

Support Relay for Life appeal



PLEA: Hollie Maxwell with her daughter Phoebe

A YOUNG mother from Ballyfermot who survived childhood leukaemia is calling on the Dublin community to get involved in Relay For Life South County Dublin this May, reports Ellen Gough.

Registration is now open for the 24-hour event in Corkagh Park on May 31 in aid of the Irish Cancer Society, which brings the local community together to celebrate cancer survivors and remember those who have been lost to cancer.

Participants team up and take turns to walk through the day and night, with someone always on the move during the 24-hour period.

Ballyfermot woman and cancer survivor Hollie Maxwell was diagnosed with leukaemia when she was six, and she finished chemotherapy just before her First Communion.

The 28-year-old is sharing her cancer experience to encourage others to take part in Relay For Life and to show that there is hope after a cancer diagnosis.

"Most people have been affected by cancer, and I think Relay For Life is a great way for us to support each other – there's a great sense of community," Hollie said.

"I went to my first Relay For Life in 2016. It felt really amazing, and it was very emotional. It was really nice to meet other survivors and hear their stories – especially other young people, I don't really meet other young cancer survivors in my day-to-day life."

The funds raised at Relay For Life are essential to enable the Irish Cancer Society to provide free, vital support services to people affected by cancer across Ireland and to fund groundbreaking cancer research.

A moving Candle of Hope ceremony is one of the main highlights of Relay For Life, when thousands of candle bags, personalised with messages of hope and remembrance, are lit in celebration of cancer survivorship and to honour loved ones lost to cancer.

Another key feature of every Relay For Life is the survivors' lap, where cancer survivors who have lived or are living with cancer are invited to open the event with a special celebratory lap of their local Relay track.

"One in two of us will be diagnosed with cancer in our lifetime, so it's so important to get behind fundraisers like Relay For Life so these vital services can continue to be there when we need them," Hollie added.

To register a team for a Relay For Life South County Dublin, or to buy a candle bag to be displayed as part of the Candle of Hope ceremony, visit www.relayforlife.ie/event/south-county-dublin.

PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT ACT 2000 (AS AMENDED) PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT REGULATIONS, 2001 (AS AMENDED) NOTICE OF PROPOSED DEVELOPMENT BY A LOCAL AUTHORITY

Location: South Dublin County Council intends to carry out development at the former South Dublin County Council Depot, at the Stables and Courtyards of Rathfarnham Castle and the adjoining Sean Keating Garden, Grange Road/Rathfarnham Road, Dublin14 (D14 FC62 & D14 XTO2), Rathfarnham Castle (Protected Structure RPS. 221) Grange Road, Rathfarnham, Dublin 14, on a development site of 1.1725 hectares. The site is bounded by Castleside Drive to the north, Rathfarnham Road to the west and Rathfarnham Castle and its grounds to the south and east.

Nature & Extent of the Proposed Development:

Pursuant to the requirements of the above, notice is hereby given of the proposal to construct the following scheme by South Dublin County Council:

The development will consist of the refurbishment and change of use of the former stable buildings and former council depot yards, to provide mixed-use cultural/arts/café/restaurant uses together with retail use, WC's, storage areas and a switch room. Detailed Description of the works:

1. Works to the building to the north of the castle known as Cromwell's Fort (GFA 269m²), and its change of use to two multi-purpose event spaces and associated lobby areas.
The proposed works to include:
 - i. the removal of a modern flat roof covering and the replacement with a pitched roof with zinc finish and rendered masonry gable-ends;
 - ii. the removal of the existing solid floor to the southern internal room and replacement with a new insulated floor slab and the insertion of a new raised floor to the northern room;
 - iii. the removal of infill blockwork from existing openings and the provision of new windows and doors to existing openings;
 - iv. Installation of new services, partitions and repair and repointing works as required, including application of lime render finish.
2. Works to the existing single storey former stable buildings (GFA 591m²) within the existing courtyards to the north of the Castle and change of use to cultural/arts spaces, retail, café/restaurant, public toilets and ancillary lobby, storage and services spaces. The proposed works to include:
 - i. the removal of temporary roof coverings and the replacement with slate roof coverings;
 - ii. the minor modification of roof profiles above 2no. entrance doorways to provide sufficient head height at entrances;
 - iii. the removal of temporary bracing to windows and doors and replacement with new windows and doors to existing openings;
 - iv. the insertion of a new opening to the western perimeter wall to provide a new public entrance to the courtyard immediately to the north of the castle, and the closing up of an adjacent existing doorway opening;
 - v. The creation of new openings within dividing walls of the existing stable buildings to provide improved connection between the buildings;
 - vi. The construction of a new single-storey mono-pitch extension (GFA 83m²) to the northern elevation of a former stable building;
 - vii. New insulated floor slabs, installation of new services and repair, repointing and lime render works as required.
3. The provision of a new single storey café and restaurant and ancillary support space (area GFA 528m²) within the former council depot yards comprising:
 - i) The demolition of a section of wall to the north-west to provide access between the proposed restaurant dining area and back of house areas;
 - ii) The construction of a single storey mono-pitch structure in the north-west corner including clerestory windows facing north and west along the existing perimeter walls of the site to provide a café/restaurant dining area, and an associated single storey flat-roof structure to the north to provide ancillary support to the café/restaurant, including kitchens, staff and visitor WCs;
 - iii) The provision of an internal plant room to the rear;
 - iv) The provision of external ancillary support areas including a screened bin store, screened plant enclosure at ground level and screened rooftop plant enclosure;
 - v) The provision of two new openings within the existing western perimeter wall to facilitate the insertion of secure entrance gates, to provide staff, deliveries and bin store access to the rear of the ancillary space and bin storage areas;
 - vi) The provision of four new openings within the existing western perimeter wall to facilitate the insertion of new glazed window openings to the café/restaurant;
 - vii) Repairs and repointing to the existing walls as required.
4. The provision of new, single storey, slated roof structures to the existing structures (GFA 33m²) to the north of the building known as the Seismograph Building consisting of:
 - i) A secure bike store area and provision of 10no. long term bicycle storage spaces including 1no. enlarged bicycle space for a cargo bike;
 - ii) A secure bin storage area for the retail spaces;
5. The demolition and reconstruction of the walls to the north and west of the northernmost former depot yard;
6. The provision of a new car park on part of the Sean Keating garden adjacent to the boundary with Castleside Drive, with entry from the existing Rathfarnham Road car park, including:
 - i) the demolition of 2no. existing gate posts and part of the adjacent existing garden wall and railings, and the removal of 14no. existing trees to facilitate the construction of a new pedestrian and vehicular entrance, pedestrian footpath and delivery drop-off area;
 - ii) the regrading and relevelelling of the existing sunken pond and garden area to provide 54 no. car parking spaces (including 4no. accessible parking spaces and 10 no. EV parking spaces) and 42 no. short-term bicycle parking spaces to the north of the site and associated landscaping;
- i) The reconfiguration of the existing pedestrian entrance gate and new hard and soft landscaping to the north-west corner of the site to facilitate improved pedestrian access;
7. All associated site services, site development works and landscaping comprising:
 - i) Removal of temporary cabin structures from the existing former council depot yards and associated site clearances;
 - ii) The construction of new gated entrance and railings between Rathfarnham Castle forecourt and the proposed site;
 - iii) The removal of 4no. car spaces from the existing Rathfarnham Road car park to provide a new enlarged pavement area adjacent to the entrance to the Café/Restaurant;
 - iv) The reallocation of the existing bus set down area to accommodate a universally accessible set down area;
 - v) The local regrading of the footpath within the Rathfarnham Road car park along the perimeter wall to the west of the courtyards to provide accessible entrance points to the courtyards;
 - vi) The removal of part of southern end of the existing low level boundary wall between the existing car park and Rathfarnham Road to facilitate a new raised table and improved pedestrian crossing point; installation of a new access control gate to the carpark entrance from Rathfarnham Road;
 - vii) The regrading and relevelelling of the existing surfaces to facilitate universal access throughout the site
 - viii) The provision of new hard and soft landscaping to the existing courtyards;
 - ix) The provision of new secure entrance gates to the existing openings between the park and courtyards;
 - x) The infilling with masonry construction of an existing unused entrance between the northern courtyard and the park to facilitate the regrading of the courtyard;
 - xi) Installation of new drainage, attenuation and site services and associated trenching and reinstatement works.
 - xii) Installation of new external site lighting to the car parking areas and courtyard spaces;
 - xiii) Repairs and repointing of existing structures throughout, as required.

The former council depot yards and former stable buildings fall within the zone of notification for Rathfarnham Castle, a National Monument (RMP DU022-014, Nat. Mon. 628) and a Protected Structure (RPS. 221). The proposed Part 8 development has undergone Appropriate Assessment (AA) Screening under the Habitats Directive (92/43/EEC) and an Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Screening under Planning and Development Regulations 2001 (as amended). No likely significant effects were identified during the AA and EIA Screening processes, or during an Ecological Impact Assessment (EcIA) prepared for the proposed development. Therefore, there is no requirement to proceed to the next stage of AA or for a Natura Impact Statement (NIS) to be produced. In addition, the proposed development is not a type of development that triggers the requirement for an EIA and subsequent preparation of an EIA Report as per the prescribed classes of development and thresholds set out in Schedule 5 of the Planning and Development Regulations 2001 (as amended). Any person may, within 4 weeks from the date of this notice, apply to An Bord Pleanála for a screening determination as to whether the proposed development would be likely to have significant effects on the environment.

Persons wishing to inspect drawings and particulars of the proposed development in person can do so as follows:

Plans and particulars of the proposed scheme will be available for inspection or purchase at a fee not exceeding the reasonable cost of making a copy for a period of four weeks from **Thursday 8th May 2025 to Friday 6th June 2025** only, at the Planning Department counter in the offices of South Dublin County Council, County Hall, Tallaght, Dublin 24 between the hours 10.00am - 12.00 noon & 2.00pm to 4.00pm Monday to Friday, and at Ballyroan Library, Orchardstown Avenue, Dublin 14, D14 VY33 between the hours 9.45am - 8pm Monday to Thursday and 9.45am to 4.30pm Friday to Saturday. Hours may differ at public and bank holidays.

The plans and particulars of the proposed development are also available for inspection online on the Councils Public Consultation Portal website (<http://consult.sdblincoco.ie>) during the period: **8th of May 2025 to 20th of June 2025**.

Submissions:

Submissions or observations in relation to the proposed development, dealing with the proper planning and sustainable development of the area in which the development would be situated, may be made as follows:

Online at [https://consult.sdblincoco.ie](http://consult.sdblincoco.ie) up to **11.59pm on Friday 20th of June 2025**.

Or

Written submissions not later than **5.00pm, on Friday 20th of June 2025** to: Administrative Officer, County Promotion Unit, Economic, Enterprise and Tourism Development, South Dublin County Council, County Hall, Tallaght, Dublin 24. Submissions should be labelled "Castle Stables and Courtyard at Rathfarnham".

NOTE: Please make your submission by one medium only. Only submissions received by **Friday 20th of June 2025** and addressed as set out above, will be considered. Submissions cannot be accepted in any other format or to any other postal address. Submissions and observations should state the name, address, and, where relevant, details of any organisation, community group or company etc. which you represent.

Signed:

**Director of Economic, Enterprise and Tourism Development,
South Dublin County Council.**