan and the establishment of a National Watersports Campus will revolutionise the harbour, turning it from a traditionally industrial port into a people-focused space that benefits the entire community. This transformation aligns with the town's vision of becoming a premier maritime, tourism, and economic destination. These initiatives will not only enhance the harbour's appeal but also contribute to the overall growth and prosperity of Dún Laoghaire and surrounding areas.



Parks, Playgrounds and Recreational Spaces

From west to east, our parks, playgrounds and recreational spaces focus on nature and wellbeing for residents and visitors including our flagship parks at Cabinteely and Marlay Park, three new parks in Cherrywood and Fernhill Parks and Garden which has a unique collection of gardens, woodland and agricultural land.



With more than 1,100,000 visitors to our libraries annually, work has commenced on new libraries in Stillorgan and Ballyogan, including a wide range of cultural and creative opportunities, dedicated sensory spaces and a music studio.

Maintaining our emphasis on delivering our corporate priorities will give everyone in our communities, irrespective of age or ability, the opportunity to connect, participate and enjoy life to the full, ensuring that our county is one of the best places in which to live, work and visit well into the future.

Highlights over the years



Opening of Ballyogan Operations Depot 2006



dlr Lexicon opens 2014



Olympic Annalise Murphy Homecoming 2016



100 years Commemoration RMS Leinster 2018



Dún Laoghaire Baths 2022



Civic Hub opens 2018



Fernhill Park and Gardens opens 2018

dlr staff profile



John Murphy

WORKPLACE PARTNERSHIP
FACILITATOR, CORPORATE AFFAIRS

What did you do after leaving School?

My mother wished that I would be a priest or a jockey, alas I disappointed her as I moved in mixed work circles for years. After leaving boarding school in Clara at 15, I trained in Rockwell Catering College for two years and became a Silver Service Waiter. Then I became a Farm Labourer for a number of years, for a short time a Traveling Insurance Sales-man for an American Company. I then joined Dublin Corporation in 1982 as a Tractor Driver and in 1999 I started as Workplace Partnership Facilitator which I love.

What do you have for Breakfast?

I was never a breakfast man, when I first joined Dublin Corporation, it was a cup of tea and a cigarette sitting by a cosingas heater. I have now advanced to coffee and a slice of toast with real butter and marmalade with underfloor heating.

What do you do?

I was appointed as a Neutral Facilitator to work inhouse equally and fairly with both Unions, Management & Staff for areas of mutual gains achieved by consensus.

What is your typical work day?

While always busy, as I work solo, I don't have one a typical day. It varies day by the day, as the Partnership Committee decide on project activities and events which I progress.

Dún Laoghaire Rathdown County Council is 30 years old this year, what are some of the major changes have you seen?

Probably better working conditions, for example back in the day many of us outdoor workers sat in tin huts, PPE was limited and poor, great to see them days gone! Also, the breaking down of barriers between indoor/outdoor staff. Our Partnership Committee consists of grades from G.O.s & C.O.'s to members of the Management Team, however at the meeting table, they are all equal voices and options.

What is the most difficult part of your Job?

It was tough during Covid as real people around a table was a key part of many Partnership successes over the years. Team or Zoom does not replace human connection face to face. As long as there is something that needs to be done, I am on duty!

What is the most rewarding part of your Job?

Loving the Job is number one, working with amazing people across the services, the support from both Unions and Management for the Partnership process here in dlr, seeing so many staff over the years really appreciate the benefits of same.

Favourite Places to visit?

Deansgrange graveyard – I call once a week to visit my mum's grave reflecting on great memories of old, always walk different routes, pass graves of former colleagues such as Larry Galligan, Tommy Mullally, a quick hello there, a short prayer there, the place is buzzing with history, memories, sadness and an acknowledgement it's the final stopping point. Then into the amazing tea room where Patricia & Fiona (always with a smile) serve freshly baked on-site real pastries, real tea no fancy coffees, no click and pay, only real money.

What's the last thing you do before you go to sleep?

Turn out the light!

Public Information

Bike Week 2024, 11-19 May

Bike Week is an annual event celebrating cycling and its benefits while promoting sustainable transportation. Whether you want to get back to cycling, use your bike more, or give cycling a go, Bike Week has something for everyone.

A key focus of Bike Week in Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown is to provide people of all ages and abilities with a variety of cycling events and to create awareness of cycling as an enjoyable form of transport and physical activity.

Last year's dlr Bike Week programme included a wide variety of events throughout the County, including bike safety, mountain bike sessions, sofa to saddle programme, disco cycle, training workshops for children, women only & parent and child sessions and much more!

Full details of the dlr Bike Week 2024 programme will be available via our Website and Social Media channels soon.



Sofa to Saddle programme participants



dlr Festival of Inclusion 2024



Our Community Section are seeking activities and events as part of dlr Festival of Inclusion / Féile le Chéile 2024.

Small Grants Scheme available - more information & application forms available from community@dlrcoco.ie / 01 205 4893

Closing date for receipt of applications for activities & events: Thursday 28th March 2024.

Active Movement and Healthy Ireland at Your Library



We have some exciting news regarding an upcoming programme later this year in collaboration with our colleagues in dlr Sports Partnership and in association with Healthy Ireland at Your Library. While we are continuing to host Active Movement classes for adults wanting to improve their flexibility and fitness levels with Lisa Redmond from Active Academy, we want to increase opportunities for participants to continue their fitness journey. Under Lisa's guidance, a continuation programme will offer those who have completed a series of classes in the library the opportunity to continue building the strength and confidence to participate in the wide range of activities available through dlr Sports Partnership. Watch this space!



Spring into Heritage

Spring into Heritage returns again this year and will run from 25 March until 28 April.

Free guided tours of major local landmarks include:

- National Maritime Museum
- Fernhill Park & Gardens
- Dalkey Castle and Heritage Centre
- James Joyce Tower and Museum
- Cabinteely House
- Seapoint Martello Tower
- The Oratory
- Marlay House

Talks include the Lead Mines & our historic houses. Booking via events.dlrcoco.ie

dlr Age Friendly Magazine 2024 now available!

The Age-Friendly Programme of Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown (dlr) County Council and the County Age-Friendly Alliance have launched the 2024 edition of the dlr Age-Friendly Magazine which is aimed at our older community. The magazine is funded by Creative Ireland, Healthy Ireland and Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown County Council and the main theme of this year's magazine is promoting 'Good Brain Health'.

The free 84-page full colour magazine is packed with information on services and programmes to encourage and support us to take part and enjoy the many age-friendly social, cultural, creative, educational, leisure and fitness activities and services that are available across the county; activities which are the foundations to positive ageing and Good Brain Health. You can pick up your free hard copy of the magazine from all eight Library branches, dlr County Council Offices, community centres, primary care centres, nursing homes, day care centres and shopping centres around the county.

If you would like a copy to be sent to you in the post, contact our Community Section on (01) 205 4893 / email community@dlrcoco.ie. <https://online.flippingbook.com/view/94356221/> community@dlrcoco.ie.



Fruity Bodies An exhibition by Joanna Hopkins

Municipal Gallery, 3rd floor, dlr Lexlcon, Dún Laoghaire. Admission free, from 10 March

Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown County Council is delighted to present Fruity Bodies, an exhibition of new and recent art works by Joanna Hopkins. It is funded by The Arts Council of Ireland and supported by Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown County Council. Fruity Bodies explores folklore through landscape and the human form. Hopkins uses foraged materials and plant dyes from hedgerows and fields to create sculpture, embroidery, photography and video. She focuses on the female body, exploring native plants and is inspired by her local natural environment. Joanna Hopkins is an Irish artist who has exhibited across Ireland, the UK, Europe, China and the US.



On The Rag Tree, Joanna Hopkins

The Gallery Learning Programme offers a range of events, talks and workshops. For further information go to <https://www.dlrcoco.ie/arts>



Open Art Studio, courtesy of Kim Jenkinson

Open Art Studio for Adults

Project Room (beside the Gallery), Level 3, dlr Lexlcon. Free; just drop-in, no booking required.

- Friday 22 March, 11am-1pm (One week earlier due to Good Friday)
- Friday 26 April, 11am-1pm

Our popular Open Art Studios for Adults will continue for the Spring. Join us - it doesn't matter if you are new to creative explorations or a practicing artist. Kim Jenkinson will be on hand to help as little or as much as you'd like, materials and space are free. An enjoyable, social and relaxing experience for all.

Nature and Place

Nature and Place is a new initiative of the Arts Office. Three artists were awarded funding to observe, explore, and respond to the public forests in Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown - Ticknock, Tibbradden, Barnaslingan, Carrickgollogan, Kilmashogue and Ballyedmonduff. The artists have been working on their projects since December 2023 and will be completing them in March. The artists are photographer Martin Healy, who is capturing a series of photographs during walks in the six forests; multimedia installation artist Meadhbh O'Connor, whose sonic artwork will be based on the six forests; and sound artist and composer Robert Coleman who is working with dancer and choreographer Laura Sarah Dowdall to create a soundwalk that explores the soundscape and environment of Barnaslingan Wood. This soundwalk will be presented live in March, when the two artists will guide audiences on walks through the forest. The projects are supported by Coillte and the Dublin Mountains Partnership.

For more information, keep an eye on our social media channels and website: <https://www.dlrcoco.ie/arts>



Ticknock No.9, 2024, Black and White photograph, Martin Healy

Neurodiverse Studio Saturdays at dlr Lexlcon



These Saturdays host a variety of workshops tailored to children with additional needs or neurodivergence. For additional information or to join the mailing list for these events, please contact the Library Culture team libraryculture@dlrcoco.ie

Saturday 6 April - SENSEable Kids sensory games and play

Toddler Time at dlr Lexlcon

Every Wednesday 10.30-11.30am. Children's Library, Level 4.

Come along for storytime with staff, facilitated craft and make sessions, rhythm and rhyme sessions as well as open play sessions each Wednesday until the end of May.



dlr Yarnspinners Storytelling Circle for Adults

Yarnspinners is back on the third Wednesday of the month for those interested in listening to, and sharing, stories, both traditional and modern. Refreshments will be available from 6pm. No booking is required and all are welcome to sit in and listen, or contribute if you wish!

- Wed 20 March, 6.30pm, the Studio Theatre, dlr Lexlcon with guest storyteller Joe Brennan
- Wed 17 April, 6.30pm, the Lab, Level 3, dlr Lexlcon (guest storyteller tbc)

Active Movement for Adults with Active Academy

Starting Tuesday 2 April for 5 weeks, 11.00am – 12.00pm, Studio Theatre, dlr Lexlcon.



As part of our Healthy Ireland at Your Library programme, we are delighted to be partnering again with Lisa from Active Academy for these Active Age classes. These are functional fitness classes designed to help with everyday life and suitable for older adults of all abilities. All exercises can be modified and performed at your own level. To book, email libraryculture@dlrcoco.ie



Spring into Storytime

Spring into Storytime with dlr Libraries during the month of April, where we will be hosting storytime and craft sessions, both in-person and online! Spring into Storytime is one of the 4 main strands of the national Right to Read programme, which aims to promote reading and literacy resources for people of all ages with a special emphasis on reading development for children through Storytime sessions. Keep an eye on our website and social media channels for more details.

Aistear & Your Local Library

dlr Libraries are delighted to launch a new series of resources specifically designed for Early Years Educators. This new Story Sack collection and series of online videos aim to explore and create increased opportunities for early childhood educators to engage with their local library in support of their application of Aistear: The Curriculum Framework for Early Childhood Education (2009). We are delighted to have had the opportunity to work with Clara Maria Fiorentini of the Marino Institute of Education in the research, design and delivery of these resources, all of which have been funded through the Creative Ireland programme.



The collection of 14 story sacks includes titles suitable for babies and older preschoolers as well as a number of titles in Irish. Each contains a contemporary picture book as well as various extension resources to support the theme of the story sack. The Story Sacks are available for loan to Early Years Educators in the Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown area in possession of a Teacher's card.

The accompanying series of three videos designed and presented by Clara discuss various themes relating to play-based learning, literacy development and children's literature. These videos are available via Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown County Council's YouTube channel

<https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLCFdEA0Kr5po5veqWIs8dPZ5zb2b79HJR>

For more information and a list of the available story sacks, please contact libraryculture@dlrcoco.ie



One Dublin, One Book Event: The Role of the Sea in Contemporary Irish Literature

Thursday 25 April, 6.30pm - 7.30pm. Studio Theatre, dlr Lexlcon. Bookings via Eventbrite.

Part of the One Dublin, One Book programme of events for 2024, join Louise Nealon in conversation with Sheila Armstrong, Olivia Fitzsimons and Aingeala Flannery as they meet to discuss the role of the sea in their lives, both on and off the page, the writers will meet to discuss their relationship with the sea, their literary influences and more.

Press Photographer of the Year Exhibition

11 March - 9 April. Level 3, dlr Lexlcon

Now in its 46th year, the Press Photographers' Association of Ireland's, AIB Press Photographer of the Year Award, celebrates the very best of Irish press photography. The exhibition features over 100 winning and highly-commended photographs covering Irish life, at home and abroad, during 2023 and highlights the dedication and skill of Ireland's top press photographers.



Burning City, Alan Betson, Winner AIB Press Photographer of the Year Award, 2024

Bealtaine Festival and dlr Festival of Inclusion



dlrLibraries are delighted to be participating in the dlr Festival of Inclusion, this year coinciding with Bealtaine, with a series of events supporting the theme of Building Friendships in the Community. Join us for sessions with musician Ruairí O'Shea and art workshops with creative Kim Jenkinson as well as storytelling workshops and events to mark Africa Day on May 25th. For the full line-up of events throughout all branch libraries as well as fortnightly updates via email, please register for the dlrLibraries' ebulletin. <https://libraries.dlrcoco.ie/events-and-news/dlr-libraries-ebulletin>

dlr Libraries: services to Schools



dlr Libraries offer a range of services, resources, and outreach facilities available to all teachers and students in the dlr area. These are available to all pre-schools, primary, second level and special educational needs schools located in the dlr area. Visit our website libraries.dlrcoco.ie to find out more.

Teachers' Card

A special category of membership is available to teachers which allows you to supplement your classroom library with stock from any of our libraries. All teachers that work in the Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown area can avail of our teachers' card facility from their local dlr Library. To obtain one of these you must present proof of address (a current utility bill, etc.) and a letter from your school principal on headed paper stating that you are currently employed there. You may collect items and books from the branch library of your choice. The Teachers' card allows you to borrow up to 40 items for an extended period of 12 weeks.

Classroom Sets

We have over 6,000 items in our dlr classroom set collection. The sets are of varying sizes, from 10 to 30 copies, some suitable for primary school classes, some for smaller secondary school groups. Sets may be borrowed for 3 months at a time. Teachers who wish to borrow classroom sets must have a Teachers' Card. You may collect the books from the branch library of your choice. There is a complete list of the Classroom Sets collection on our website here: <https://libraries.dlrcoco.ie/find-and-renew/book-choices/book-sets> and our library locations are listed here: <https://libraries.dlrcoco.ie/using-your-library/find-your-library> Each book is accompanied by a short description and a recommended reading age. Please note that the recommended reading age is advisory only, many titles may suit slightly younger or older age groups than the one given. Please email your request for Classroom Sets to librarybib@dlrcoco.ie

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Voter.ie



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