

Your Council, working for you



24 Hours in the life of a gritter driver

PLUS Budget 2018, Housing News, Fingal Newsdesk.



Contact

Fingal County Council

County Hall,
Main Street,
Swords, Co. Dublin
K67 X8Y2

Fingal County Council

Civic Offices
Grove Road,
Blanchardstown,
Dublin 15
D15 W638


Tel: (01) 890 5000

Web: www.fingal.ie

Email: customercareunit@fingal.ie

Report: www.fixyourstreet.ie

Connect with us

 [Join us on Facebook](#)

 [Follow us on Twitter](#)

 [Watch us on YouTube](#)

Fingal News is published by the
Communications Unit of
Fingal County Council.

Email: fingalnews@fingal.ie

To subscribe to *Fingal News*, please register for Fingal Alerts.
Details at <https://alerts.fingal.ie/en/latest-alerts>

Fingal County Council Parks

Ardgillan Castle Demesne and Regional Park

Malahide Castle Demesne and Regional Park

Newbridge House, Farm, Demesne and Regional Park

Swords Castle and Townpark

Santry Demesne Regional Park

Skerries Mills

St Catherines Park / Lucan Demesne

Talbot Botanic Gardens

Tolka Valley Regional Park

Ward River Valley Regional Park



For a full list of opening hours and more details,
please go to:

<http://fingal.ie/community-and-leisure/>

Fingal County Council Recycling Centres



Coolmine Recycling Centre

Coolmine Industrial Estate,
Dublin 15.
(Beside Coolmine Fire Station)

Estuary Recycling Centre

Swords, County Dublin
(Beside Swords Business Park)

For opening hours and more details see

link <http://fingal.ie/environment/waste-and-recycling/recycling-centres/>

Mayor's Message



As Mayor of Fingal, I believe that staying engaged with our residents is essential to keeping them informed about what their Council is doing to make Fingal a better place to live, work and do business in.

Fingal News offers you a link to your Council and the progress being made to deliver services to residents and tackle key issues in your area as well as events and news from your community.

This is the first *Fingal News* issue of 2018 and within you will find updates of the progress being made to tackle the extensive Housing and Homelessness Crisis we are faced with. We have made this a priority with €61 million being allocated to Housing and Building in our 2018 Budget. Through working with the Government, Fingal County Council has delivered 2241 social housing homes and is 63% ahead of our target for the 2015 - 2021 period.

We understand the importance of communication with our residents. The contact details for the Council, its councillors and relevant service providers are included within. As your Council, we work for you and want to continue to have a dialogue with our residents and respond to your needs the best we can.

Cllr. Mary McCamley
Mayor Of Fingal

Chief Executive's Message



Creating awareness of what Fingal County Council is doing on behalf of its citizens and businesses is a key element of our communications strategy so I am delighted we will be doing that each month through *Fingal News*.

Over the past few years we have embraced advances in digital technology to make many of our services available online and *Fingal News* will be published as an electronic magazine, with a small number of printed copies distributed through our libraries and offices.

In this edition, there are major articles on our recently approved budget and our housing strategy as well as an insight into the work of our operations crews who are out gritting the roads of Fingal when temperatures drop. There is also plenty of information on the various activities and services we provide. If you have any suggestions for the magazine then please email fingalnews@fingal.ie with your ideas.

Our core objective is to make Fingal a good place in which to live, work, visit and do business. A RedC poll we carried out last year showed that 95% of residents believe it is a good place to live. As your Council, we will continue to work for you to make sure it stays that way.

Paul Reid
Chief Executive
Fingal County Council

Fingal County Council Budget 2018

In November 2017 Fingal County Council adopted a progressive budget for 2018 which will see an increased investment of €11.3m from last year to ensure the Council keeps pace with the increased demands of a county that has the fastest growing and youngest population in Ireland.

The €227m budget specially targets investment in five key areas of the Council's overall strategy which will ultimately benefit all citizens of Fingal. These are Housing and Homelessness, Economic Development, Services to Citizens, Building Communities and Growing Tourism.

Expenditure on housing and homelessness rises by almost 11 per cent to €61m while the Council's road works programme will increase by nine per cent to almost €26m. Spending on Economic Development and Tourism will also be up by nine per cent to €21m and there is a five per cent increase in community investment.



€227m Spending

- 1. Housing & Building - €61m
- 2. Road Transportation & Safety - €26m
- 3. Water Supply & Sewerage - €21m
- 4. Development Management - €21m
- 5. Environmental Services - €43m
- 6. Recreation & Amenity - €42m
- 7. Miscellaneous Services - €13m

The Council's planned expenditure of €227,268,000 next year will fund its day-to-day operations as well as contributing to the advancement of Fingal's Capital Programme which will cost €502m over a three year period (2018-2020).

The 2018 Budget represents a spend of €767.25 for every one of the county's 296,214 citizens and is a major stimulus to the local economy. For every €1 spent by the Council, an additional €1.72 is spent downstream in the economy and this means that the total contribution to economic output is over €0.5 billion. The employment impact is also substantial and for every position directly employed within the council, an additional three jobs are supported as a result. This means that the total employment contribution from Budget 2018 is over 4,000 jobs.

Councillors opted to reduce the basic rate of Local Property Tax (LPT) by 10 per cent at a meeting on September 11 which yielded an extra €1.9m in discretionary income and this has been ringfenced for spending in key areas.

This will see an additional €730,000 being invested in library services, community events and facilities and the arts programme and €500,000 being used to fund the Council's initiatives to tackle homelessness. A further €113,000 will be spent on the Council's housing stock, €250,000 will be invested in parks, open spaces and playgrounds with €200,000 going towards additional street lighting and road maintenance. The remaining €116,000 will be spent on tourism promotion and funding for events throughout the county.

For the first time since 2009, Councillors voted to increase Commercial Rates by two per cent. This is the first increase in rates in Fingal since 2009 and follows a number of rate decreases in the early part of this decade. Fingal, which has the highest compliance of rate payment in Ireland at 95.63% for 2016, also retains the distinction of having the lowest rate among the four Dublin Local Authorities.

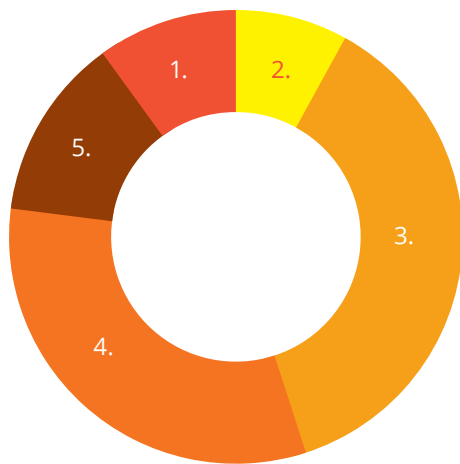
The rate increase will provide an additional €2.47m in spending for the Council and this too will be ring-fenced for spending across key areas.

There will be an additional €650,000 spent on public lighting, traffic, footpaths and bridge maintenance and a similar amount will be used to fund remedial and refurbishment works on community centres throughout the County. A further €650,000 will be used to provide funds for capital works on the Council's housing stock including heating system upgrades and the replacement of items such as doors and windows.

A further €250,000 will go towards economic development promotion and improvement works at the Dublin Enterprise Zone, while €270,000 is to be spent on refurbishing bottle banks throughout Fingal and improvement works at the Council's two recycling centres in Coolmine and Swords.

Within the 2018 Budget, a total of €61.1m will be spent on Housing and Building with €42.7m budgeted for Environment and €42.5m for Recreation and Amenity. Road Transportation & Safety will receive €25.8m and Water Services €20.7m while €21.1m has been set aside for Development Incentives and Controls.

Welcoming the adoption of the 2018 Budget by Councillors, who voted by 30 votes to four in favour, the Chief Executive of Fingal County Council, Paul Reid, said: "This is one of the most progressive budgets adopted by any Irish Local Authority and allows the Council to continue to meet the growing demands of having to cater for a county that has the fastest growing and youngest population in the country as well as a rapidly growing local economy. This has brought challenges, such as the housing and homelessness crisis, but the extra funding we will obtain from Local Property Tax and Commercial Rates has allowed us to increase our spending by over five per cent and invest more into key areas of our overall strategy."



LPT Spending

- 1. Operational Expenditure - €200K
- 2. Tourism & Events - €160K
- 3. Communities & Libraries - €730K
- 4. Housing & Homelessness - €630K
- 5. Recreation & Amenities - €250K

“This is one of the most progressive budgets adopted by any Irish Local Authority”



Events such as the very popular Flavours Of Fingal will benefit from extra funding as a result of the 10% reduction in Local Property Tax basic rate.



Fingal County Council housing under construction in Racecourse Common in Lusk.

Housing

Ending homelessness and reducing the housing list is a key priority for Fingal County Council and we are playing a key role in assisting the Department of Housing, Planning and Local Government to implement the Rebuilding Ireland Action Plan.

In April 2015, the Government gave Fingal County Council a target of providing 1,376 social housing homes by the end of 2017. At the January meeting of the County Council, the Director of Housing and Community, Margaret Geraghty, told councillors that 2,241 homes had been delivered in that period and that the Council is aiming to provide a total of 5,084 over the period from 2015 to 2021.

The homes were delivered through construction, acquisition, leasing and renting at a cost of €151million and the Council has budgeted to spend

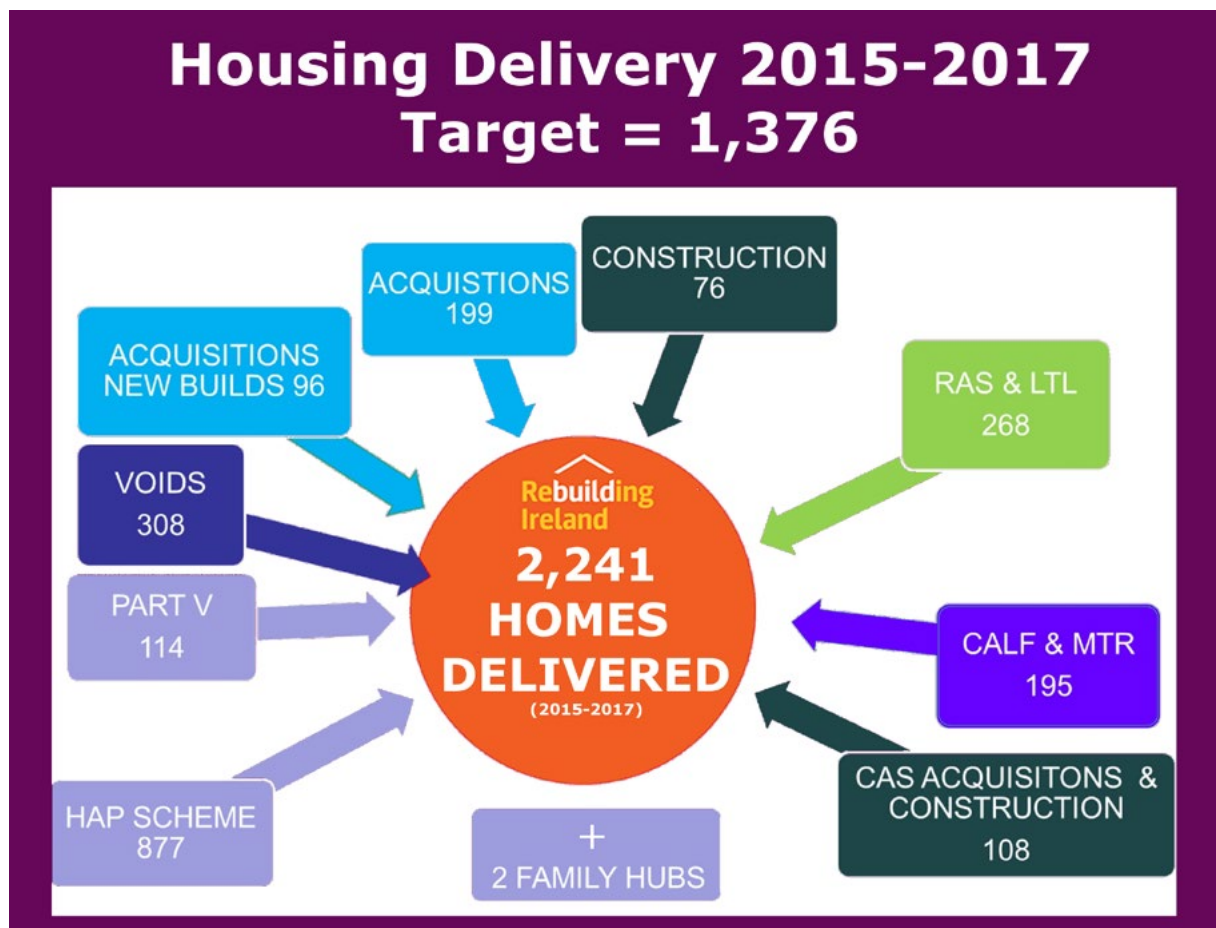
€342m on social housing projects over the next three years as part of its Capital Programme. Within those delivery pillars are a variety of mechanisms which the Council uses to provide social housing and the accompanying graphic illustrates the impact each had on the provision of those 2,241 homes over the past three years.

Over the next four years there will be a greater emphasis on construction. Because local authorities stopped building houses over a decade ago, it has taken the Council some time to gear up our own construction programme. On average, it can take 125 weeks for a project to go from the pre-feasibility stage to handing over keys to a tenant coming off the Housing List or out of Emergency Accommodation.

As a result of this Fingal didn't complete any houses in 2015 but 26 were handed over in 2016 and a further 49 were delivered in 2017. In 2018, 141 homes will be constructed with 388 scheduled for completion in 2019 and a further 860 due to be built in 2020 and 2021. That's a total of 1,389 homes being constructed by the Council across the county over the next four years.

Other houses will be constructed by Approved Housing Bodies who will receive some of the funding to do so from the Council while 10% of homes constructed by private developers will be bought by the Council. The Council will also purchase houses off private developers as part of its efforts to reduce the housing list. One area that the Council will be looking to develop over the next four years is the availability of Affordable Homes. The Council intends to use some of its landbanks to develop schemes which will have a mix of private, affordable and social housing.

“Reaching our target of providing 5,084 social housing homes by 2021 will not be an easy task but we are ahead of target, we have momentum and we will be doing everything we can to make it happen.”



Housing Delivery 2015 - 2017

A Day In The Life

Spare a thought for the Fingal County Council staff who work in all weathers, 24 hours a day, 365 days a year to ensure that 754 kms of the roads around Fingal are treated and made safe for all road users during the winter months. Fingal County Council has a total of eight gritting trucks, four trucks are based in Coolmine depot in Dublin 15 to cover the western side of the county including the Castleknock, Mulhuddart and Blanchardstown areas. Another four gritting trucks are based in Swords, each with their own specific routes to treat the roads around Balbriggan, Garristown, Howth and Swords.

Packy Donnelly and Declan Rafferty work out of Fingal County Council's depot in Watery Lane Swords, and are part of the team responsible for gritting the roads in the Swords area from October

through to mid April. "Our team here in the Watery Lane Depot is responsible for road maintenance in the area," explains Declan, "and in addition to looking after potholes, signage, footpaths, gully cleaning and dealing with storm and accident debris, we also do the road gritting throughout the winter".

Outlining how the annual gritting programme works, Declan explains, "During the cold spell, Met Eireann would provide a frost forecast and based on that, the call is made by Council Engineers to grit the roads. Roads are then gritted twice in 24 hours, once at 7pm and again at 4am. Sometimes if weather gets worse, roads will be gritted outside these times, it just depends, but there's always a crew on call to do so if required."



Fingal County Council gritters, Packy Donnelly and Declan Rafferty with rocksalt stockpile.

“I’ve often gritted on Christmas Day, and in fact this Christmas I was in on St Stephen’s Day. The bad snow of 2010 was the worst. In heavy snow like we had back then, even a big truck like ours could start to slide.”

Once loaded with rocksalt, the truck leaves Swords and covers a distance of 120kms on a circling route going between Blakes Cross and Santry, taking in Lusk, Rush, Donabate, Portrane and the main roads around Swords before returning to base. “If you were to do it in a straight line you’d nearly go as far as Waterford,” says Declan, “but it’s a circle and the route includes 55 speed ramps where you have to gear down to an almost stop and over two dozen roundabouts. All in all, it takes about two and a half hours.”

Packy normally does the 4am run and will arrive at the depot an hour beforehand. “The first thing I do when I arrive,” explains Packy, “is to salt the yard so that we can get safely out and on the road. The next thing is to check the truck because preparation is everything. Once I’m happy with the truck, I load up with rocksalt from our stockpile and would normally be heading out the gate about 3.45am. When I get back to base, I empty the truck and then wash it out to help prevent rust from developing.”

“I’ve often gritted on Christmas Day, and in fact this Christmas I was in on St Stephen’s Day. The bad snow of 2010 was the worst,” continues Packy, “In heavy snow like we had back then, even a big truck like ours could start to slide.”

Recalling lighter moments of the job, Packy tells the story of finding a cow in the middle of the road around Donabate one morning very early. “I just came round the corner and there she was and not a budge out of her,” explains Packy. He stopped the truck and contacted the Gardaí who asked him if he could remove the cow himself. “I’ll tell you what,” Packy responded, “I’ll grit the road for you so that you can come out and move the cow. I didn’t hear any more about the cow after that.”



Packy and Declan pictured with one of Fingal County Council’s gritting truckswww..

To find out more about how Fingal County Council prepares for Winter road gritting, go to: <http://fingal.ie/roads-and-travel/winterroadssalting/>

Staff Tip

While road gritting is a good defence against snow and ice, all road users are advised to remain vigilant and to adjust their driving to the road conditions. If you are driving behind a salting truck, please keep sufficient distance from the vehicle to allow the salt to spread evenly.

For more information on being winter ready, please go to: www.winterready.ie

Newsdesk

Minister launches construction of Donabate Distributor Road

THE Minister for Housing, Planning and Local Government, Eoghan Murphy, TD, recently launched the Donabate Distributor Road. The Minister, along with the Mayor of Fingal, Cllr Mary McCamley, and Fingal County Council Chief Executive, Paul Reid, turned the first sod on the 4km road which will run in an easterly direction from the R126 Hearse Road on the south-west of Donabate village, across the Dublin-Belfast railway line, before heading in a northerly direction to reconnect with the R126 on Portrane Road.

The Donabate Distributor Road is scheduled to take 18 months to complete and will create a much-needed alternative road crossing of the railway line with the construction of a new bridge as well as creating better access to Donabate and Portrane and alleviating traffic congestion in the village. It will also improve access to the strategically important National Forensic Mental Hospital in Portrane when this national facility becomes operational in two years' time.



EIB loan will trigger €180m investment programme in Fingal

FINGAL County Council has signed a €70 million Framework Loan Agreement with the European Investment Bank (EIB) which will trigger a €180m investment in strategic infrastructure projects within the county's Capital Development Plan.

This represents the first EIB support for county-wide investment in partnership with an Irish local authority for more than a decade and will enable a step-change in economic growth prospects for Fingal which has Ireland's fastest growing and youngest population.

The Framework Loan Agreement with EIB will give Fingal County Council the capacity to borrow €70million over the next five years and this will be invested in capital projects in areas such as:

- Transport, connectivity and housing land activation
- Enterprise development and job creation including development of new industrial sites
- Tourism promotion and visitor attractions including investment in historic properties and cycleways
- Social and cultural facilities including libraries and facilities for the arts
- Environmental investment

Fingal wins Community Engagement Award at Pride of Place Ceremony

FINGAL County Council received the Council Community Engagement award at the National Pride of Place Awards ceremony organised by Co-operation Ireland in Letterkenny.

This is the 15th Pride of Place Awards Ceremony which recognises the work local community organisations do for their areas and residents. During the ceremony 49 awards were announced in the main competition, the cities competition and special awards, ranging from groups supporting small rural communities to those involved in large inner city housing estates.



Mountview Family Resource Centre reopens following renovations

FOLLOWING renovations, The Mountview Family Resource Centre in Blanchardstown reopened recently. The reopening of the centre will also see the employment of a full-time co-ordinator, a full time family support worker, a part-time family support worker and a part-time administrator through funding received from Tusla, the Child and Family Agency.

The centre has also offered counselling services to bereaved children between the ages of 12 and 17 and received a Fingal Cleaner Communities award for environmental work it carried out in the Whitechapel area. Mountview Family Resource Centre was first opened in 1998. Management of the centre was handed over to the current team by Fingal County Council in 1999.



Fingal County Council receive €138,400 of funding for local Health and Well-being Projects

FINGAL County Council has been granted €138,400 of funding by the Department of Health as part of its Healthy Ireland Fund to be distributed across nine projects designed to improve the health and well-being of Fingal residents.

Healthy Ireland, A Framework for Improved Health and Wellbeing 2013-2025 is the national framework for action to improve the health and wellbeing of Ireland over the coming generation. It is being implemented on a local level as part of Fingal's Local Economic and Community Plan (LECP) 2016 – 2021.

The nine projects set to benefit will support innovative, cross-sectoral, evidence-based projects and initiatives that support the implementation of key national policies in areas such as obesity, smoking and physical activity.





Fingal Local Community Development Committee approves €64,500 funding for urban disadvantaged areas

THE Fingal Local Community Development Committee (LCDC) approved RAPID (Revitalising Areas by Planning, Investment and Development) funding of €64,500 to nine community groups. Grants approved by the Fingal LCDC ranged from €1,500 to €37,000. The RAPID Scheme aims to improve the quality of life for residents in disadvantaged urban areas. Groups to receive funding are based in Balbriggan and the Dublin 15 area. The projects include the provision of a new hub to cater for children and young adults attached to Mulhuddart Community Centre and support for Youth Services in Balbriggan through its Foróige clubs.



Fingal Students complete final mile of Marathon at Morton Stadium

1700 students from 34 Fingal schools ran the final mile of a marathon in Morton Stadium as part of the MarathonKids Programme being implemented by Fingal County Council. The fifth and sixth class students ran a total of 25.2 miles during group training sessions over an eight week period. To complete the marathon distance, they ran a full mile at Morton Stadium together. The MarathonKids programme was first implemented across Fingal three years ago, was the first of its kind in Ireland and has since been adopted by other councils throughout the country.

Future Leaders Shine At Fingal's Comhairle na nÓg Elections

OVER 150 young people from schools across Dublin attended the Fingal Comhairle na nÓg Annual General Meeting and Elections 2017/2018 at the Crowne Plaza Hotel in Blanchardstown in November. The event saw 22 new young councillors elected to represent the voice of young people in Fingal and was overseen by Fingal Council Council Staff and Youth Development Workers from Foróige-Blanchardstown and Crosscare-Swords/Baldoyle. This brings the total number of young councillors to 40.



Computer home tutoring and new bus routes introduced under Fingal's Age Friendly Initiative

FINGAL County Council recently announced the delivery of two services which will give elderly people greater access to technology and public transport. The 'Computer Home Supports' programme, the first of its kind in Ireland, is part of the Fingal Age Friendly Initiative being implemented by Fingal County Council, Fingal Leadership Partnership and Blanchardstown Area Partnership. Under the scheme, users are taught, free of charge in their own homes by Garda vetted tutors on how to use computers. Coinciding with the introduction of this scheme are three new bus routes which service Swords, Ballyboughal, Garristown and the Naul. The three new routes are operated by rural transport provider LocalLink.



46 Fingal Businesses to benefit from over half a million cash injection

A €545,328 cash injection was awarded by the Fingal Local Enterprise Office through grant schemes aimed at supporting small and start-up businesses. Forty six Fingal small businesses and start-ups approved for financial supports by the Fingal Local Enterprise Office are poised to create permanent new jobs. It is expected that over the next three years at least 117 new jobs will be added by the businesses in receipt of funding, 38 of these to be created immediately. The local businesses were approved for business priming grants, feasibility study grants, business expansion grants, Innovation grants and E-commerce grants. Presenting letters of offer to each of the grant approved businesses, the Mayor Cllr Mary McCamley commented on the importance of supporting start-ups: "Supporting the development of local SMEs is the key to powering economic development in Fingal and the local authority has a crucial role to play in ensuring that small businesses and start-ups are given every opportunity to succeed".



Council welcomes O'Dwyers' decision to accept Bremore Regional Park proposal

FINGAL County Council has welcomed the decision by the members of O'Dwyers GAA Club in Balbriggan to accept a proposal that will see the club move to a new facility at Bremore Regional Park. Under the agreement Fingal County Council will enter into a long-term lease with O'Dwyers for a 10 acre site on the northern boundary of the park where the club will develop a new clubhouse, sports pitch, parking and training areas which will be in alignment with and complementary to the Council's overall vision for the park. The Council has also agreed to purchase

O'Dwyers' current facility at Hamlet Lane which will be used for road improvements in the area as well as providing new housing.



€435,000 for LEADER-Rural Development Programme funding in 2017

€435,000 was approved to fund a diverse range of projects across enterprise development, rural tourism, social inclusion and the environment by the Dublin Rural Local Action Group (LAG) in 2017. Led by the Fingal Local Community Development Committee (LCDC) the LAG was established to deliver the LEADER element of the Rural Development Programme for the period 2016-2021. The €435,000 comes from a fund of €4.83 million. Grants ranging from €3,000 to €200,000 were given to 17 projects. Examples include a feasibility study for Ardgillan Castle under the Economic Development theme as well as expansion of Paws Café, under the Social Inclusion theme. Significant projects include approval of funding of €200,000 awarded for the relocation and fit out of the Remember Us Special Needs Centre.



Click [here](#) to see all recent Fingal County Council Press Releases.



Two of Fingal's mobile library vans pictured at their recent launch in Blanchardstown

Libraries News

No matter what the year brings for 2018, Fingal Libraries will make sure that you have plenty to do and read, whether you are on the move or relaxing at home.

We offer a diverse range of services, including a stimulating programme of events for all, free of charge. Fingal Libraries provide a wide range of traditional and digital services, offering 24-hour access to ebooks, emagazines, e newspapers and e learning courses. If you are not a member of Fingal Libraries, why not sign up today at www.fingal.ie/libraries or in person at your local branch (see list below). Stay connected by downloading the Fingal Library App and availing of a wide range of eservices including books, magazines and newspapers.

It's a very positive start to 2018 for the Libraries Department, with the arrival of three new mobile library vans and a fourth van on order. The vans were built by Nu-Track Ltd., with input from Council staff in both the Fleet Management Unit and the Libraries Department. These new vans replace four older mobile libraries, which have clocked up on average 17 years and many thousands of miles on the road.

Van Facts

- Length: 9380mm
- Height: 3370mm
- Width: 2380mm
- Wheelchair access via side door lift
- Electric powered side awning for outdoor activities
- Shelving book capacity – up to 6000 books per van

The vans will visit 23 schools each week, with hundreds of students coming on board to select books. They will also visit residential stops in rural parts of the county and areas that are further away from our established branch network. The new vans will have increased technical capability and will offer in-van Wi-Fi, enabling internet access.

Healthy Ireland at Your Library

Healthy Ireland is a government-led national strategy to improve health and wellbeing in Ireland, placing a focus on prevention, individual awareness and keeping people healthy for longer. Fingal Libraries have established a comprehensive programme of events promoting Health Ireland in all our branches. For more information go to: <http://www.fingal.ie/community-and-leisure/libraries/healthyirelandatyourlibrary/>

Up-coming events in February

Fingal Libraries has an exciting programme of STEAM events for school children in branches for Engineers' Week, which runs from February 24 to March 2. Classes from local schools have been invited to library branches for workshops that introduce children to engineering concepts in everyday life and bioengineering. In addition to the programme for schools, lego workshops will be taking place outside of school hours to illustrate engineering concepts using the fun, hands-on activity of lego.

For More information about events in your local library check out: <http://www.fingal.ie/events/> or contact your local branch for details

Fingal's Online Library

Fingal Libraries' online services can be accessed 24/7, 365 days of the year – from the comfort of your home or on the go with your mobile device via our app. Your Fingal Library card gives you access to thousands of e-Books, audiobooks, digital magazines, newspapers, graphic novels, comics, databases and even online classes where you can learn anything from Spanish to running your own business, Interview Skills to Creative Writing. If you'd like to sign up for a library card simply visit your local branch or sign up online at www.fingal.ie/community-and-leisure/libraries. For more information on our online services email Library.Eservices@fingal.ie. You can download the Fingal Library App via the App Store or Google Play.

Fingal's Library Services

Balbriggan	01 870 4401 / 01 870 4402	balbrigganlibrary@fingal.ie
Baldoyle	01 890 6793	baldoylelibrary@fingal.ie
Blanchardstown	01 890 5563	blanchlib@fingal.ie
Donabate	01 890 5609	donabate.library@fingal.ie
Garristown	01 835 5020	garristownlibrary@fingal.ie
Howth	01 890 5026	howthlibrary.library@fingal.ie
Malahide	01 870 4430 / 01 870 4431	malahidelibrary@fingal.ie
Rush	01 870 8414	rushlibrary@fingal.ie
Skerries	01 890 5671	skerrieslibrary.library@fingal.ie
Swords	01 890 5894 / 01 890 5582	swordslibrary@fingal.ie
Mobile library service	01 822 1564	mobilelibraries@fingal.ie
Library Headquarters	01 890 5524	LibrariesHQ@fingalcoco.ie
Housebound library service	01 860 4290 / 1850 211466 (Freephone)	houseboundlibrary@fingal.ie
Local Studies and Archives	01 870 4495 / 01 890 4486	Local.Studies@fingal.ie

Fingal Libraries are on Social Media!



Extracts From The Archives

The Big Snow...of January 1814.

Around January 14, 1814, the largest snowfall ever recorded in Ireland was reported in The Freeman's Journal.

It is supposed that the present fall of snow has been as heavy as any ever known in Ireland. But as to the quantity, there seems to be no doubt of its being greater than ever before experienced in the same space of time. In this respect we can answer that it is unparalleled for half a century, upon the authority of a very intelligent gentleman of this city, who has kept a regular diary of the weather

County Councils had not come into being yet, nor had District Councils or Town Commissioners. The closest thing to a local government authority was the County Grand Jury, so-called because they met in the county courthouse, which had nothing to do with judges or juries!

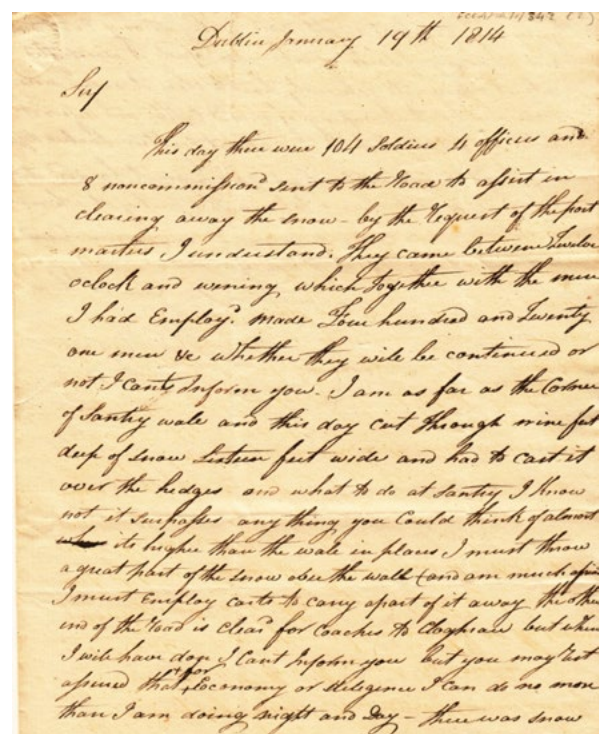
However, when it came to the building and maintenance of roads, the county grand juries across the United Kingdoms of Great Britain and Ireland, had in their wisdom, decided to had this unenviable function over to what were called Turnpike Roads Trustees. So how did they cope with this climactic event?

In records of the Trustees of the Dublin-Dunleer Turnpike Roads held in the Fingal County Archives, are a series of letters from the Overseer, Mr. Thomas Rogers, to the Board of Trustees, regarding the extra work, manpower, and costs involved in clearing the snow. On the next column is a transcribed extract:

9th January 1814

Sir,

This day there were 104 soldiers 4 officers and 8 non-commissioned [men] sent to the road to assist in clearing away the snow... They came between Twelve o'clock and evening, which together with the men I had employed, made Four hundred and Twenty-one men. I am as far as the Corner of Santry wall and this day cut through nine feet deep of snow sixteen feet wide and had to cast it over the hedges-and what to do at Santry I know not it surpasses anything you could think of almost higher than the wall in places. I must employ carts to carry a part of it away the other end of the road is clear for coaches to Cloghran but when I will have done I can't inform you but you may rest assured that as for Economy or diligence I can do no more than I am doing night ...The cost will be great - am in much need of money, begs to hear from you, your obedient servant, Thomas Rogers.



MS.A.10.12.12 41

Dublin January 21st 1844

Sir

I had about 500 men this day & as I mention in my letter last night I had about 110 from the Post office & got on about 200 perch the side of castle bridge without carts it was an inconceivably heavy job I hope the road will be open tomorrow night but there will be heavy work to be done on Monday between Swords & Dublin.

I am very uneasy and distrustful for money I have borrowed late now the men are late to be paid tomorrow night and I have not money to pay them - I beg to hear from you -

I am Sir Yrs. Obedt. Servt
J. Rogers

Rogers' main concern was to get the road open to carriages and coaches, particularly the mail coaches, which were so essential to life in the early 19th century. He enlisted the help of local labourers, and officers and men from the Royal Lancashire Regiment of Militia. By January 21 most of the road had been cleared, and the mail coaches between Dublin and Belfast were getting through. He was however, running out of money, and the men he had employed to do what he called "an inconceivably heavy job" were expecting to get paid.

Find Out More

Find out more about the history of Fingal through its archives by contacting;
Fingal Archives and Local Studies Library,
2nd Floor, Clonmel House,
Forster Way, Swords
Open Mon-Fri 10-5 p.m.
01-8704486/96
archives@fingal.ie
localstudies@fingal.ie

The records of the Turnpike Trusts for road from Dublin to Dunleer, probably the most complete in the country, and for the roads from Dublin to Malahide, Mullingar, Carlow, Knocksedan, Drogheda and Navan, are available to researchers by appointment, along with all our other collections.

John H. Smith	10/-
John D. Jones	12/-
John E. Brown	15/-
John F. Green	18/-
John G. White	20/-
John H. Black	25/-
John I. Grey	30/-
John J. Gold	35/-
John K. Silver	40/-
John L. Copper	45/-
John M. Lead	50/-
John N. Iron	55/-
John O. Tin	60/-
John P. Zinc	65/-
John Q. Brass	70/-
John R. Steel	75/-
John S. Nickel	80/-
John T. Cobalt	85/-
John U. Vanadium	90/-
John V. Chromium	95/-
John W. Manganese	100/-
John X. Silicon	105/-
John Y. Boron	110/-
John Z. Fluorine	115/-
John AA. Neon	120/-
John AB. Argon	125/-
John AC. Krypton	130/-
John AD. Xenon	135/-
John AE. Radon	140/-
John AF. Hydrogen	145/-
John AG. Helium	150/-
John AH. Lithium	155/-
John AI. Sodium	160/-
John AJ. Potassium	165/-
John AK. Calcium	170/-
John AL. Strontium	175/-
John AM. Barium	180/-
John AN. Lead	185/-
John AO. Tin	190/-
John AP. Antimony	195/-
John AQ. Bismuth	200/-
John AR. Selenium	205/-
John AS. Tellurium	210/-
John AT. Polonium	215/-
John AU. Arsenic	220/-
John AV. Vanadium	225/-
John AW. Chromium	230/-
John AX. Manganese	235/-
John AY. Iron	240/-
John AZ. Cobalt	245/-
John BA. Nickel	250/-
John BB. Copper	255/-
John BC. Zinc	260/-
John BD. Silver	265/-
John BE. Gold	270/-
John BF. Platinum	275/-
John BG. Palladium	280/-
John BH. Rhodium	285/-
John BI. Ruthenium	290/-
John BJ. Rhodium	295/-
John BK. Palladium	300/-
John BL. Rhodium	305/-
John BM. Ruthenium	310/-
John BN. Rhodium	315/-
John BO. Palladium	320/-
John BP. Rhodium	325/-
John BQ. Ruthenium	330/-
John BR. Rhodium	335/-
John BS. Palladium	340/-
John BT. Rhodium	345/-
John BU. Ruthenium	350/-
John BV. Rhodium	355/-
John BW. Palladium	360/-
John BX. Rhodium	365/-
John BY. Ruthenium	370/-
John BZ. Rhodium	375/-
John CA. Palladium	380/-
John CB. Rhodium	385/-
John CC. Ruthenium	390/-
John CD. Rhodium	395/-
John CE. Palladium	400/-
John CF. Rhodium	405/-
John CG. Ruthenium	410/-
John CH. Rhodium	415/-
John CI. Palladium	420/-
John CJ. Rhodium	425/-
John CK. Ruthenium	430/-
John CL. Rhodium	435/-
John CM. Palladium	440/-
John CN. Rhodium	445/-
John CO. Ruthenium	450/-
John CP. Rhodium	455/-
John CQ. Palladium	460/-
John CR. Rhodium	465/-
John CS. Ruthenium	470/-
John CT. Rhodium	475/-
John CU. Palladium	480/-
John CV. Rhodium	485/-
John CW. Ruthenium	490/-
John CX. Rhodium	495/-
John CY. Palladium	500/-
John CZ. Rhodium	505/-

Roll of the Working Party of the High Road, Loughlinstown

Day	Pay
Monday 15 th	2 - 2 - 5 - 5 - 0
Tuesday 16 th	2 - 2 - 5 - 5 - 0
Wednesday 17 th	2 - 2 - 5 - 5 - 0
Thursday 18 th	2 - 2 - 5 - 5 - 0
Friday 19 th	2 - 2 - 5 - 5 - 0
Saturday 20 th	2 - 2 - 5 - 5 - 0
Sunday 21 st	2 - 2 - 5 - 5 - 0
12 - 285	£32.18.0

Paid to the above men
Wm. Buck

William Buck Serjeant of the Royal Lancashire Regiment of Militia sworn before me and acknowledged receipt of the money paid to him and his men for clearing the High Road between the Dublin and Loughlinstown bridges on the 21st of January 1844

Wm. Buck

John M. Smith

HEAD OFFICE
DUBLIN
POLICE

Apart from the letter we also have the lists, and claims and receipts for the payment of, the extra men and soldiers hired to clear the snow. It is unlikely their names are still recorded in any other archive.

We even have the rates of pay for Sergeant, Corporal, and Private.

And lastly, the sworn affidavit, signed by the Sergeant in charge of the men, William Buck, acknowledging receipt of payment for him and his men.

Community Centres

Fingal County Council's Community Development Office currently supports 31 community facilities that provide the infrastructure to facilitate community engagement in communities across the county.

Fingal County Council recognises the importance of the role played by volunteers in the management and operation of Community Facilities. The Community Development Office (CDO) through its Community Facilities Management Support Unit (CFMSU) provides guidance and support to voluntary groups, volunteers, facility managers and staff in the management and operation of their Community Facilities. Throughout the years, FCC has adopted models of best practice and recognises the importance of good governance, clear concise communication and effective management structures.

Community Facilities play a key role in the development of sustainable communities and empowered participation through the provision of increased opportunities in lifelong learning and access to social and recreational engagement. They play a key role in building stronger communities and contribute to improving quality of life and health and wellbeing through providing opportunities for participation in exercise, training, education and activities to all members of the local community.

To see a full list of Fingal's Community Centres, go to link:

fingal.ie/community-and-leisure/community-spaces/

Anyone for Afternoon Tea In Ardgillan Castle?

Ardgillan Castle, one of Fingal County Council's Heritage Properties, is situated on an elevated coastline between Balbriggan and Skerries and set in 194 acres of rolling open grassland, mixed woodland and gardens. The 18th Century Castle and demesne overlook the Irish Sea, with spectacular views of the Mourne Mountains to the north and Lambay Island to the south-east. A great location for the perfect day out, Ardgillan is a stunning visitor attraction with a range of facilities the public can avail of, including castle tours, theatre events, afternoon tea, children's parties plus much more!

For your chance to win the wonderful treat of Afternoon

Tea for 4 and a free guided tour of the Castle, simply answer the question below and email your answer to fingalnews@fingal.ie before 5pm on Thursday March 15.

How many homes were delivered by Fingal County Council between 2015 and 2017?

- 1,241
- 1,841
- 2,241

For more details of Fingal County Council's Heritage Properties and Parks, go to: <http://fingal.ie/community-and-leisure/parks-and-open-spaces/find-a-heritage-property-a-park-or-open-space/>



Gaeilge i bhFine Gall

2018
BLIAIN NA
Gaeilge

125
ATHBHEOCHAN

Gaeilge bheo
Irish belongs to us all

2018 has been named as “Bliain na Gaeilge 2018” which aims to celebrate the language and encourage the use of Irish. It also celebrates 125 years since the founding of the Gaelic League – Conradh na Gaeilge. Fingal County Council will be encouraging the use more Irish during the year, with a series of events and initiatives. As part of this we will be sharing a Seanfhocal each week on Twitter and Facebook. Give them a try, bain triail aisti.



Seachtain na Gaeilge (Irish Language Week) is an international Irish language festival that takes place each year from 1 – 17 March in Ireland and in many other countries.

During this period a number of events will be organised by Fingal County Council including a night of Traditional Music and Song in the Atrium County Hall Swords March 13 7-9pm with Cormac Begley and Eoghan ÓCeannabháin and the screening of Irish Language Film Song of Granite in the Seamus Ennis Centre on the 15th There will be many events in Libraries including Sisters Mary Louise and Theresa O'Donnell who will give a harp recital and sing traditional songs bilingual talks from poet Celia de Fréine.

Tús maith leath na hoibre.
A good start is half the work.

An té nach gcuireann san earrach
ní bhaineann sé san fhómhair.
Whoever doesn't plant in the
spring doesn't reap in the
autumn.

Is fearr an tsláinte ná na táinte.
Health is better than wealth.

Is de réir a chéile a thógtar
na caisleáin.
Castles are built bit by bit
(Rome wasn't built in a day).

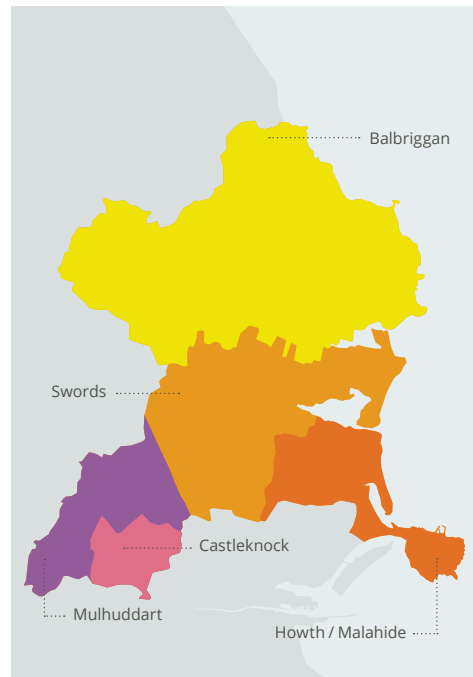
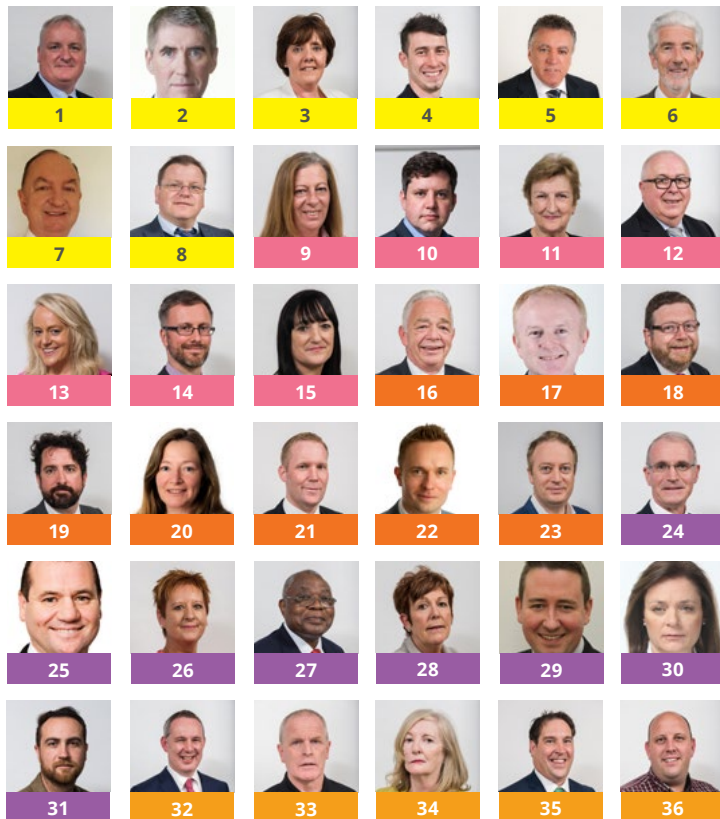
Ní hé lá na báistí lá na bpáistí.
A rainy day is not a day
for children.

Is maith an scéalaí an aimsir.
Time will tell.

An té nach bhfuil láidir ní foláir.
dó a bheith glic.
He who isn't strong must be
clever (cute).

Giorraíonn Beirt Bóthar.
Company shortens the road.

Your Councillors



Balbriggan	Castleknock	Howth / Malahide	Mulhuddart	Swords
<p>1. Cllr. Brian Dennehy Fianna Fáil Brian.Dennehy@cllrs.fingal.ie 0852298201</p> <p>2. Cllr. Ken Farrell Labour Party Ken.Farrell@cllrs.fingal.ie 0877551927</p> <p>3. Cllr. Grainne Maguire Independent Grainne.Maguire@cllrs.fingal.ie 0879436650</p> <p>4. Cllr. Barry Martin People Before Profit Barry.Martin@cllrs.fingal.ie 0871387216</p> <p>5. Cllr. Tony Murphy Independent Tony.Murphy@cllrs.fingal.ie 0862772030</p> <p>6. Cllr. David O'Connor Independent David.OConnor@cllrs.fingal.ie 0876803860</p> <p>7. Cllr. Tom O'Leary Fine Gael tom.oleary@cllrs.fingal.ie 0872459897</p> <p>8. Cllr. Malachy Quinn Sinn Féin Malachy.Quinn@cllrs.fingal.ie 0876727637</p>	<p>9. Cllr. Sandra Kavanagh Solidarity Sandra.Kavanagh@cllrs.fingal.ie 0872635695</p> <p>10. Cllr. Ted Leddy Fine Gael Ted.Leddy@cllrs.fingal.ie 0873276630</p> <p>11. Cllr. Eithne Loftus Fine Gael Eithne.Loftus@cllrs.fingal.ie 0876223419</p> <p>12. Cllr. Howard Mahony Fianna Fáil Howard.Mahony@cllrs.fingal.ie 0870506146</p> <p>13. Cllr. Mags Murray Fianna Fáil Mags.Murray@cllrs.fingal.ie 0860651419</p> <p>14. Cllr. Roderic O'Gorman Green Party Roderic.OGorman@cllrs.fingal.ie 0874179777</p> <p>15. Cllr. Natalie Treacy Sinn Féin Natalie.Treacy@cllrs.fingal.ie 0851285493</p>	<p>16. Cllr. Jimmy Guerin Independent Jimmy.Guerin@cllrs.fingal.ie 0860143346</p> <p>17. Cllr. David Healy Green Party David.Healy@cllrs.fingal.ie 0876178852</p> <p>18. Cllr. Anthony Lavin Fine Gael Anthony.Lavin@cllrs.fingal.ie 0879931329</p> <p>19. Cllr. Brian Mc Donagh Labour Party Brian.McDonagh@cllrs.fingal.ie 0863858979</p> <p>20. Cllr. Daire Ní Laoi Sinn Féin Daire.NiLaoi@cllrs.fingal.ie 0863977719</p> <p>21. Cllr. Eoghan O'Brien Fianna Fáil Eoghan.OBrien@cllrs.fingal.ie 0868580562</p> <p>22. Cllr. Cian O'Callaghan Social Democrats Cian.OCallaghan@cllrs.fingal.ie 0862866631</p> <p>23. Cllr. Keith Redmond Independent Keith.Redmond@cllrs.fingal.ie 0866992689</p>	<p>24. Cllr. Kieran Dennison Fine Gael Kieran.Dennison@cllrs.fingal.ie 0872595949</p> <p>25. Cllr. Paul Donnelly Sinn Féin Paul.Donnelly@cllrs.fingal.ie 0871341514 or (01) 8066899</p> <p>26. Cllr. Tania Doyle Independent Tania.doyle@cllrs.fingal.ie 085 780 9292</p> <p>27. Cllr. Edmond Lukusa Sinn Féin Edmond.Lukusa@cllrs.fingal.ie 0876355110</p> <p>28. Cllr. Mary McCamley Labour Party Mary.McCamley@cllrs.fingal.ie 0876501441</p> <p>29. Cllr. David McGuinness Independent David.McGuinness@cllrs.fingal.ie 0876415403</p> <p>30. Cllr. Lorna Nolan Independent Lorna.Nolan@cllrs.fingal.ie 0879048885</p> <p>31. Cllr. Matthew Waine Solidarity matthew.waine@cllrs.fingal.ie 0876684616</p>	<p>32. Cllr. Darragh Butler Fianna Fáil Darragh.Butler@cllrs.fingal.ie 0879595378</p> <p>33. Cllr. Eugene Coppinger Solidarity Eugene.Coppinger@cllrs.fingal.ie 0872327412</p> <p>34. Cllr. Anne Devitt Independent Anne.Devitt@cllrs.fingal.ie (01)8409728 or 0868123435</p> <p>35. Cllr. Adrian Henchy Fianna Fáil Adrian.Henchy@cllrs.fingal.ie 0876814485</p> <p>36. Cllr. Philip Lynam Sinn Féin Philip.Lynam@cllrs.fingal.ie 0851259902</p> <p>37. Cllr. Paul Mulville Social Democrats Paul.Mulville@cllrs.fingal.ie 0863787395</p> <p>38. Cllr. Joe Newman Independent Joe.Newman@cllrs.fingal.ie 0872457729</p> <p>39. Cllr. Justin Sinnott Independent Justin.Sinnott@cllrs.fingal.ie 0868426545</p> <p>40. Cllr. Duncan Smith Labour Party Duncan.Smith@cllrs.fingal.ie 0879862686</p>