

# dlr times

WINTER 2024

LOOK INSIDE

Update on Major  
Capital Projects

Winter Service Plan

## Winter Wonders

Experience the magic  
of Christmas in dlr

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## Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown County Council

County Hall, Marine Road, Dún Laoghaire, Co. Dublin, Ireland. A96 K6C9

**PHONE:** 01 205 4700

**EMAIL:** [info@dlrcoco.ie](mailto:info@dlrcoco.ie)

### Dundrum Local Area Office

Dundrum Office Park, Main Street, Dundrum, D14

Monday – Friday 9:30am to 12:30pm and 1:30pm to 4:30pm

**PHONE:** 01 205 4880

**EMAIL:** [info@dlrcoco.ie](mailto:info@dlrcoco.ie)

## [dlrcoco.ie](http://dlrcoco.ie)

[dlrtourism.ie](http://dlrtourism.ie) | [events.dlrcoco.ie](http://events.dlrcoco.ie)  
[libraries.dlrcoco.ie](http://libraries.dlrcoco.ie)

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Designed by dlr

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To receive the **dlr times** by email please contact us: [commsoffice@dlrcoco.ie](mailto:commsoffice@dlrcoco.ie)

The dlr times is available in Irish at [dlrcoco.ie/dlrltimes](http://dlrcoco.ie/dlrltimes)

## Message from An Cathaoirleach

Welcome to the latest edition of the dlr Times!

As we gear up for winter, our Winter Service Plan is in full swing, ensuring safer journeys across 220km of treated roads. With a fleet of 10 gritters, our team is working tirelessly to keep the County

moving during frosty mornings and icy evenings. We're also excited to update you on our Major Capital Projects which all contribute to a more connected and vibrant Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown.

We have plenty of events on over Christmas, including Wonderlights at Marlay Park, ice skating in Dún Laoghaire and our fairy light walks are back in Cabinteely Park and Marlay Park.

Recently, we launched our 2024–2030 Tree and Urban Forestry Strategy, highlighting our commitment to urban forestry and community engagement. Together, let's nurture our urban forest for generations to come.

Looking ahead, mark your calendars for New Year's Eve! Join us at Dún Laoghaire Harbour for a spectacular fireworks display at 8:00 pm, accompanied by live music, food stalls, and a vibrant Festival Zone at Newtownsmith.

Stay informed via our website and social channels!

**CLLR. JIM O'LEARY**



## CHRISTMAS AND NEW YEAR

Our offices at County Hall, Marine Road, Dún Laoghaire & Dundrum are closed at 12.30pm on 24 December and will re-open 2 January 2025. Please contact 01 677 44 44 if you have an emergency.

## 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.

## 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](http://dlrcoco.ie/haveyoursay) allows you to have your say and tell us what your priorities and concerns are for the County.



## Your dlr libraries



### dlr Lexicon

Haigh Terrace, Moran Park, Dún Laoghaire, Co. Dublin. A96 H283

TEL: 01 280 1147

TIME: Mon – Thur 9.30am – 8pm  
Fri & Sat 9.30am – 5pm | Sun 12pm – 4pm Self-service only

### BLACKROCK

Main St., Blackrock, Co. Dublin. A94 YF76

TEL: 01 288 8117

TIME: Mon, Wed, Fri & Sat 9.30am – 5pm | Tue & Thur 1.15pm – 8pm

### CABINTEELY\*

Old Bray Road, Cabinteely, Dublin 18. D18 W773

TEL: 01 285 5363

TIME: Mon, Wed, Fri\* or Sat\* 9.30am – 5pm | Tue & Thur 1.15pm – 8pm

### DALKEY\*\*

41 Castle Street Dalkey, Co. Dublin. A96 AK28

TEL: 01 285 5317

TIME: Mon, Wed, Fri & Sat 9.30am – 5pm | Tue & Thur 1.15pm – 8pm

### DEANSGRANGE\*\*

Clonkeen Drive, Deansgrange, Dublin 18. D18 NY58

TEL: 01 285 0860

TIME: Mon – Thur 9.30am – 8pm | Fri & Sat 9.30am – 5pm

### DUNDRUM

Upper Churchtown Road, Dundrum, Dublin 14. D14 VP97

TEL: 01 298 5000

TIME: Mon – Thur 9.30am – 8pm | Fri & Sat 9.30am-5pm

### SHANKILL\*

Library Road, Shankill, Co. Dublin. D18 DX43

TEL: 01 282 3081

TIME: Fri\* or Sat\* 9.30am-5pm | Tue & Thur 1.15pm – 8pm

### STILLORGAN

Unit J (First Floor), Stillorgan Shopping Centre. A94 PR90

TEL: 01 288 9655

TIME: Mon – Wed 9.30am – 5pm | Thurs 9.30am – 8pm | Fri & Sat 9.30am – 1pm & 2pm – 5pm

\* Open either Friday or Saturday – please contact relevant branch/see website for further details.

\*\* My Open Library service: extended staffless opening hours, starting at 8am and finishing at 10pm, 7 days a week – you need to sign up in the branch during staffed hours.

- On Bank Holiday weekends, all libraries are closed Saturday, Sunday & Monday, except for My Open Library service

## Feature



# GRIT EXPECTATIONS

Salt, sensors and smart tech will keep dlr moving this winter.

It's that time of the year again and we are gearing up for another winter service season. This year the season formally started in October and will finish in April 2025.



Scan the QR code to find out more

### Winter Maintenance

Over this time, we will treat approximately 220km of roads under this year's Winter Service Plan, which represents approximately 28% of the overall road network within the County. The salting operation is carried out by deploying a fleet of 10 trucks with gritters each truck driving a specific, pre-defined route. Each route takes approximately 2 hours to complete and depending on the weather conditions, one or two gritting runs may be required, one at 7pm and another at 5am the following morning.

### Temperature Sensors

Our Road Maintenance Section are introducing new technology to improve the accuracy of the road temperature predictive modelling system that's currently used to make decisions on whether gritting will or will not be required each night during the season. In November this year, three additional physical road temperature sensors will be installed within the road surface at three points across the County including Dun Laoghaire, Killiney Hill, and Ballybrack Road. They will measure the road temperature at road surface level, and at 6cm and 30cm below surface level. The data from the sensors will be fed back remotely to the predictive modelling system and will be combined with the daily winter maintenance specific forecast data provided by Met Eireann.

The predictive modelling system uses the data to create a forecast on what the lowest possible road temperatures will be across the County that night.

The additional data being provided by these sensors will enhance the accuracy of the decision making and should improve the overall efficiency of the Winter Maintenance Operations by reducing the number of "marginal calls" where the predictive modelling estimates a temperature of approximately 0-1 degree Celsius. In this situation, gritting is carried out as a precautionary measure, particularly in the upland parts of the County.

We encourage motorists to please drive with care during the winter season and to visit the national Winter Ready website [www.winterready.ie](http://www.winterready.ie) which contains very useful information on planning for the winter months.

If you would like to report any winter service issues, please contact us via telephone on 01 2054700 or email at [info@dlrcoco.ie](mailto:info@dlrcoco.ie). For out of hours, please telephone us at 01 677 8844.



## A message from An Cathaoirleach, Jim O'Leary

As we head into the winter season, I'm delighted to share some highlights from the past few months and plans for the future. It's been a privilege to work alongside so many in our community and council to make Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown a vibrant, welcoming place for all.

This season has brought wonderful new amenities, including the much-anticipated Dún Laoghaire Alpine Skate Trail, which has already become a lively hub for residents and visitors of all ages. We're also thrilled to see the return of the illuminated Christmas Light Walk in Marlay Park, a cherished event that brings the community together during the festive season.

“ Shopping and dining locally helps sustain the vibrancy of our towns and villages and ensures a prosperous future for all.”

While you enjoy the festivities, I encourage everyone to support our incredible local businesses. Shopping and dining locally helps sustain the vibrancy of our towns and villages and ensures a prosperous future for all.

In the Council Chamber, we will be adopting the 2025 budget at the December Council Meeting, prioritising investments in parks, sports pitches,

and libraries across the county. We're also finalising a new Corporate Plan that will guide us for the next five years, with a focus on sustainability, inclusivity, and improving the quality of life for all residents. Councillors also voted to maintain the -15% reduction in Local Property Tax which will reduce the liability on homeowners across the County.

This year, we've made great strides in community initiatives, such as approving planning permission for new lighting in Kilbogget Park and the development of the Gate Lodge at Cabinteely Park. I was privileged to attend the RMS Leinster and Roger Casement Commemorations which honour important moments in our history.

I would like to offer congratulations to the PPN on 10 successful years and to Dalkey Tidy Towns on their well-deserved win in the Tidy District Awards. These accomplishments highlight the remarkable dedication of our local groups.

Thank you to everyone who contributes to the success of Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown. Together, we're creating a welcoming, sustainable, and innovative community. Wishing you all a joyful holiday season and looking forward to a new bright year ahead.

CLLR. JIM O'LEARY



## A message from Chief Executive, Frank Curran

2024 saw a considerable number of projects completed in housing, parks and community and planning is already underway to commence new projects next year. I would like to thank An Cathaoirleach and the elected members for all their assistance this year as we continue to create a progressive and vibrant county for all our citizens. We have been working in collaboration with them to finalise the Corporate Plan and the draft Budget for 2025, with both to be adopted at the December Council Meeting.

In parks, Mountown Boxing Club and the Kiosk at Blackrock Park are due for completion in January. The Hudson Sports Pavilion will be completed by December and the Kilcross Play facility has now opened. Play spaces that

will be refurbished are Hyde Park, Springhill, Soldiers and Sailors, Belarmine, The Gallops, Marlay Toddler and Deerpark.

“ As part of our housing targets over four years, we have delivered 988 units to date with a further 1,256 projected up until 2026.”

As part of our housing targets over four years, we have delivered 988 units to date with a further 1256 projected up until 2026. 707 homes are currently on site with over 550 at various stages of

planning and feasibility stages. 250 adaptation grants have been approved and paid under the Housing Adaptation Grants Scheme €2.5m budget. The Part 8 Planning report for 62 new apartments at Balally will be presented at the December Council meeting.

In the Economic Development area - 71 cruise ships visited Dún Laoghaire this year with 107k passengers and 47k crew with 81 already booked for 2025. In addition, I will be meeting with the Department of Defence shortly to discuss possible navy presence at Dún Laoghaire Harbour. The Dundrum Business Association was newly established this year, and we supported a number of events including the Comedy Festival and Music in the Mountains.

The M50/J14 scheme detailed design & tender documents are being finalised and will be advertised by the end of the year and tender documents are being completed for the Sandyford Cycle Route. The active travel dlr Central route will be on site next year.

There are so many events to choose from this Christmas, including ice skating, fairy light trails in our parks, Wonderlights at Marlay Park, and the New Year fireworks at Dún Laoghaire Harbour. I hope that you and your family will be out enjoying the festive season and I wish you all a very Happy Christmas & a peaceful new year.

FRANK CURRAN



Blackglen Road



Druid's Glen Road Phase II



Bray Woodbrook Landfill Remediation Project



Glenamuck District Road Scheme



Deansgrange Cycle Lane



Blackrock DART to Park Active Travel Scheme



Glenageary Road Upper

## Update on Major Capital Projects

The Capital Projects Office is responsible for the delivery of roads schemes/other major projects of our Capital Programme. Other projects on the Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown County Council three-year Capital Programme are being progressed by Active Travel; Dun Laoghaire Harbour; Community; Cultural Services & Parks; Water Services; Housing; Road Maintenance and Traffic; and Forward Planning Infrastructure.

The **Blackglen Road Improvement Scheme** was substantially completed in June and involved the upgrading of 2km of existing roads, new footpaths and cycleways. It included the upgrading of Lambs Cross junction and the junction of Grange Road/Harold's Grange Road/College Road/Kellystown Road.

The key objectives of the scheme were safety, accessibility and connectivity improvements in line with the County cycle network improvement plan. Other objectives were to reduce traffic congestion at the two 2 junction upgrades and open up residential zoned land for development opportunity.

The **N11 Druid's Glen Road (Phase 2) Scheme** was substantially completed and opened to traffic at the end of June. The works included the construction of 360m of new road as an extension of Druid's Glen Road Phase One and a new 3 span bridge crossing of Cabinteely stream with an overall span of 42m. The works also included new access points from the new road to service future development lands. The key objective is vehicular and pedestrian access to Cherrywood SDZ.

### Bray Woodbrook Landfill Remediation Project

The challenge was to protect the landfill from sea erosion and the resulting pollution effect. Rather than remove waste material and treat offsite, it was more cost effective to encapsulate and protect from sea erosion by constructing a rock revetment. The rock structure is now complete/landfill is topsoiled and seeded, with public access to resume this year.

### Construction commenced on the following Schemes in 2024:

- Glenamuck District Roads Scheme commenced April 2024
- Enniskerry Road/Glenamuck Road Junction Upgrade (Golden Ball Junction) – will be constructed in 2025 as part of the Glenamuck District Roads contract.

### Preliminary/detailed design is being progressed on the following projects:

- M50 Junction 14 Link Road
- Blackrock DART to Park Active Travel Scheme
- Hillcrest Road Improvement Scheme
- N11 Druid's Glen Road P3-P (Phase 3)
- Cherrywood Road Upgrade
- Leopardstown Link Road Phase 2
- Bracken Road to Drummartin Link Road
- Harold's Grange Road Improvement Scheme

## Active Travel – 2024 Review (INFRASTRUCTURE FUNDED BY NTA).

### SCHEMES COMPLETED IN 2024:

- Deansgrange Road as Part of Active School Travel
- Glenageary Road Upper
- Stillorgan Park Road (Due for completion in 2024)
- Love our Laneways Sallynoggin
- Seafield Safe and Quiet Streets
- Deerpark Entrance Improvements

### SCHEMES UNDER CONSTRUCTION INCLUDE:

- UCD Overbridge connections Works
- dlr Central

### SCHEMES PLANNED FOR CONSTRUCTION IN 2025:

- Living Streets: Blackrock
- Living Streets: Dún Laoghaire
- Sandyford Business District Cycle Routes
- Leopardstown Road junction improvements
- Safe Routes to School programme
- Dodder Greenway

### OTHER SCHEMES IN DEVELOPMENT:

- dlr Connector
- Cabinteely Greenway

For more information visit [dlrcoco.ie/activetravel](https://dlrcoco.ie/activetravel)



## Celebrating Christmas across Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown

The Dun Laoghaire-Rathdown Christmas Festival has a wide range of festive activities for all the family this year. Brand new events taking place over the Christmas period are Wonderlights at Marlay Park, new Alpine Skate Trail at Dún Laoghaire Harbour and a three-day music and food event at the People's Park. There will also be the giant Bauble Trail around the County, providing the perfect backdrop for your Christmas pictures!

There will be fairylike walks at Marlay Park and Cabinteely Park which are fully accessible for wheelchairs and buggies and are an oasis of calm beneath the twinkling lights away from the hustle and bustle of Christmas. Where possible, all official Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown County Council Christmas trees are living trees, and their lights are LED which use the smallest amount of electricity feasible.

The Dún Laoghaire Christmas Festival also brings a host of exciting attractions to the heart of Dún Laoghaire town centre. Visitors can look forward to a delightful and nostalgic Christmas fun fair and a magical Santa experience at the Maritime Museum. The iconic bandstand will be illuminated for Christmas, and the traditional Crib will be on display at St Michael's to celebrate the true meaning of Christmas.

Santa Post Boxes are in place at dlr Lexlcon in Dún Laoghaire, Marlay Park in Rathfarnham, Deerpark in Mount Merrion and Cabinteely Park by special commission of Santa Claus. The postal address is Santa Claus, North Pole, The Arctic, The World, The Universe. The letters are whizzed off to the North Pole via Elf Airlines direct to Santa who replies to every single one.



Scan the QR code to find out more



### Wonderlights, Marlay Park

Ireland's largest light show will be at Marlay Park this year. Get ready to be dazzled and mesmerised at Marlay after dark!

The light installation will feature large golden sculptures of animals, including rabbits, foxes, deer, squirrels, and even brown bears from times past. The Night Sky will be projected onto a 30-metre hydro screen over the lake, offering an awe-inspiring display of the moon rising, the Northern Lights, and nocturnal wildlife under a starlit sky.

Visitors will also have the unique opportunity to ride a 35-metre-high observation wheel for panoramic views of the illuminated landscape below. [www.wonderlights.ie](http://www.wonderlights.ie)



### A special visit with Santa at the National Maritime Museum

Visit Ireland's National Maritime Museum and have a very special visit with Santa! You can book up to a group of eight people (adults and children). This will be a private group, and you won't be joined by anyone else.

Feel free to take as many pictures as you like, and there's always an Elf on hand to get you a group shot. Each group will have 10 minutes to chat with the Big Man and each child will receive a special gift. There's a post box here as well, so don't forget to bring your wish list and post it.

# Christmas



## Alpine Skate Trail, Dún Laoghaire Harbour

Dublin's first ice skating trail, Alpine Skate Trail has arrived at Dún Laoghaire Harbour (located behind Dún Laoghaire Dart Station). This new ice-skating trail even has its own separate practice ice rink and a new 300-metre-long trail. Featuring many turns as well as thrilling straights, the trail offers an unforgettable skating adventure set against a unique backdrop of Alps-style spruce trees, festoon lighting, and snow-covered chalets.

The Alpine Skate Trail will be open until mid-January 2025. For further information visit [www.iceskating.ie](http://www.iceskating.ie)

## Shop Local this Christmas!

Support your local businesses this festive season by shopping local. Remember, many local retailers and services also offer online shopping too, so you can click local to support your neighbourhood shops and businesses. Find out more at [dlrcoco.ie/business/shop-local](http://dlrcoco.ie/business/shop-local)



## Santa Claus Boxes

Santa Post Boxes are in place at dlr Lexlcon in Dún Laoghaire, Marlay Park in Rathfarnham, Deerpark in Mount Merrion and Cabinteely Park by special commission of Santa Claus. The postal address is Santa Claus, North Pole, The Arctic, The World, The Universe. The letters are whizzed off to the North Pole via Elf Airlines direct to Santa who replies to every single one.



## Traditional Christmas Family Funfair

Santa's Sleigh Ride, Ferris Wheel, Fairground Festive Organ and Vintage Train ride at Harbour Plaza (adjacent to DART station) over the Christmas period.



## Walking Trails at Marlay Park & Cabinteely Park

Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown will delight residents and visitors with a range of countywide festive favourites. The very popular illuminated Christmas walking trails in Marlay Park and Cabinteely Park walking trails are back for the 2024 Christmas period.

Cabinteely Park is open from 4pm to 8pm Monday to Friday, Marlay Park is open from 4pm - 8pm Monday to Sunday (no parking available Thursday to Sunday)

Both open from the end of November, and are fully accessible for wheelchairs and buggies, and are not operating on Wednesday 25 December, Friday 27 December and Wednesday 1 January 2025.



## Christmas in the People's Park, Dún Laoghaire

The People's Park, Dún Laoghaire will host three nights of live entertainment from some of Ireland's top musical talents. The three-day event, billed as "Christmas in the Park" opens on 5 December.

Tickets for each night are sold separately and also provide access to the Busker Stage, the Wellness Zone and the park's Christmas Market. Food trucks will be in the park to serve a wide variety of food and drink.

So, youthful spirits of all ages should get ready to dress up in warm clothes, get their friends together and dance under the lights at Christmas in the Park. [www.christmasinthepark.ie](http://www.christmasinthepark.ie)



## New Year's Eve Fireworks Spectacular

To mark the approach of 2025, a spectacular fireworks display will take place at Dún Laoghaire Harbour at 8.00 pm on New Year's Eve. From Sandycove to Dún Laoghaire Town, spectators can enjoy the display as the skies above Dublin come alive with a synchronized fireworks show set to music. The fireworks will be fired from the East Pier.

For the best vantage point to enjoy the fireworks, head to the green area at Newtownsmith where an exciting and vibrant Festival Zone will be set up. Food and drink stalls will be selling their wares in the People's Park, and an accessibility area will be available. Everyone there on the night can enjoy live music, DJ sets and performances by a variety of other entertainers.

## Promoting the Irish Language and Enhancing Visibility

As this year ends, the Irish Office has continued to play a vital role in upholding the Irish Language Scheme, ensuring that Irish remains a visible and active part of the organisation's work. This year has seen important steps taken to enhance both the accessibility and presence of the Irish language across public and workplace environments.



An Chomhairle Chraiceáilte, Gaeilge365's Leadership and Creativity development programme

### Key Activities in 2024

A key focus for the Irish Office this year has been providing translation services to ensure that all official communications, documents, and materials are available in both English and Irish. This ongoing commitment supports bilingualism across the organisation. In addition, the Irish Office has provided guidance to staff on incorporating Irish into their day-to-day work, from internal emails to public-facing materials.

Another important initiative has been improving the visibility of Irish in public spaces. In collaboration with multiple Local Authority departments, the Irish Office has worked to increase the use of Irish in road signage and public markers, helping create a more bilingual environment across communities within the county. This supports the broader government goal of increasing the visibility of Irish in daily life.

### Looking Ahead to 2025

In 2025, the Irish Office plans to build on this momentum with a series of initiatives and events aimed at further promoting Irish within the organisation and designed to encourage staff across all departments to use more Irish in the workplace.

Additionally, the Irish Office will aim to collaborate with community groups and Creative Ireland on projects that highlight Irish language and culture, creating new opportunities for staff and the public to engage with the language.

With these exciting plans, the Irish Office looks forward to further embedding the Irish language in the workplace and the wider community in 2025. For further information please contact the Irish Office at [gaeilge@dlrcoco.ie](mailto:gaeilge@dlrcoco.ie)



## Help us choose the next canvas for dlr Anseo Street Art 2025!

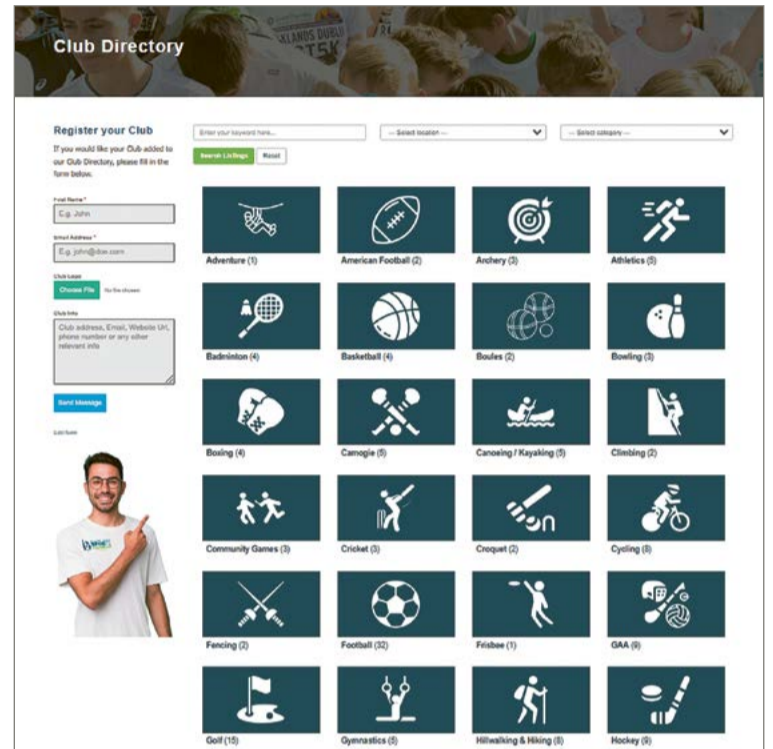
The Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown Anseo Street Art project is back and looking for your help to select locations for the 2025 programme. Each year, the project brings art to walls across the county, showcasing local and international talent. If you have spotted a wall that you think would be perfect for inclusion in our programme, we want to hear from you.

The Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown County Council Anseo Street Art project aims to bring art to walls across the county each year and relies on community input to select the best locations for the programme.

Up to 12 walls will be selected for inclusion in the Street Art Programme 2025 in March of next year. For more information and to submit a wall for consideration visit our website at [dlrcoco.ie](http://dlrcoco.ie)

## dlr Sports Partnership Club Directory

Our newly updated club directory on our website [dlrsportspartnership.ie](http://dlrsportspartnership.ie) will give your club or sports association a bit of exposure and may attract new members or volunteers. It's easy to sign up.



Just fill in the handy form on the club directory page found at [dlrsportspartnership.ie/club-directory/](http://dlrsportspartnership.ie/club-directory/)

Also, provide a high-resolution jpeg or png file of your logo and we'll add that to your profile too. The dlr Sports Partnership helps sports clubs and associations through promotion, network opportunities and training. For more information, contact us at [sportspartnership@dlrcoco.ie](mailto:sportspartnership@dlrcoco.ie)

## Dreaming of a Green Christmas? 12 Tips for an Eco-Friendly Festive Season

Christmas is traditionally a time of celebration, joy and goodwill to all. However, the season can also lead to increased consumption and waste which impacts on our environment. This year, why not make your festivities more sustainable? Here are 12 tips to help you celebrate an eco-friendlier Green Christmas.

More information on [dlrcoco.ie](http://dlrcoco.ie)

- |                                 |                                       |
|---------------------------------|---------------------------------------|
| 1. Buy Less Stuff               | 7. Cut Your Food Waste                |
| 2. Buy Local, Sustainable Gifts | 8. Buy Local, Organic and Plant-based |
| 3. Choose a Real Christmas Tree | 9. Use Reusable Tableware             |
| 4. Switch to LED Lights         | 10. Send E-Cards                      |
| 5. Make Your Own Decorations    | 11. Travel Sustainably                |
| 6. Wrap Gifts Sustainably       | 12. Recycle Properly                  |





### Tree and Urban Forestry Strategy: A climate for Trees

We recently launched our Tree and Urban Forestry Strategy: A Climate for Trees. This visionary strategy aims to transform our approach to urban forestry and enhance the invaluable role trees play in our lives, especially in the face of increasing urgency surrounding climate change. Trees are not just beautiful parts of our landscape; they are vital components in our fight against climate change. They mitigate flooding, improve air quality, provide habitats for wildlife, and promote mental well-being.

The new tree strategy emphasises three key aims: valuing and protecting existing trees, enhancing our urban forest, and fostering education and awareness through community partnerships. By engaging with community groups, landowners, Residents Associations, and Business groups, we can strategically plan for

increased tree cover along our streets and in our parks, ensuring every resident can enjoy their benefits. Highlights of the strategy include data-driven decision making and the recruitment of a Tree Officer to ensure full implementation of the plan. Further details on [dlrcoco.ie](http://dlrcoco.ie)

### Safer Streets Ahead: 30km/h Speed Limit Introduced in dlr

November saw the introduction of new speed limit byelaws across Dun Laoghaire-Rathdown, with the implementation of a 30km/h speed limit in the majority of residential areas, as well as town and village centres. The new byelaws will see most local and housing estate roads limited to 30km/h, while main roads will remain at 50km/h. Busy town and village centres will also have a reduced speed limit of 30km/h, with new signage appearing throughout the County.

The implementation of the new speed limits followed a comprehensive process that involved consultation with various stakeholders, including An Garda Síochána, Transport Infrastructure Ireland, and neighbouring Local Authorities. We would like to especially thank our elected representatives who collaborated with us and adopted the new byelaws earlier this year.



### Launch of dlr Play Policy and Kilcross Play Space Opens

This year we launched of the dlr Play Policy and the opening of the Kilcross Play Space project. This reflects our commitment to providing inclusive, safe, and adventurous play spaces for people

of all ages to enjoy freely and safely. The Kilcross Play Space project, located next to Fitzsimons Wood, a proposed Natural Heritage site, was designed in collaboration with the local community. The dlr Play Policy focuses on three strategic priorities: delivering play spaces and places, enjoying play and recreation, and working collaboratively with the community and local schools.

In addition to the launch of the dlr Play Policy and Kilcross Play Space, several current playgrounds in the area are being restored and enhanced. Belarmine and Deer Park will open this year, construction to begin at Marley Woodland Park (for children up to 12 years old), and at Finsbury Park in Dundrum. Restoration projects for Hyde Park, Soldiers & Sailors, and Springhill Park are also set to commence soon. Looking ahead, consultation will soon begin for play spaces in Deansgrange/Clonkeen and Ludford Park, with completion dates targeted for the 2025. Additionally, four refurbishment projects are planned for delivery in 2025, further demonstrating our commitment to improving play and recreation opportunities for all.



**Elaine Ryan**  
EQUALITY OFFICER

#### How do you start your day?

I start my day too slowly, which inevitably turns in to panic and I never learn my lesson, and coffee. . .always with a coffee.

#### What do you do?

I work as the Equality Officer in Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown County Council. The position of Equality Officer has responsibility for the areas of Equality, Diversity and Inclusion (EDI). The Equality Officer will ensure that the council has the policies and structures in place to meet its statutory obligations under relevant legislation including the Equal Status Acts and the Public Sector Equality and Human Rights Duty. The Equality Officer role is within the Corporate Affairs directorate with duties assigned from both the Corporate Services and Human Resources departments. The Equality Officer is a point of contact and liaison with other Sections or Departments in the council, providing guidance on matters relating to Equality, Diversity and Inclusion.

#### What is your typical workday like?

No typical day, which I love. I could be doing anything from consulting with community groups around the areas they feel dlrcoco needs to improve upon in the area of EDI, and developing actions plans to address these gaps, organising training, writing policy, attending conferences or workshops or providing support to council departments if they have any EDI or accessibility queries.

#### What is the most difficult part of your job?

As the role of Equality Officer is new, there is a lot that can be done, I think narrowing my focus in order for the initiatives I am undertaking to be successful is important, but challenging, at times.

#### What is the most rewarding part of your job?

I find it very rewarding to think about the fact that what I do could affect meaningful change over time; in particular, in relation to developing policy and action plans to ensure the experience of all staff members, stakeholders and members of the community are taken into account in the provision of Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown County Council's services and functions.

#### Favourite place to visit?

Simple- West Clare; Kilkee, Spanish Point, Doolin.

## dlr Lexlcon | MUNICIPAL GALLERY

Level 3, dlr Lexlcon, Haigh Terrace, Moran Park, Dún Laoghaire. Admission Free.

### Mary Burke: Moments of Domesticity Róisín White: Safe Harbour

8 November 2024 – 19 January 2025

Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown County Council is delighted to present these two solo exhibitions, which showcase work developed as part of public art commissions funded by the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage under Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown County Council's Public Art Programme. The work was created over the last year in Dún Laoghaire Baths Artist Studios.



Moments of Domesticity is a series of paintings of homes in the County. Mary embarked on a series of house visits that took her to Dundrum, Leopardstown, Dún Laoghaire, Dalkey, Ballybrack, Monkstown, Deansgrange and Ballycorus. She spent the following year painting these homes in her studio at the dlr Baths Artist Studios. Safe Harbour is an exhibition of work in progress. It explores our relationship with the sea as a place of leisure and play and the sea's power, strength and unpredictable nature. Róisín creates sculptural forms and imagery that engage with our experiences and memories of Dún Laoghaire Bay.



Ticknock: What's Going On? Guided walk, Damien Eagers, Coalesce

### Ticknock: What's Going On?

Ticknock Forest, Dublin 18 and online

dlr Arts Office recently a new podcast exploring the changing landscape of our forests over seasons, years and millennia, created by artists Listen and Breathe. The podcast is timed to follow a moderate route at an easy pace from the upper carpark at Ticknock Forest to Fairy Castle. Along the way, you will be guided by a host of local voices connected to the landscape. It is designed listen to at home or to follow on a walk to the top of Ticknock Hill. Before you arrive at Ticknock, download the podcast to your phone as the signal gets patchy near the masts.

Ticknock: What's Going On? may be downloaded on this website [www.listenandbreathe.live](http://www.listenandbreathe.live) or listen wherever you get your podcasts by searching "Ticknock: What's Going On?"

This project was funded by Creative Ireland and Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown County Council and supported by Coillte and the Dublin Mountains Partnership.

### Gallery Learning Programme

The Gallery Learning Programme offers visitors to the Gallery of all ages the opportunity to explore the themes, artists, materials and techniques showcased in the Gallery. The programme includes artists talks, workshops, tours for all ages and special events. We also offer dementia inclusive gallery tours, group tours and the popular adult open studio.

Some programmes require booking.

Sign up to our e-bulletin for updates.

Contact [arts@dlrcoco.ie](mailto:arts@dlrcoco.ie) or phone (01) 236 2759.

Workshops for adults are bookable on [www.eventbrite.ie](http://www.eventbrite.ie) by searching for dlr Lexlcon Gallery.

Image courtesy of Hannah-Clare de Gordun who will be facilitating an 'Introduction to Gouache Painting' Workshop on 7 December.



### The Joy & Benefits of Reading

Anyone who has ever picked up a book and become completely lost in it, will know the joy and pleasure reading brings. In terms of emotional well-being, reading can make us feel a range of emotions; from happiness to sadness, fear to anger. Experiencing a variety of emotions can help build our resilience and ability to deal with difficult situations. Reading can also help us develop empathy and connect with people by learning about other cultures and experiences through storytelling. Research shows that regular reading can lower blood pressure, reduce stress, release endorphins and improve sleep quality. Reading a book also broadens our vocabulary, boosts our knowledge and stimulates our imagination. Books can make us laugh and cry, create intrigue and excitement and reading keeps our brains young and active, promoting mental and emotional fitness while enhancing critical thinking skills and creativity. So, what are you waiting for? If you don't already have one, call in to your local dlr Library, chat to staff and pick up a library card.

#### Book Clubs

Did you know that dlr Libraries currently have a total of 21 Book Clubs in operation; 19 in-person and 2 online? So if you feel like starting the New Year with a new book-related activity, why not contact your local dlr Library and see what's on offer to suit you? If you are already a member of a book group, read on to find out more about our Book Sets.

#### Book Sets

dlr Libraries maintain a large collection of book sets for schools, reading groups and book clubs. They have been divided into an Adult Book Club set list, plus Classroom Sets for Primary and Secondary Schools. If you're interested in starting a book club amongst your friends or you are a teacher looking to borrow a set for your class, visit our website for a list of available titles. To enquire about availability of any of our sets, or to reserve them, email [librarybib@dlrcoco.ie](mailto:librarybib@dlrcoco.ie).



### Christmas at dlr Libraries

We have something for everyone, from crafts to music, including an impressive collection of Christmas books and films. So come on down to celebrate the festive season at your local dlr Library! Make sure to check our website [libraries.dlrcoco.ie](http://libraries.dlrcoco.ie) for more information and event bookings.

### Creative Ireland dlr

Creative Ireland dlr is a dynamic and vibrant programme that seeks to engage dlr's communities in creative and cultural activity. The aim of the Creative Ireland programme is to connect people, creativity and well-being. Creative Ireland is an all-of-government culture and well-being programme that inspires and transforms people, places and communities through creativity.



You may not have heard of Creative Ireland but you might have taken part in one of our local projects and events, maybe you attended our Puppets in July programme in the Lexlcon with your family, maybe you took part in Cruinniú na nÓg (our national day of creativity for young people) in Blackrock Park or Fernhill Park and Gardens, or maybe you read our Age-Friendly Magazine and found out about what supports and creative activities there are for older people in the county?

A lot of our projects take place in community settings, engaging with different groups over longer-term projects. An important part of the Creative Ireland programme in dlr is collaboration, working with different teams across the Council and with lots of external partners, groups and organisations. One example is our Let's Get Social Health and Well-being in the community 2-year project. Let's Get Social seeks to connect people across dlr and includes social prescribing Libraries and Community Creative Café workshops with Southside Partnership, the Libraries and Age Friendly Creative Brainwaves talk series which looks at creativity and brain health with artists and scientists with the Global Brain Health Institute, two new dance and drumming groups in the Dundrum area with dlr's Age Friendly programme and Local Area Integration Team, and Arts Office training for artists and healthcare workers in the specialised area of creativity in healthcare contexts and in particular working with those living with dementia, with support from the HSE.

Over the coming year we are going to highlight some of our brilliant projects and events here, so watch this space! For more information on dlr's Creative Ireland programme go to [www.creativeireland.gov.ie/en/dun-laoghaire-rathdown/](http://www.creativeireland.gov.ie/en/dun-laoghaire-rathdown/) and keep an eye on the dlr website [dlrcoco.ie](http://dlrcoco.ie) where we'll be adding a page especially for Creative Ireland dlr.



### Musical Memories Dementia Choir

Every Thursday from 16 January, 11.00am -12.00pm. Deansgrange Library.

The Musical Memories dementia choir are returning to Deansgrange library in January 2025. This inclusive choir, led by a professional choral director and specifically aimed at those who are

affected by dementia, and their carers, would be delighted to see some familiar faces and welcome new members! For more information, email [deansgrangelib@dlrcoco.ie](mailto:deansgrangelib@dlrcoco.ie) or Tel (01) 285 0860.

### ScanEZ service

Did you know dlr Libraries now have the ScanEZ service in three of our branches - dlr Lexlcon, Blackrock & Dundrum? ScanEZ is a multi-functional device which can be used for high-speed scanning of documents, restoring old photos and faded documents, scanning hand-written documents and converting to Word format, as well as translation services - with over 100 languages available. You can then edit, print, save or email your newly-created documents. The system has a multi-lingual interface and includes accessibility features for visually impaired users including screen narration. Drop in to one of the three branches and chat to staff to find out more.



### dlr Libraries | EXHIBITION PROGRAMME



### The Big Houses of Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown

1 November – 31 December. Deansgrange Library.

The Big House formed the private domain for generations of the political, military and financial elites of Ireland and while it was largely removed from the everyday experience of Irish men and women, it often stood at the centre of the local economy, providing employment for those living in the area. The world of the Big House became increasingly unsteady as Ireland tilted towards independence and the grand houses that survived the fires of the 1920s faced further change during the twentieth century. Many of them were adapted and changed for use as convents, hospitals and schools. This exhibition was originally curated by David Gunning, former dlr Historian in Residence.

### Migrants: An exhibition of work by artist Issa Watanabe

8 November – 13 December. Level 3, dlr Lexlcon.



Presented by the Peruvian Embassy in Ireland, this exhibition highlights the work of Issa Watanabe, one of the most recognised Latin American illustrators in recent years. Her book Migrants, published in Spain and in 18 countries, has received important distinctions, such as the Libreter Award (Barcelona, 2020) and the Gran Premio BIBF Ananas (Beijing, 2021). The artist's journey has a strong self-taught element: she began studying Literature at the Pontifical Catholic University of Peru, later resided in Mallorca, where she took some art courses, and then returned to the Peruvian capital to fully dedicate herself to her creative work.



### Christmas Holiday Arrangements

All dlr Libraries will open as normal on **Monday 23 December 2024.**

On **Tuesday 24 December**, dlr Lexlcon, Deansgrange and Dundrum Libraries will open from 9.30am to 1.00pm. All other libraries will remain closed.

All dlr Libraries will re-open as normal on **Thursday 2 January 2025.**

During these closed times, My Open Library (MOL) hours will be in operation in Deansgrange and Dalkey Libraries as usual.



# your dlr Councillors represent you



## DUNDRUM

 **CLLR. SHAY BRENNAN** <sup>FF</sup>  
c/o dlr County Hall,  
Dún Laoghaire  
**MOBILE:** 086 829 0570  
**EMAIL:** sbrennan@cllr.dlrcoco.ie

 **CLLR. ANNE COLGAN** <sup>IND</sup>  
c/o dlr County Hall,  
Dún Laoghaire  
**MOBILE:** 087 245 4202  
**EMAIL:** acolgan@cllr.dlrcoco.ie

 **CLLR. ANNA GRAINGER** <sup>FG</sup>  
c/o dlr County Hall,  
Dún Laoghaire  
**MOBILE:** 087 033 1938  
**EMAIL:** agranger@cllr.dlrcoco.ie

 **CLLR. ROBERT JONES** <sup>GP</sup>  
c/o dlr County Hall,  
Dún Laoghaire  
**MOBILE:** 087 903 8165  
**EMAIL:** rjones@cllr.dlrcoco.ie

 **CLLR. SEAN McLOUGHLIN** <sup>IND</sup>  
91 Hillview Estate,  
Dundrum, Dublin 16  
**MOBILE:** 087 741 1638  
**EMAIL:** smcloughlin@cllr.dlrcoco.ie

 **CLLR. PETER O'BRIEN** <sup>LAB</sup>  
78 Balally Avenue,  
Dundrum, D16 ET82  
**MOBILE:** 086 461 1638  
**EMAIL:** pobrien@cllr.dlrcoco.ie

 **CLLR. JIM O'LEARY** <sup>FG</sup>  
AN CATHAOIRLEACH  
48 Parkvale,  
Sandyford Road, Dundrum  
**MOBILE:** 086 818 6732  
**EMAIL:** joleary@cllr.dlrcoco.ie

## STILLORGAN

 **CLLR. LIAM DOCKERY** <sup>FF</sup>  
c/o dlr County Hall,  
Dún Laoghaire  
**MOBILE:** 087 762 6065

 **CLLR. JOHN HURLEY** <sup>SD</sup>  
c/o dlr County Hall,  
Dún Laoghaire  
**MOBILE:** 087 421 3616  
**EMAIL:** jhurley@cllr.dlrcoco.ie

 **CLLR. MEABH CODY** <sup>GP</sup>  
c/o dlr County Hall,  
Dún Laoghaire  
**MOBILE:** 083 149 6045  
**EMAIL:** mcody@cllr.dlrcoco.ie

 **CLLR. JOHN KENNEDY** <sup>FG</sup>  
c/o dlr County Hall,  
Dún Laoghaire  
**MOBILE:** 087 772 0794  
**EMAIL:** jkennedy@cllr.dlrcoco.ie

 **CLLR. MAEVE O'CONNELL** <sup>FG</sup>  
79 Slieve Rua, Drive,  
Kilmacud, Co. Dublin  
**MOBILE:** 086 851 6936  
**EMAIL:** moconnell@cllr.dlrcoco.ie

 **CLLR. BARRY SAUL** <sup>FG</sup>  
3 Mather Road North,  
Mount Merrion  
**MOBILE:** 086 781 4517  
**EMAIL:** bsaul@cllr.dlrcoco.ie

## BLACKROCK

 **CLLR. MARIE BAKER** <sup>FG</sup>  
38 Avondale Lawn,  
Blackrock  
**MOBILE:** 086 818 6704  
**EMAIL:** mbaker@cllr.dlrcoco.ie

 **CLLR. DAN CARSON** <sup>FG</sup>  
c/o dlr County Hall,  
Dún Laoghaire  
**MOBILE:** 087 344 5328  
**EMAIL:** dcarson@cllr.dlrcoco.ie

 **CLLR. MICHAEL CLARK** <sup>FF</sup>  
c/o dlr County Hall,  
Dún Laoghaire  
**MOBILE:** 087 109 4032  
**EMAIL:** mclark@cllr.dlrcoco.ie

 **CLLR. MAURICE DOCKRELL** <sup>FG</sup>  
c/o dlr County Hall,  
Dún Laoghaire  
**MOBILE:** 087 179 3679  
**EMAIL:** mdockrell@cllr.dlrcoco.ie

 **CLLR. CONOR DOWLING** <sup>GP</sup>  
c/o dlr County Hall,  
Dún Laoghaire  
**MOBILE:** 087 100 1563  
**EMAIL:** cdowling@cllr.dlrcoco.ie

 **CLLR. MARTHA FANNING** <sup>LAB</sup>  
23 Convent Road,  
Blackrock, Co. Dublin  
**MOBILE:** 087 204 1559  
**EMAIL:** mfanning@cllr.dlrcoco.ie

## DÚN LAOGHAIRE

 **CLLR. JP DURKAN** <sup>FG</sup>  
c/o dlr County Hall,  
Dún Laoghaire  
**MOBILE:** 087 345 1452  
**EMAIL:** jpdurkan@cllr.dlrcoco.ie

 **CLLR. MARY FAYNE** <sup>FG</sup>  
Coolmaine, Sandycove  
Road, Sandycove, Co. Dublin  
**MOBILE:** 086 461 1626  
**EMAIL:** mfayne@cllr.dlrcoco.ie

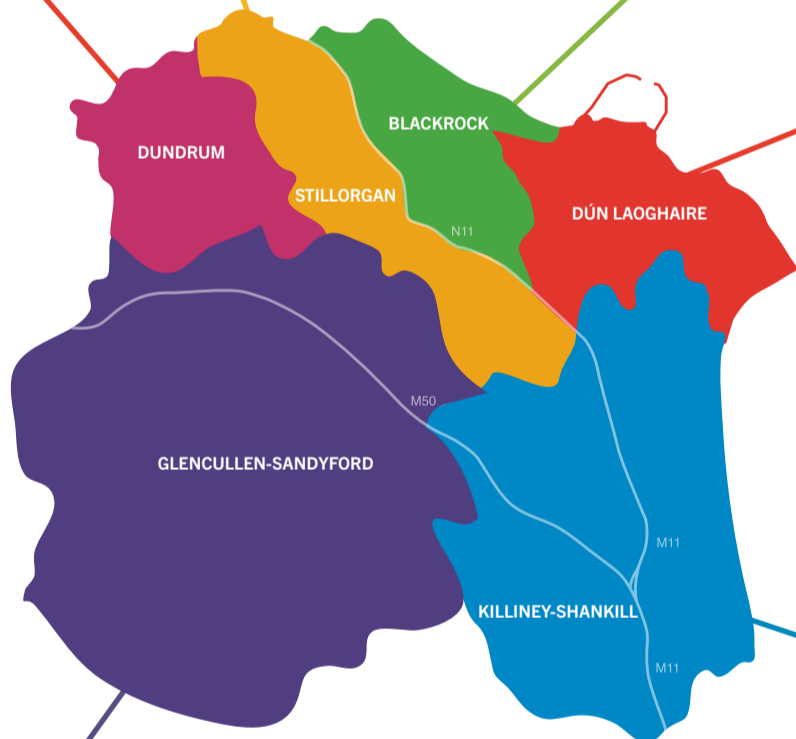
 **CLLR. LORRAINE HALL** <sup>FG</sup>  
c/o dlr County Hall,  
Dún Laoghaire  
**MOBILE:** 087 790 5555  
**EMAIL:** lhall@cllr.dlrcoco.ie

 **CLLR. MELISA HALPIN** <sup>PBP</sup>  
c/o 13 Lwr George's St.,  
Dún Laoghaire  
**MOBILE:** 086 380 5793  
**EMAIL:** mhalpin@cllr.dlrcoco.ie

 **CLLR. THOMAS JOSEPH** <sup>LAB</sup>  
c/o dlr County Hall,  
Dún Laoghaire  
**MOBILE:** 087 905 9621  
**EMAIL:** tjoseph@cllr.dlrcoco.ie

 **CLLR. TOM KIVLEHAN** <sup>GP</sup>  
c/o dlr County Hall,  
Dún Laoghaire  
**MOBILE:** 087 373 2518  
**EMAIL:** tkivlehan@cllr.dlrcoco.ie

 **CLLR. JUSTIN MOYLAN** <sup>FF</sup>  
c/o dlr County Hall,  
Dún Laoghaire  
**MOBILE:** 087 313 8815  
**EMAIL:** jmoylan@cllr.dlrcoco.ie



## KILLINEY-SHANKILL

 **CLLR. JACQUELINE BURKE** <sup>FG</sup>  
c/o dlr County Hall,  
Dún Laoghaire  
**MOBILE:** 087 344 1330  
**EMAIL:** jburke@cllr.dlrcoco.ie

 **CLLR. JIM GILDEA** <sup>FG</sup>  
Fairymount,  
Bray Road, Shankill  
**MOBILE:** 086 813 1456  
**EMAIL:** jgildea@cllr.dlrcoco.ie

 **CLLR. HUGH LEWIS** <sup>IND</sup>  
c/o dlr County Hall,  
Dún Laoghaire  
**MOBILE:** 086 781 4523  
**EMAIL:** hlewis@cllr.dlrcoco.ie

 **CLLR. FRANK MCNAMARA** <sup>FG</sup>  
c/o dlr County Hall,  
Dún Laoghaire  
**MOBILE:** 087 104 3210  
**EMAIL:** fmcnamara@cllr.dlrcoco.ie

 **CLLR. DAVE O'KEEFFE** <sup>PBP</sup>  
c/o dlr County Hall,  
Dún Laoghaire  
**MOBILE:** 087 414 3127  
**EMAIL:** dokeeffe@cllr.dlrcoco.ie

 **CLLR. LAUREN TUITE** <sup>GP</sup>  
c/o dlr County Hall,  
Dún Laoghaire  
**MOBILE:** 087 788 1348  
**EMAIL:** ltuite@cllr.dlrcoco.ie

 **CLLR. CARRIE SMYTH** <sup>LAB</sup>  
Inislachan, Seafield  
Road, Killiney  
**MOBILE:** 086 383 5051  
**EMAIL:** carriesmyth@cllr.dlrcoco.ie

## GLENCULLEN-SANDYFORD

 **CLLR. KAZI AHMED** <sup>FG</sup>  
AN LEAS  
CHATHAOIRLEACH  
c/o dlr County Hall, Dún Laoghaire  
**MOBILE:** 086 031 3448  
**EMAIL:** kahmed@cllr.dlrcoco.ie

 **CLLR. KEVIN DALY** <sup>IND</sup>  
c/o dlr County Hall,  
Dún Laoghaire  
**MOBILE:** 086 461 1081  
**EMAIL:** kdaly@cllr.dlrcoco.ie

 **CLLR. PIERCE DARGAN** <sup>FG</sup>  
c/o dlr County Hall,  
Dún Laoghaire  
**MOBILE:** 087 943 8729  
**EMAIL:** pdargan@cllr.dlrcoco.ie

 **CLLR. MICHAEL FLEMING** <sup>IND</sup>  
6 Stepside Lane,  
Stepaside Village  
**MOBILE:** 086 020 1665  
**EMAIL:** mfleming@cllr.dlrcoco.ie

 **CLLR. LETTIE McCARTHY** <sup>LAB</sup>  
23 Kilgobbin Heights,  
Stepaside  
**MOBILE:** 086 818 6718  
**EMAIL:** lmccarthy@cllr.dlrcoco.ie

 **CLLR. TOM MURPHY** <sup>FF</sup>  
Tree Tops, Barnacullia,  
Sandyford  
**MOBILE:** 086 781 4515  
**EMAIL:** tmurphy@cllr.dlrcoco.ie

 **CLLR. OISÍN O'CONNOR** <sup>GP</sup>  
c/o dlr County Hall,  
Dún Laoghaire  
**MOBILE:** 087 606 5648  
**EMAIL:** ooconnor@cllr.dlrcoco.ie