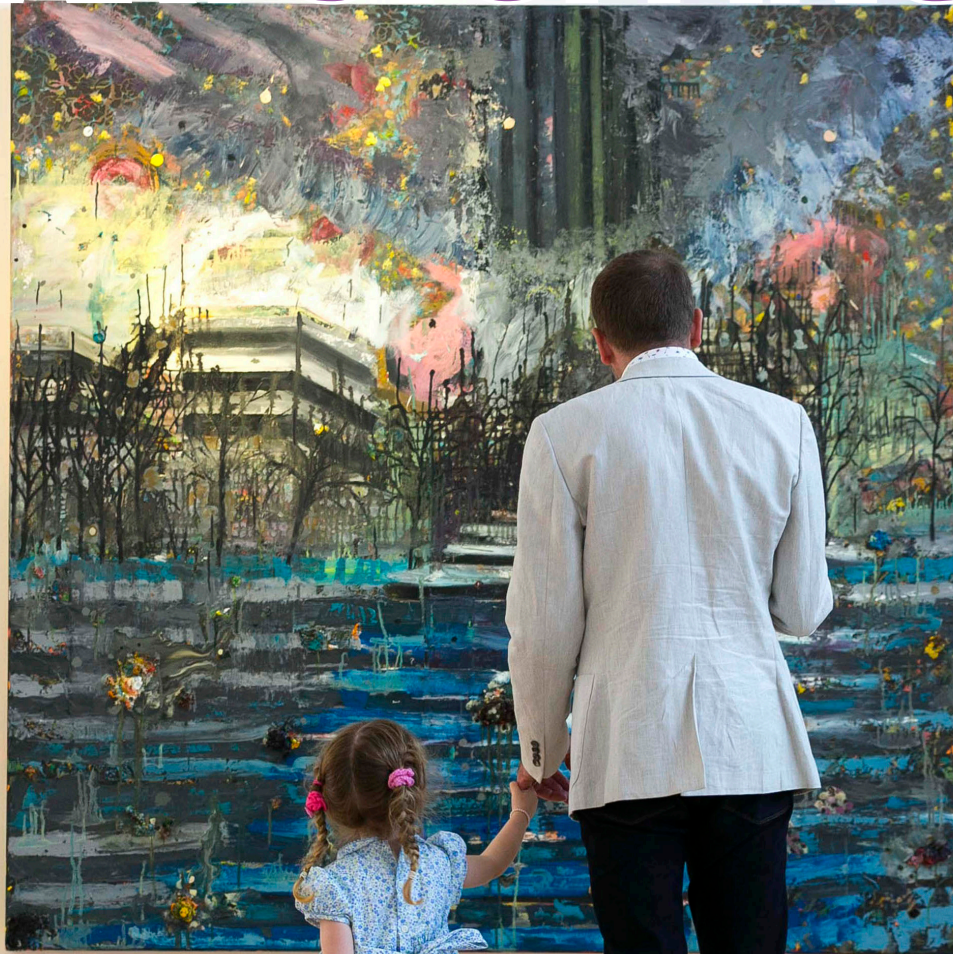


Fingal News

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2019

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BLIANA
YEARS

Comhairle Contae
Fhine Gall
Fingal County
Council



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Mayor's Message



It is incredible how quickly the first few months of my term have gone since my election in June. I am getting around the county, meeting people and seeing at first hand some of the great work being carried out on the ground by community organisations and our Council staff.

I was delighted to launch Fingal's Heritage Plan 2019 in Malahide over the summer. This plan will set out the key actions to support and sustain the County's rich and diverse heritage. This plan will safeguard the heritage of Fingal for future generations.

I also attended the opening of Fingal's Local Studies and Archive's new building which is now located on North Street, Swords. With its improved, street-facing location this new facility will be an invaluable service and resource for the residents of Fingal.

North East Fisheries Local Action Group announced continued investment across many projects in Fingal in August. I was pleased to hear of this as Fingal County Council supports the maritime industry within the county and any additional funding from FLAG North East in these important communities is welcomed.

I had the great opportunity to attend both the Fingal Festival of Football and Cannonball events this summer. Fingal Festival of Football was an excellent event enjoyed by all and it was fantastic to see over 300 girls involved in teams this year. Cannonball was a thrilling showcase of some of the best cars in the world in Malahide Castle and with all proceeds going to the Irish Cancer Society it was for a fantastic cause.

It was great to open the Estuary major art exhibition at the Draíocht Arts Centre in Blanchardstown alongside poet, writer and lecturer, Theo Dorgan. The exhibition continues the 25th anniversary celebrations of Fingal County Council with a diverse, engaging and captivating Municipal Art Collection which is available to see until November 17.

We finished off the summer with the Fingal Fleadh in Swords on the first weekend of September. It was a great celebration of the tradition of music in Fingal, and I am already looking forward to next year when Swords will be hosting the Leinster Fleadh where we will be able to showcase this tradition to the whole province.

Cllr Eoghan O'Brien
Mayor of Fingal

Chief Executive's Message



September is always a busy month at Fingal County Council as it signals the end of the wonderful summer festival season across the County and a focus on preparing for the following 12 months.

During the final quarter of 2019, planning for the following year begins to take shape as the Budget is prepared. The first part of the process is the adoption of the Local Property Tax rate for next year which is a vital source of income for Fingal County Council.

At the September council meeting, councillors voted, for the third successive year, to retain a 10 per cent reduction in the LPT. This will yield €2m in funding which will be ring-fenced for a range of services in our fast-growing county for key areas such as housing, operations, community, libraries and events.

I would like to pay tribute to our Elected Members for continuing to put the interests of the county at the heart of their decision-making. Preparation of the draft 2020 Budget will now continue in advance of the statutory meeting in November.

Several projects across Fingal continued across the summer including the development of the Swords Cultural Quarter which saw significant preparatory work taking place with the demolition of four derelict buildings on North Street Swords. This major step forward will see the multi-million development of a new library, public theatre and art exhibition opposite to Swords County Hall.

The beginning of September saw Fingal officially become the Aircraft Noise Competent Authority. The Authority is now established and will carry out its role in an independent and transparent manner as legally required under the Aircraft Noise (Dublin Airport) Regulation Act.

The Fingal Fleadh took place at the beginning of September and was a resounding success. It was a great way to prepare for when Swords host the Leinster Fleadh next year.

I hope you enjoy reading this latest edition of Fingal News and if you have any suggestions or feedback on the magazine then please email them to fingalnews@fingal.ie.

AnnMarie Farrelly
Chief Executive

COUNCIL INVITES SUBMISSIONS ON DRAFT DUBLIN AIRPORT LOCAL AREA PLAN

Fingal County Council is inviting submissions in relation to the Draft Dublin Airport Local Area Plan which is on public display.

The draft Local Area Plan can be viewed at County Hall, Swords, Civic Offices, Blanchardstown, Fingal branch libraries or at www.fingal.ie. Submissions can be made online at consult.fingal.ie; by email to devplan@fingal.ie; or by post to Senior Executive Officer, Planning and Strategic Infrastructure Department, Fingal County Council, County Hall, Main Street, Swords, Co Dublin, The deadline for submissions is October 15.

The Council is hosting a second information evening for members of the public to set out the contents of the LAP and provide information outlining the need for the LAP. All interested parties are encouraged to attend these events which will be facilitated by the Council's Department of Planning and Strategic Infrastructure. It will be held in the



Radisson Blu Hotel in Dublin Airport on October 1 from 4.30pm to 8pm.

Interim Chief Executive of Fingal County Council, AnnMarie Farrelly, said: "Dublin Airport is a key driver for growth in Fingal. The Draft Dublin Airport Local Area Plan sets out the strategic vision and future direction for this key economic asset for a six year period from 2020 to 2026. The public consultation process is an opportunity for citizens to see what

is being proposed and then make submissions in which they can state if they agree or disagree with what is being planned."

Managing the growth of the Airport in a sustainable way is a priority for Fingal County Council and the draft LAP provides the framework to allow for ordered growth to take place while ensuring that growth will protect amenities enjoyed by existing communities.

Councillors vote to retain 10 per cent reduction in Local Property Tax

Interim Chief Executive of Fingal County Council, AnnMarie Farrelly, has welcomed the decision of councillors to retain a 10 per cent reduction in the Local Property Tax for 2020.

The elected members in Fingal voted by 31 votes to seven to accept a motion to retain the 10 per cent reduction. Councillors have the option each year to make an adjustment in the Local Property Tax of up to 15 per cent.

The decision means that Fingal County Council, for the third

successive year, has an additional €2m to invest in local communities across a range of different services.

Ms Farrelly said: "I welcome the decision of the elected members to retain the 10 per cent reduction. Like in the previous two years, this will yield €2m in funding which will be ring-fenced for a range of services in our fast-growing county for key areas such as housing, operations, community, libraries and events.

"Extensive engagements have taken place with the Corporate Policy

Group and the various political parties and groupings in which the Council's Management Team showed the benefits of having €2m extra to spend on local projects. I would like to pay tribute to our Elected Members for continuing to put the interests of the county at the heart of their decision-making. Fingal is the fastest-growing county in the country, with the youngest population. The decision to retain the 10 per cent reduction means that that we will be able to continue our focus in providing a wide range of services in our growing communities."

Construction on for new playgrounds set to get underway

Fingal County Council has appointed a contractor to construct four playgrounds following the conclusion of a competitive tender process. The playgrounds will be located at Quay Street and Bandstand Park Balbriggan, Lusk Recreational Hub and Skerries Town Park. The contract has been awarded to Creative Play Solutions, who are specialists in the construction of natural playgrounds and have recently completed the construction of knights Playground in Balrothery.

A key element of the project brief was that the design of the playgrounds reflected and complimented the character of each site while also providing natural play opportunities for children. The importance of Community has been to forefront in providing a playground design that will meet the local needs.

Construction will cost €400,000 and will commence late this year with the first playground due to open early in 2020 and all four playgrounds in operation by the end of next year.



Fingal Local Studies and Archives moves to North St base

Fingal Local Studies & Archives has officially opened its new facilities at 46 North Street, Swords after its move from its previous location in Clonmel House, Swords.

The new location provides a valuable service with a much-improved location, with a clearer street presence and closer proximity to the planned multi-million euro Swords Cultural Quarter. Eventually, it is intended that the Local Studies & Archives will move to the proposed County Library building in the Cultural Quarter.

Speaking about the move, Betty Boardman, Fingal County Librarian, said: "Moving Local Studies and Archives into 46 North Street, brings the service into the developing Swords Cultural Quarter, opening it up to a wider audience to explore the history of the County or their own family history."

Fingal County Council Interim Chief Executive, AnnMarie Farrelly, spoke at the opening and added: "I am delighted that Fingal Local Studies and Archive is now located in the heart of Swords Cultural Quarter which will provide greater access to the public. I would also like to pay special tribute to the important work that our Archivist and librarians do especially during this decade of commemorations as we reflect on our local and national history."

Fingal Local Studies & Archives provides citizens with a free, accessible, user-friendly and professional library and archive service. It is a research facility for anyone interested in the local, family or social history of Dublin, with particular



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Comhairle Contae
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Council





reference to Fingal.

The Local Studies Collection comprises many books, pamphlets, postcards, photographs, artefacts, ephemera and newspapers. These are invaluable when undertaking local history or house history research.

Karen De Lacey, Archivist for Fingal County Council, said: "Fingal Local Studies & Archives are delighted to have moved to our new building in the heart of the planned Swords Cultural Quarter. We look forward to continuing our work welcoming those interested in the local, family or social history of Dublin, with particular reference to Fingal."

Mayor of Fingal, Cllr. Eoghan O'Brien, who attended the official opening, also added: 'It is great to see Fingal Local Studies and Archives, which is such an invaluable service and resource for the residents of Fingal, moving into their newly repurposed building right on the doorstep of Swords. The new building is fully dedicated to the



service and will provide greater access to the public with its street-facing position. The collections available from here provide a fantastic resource for anyone interested in the history and heritage of Fingal.'

The Archive holds both public and privately-created collections. The private records include collections either acquired or donated to the Archives, such as: The Hely-Hutchinson Collection; The Fingall Estate Papers; the Papers of the Hamilton Estate, Barons of Abbottstown; the Records of Cloghran Stud; papers relating to the Battle of Ashbourne 1916, and Bridgid Connolly; the Shackleton Mill Archives, the Minutes of the Fingal Farming Society, and a number of other small collections.

Public records include those of Fingal County Council, Dublin County Council and predecessor bodies such as the Grand Jury of Dublin County, the Boards of Guardians and Poor Law Unions. Additionally, there are records from the Dublin County Rural District Councils, Boards of Health, Balbriggan Town Commissioners, Howth Urban District Council and other local bodies.

It also provides access to a variety of databases and digital resources such as the Irish Newspaper Archives, Dictionary of Irish Biography, JStor, Find My Past etc.

Local Studies & Archives is open by appointment Monday-Friday from 10am-1pm and 2pm-5pm. They can be contacted on: (01) 8704496 / (01) 8704495 or at archives@fingal.ie and local.studies@fingal.ie.



Major 'Estuary' art exhibition opens

A major exhibition celebrating the 25th anniversary of Fingal County Council's diverse, engaging and captivating Municipal Art Collection has officially opened.

Organised by the Fingal Arts Office,

'Estuary' was launched by Mayor of Fingal Cllr Eoghan O'Brien at the Draíocht Arts Centre in Blanchardstown with special guest poet, writer and lecturer, Theo Dorgan. The exhibition will continue until November 17.

This major exhibition curated by well-known Fingal artists Una Sealy RHA, James English RHA, Joshua Sex and Sanja Todorovic features works by national and international artists, graduates, emerging artists and local artists.



The Fingal County Council Municipal Art collection features mostly two-dimensional work such as paintings, drawings, prints and photographs, which date from c1958 – 2018. There are some three-dimensional works which include sculpture, ceramics and mixed media.

The collection contains a broad selection of work by artists such as Eva Rothschild, George Potter, John Kindness, Pamela Leonard, Maeve McCarthy, Patrick Scott and Michael Cullen, amongst others.



Speaking at the launch Mayor of Fingal Cllr Eoghan O'Brien said "I would like to thank all those involved with this exhibition 'ESTUARY' and the publication 'Not in Alphabetical Order 2', especially our arts staff, the guest curators, and the artists who created these works. Our Arts office continue to lead an ambitious programme of arts activity and strategies which have always sought to push the boundaries of what is expected and bring the best experiences to our communities."

Interim Chief Executive AnnMarie Farrelly said: "The 'Estuary' exhibition presents a wonderful opportunity for the public to come and see the fantastic array of work contained in the Municipal Art Collection. I would encourage them to come along to the Draiocht Arts Centre to view the Collection during the exhibition's two-month run."

Fingal's County Arts Officer Rory O'Byrne said: "The aim of the Fingal County Council Municipal Art collection is to support artists at key stages of their careers, to enhance the experience of both the staff and public through the integration of artworks in County Hall, Swords and the Civic Offices, Blanchardstown, to educate young people about visual art and provide opportunities for them to meet artists who are part of the collection to gain an insight into their work."

The second volume of 'Not in Alphabetical Order' highlighting the collection's latest acquisitions was also launched at the opening of 'Estuary'. In 2008, the first volume was produced and provided a snapshot of work from the collection. Artists were invited to comment on

their particular work from the collection which provided an insight in to their creative process and was accompanied by a reflection on its inclusion in the collection by County Arts Officer Rory O'Byrne.

A free public engagement programme for adults, children and young people will coincide with the exhibition.

For details of all programme see www.fingalarts.ie or https://www.draiocht.ie/events/estuary_adult_engagement_programme



SHANNON HERITAGE TO RUN FRY RAILWAY MUSEUM

Fingal County Council is delighted to announce that the contract for the operation of the Fry Model Railway Museum at the beautifully restored Casino building in Malahide has been awarded to Shannon Heritage.

The restoration and extension of the Casino was completed in April, paving the way for the installation of the Fry Model Railway to its new permanent home.

The Casino building has been vacant since 2004 but thanks to significant investment from Fingal County Council, as well as a generous bequest from local resident Michéal Gaffney, it has been restored to its former glory.

The Casino Model Railway Museum brings to three the number of Fingal County Council Heritage properties managed by Shannon Heritage. They have managed Malahide Castle and Gardens since 2012 and took on the management Newbridge House and Farm in Donabate last

year.

The Fry Model Railway was initially constructed in the 1920s-1930s, and developed and modernised to become the largest model railway collection in Europe. The railway includes models of stations, landmarks, locations and Irish landscapes from throughout the 20th century.

Mayor of Fingal Cllr Eoghan O'Brien said: "This project is one of the most eagerly anticipated in the Malahide area and I am delighted to learn that it will be open to the general public shortly. The restoration and conservation of the Casino building was completed earlier this year and now, with the awarding of the contract to Shannon Heritage, this wonderful historic building will soon be open for everyone to enjoy. It will be a great addition to the town not only for local residents but also visitors to the area."

Cllr O'Brien added: "It is also



timely to remember the generous €1.5m donation from the late Michéal Gaffney towards the restoration of the Casino building. I want to also pay particular tribute to the "Malahide Group" who did a lot of work behind the scenes that helped massively with bringing this project to this point - GV Wright, Colette Smith, Michael Howard, Matt Ryan Jr, Nora Owen, Matt McNulty and Alfie O'Dowd."

Fingal County Council Interim Chief Executive, AnnMarie Farrelly said: "We are delighted that this project has reached another significant milestone with the appointment of Shannon Heritage to manage the operation of the new Casino Model Railway Museum. Since Shannon Heritage took over the management of Malahide Castle and Newbridge House and Farm, both attractions have undergone a transformation in respect of experiences on offer and the volume of visitors each year.



“We look forward to working in partnership with Shannon Heritage and utilising their marketing, relationships and management expertise to develop the Casino Model Railway Museum.”

Fingal County Council’s Director of Enterprise and Economic Development, Emer O’Gorman, said: “The opening of the Fry Model Museum in the beautifully restored Casino building will be a significant addition to the tourist offering in Malahide. It is wonderful that the public will now have access to this unique building which is a very welcome addition our portfolio of heritage properties around the County.

“Fingal County Council is very proud of the restoration and refurbishment work carried out at the Casino which was designed and managed by the Architects Department.”

Niall O’Callaghan, Managing Director of Shannon Group’s tourist attraction company, Shannon Heritage, said: “We are delighted to have successfully won the contract to operate the new Casino Model Railway Museum which we see as a natural fit with our existing portfolio of attractions. It is a further vote of confidence in our teams ability to significantly grow visitors to the attractions we have the pleasure of operating and development.”

Fingal’s heritage showcased in Heritage Plan

Fingal’s third Heritage Plan 2019 which sets out key actions to support and sustain the County’s rich and diverse heritage has been launched by Mayor of Fingal Cllr Eoghan O’Brien.

The Plan, launched in St Sylvester’s Parish Church in Malahide, recognises the full range of Fingal’s historic inheritance ranging from natural landscapes like the Howth peninsula and Naul Hills, to over 1,000 monuments and archaeological sites including Drumanagh and Swords Castle.

The main objectives of the third Heritage Plan for Fingal are summarised in four themes: ‘Communicating our heritage to a wide audience’, ‘Caring for our heritage’, ‘Increasing the level of community activity for heritage’, and ‘Supporting the local

economy’.

Mayor of Fingal Cllr Eoghan O’Brien said: “Fingal’s heritage is deep and diverse, and the Heritage Plan will ensure that it continues to be preserved, managed and promoted for the benefit of all. I look forward to seeing its implementation bear fruit in the coming years.”

Interim Chief Executive of Fingal County Council AnnMarie Farrelly said: “Fingal’s unique identity is intimately tied to its wealth of heritage, and the Heritage Plan is vital to ensuring that it is handled sustainably and effectively.

“The participative and community-focussed approach to producing the plan was laudable and will be vital to ensuring the plan’s success.”



Council in the running for 11 major awards

Fingal County Council has been shortlisted for 11 awards in the 16th annual Chambers Ireland Excellence in Local Government Awards. The Awards, sponsored by the Department of Housing, Planning and Local Government, are held to recognise and celebrate the outstanding work being carried out by Local Authorities all over Ireland.

The wide range of projects shortlisted is a testament to the excellent work being done by all Fingal County Council Departments. The projects shortlisted were:

- Our Balbriggan - Imagine the Possibilities - Get Involved in Best Practice in Citizen Engagement
- Healthy Fingal Learning Portal in Health & Wellbeing
- The Fingal Events Unit in Supporting Tourism
- End to end Mobile Solution for Private Rented Dwelling Inspections in Local Authority Innovation
- Pollinator Friendly Free Tree Initiative in Sustainable Environment
- STEAM through Fingal in Best Library Service
- Dublin Bay Prawn Festival in Festival of the Year
- Smart Street Furniture in Enhancing the Urban Environment
- The Conservation, Restoration and Extension of The Casino building, Malahide in Heritage and Built Environment
- Irish Aphasia Theatre in Disability Services Provision
- The Acorn Project in Age Friendly Initiatives



Interim Chief Executive AnnMarie Farrelly said: "I am delighted that so many of our initiatives and special projects have been shortlisted in this year's awards. Fingal County Council has enjoyed considerable success in The Local Government Awards in previous years and I hope we can build upon those successes at the awards ceremony in November. This is another instance where the work we carry out as a Council on behalf of our citizens has been recognised for its high quality and I wish to congratulate the staff who were involved in the projects that were entered into this year's Awards."

Mayor of Fingal Cllr Eoghan O'Brien said: "I would like to congratulate Fingal County Council on having eleven projects shortlisted for these awards. Each of these nominations is in recognition of the dedication and innovation of Fingal staff and I am delighted to see such a variety of projects recognised as it reflects the diversity of initiatives and projects being implemented in Fingal."

The awards will be presented on Thursday, 28th November in the Crowne Plaza Hotel, Northwood Park, Santry Demesne, Dublin 9.



Students from three Balbriggan Schools joined other musicians in a brilliant concert showcasing their successful participation in The Groove School programme.

As part of the commitment to the Our Balbriggan Plan, Fingal County Council and Dublin City University partnered to bring the Boston-based Berklee Music School's Groove School programme to Ireland.

The Groove School programme offered Irish Secondary school students access to the Berklee method of music education, encompassing theory, ear training, improvisation, ensemble performance, and instrumental instruction. It ran over three days in DCU St. Patrick's Campus, culminating in the performance in the Bracken Court Hotel in Balbriggan.

MUSICAL YOUTH!



The programme features faculty from both Berklee College of Music in Boston and DCU's BA in Jazz and Contemporary Music Performance. 31 of the 80 places on the programme had been given to students from Balbriggan's Loreto Secondary School, Ardgillan Community College and Bremore Educate Together Secondary School and the students were involved in the concert.

Mayor of Fingal Cllr Eoghan O'Brien said: "I would like to compliment the talented musicians who took part in this concert and congratulate everyone involved in bringing the Groove School to Ireland. It is clear that the opportunity to take part in the Groove School has been of great educational benefit to the participants."

"This is a fantastic opportunity for the students from Balbriggan to improve their musical education and then to give a showcase performance in their town' said Emer O'Gorman, Director of Economic Enterprise & Tourism Development.

During the programme, participants

also had the opportunity to audition to attend Berklee College of Music in Boston. Scholarships were awarded to a number of students following the performance for Berklee online courses; summer projects in Boston Groove School; full tuition scholarship for guitar programme & vocal scholarship.





Festival of Football is all about girl power!

More than 300 girls descended on the AUL complex in Clonshaugh for the 17th Fingal Festival of Football, which has become a fantastic showcase for girls' football in Fingal.

The Fingal Sports Office used the event to promote the Irish Federation of Sport 20X20 campaign which aims to achieve a 20 per cent increase in the media coverage, participation, and attendance of women's sport by 2020.

The Fingal Festival of Football provides opportunities for some girls to put on a club jersey for the very first time and also acts as pre-season warm up for the more established teams.

This year's Festival involved teams from all over Dublin, Meath, and Kildare, and over 89 players travelled from Donegal to take part. St. Ita's FC triumphed in the U14 Cup competition, and Bohemian FC beat Raheny Utd for the Shield. Meanwhile, the visitors from Donegal took home three trophies in the U13 and U12 competitions.

The event was organised by Fingal County Council Sports Office in collaboration with FAI/Fingal Development Officers Paul Keogh and Sharon Boyle.

Paul Keogh, FAI/Fingal County Council Development Officer, said: "We are delighted to assist Fingal's Sports Office with this great event. It provides for a fun-filled day and helps harness the great work of





the volunteers who put in hours of work to ensure girls have regular football as without them there is no girls' football.

"We have seen great growth in girls' football over the last few years, especially in the Fingal area and events like this are encouraging clubs to provide opportunities for girls to play on teams with their peers."

Niall McGuirk, Fingal County Council Senior Sports Officer, added: "We made a conscious effort to include girls in the Festival of Football nine years ago and it has grown from four U13 girls teams to a girl's only event with 40 teams and over 300 players from U8-U14 taking part in 2019. We hope that this event, combined with the work being carried out by the FAI, MGL and volunteers in clubs around Fingal, encourages girls to stay involved in football

for many years to come and help promote the 20 X20 campaign."

Mayor of Fingal Cllr Eoghan O'Brien said: "Fingal's Festival of Football is a fantastic opportunity to promote and showcase the physical and social benefits of the sport. It is particularly encouraging to see the involvement of over 300 girls

in the teams this year – football is for everyone, and I welcome the efforts of all concerned to make this a reality."

For more info contact the Sports office at sports@fingal.ie or 087-120-6431, or check out Fingal Festival of Football on Facebook.





Getting engaged at Bremore consultation

There was great engagement and lively debate at a consultation workshop on Bremore Regional Park, held in the Bracken Court Hotel.

The enthusiastic crowd of almost 70 people in attendance included local Councillors Cllr. Grainne Maguire, Cllr. Tony Murphy and Cllr. Joe O'Brien as well as members of many local community and sports clubs. The event, organised by Fingal County Council's Parks and Green Infrastructure Division, assisted by the Our Balbriggan Team, was used to introduce the project to the local community and park users.

The workshop style format of the evening worked well to gather ideas, concerns, local knowledge and priorities for the future development of the masterplan to create a park that will be treasured by the community. A follow up workshop is planned for the autumn to present draft proposals for review and feedback before progress through to the formal planning stage.

Kevin Halpenny, Senior Parks Superintendent said: "The involvement of the local Community in the planning and design of Bremore Regional Park will greatly enhance its relevance to their everyday lives and help the Council deliver a major new amenity for Balbriggan."

Interim Chief Executive AnnMarie Farrelly said: "Bremore Castle and Regional Park form a vital element of the Our Balbriggan Rejuvenation Plan and I am delighted to see the positive engagement from the Community at the consultation workshop. Fingal County Council is committed to harnessing the potential of this unique site to develop a premier regional park both as a tourist destination and a vibrant recreation area for the people of Balbriggan."

Snugborough Road upgrade tendering process underway

Fingal County Council has commenced the tendering process for a main contractor to undertake the Snugborough Interchange Upgrade scheme, which will bring about significant improvements for motorists, pedestrians, cyclists and public transport users.

The project includes the construction of a new bridge over the N3, adjacent to the existing Snugborough Road bridge, as well as a new footpath and cycle track. A new pedestrian and cyclist underpass will also be built.

Measures to improve the operational efficiency of the two junctions either side of the N3 including bus priority measures that will support the Bus Connects project will also be carried out as part of the upgrade.

A successful tenderer is expected to be identified by December. The scheme construction period is expected to be 24 months and will involve significant traffic management on the N3 and Snugborough Road. Further details will be communicated to the local community and other stakeholders when available.

Director of Planning and Strategic Infrastructure Matthew McAleese said: "I am delighted to see this project, which will have massive benefits for the area, progress forward. One of the many positive aspects of this scheme is the inclusion of improved facilities for pedestrians and cyclists. I look forward to seeing this scheme moving onto the construction phase, which will hopefully get underway next year."

Senior Engineer Paul Carroll said: "While the project will improve traffic flows at this junction, a key benefit of the upgrade will be the significant improvements for public transport users, pedestrians and cyclists on the bridge and at the adjacent junctions."

The project is financed by Fingal County Council and the National Transport Authority.





Projects receive FLAG funding boost

Fingal County Council has welcomed the announcement by the North East Fisheries Local Action Group (FLAG) of continued investment in a diverse range of projects across Fingal this year.

Grants totalling €973,221 have been announced in the FLAG North East Area, which covers the counties of Dublin, Meath and Louth. The Fingal region has directly benefited from €600,000 in funding over the last three years in conjunction with the FLAG North East programme.

A total of 36 FLAG projects were approved across coastal communities in Dublin, Meath and Louth in 2019. This grant funding will deliver an overall investment of €1,652,695 for the North East area including Fingal and sees the North East area rise from seventh in June 2017 to first in June 2019 in terms of total investment nationally.

Fingal County Council projects that will receive funding from FLAG NE include a feasibility study of Red Island Martello Tower in Skerries, the refurbishment of Howth Courthouse

into a publically accessible tourist office and community space, and a feasibility study which is being part funded by FLAG NE for the four harbours managed by Fingal County Council.

A unique event targeting primary schools across Rush, Skerries and Balbriggan Fingal Libraries in conjunction with FLAG North East is also being supported. This will see a steam train travel through Fingal incorporating and holding talks on STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Maths), biodiversity, local myths and legends.

A number of high profile festivals in Howth, Donabate and Portrane, Rush and Skerries in Fingal have also been supported in 2019. Biodiversity talks and walks, training, cycle hire and boat equipment is also funded.

The Chair of FLAG North East, Garret O'Brien, said: "FLAG North East is delighted to support a wide range of exciting projects, including seafood, equipment, tourism, education, training and heritage ventures including summer maritime festivals

and regatta's in Fingal in 2019. We are particularly proud of the fact that we have come out tops nationally in 2019 for total capital spending of €1.6 million in 2019."

Welcoming the funding, the Chief Executive of Fingal County Council, AnnMarie Farrelly said: "The coastal communities are an important component of the fabric of Fingal and are an important part of the local economy. Fingal County Council supports the maritime industry within the county in many practical ways and any additional funding from FLAG NE which will strengthen this important industry and create more jobs is to be greatly welcomed."

Mayor of Fingal, Cllr. Eoghan O'Brien, said: "The increased funding announced by FLAG North East, which sees the North East area become the number one area for investment, shows the continued commitment and investment in the traditional fisheries industry within Fingal and it is important that the present generation are supported in their efforts to develop and broaden it in line with ever-changing trends."

Council continues to deliver newly constructed social houses

Fingal County Council is gearing up for a busy second half of 2019 as its social housing construction programme remains on target.

Due to strong growth between 2015-2018, Fingal exceeded its targets under the Rebuilding Ireland Programme and provided 4,000 social housing solutions.

Fingal continues to have an ambitious social housing construction programme with building activity currently taking place on six sites across Fingal.

Keys are expected to be handed over shortly to 84 families following the completion of construction projects at Mulhuddart, Rolestown, Rivermeade and Balbriggan.

Regarding future delivery, construction is underway or about to commence on a number of other sites throughout Fingal.



This is in addition to 200 new homes already completed and occupied on 10 housing projects across the County.

Fingal County Council is now implementing a three-year strategy, running from 2019-21, that will continue to deliver a pipeline of social housing and see construction start on the delivery of affordable housing.

A strong delivery pipeline of

social housing is also in place in collaboration with Approved Housing Bodies on sites across the county including developments at Mulhuddart, Corduff, Dublin 11, Santry, and Lusk. Construction is advanced on council-owned land in Mulhuddart where Cluid are building 65 new homes, including 22 which are adapted to meet special needs for disability and older persons on the housing list.

CRAIC AGUS CHEOIL I GCAISLEÁN SHOIRD

Bhí féile chraic agus cheoil saor in aisce ceithre lá ar siúl i gCaisleán Shoird agus ar an bPríomhshráid mar chuid de thrú Fhleadh Fhine Gall bhliantúil. Is i gCaisleán Shoird a bhí an chuid is mó den imeacht ar siúl agus bhí ceolchoirmeacha saor in aisce le Banna Céilí Chill Fhionnúrach, Ulaid, Liam Ó Maonlaí, Moya Brennan agus Cormac de Barra, John Spillane, The Dixie Micks, Meath Beo agus go leor eile. Bhí Céilí ar siúl i CLG Fhine Ghallainn



Rinne an t-imeacht ceiliúradh ar an traidisiún láidir ceoil i bhFine Gall, agus béim ar rannpháirtíocht agus seinm, ceardlanna saor in aisce ina measc. Bhí RinCEOIL ón

Ros agus Inis Rua ó na Sceirí ag seinm, chomh maith agus 'Turas Seisiún' timpeall an bhaile. Bhí spraoi do theaghlaigh agus leanaí le lóga do Leanaí agus ranganna Damhsa Ghaelaigh don Teaghlach ar siúl in Ollphuball an Chaisleáin. Rinneadh ceiliúradh ar an nGaeilge nuair a d'fhill John Spillane, a chanfaidh na hamhráin Ghaeilge atá ar eolas againn go léir i Séipéal Chaisleán Shoird. Tá gach duine ag súil go mór le 2020 nuair a bheidh Fleadh Laighean ar siúl i Sord.



SWORDS CULTURAL QUARTER DEVELOPMENT CONTINUES

Fingal County Council continues to drive forward with its flagship Swords Cultural Quarter project with significant preparatory work taking place which will ultimately form part of a new civic plaza set against the backdrop of Swords Castle.

Contractors carried out the demolition of four derelict buildings on North Street which has created a new focal point at the junction of North Street, Main Street and Seatown Road in a major step forward for the Swords Cultural Quarter project.

The multi-million euro project will see the development of a new library, public theatre and art exhibition space adjacent to Swords County Hall, a new cultural quarter, and significant landscaping development in the park and town.

Fingal County Council will shortly appoint a project management team to oversee the delivery of projects within the multi-million euro development.

County Architect Fionnuala May said: "The ongoing demolition work at North Street is an important

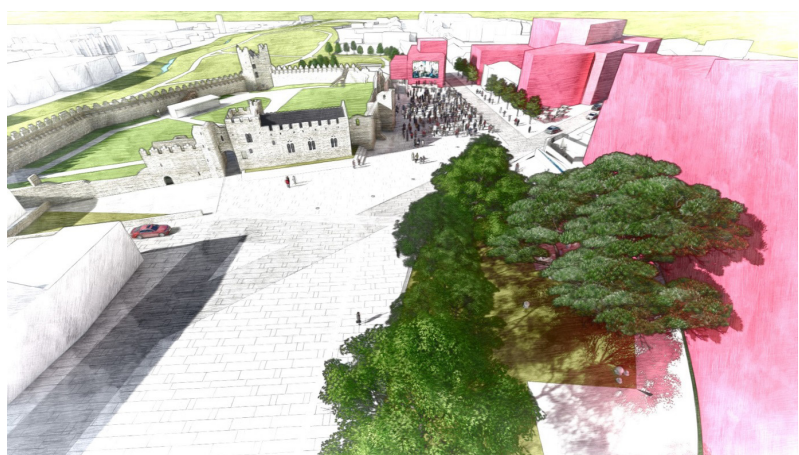
step in preparing the way for the next stages of the flagship Swords cultural Quarter development and in increasing the prominence of Swords Castle."

Mayor of Fingal Cllr Eoghan O'Brien said: "I am delighted to see the latest phase of the project which will bring significant benefits to the town being carried out. The work has caught the attention of the public with passers-by stopping to video and photograph the work as it was carried out. I look forward to further progress with the appointment of the project management team."

Interim Chief Executive of Fingal County Council AnnMarie Farrelly

said: "The Swords Cultural Quarter is an exciting and visionary project, and Swords Castle is one of the jewels in Fingal's crown, with immense value in terms of history, culture, tourism and civic pride."

Swords Castle is a National Monument under oversight from the Department of Arts, Heritage and the Gaeltacht. The Castle was originally built around 1200 AD as the manorial residence of John Comyn, the first Anglo-Norman Archbishop of Dublin. Swords Castle is open year-round with tours provided subject to demand by Fingal Tourism. Contact info@fingaltourism.ie or telephone at 01 840 0891



The 4th Annual Fingal Libraries Write Time Festival is running at a library near you

The fourth annual Write Time Festival organised by Fingal Libraries celebrates the written and spoken word in Fingal. Libraries will host free workshops and talks throughout the month of September to spark the imagination and inspire creativity.

Fingal County Librarian Betty Boardman said: "Fingal Libraries' Write Time Festival offers an engaging and varied programme to aspiring writers of all ages and to anybody interested in the craft of writing. This is the fourth year of the Festival and we are delighted that it is becoming a much anticipated event in the library calendar."

This year's programme features a panel discussion on "Yes, We Still Drink Coffee!", a new anthology of essays by and about women human rights defenders around the world. Orla Lehane, curator and editor, and contributors Catherine Dunne, Hilary Fannin and Lia Mills will discuss their experience of working on this project.

Portmarnock based author Rónán Hession will read from his debut novel "Leonard and Hungry Paul", which was described by The Irish Times as a book that will "bring you sunshine even if the summer is a washout". Comic fiction author Karl MacDermott continues his "One Man and His Turnip World Reading Tour of Ireland" based on his short story collection, "Juggling With Turnips", described by The RTÉ Guide as, "comic cuttings from a Myles na gCopaleen imagination". Children's author Sadhbh Devlin will discuss her work and give



practical tips on how to enjoy Irish language books with your children, even if you only have a "cúpla focal".

As in previous years, the Write Time Festival offers a range of free creative writing workshops. Travel documentary-maker Manchán Magan will help you transform the sights, sounds and soul of a journey into engaging prose in his travel writing workshop. Lia Mills talks about how to go back in time to find a story that matters now in her workshop on writing historical fiction.

Have you family or local history stories you'd love to write? Yvonne Cullen's workshop, From History to Story, will help you tell historical stories, big or small. Write Time events to spark the imaginations of young writers include Maeve Devoy's workshop,

The Little Detectives, where she introduces the nuts and bolts of story-telling to children aged 8 - 12 years.

Megan Wynne facilitates a fun workshop where children learn how to create interesting characters and show their personalities by what they say and do in a story.

Admission is free to all events, but booking is essential. To reserve a place, please contact the library hosting the event. For the full programme of talks and workshops, please contact your local library branch or see Fingal Libraries website: fingal.ie/libraries/ or Facebook page: @FingalLibraries.

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!



Fingal Libraries Autism-Friendly scheme approved for over €40,000 funding from the Dormant Accounts Fund

Fingal Libraries have been awarded funding under the Dormant Accounts Fund which will allow for the roll-out of Autism Friendly Schemes across its branch network.

The allocation of €40,350 will allow for the expansion of its Autism Friendly Libraries project that has been operating at Blanchardstown Library on a pilot basis..

Nine libraries across Fingal will implement designated autism-friendly sessions each month, and regularly schedule 'quiet time' and 'relaxed programming' events which cater to people with autism.

Furthermore, the "In Your Shoes" Autism Experience Exhibition by autism advocacy group AslAm will

be hosted in six branches which will encourage visitors to engage with and understand living with autism.

The project will involve working closely with both national and local autism groups. Training will be delivered to staff from all branches, and a review will be carried out after six months.

The funding which covers the majority of the €53,800 total cost is provided by the Dormant Accounts Fund as part of the Department of Rural and Community Development's initiative 'Library Supports for Marginalised, Socially Excluded and Disadvantaged Communities'.

County Librarian Betty Boardman

said: "Funding from the Dormant Accounts Fund will help us in our efforts to make Fingal Libraries more autism-friendly. The designated sessions, staff training and involvement with groups like AslAm and schools are an innovative and positive approach that will undoubtedly improve the library experience for those with autism."

Director of Housing and Community Department Margaret Geraghty said: "Modern libraries are centres of information, discovery, and community, and we are committed to helping people on the autism spectrum experience these benefits to the full. I look forward to seeing the project rolled out across Fingal."



Twinning celebrations land in County Hall

Fingal County Council welcomed representatives from the French Canton of Guichen and Skerries Town Twinning Association to County Hall in Swords as part of the 25th anniversary celebrations between the two areas.

The meeting took place on the occasion of the 25th anniversary of the signing of the official twinning charter between Skerries and the Canton of Guichen. Skerries was twinned with the Canton of Guichen in 1994, coincidentally the same year that Fingal County Council was established.

The delegation was greeted by Mayor of Fingal Cllr Eoghan O'Brien, Fingal County Council's Interim Chief Executive AnnMarie Farrelly, Director of Housing and Community Margaret Geraghty and County Architect

Fionnuala May.

The aim of twinning is to foster friendship between two areas. The twinning between Skerries and Guichen is one of the more successful twinning arrangements in Ireland. Skerries has twice been awarded the Etoile d'Or du Jumelage by the European Commission for its work in developing the twinning concept.

Guichen is a canton of small towns and villages in the département of Ille-et-vilaine in east Brittany. Like Skerries it provides a commuter base for many of those who travel daily to work.

Over the last 25 years, hundreds of people have exchanged visits between the two areas. These have included school exchanges, visits to celebrate St. Patrick's Day and interest-centered visits based on certain themes.

LEO FINGAL SET FOR 'BIGGEST-EVER' NATIONAL WOMEN'S ENTERPRISE DAY



To mark National Women's Enterprise Day on October 17, LEO Fingal is organising a major event on behalf of the four LEOs in the Dublin region.

Billed as "the biggest networking event for female entrepreneurs in the country", the event will feature a variety of inspirational speakers, a lively panel discussion and plenty of opportunities to network with other female entrepreneurs and business owners.

Guest speakers include: Caroline Keeling, CEO of Keelings; Siobhan Murray, author and resilience coach; Krissy Gibson, CEO of Take the Cake; Niamh Sherwin-Barry, Director of the Irish Fairy Door Company,

and Melanie Boylan, Director of STOMP Social Media Training.

An excellent line-up of female business panellists will also feature: Jo Harpur, CEO of Jo Harpur Jewellery; Emer Cleary, Founder of Emu Ink Publishing; Aimee Madden, CEO of Clinishift; Jessica Conlon, Founder of Twigs; and Jenny Melia, Business Development Manager at Enterprise Ireland.

The Dublin Region NWED Ambassador for 2019 is successful entrepreneur Ann McGee of MIAS Pharma.

The event is one of 17 entrepreneurial events nationwide under the theme of 'Making It Happen' funded by the Government of Ireland



in partnership with Enterprise Ireland and Local Authorities.

21,859 female participants took part in LEO training programmes in 2018, an increase of 18% on 2017 figures.

There was also a 19% increase in female entrepreneurs benefiting from business mentoring.

Heather Humphreys T.D., Minister for Business, Enterprise and Innovation said: "I am delighted to announce the biggest ever programme of events for National Women's Enterprise Day, which will take place at 17 events around the country on Thursday, October 17th.

"Ireland has some of the world's finest women in business. We want to showcase their wonderful work to encourage more women to get into business."

Oisín Geoghegan, Chair of

the LEO Network and Head of Enterprise in Fingal said: "The theme for this year's National Women's Enterprise Day on October 17th is 'Making It Happen' and we want to highlight all the supports that can 'make it happen' for women in Dublin that want to start or grow their business over the next year.

"It's great to see that nearly 40% of new business owners in Ireland are women, showing that the gender gap is narrowing according to the latest Global Entrepreneurship Monitor report.

"Through the 31 Local Enterprise Offices, we saw a higher take-up of supports by female entrepreneurs last year – from those that were looking to start a new business venture by themselves to those that wanted to grow an existing family business."

NWED is geared at enabling and encouraging networking and business learning among

female entrepreneurs as well as helping to inspire aspirational women that wish to start their own business.

Breakfast, refreshments and lunch will be provided.

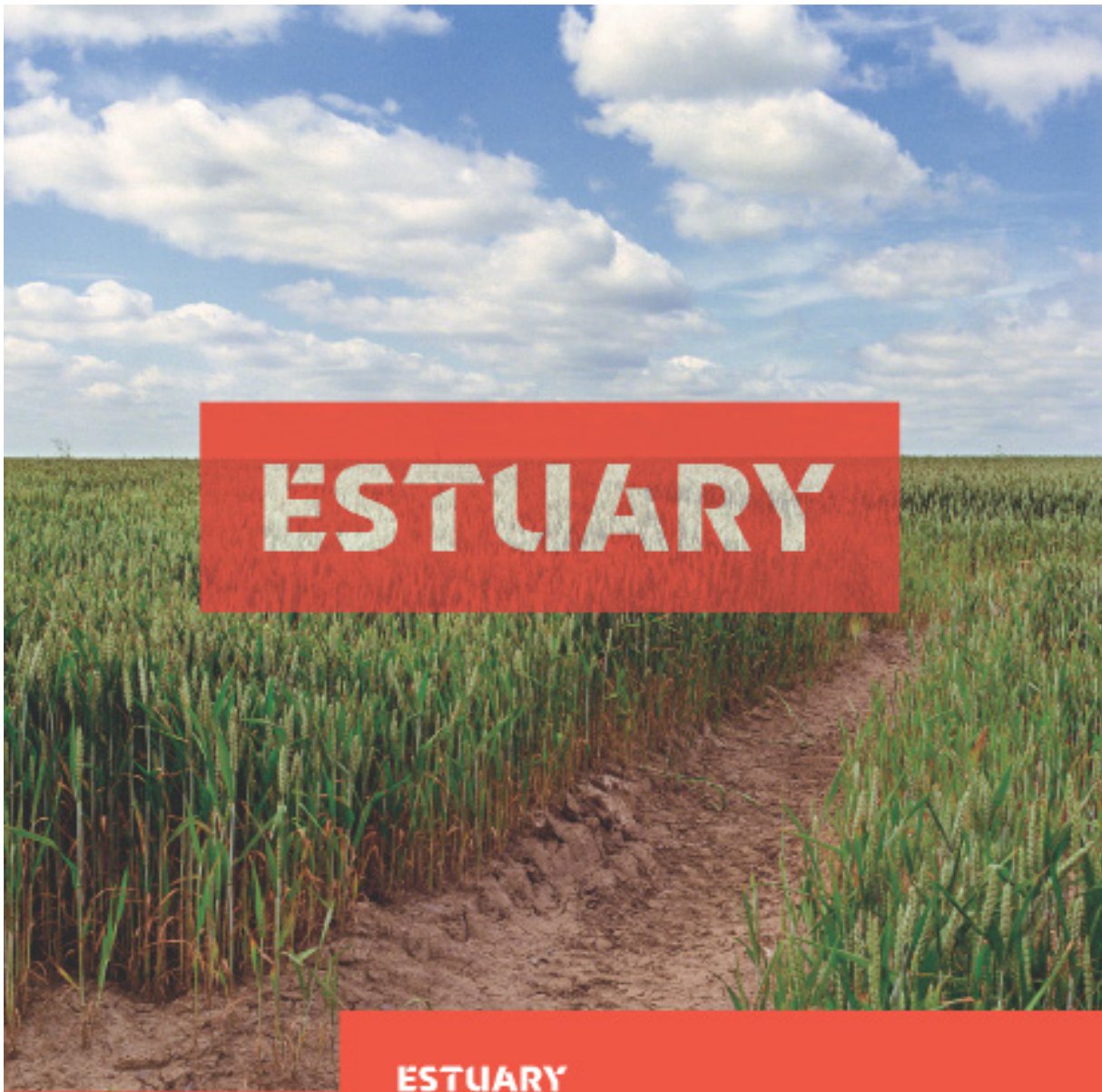
All attendees will also have an opportunity to win a fantastic array of prizes.

For more information on NWED and to book a place online for the Dublin event, go to www.localenterprise.ie/Fingal or search #NWED on social media.

The Dublin NWED event is funded by the Local Enterprise Offices and Enterprise Europe Network.

Subsidised tickets are currently available at €25.

Places are strictly limited to 300, so early booking is strongly advised.



ESTUARY

ESTUARY

An exhibition celebrating the 25th Anniversary
of Fingal County Council Municipal Art Collection

Curated by Fingal Artists — Una Sealy RHA, James English RHA,
Joshua Sex and Sanja Todorovic

↑
Dianne Whyte
Wheatfield, Fingal, 2019
medium format archival print,
mounted on dibond

25
ANNIVERSARY

Comhairle Contae
Fhine Gail
Fingal County
Council



12 September — 17 November 2019

Drafocht
The Blanchardstown Centre
Blanchardstown
Dublin 15

www.fingalarts.ie

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Report: www.fixyourstreet.ie

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Email: fingalnews@fingal.ie

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

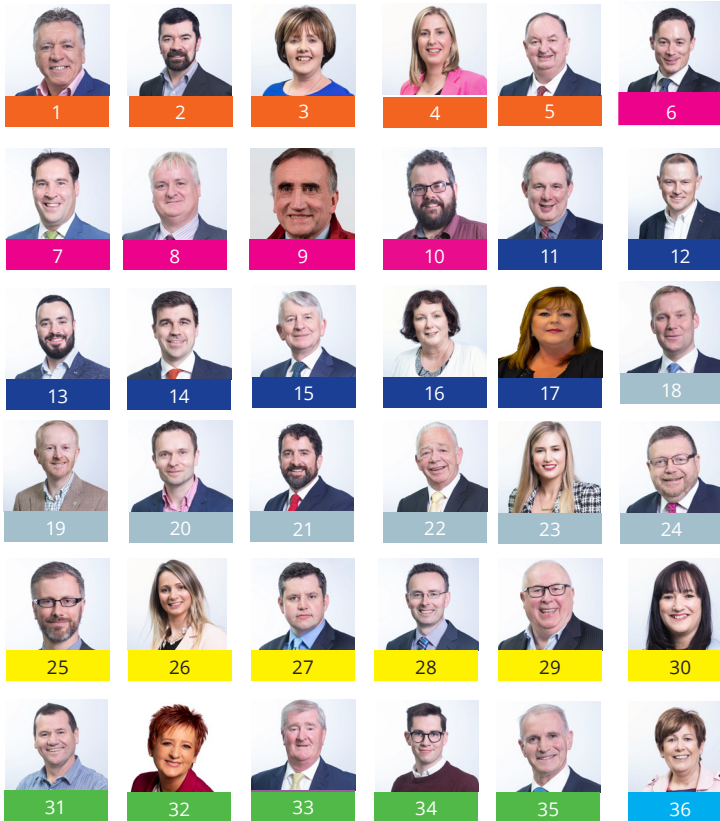


Coolmine Recycling Centre
Coolmine Industrial Estate,
Dublin 15.
(Beside Coolmine Fire Station)

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/>

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