



Kimmage Rathmines update

Winter 2022 / 23

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Dear resident,

Since 2020 I have been working hard as your local councillor for Kimmage Rathmines, representing:

- Harold's Cross
- Rathmines
- Terenure
- Rathgar
- Crumlin
- Kimmage
- Drimnagh

During that time I've been striving to keep green issues and values at the forefront of our work on the council. For me that means fighting for sustainable development, quality green spaces, and safe, people-friendly streets. I believe in communities where you can grow up and grow old, get around easily, and have the confidence to let your child walk to school. This is what I'm working to deliver for you. Please let me know if there's anything I can help you with.

Carolyn

- ✔ More accessible, nature-rich parks and green spaces.
- ✔ School zones, safe cycling and more pedestrian crossings.
- ✔ Connected communities in a climate-resilient city.

A welcome pedestrian upgrade

As a councillor and a local resident I've been well aware for some time of the severe safety issues caused by a lack of pedestrian crossings at two extremely busy junctions along the Grand Canal - Herberton Road and 'Sally's Bridge'. As you may have noticed in recent months, work is now underway along the canal, widening and repairing pavements, narrowing junctions to slow down turning vehicles, and most importantly installing new pedestrian crossings. The good news is there will be signalised crossings on all four arms of the Herberton Road and Clogher Road junctions, plus a signalised crossing at Aughavanagh Road, where so many families need to cross Parnell Road to get to Scoil Íosagáin. The junction at Harold's Cross Bridge is getting some temporary cycling protection, and future cycling improvements for this whole stretch are coming.

In a separate programme of work, work has also commenced on a pedestrian crossing at Armagh Road, and three others are scheduled for completion in the first half of this year: on Sundrive Road at Ferns Road, Stannaway Road and Clogher Road. I know this wouldn't be happening without Minister Eamon Ryan and the massive national funding the Green Party secured (€360m per year) for pedestrian and cycling improvements. The Grand Canal project is funded via that NTA funding.



A stretch of the Grand Canal which has been notoriously dangerous for pedestrians is finally getting a massive safety upgrade, with long-overdue signalised crossings, widening of footpaths and safer cycling.

A new library for Terenure



At the October South East Area Committee meeting, councillors saw the plans for a new library in Terenure.

It's been a long time coming but Dublin City Council has finally shared plans for the proposed new public library in the heart of Terenure village. An expanded, modern, circa 1,000 sq m building that will better serve the needs of the community, this is an extremely welcome investment in Terenure which can't happen soon enough. As approved by the South East Area committee, the council will initiate a Part 8 planning application early this year, at which stage the plans will go on public display. See dublincity.ie for more.



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Contactless bottle refill stations have been installed in Bushy, Brickfields and Eamonn Ceannt parks.

Time to think circular

In recent years many of us have become much more aware of the issues caused by single use plastics, and plastic bottles in particular have become a major source of litter in our communities and public spaces. In a single day in Ireland we consume a massive 220,000 plastic bottles of water, many of which go into landfill or end up discarded on our streets and beaches. This is why public drinking fountains and bottle refill stations are a vital public amenity in Ireland's new 'circular economy', and I'm delighted to have secured the funding to install them in three of our local parks - Eamonn Ceannt, Brickfields and Bushy.

The slick, contactless designs are safe and hygienic to use, and it means more of us can carry and use a reusable water bottle as we enjoy our local parks. It's a small but important 'circular' initiative, but expect to see more of this as the Green Party works to reduce Ireland's waste through the Circular Economy Act. We want to make it easy for people to reduce, reuse, repair or recycle more of their consumer waste, and to that end we have also introduced (finally) a Deposit and Return scheme for plastic bottles and cans, which will be rolled out nationally in the next few months.

Questions about Gulistan?



SCAN QR CODE TO FIND OUT MORE

The new Dublin City Development Plan



Bigger, better and greener, the new Dublin City Development Plan 2022 to 2028 came into effect on December 14th. The plan sets out the policies and objectives that will guide how and where development takes place in the city over the next six years, and across various stages of the two year process of making the plan, myself and my Green Party colleagues submitted and fought for hundreds of motions to ensure the plan robustly supported the delivery of climate action, the protection of biodiversity, and the long-term sustainable development of quality housing. Some of the things we pushed for and won were limits on build-to-let developments, more pedestrianisation in the city centre, the provision of creative, community and cultural spaces in large-scale developments, biodiversity supports in new developments, nature corridors throughout the city, plus a public lido instead of a white water rafting facility. The new plan can be viewed at www.dublincity.ie.



The redevelopment of the Gulistan Depot lands will bring a big housing boost to the Rathmines area, and see the first 'cost rental' homes delivered for Kimmage Rathmines.

Cost Rental and the redevelopment of Gulistan Depot

An exciting development will soon be getting underway in the heart of Rathmines, as Dublin City Council, working with the Approved Housing Body, Clúid, will set about repurposing the old DCC Gulistan depot lands for a new Primary Care Centre for Rathmines, along with much-needed housing. I've been impressed with the masterplan the council has produced, and the focus on creating a new, green, connected neighbourhood, with well-crafted, quality homes and generous social spaces. Critically, the housing provided will offer security of tenure to its residents, and will be a mix of age-friendly (which is so important for our older residents who want to downsize and live independently) and - a first for Kimmage Rathmines - cost rental housing. In Government, the Green Party has focused on bringing innovative, progressive solutions to housing, and we legislated to introduce the cost rental model to Ireland. It's a new form of public housing; available to everyone, and offering security of tenure and rents that are significantly lower than the market rate.

Clúid Housing and Dublin City Council's Housing Delivery team completed a four-day public information event on this new development in Rathmines Library in November, with the aim of taking on board all comments received. They have now produced an FAQ addressing some of the local concerns raised with them at this information event, which you can download by scanning the QR code on the left. There will be further public information days early in 2023 to advise on the next steps for this important community development.

Ready to retrofit?

The SEAI one stop shops for retrofitting grants are now open for business, and there's never been a better time to insulate your home. To lower energy bills, protect against fuel poverty, and reduce carbon emissions, the Green Party has delivered one of Europe's most ambitious home energy upgrade programmes - the €8 billion Home Energy Upgrade Scheme. We want to support people to upgrade their homes with insulation, renewable heating systems and solar power. An upgraded home is warmer, cosier, healthier, and has lower energy bills.

- WITH:**
- **FREE** home energy upgrades for those in need
 - **Insulation grants of up to 80%**
 - **Deep retrofit grants of up to 50%**
 - **Low cost loans**
 - **One stop shops to simplify the process**
 - **Microgeneration payments for surplus energy**

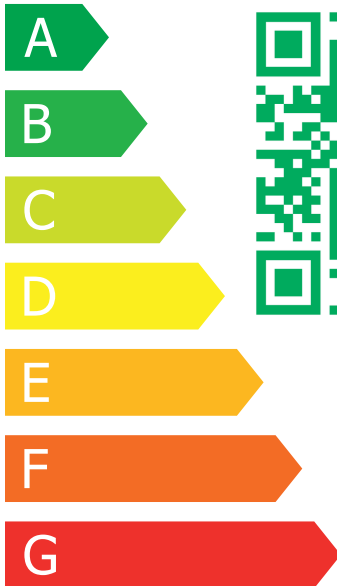
WHY?

Lower energy bills

A warmer home

Increased home value

Climate action



Scan for more details
or visit www.SEAI.ie



Free home energy upgrades

The Warmer Homes Scheme offers free energy upgrades for homeowners most at risk of energy poverty. If you're in receipt of Fuel Allowance, Job Seekers Allowance, Working Family Payment, One-Parent Family Payment, Carers Allowance, Disability Allowance, or other state supports, you could benefit from a FREE home energy upgrade.

Attic and cavity wall insulation

Improved grants for insulation will now cover about 80% of the cost of attic and cavity wall insulation – a rate that has more than trebled with Greens in government. These upgrades are extremely cost-effective and can be rapidly deployed to tackle rising energy costs. Individually or combined, they come with a typical pay-back period of 1-2 years.

One stop shops

One Stop Shops are for people who want to upgrade their home energy in one go. Sometimes this is called a 'deep retrofit'; it will bring your home up to a minimum BER B2 standard, and grants of up to 50% are available. SEAI has already approved a number of 'One Stop Shops', offering an end-to-end service for homeowners.

Grant Amounts For Private Homeowners

Grant	Available Grant Value	Free Energy Upgrade	One Stop Shop Service	Individual Energy Upgrade Grants
Home Energy Assessment	€350	✓	✓	✓
Drylining	Upto €4,500	✓	✓	✓
Attic Insulation	Up to €1,500	✓	✓	✓
External Wall Insulation	Up to €8,000	✓	✓	✓
Windows	Up to €4,000	✓	✓	
Heating Controls	€700	✓	✓	✓
Heat Pump	Up to €6,500	✓	✓	✓
Heat Pump Central Heating System	Up to €2,000	✓	✓	
Solar Water Heating	€1,200	✓	✓	✓
Solar PV	Up to €2,400		✓	✓
Project Management	Up to €2,000		✓	

Some Typical Case Studies

Measures	Cost of Install	Grant	Net Cost	Energy Savings Per annum
Detached Bungalow, cavity walls, built 1989, BER D2				
Roof & Internal wall insulation, Airtightness, Windows & Doors, Heat Pump and heating system, Mechanical Ventilation	€ 49,500	€ 24,600	€ 24,900	€1,200 €100 per month
Detached Rural Home, Two Storey, 194sqm, built 1975				
External Wall insulation, Airtightness and Windows, Heat Pump & Heating System	€ 50,000	€ 23,500	€ 26,500	€1,000 €83 per month
Semi-Detached - Cavity Wall, BER - E2				
Cavity Wall Insulation, Airtightness and Windows, Heat Pump Install	€ 30,254	€ 15,600	€ 14,654	€700 €58 per month
Terraced House, Cavity wall, 1990s, BER - D				
Roof & Cavity Wall Insulation	€ 2,500	€ 2,000	€ 500	€300 €25 per month

Community events make a welcome return!



Given that we've just enjoyed our first proper post-Covid Christmas, it's no surprise that a staggering 4,000 people came out to enjoy the Christmas tree lighting events which took place across Kimmage Rathmines in late November and early December. I was honoured to deputise for the Lord Mayor, Caroline Conroy, at three of these events, in Crumlin Village and Terenure, along with the first ever Christmas tree lighting event in Kimmage - enthusiastically supported by the team at Supervalu. The atmosphere at all three events was incredible, and they followed equally successful Halloween events in Eamonn Ceannt and Brickfields Parks, and a full programme of summer festivals. Our amazing community team (Rob Chester and Carmel McCartney, pictured) pulled out all the stops to ensure that our community events returned with a bang in 2022 - here's to an equally fun-filled 2023!



Kiss the kissing gates goodbye! No one should be locked out of parks. Eamonn Ceannt Park, April 2022.

Parks are for everyone

Ireland went into lockdown just a couple of weeks after I was co-opted onto the Council at the end of February, 2020. That first summer was challenging for so many people, not least those who could not gain access to our parks because 'kissing gates' prevented wheelchair users, those with mobility aids, or even people pushing buggies or riding bikes, from entering. While many of us reconnected that summer with our local parks, others struggled to find a place to spend time outdoors. I've been working to make sure the parks in Kimmage Rathmines are accessible to all, and I'm delighted that the Parks Department is currently trialling a removal of the kissing gates from Eamonn Ceannt Park. An accessibility upgrade for the playground is also in the works, which will include something else I'd been requesting for the park: a wheelchair accessible swing. With this upgrade, accessible cycling offered by the Bike Hub, and wheelchair-friendly picnic tables, Eamonn Ceannt Park is now a welcoming and inclusive place for all.

Welcoming the Bike Hub to Crumlin

I couldn't be more delighted that the Bike Hub finally open in Eamonn Ceannt Park in November. But what is the Bike Hub? It's a fantastic social enterprise that makes cycling accessible to as many people as possible through bike repairs, bike maintenance training courses, and an accessible fleet of bikes that allows those who can't use a regular bike to enjoy the pleasure of a cycle in the park. They also run a brilliant programme 'upcycling' unwanted bikes for people who would benefit from an affordable mode of transport.

All in all it's a fantastic addition to the park, and plenty of local kids are already learning to repair and care for bicycles.



With my Green Party colleagues Lord Mayor Caroline Conroy and Councilor Janet Horner at the Bike Hub.

A dog run for the southside?

More and more people have been contacting me lately asking if one of our parks here in Kimmage Rathmines could allocate space for a dog run. Dog owners who visit St. Anne's Park on the northside of the city will no doubt be familiar with the run for small and large dogs - this is currently the only dog run in a Dublin City Council park and runs to an acre in size, which is comfortably accommodated in St. Anne's. I've been raising this issue in a number of different forums, and our Local Area Committee agreed my motion last year that a suitable park should be identified to bring a dog run to the south of the city. With all the competing pressures on our local parks - playgrounds, playing pitches, other amenities, and of course making space for nature - the current feeling amongst Parks officials is that there isn't room for a dog run, but what do you think? Would you use it?

Would you like to see a Dog Run in one of our South City parks?



SCAN QR CODE TO TELL ME MORE



CLLR **CAROLYN MOORE**
Kimmage Rathmines

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