

Fingal News

Issue
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2019

JUMPING FOR JOY!



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25
BLIANA
YEARS

Comhairle Contae
Fhine Gall
Fingal County
Council



Your Council,
working for you

Mayor's Message



Welcome to the latest edition of Fingal News. There are many exciting and positive developments to read about, and I'm already looking forward to what the next edition will contain. I wish to congratulate AnnMarie Farrelly on her appointment to the position of Chief Executive of Fingal County Council. This follows her

successful service as Chief Executive on an interim basis. AnnMarie is a dynamic and trusted leader with an impressive record of public service, and I look forward to working with her in the future.

The Our Balbriggan project got a major boost with the removal of three wrecks from Balbriggan harbor, which will allow for the further improvement and development of the promising harbor area. I enjoyed the opportunity to open the new skateparks in Skerries and Balbriggan which I hope will provide hours of enjoyment for all skaters. The Greener Communities Awards was a fantastic evening which put the spotlight on all those who work to keep Fingal beautiful and to protect our environment. I was delighted to attend.

A highlight was launching the Exercise Energise Multi-Sports Day, which encouraged girls between 12-15 not currently involved in sport to get active and enjoy the benefits and challenges of a dizzying array of activities from Judo to Zumba and everything in between. I was pleased to take part in the launch of the Battle of the Books, a great initiative spearheaded by Fingal Libraries in collaboration with primary schools across Fingal. Reading is a joy and a vital skill, and it's great to see that so many kids across the county are embarking on the quest to win the Battle which will be held in 2020. I would like to wish the very best of luck to everyone involved. Another valuable asset to the community fabric of Fingal was highlighted at the launch of Luttrellstown's new Community Centre. Projects like these are so important to local people and groups who will no doubt make great use of the facility in the years to come.

The recent Boil Water Notices have been a source of disruption and anxiety for many people across the Dublin area and Fingal in particular. On behalf of Fingal County Council I would like to extend my apologies for the impact caused. At our November meeting we passed a motion that representatives of Irish Water come to Fingal and meet the full Council. I look forward to this meeting taking place as soon as possible.

Finally, I was honoured to sign the Book of Condolence for iconic broadcaster Gay Byrne. Gay and his family have been intimately connected with Howth in particular, so his legacy is certainly an important part of the story of Fingal.

Cllr Eoghan O'Brien
Mayor of Fingal

Chief Executive's Message



October has been a typically busy month for Fingal and one of personal achievement when I was nominated and appointed Chief Executive of Fingal County Council at a special meeting of the Council.

We hosted the biggest National Women's Enterprise Day ever in Ireland with over 400 female business owners and managers

attending the event in the Crowne Plaza in Blanchardstown. The scale of the event reflects the encouraging fact that 60% of participants on our management development programmes are female. We unveiled our new fingal.ie website, which has equal emphasis on ease of navigation and visual appeal. This new website continues the digital innovation that we encourage and will allow for greater transparency between the Council and the public. I was delighted to address the launch of the Fingal Voices app pilot project, which strives to strengthen and broaden local decision-making by encouraging "unheard voices" to participate and have their say. I look forward to seeing its progress and encourage everyone to get involved and make your voices heard.

I note with pride that the expertise and dedication of our staff has been recognised in many awards successes and nominations in November. The Architects Department's Swords Castle East Tower Consolidation project won the Heritage and Conservation award in this year's Engineers Ireland Excellence Awards 2019. The Fingal Procurement Unit secured 'Project of the Year' for the establishment of a central procurement unit at the National Procurement Awards. Newbridge House and Farm were named winners of Best Leisure/Tourism Service at the Fingal Dublin Chamber Business Excellence and CSR Awards while our Communications Unit was nominated for Team of the Year at the Fingal Dublin Chamber Business Excellence & CSR Awards. The Local Enterprise Office was also nominated in the Best Public Service category and the Fingal Tourism Development Office has received a nomination for Best Marketing Campaign.

ReUse Month has been taken on in a creative way with the Play it Again initiative, in which we actively collect discarded musical instruments, restore them to playable condition, and pair them with locations and organisations that need them. This addresses waste prevention and gives the gift of music to many in the community. Our amnesty on combustible materials at recycling centres across Fingal was an overwhelming success with over 4,000 vehicles passing through the Estuary centre.

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



Fingal County Council's website, fingal.ie, has been relaunched after receiving a major revamp that has resulted in a new look and a platform that has become much more than just a local authority website.

The new ground-breaking website, which has a strong emphasis on easy navigation, stunning imagery and relevant content, revolves around four main pillars called Council, Resident, Business and Visitor with secondary pillars covering News and Events.

The Council pillar is a new-look equivalent of the previous Fingal County Council website while the other three pillars are targeted at specific audiences in order to improve their awareness of what the Council does.

Mayor of Fingal, Cllr Eoghan O'Brien, launched the new website and said it would give citizens a greater insight into the work of the Council.

"The new website is the latest in a series of digital innovations from

Fingal County Council and will be a big help in ensuring that citizens are better informed about the many services the Council is responsible for," said Mayor O'Brien.

"RED C carried out a Residential Satisfaction Survey for us in 2017 which revealed that only 33% of residents felt they had an awareness of what the Council does," explained Chief Executive AnnMarie Farrelly.

"The website is one of our main communications channels so we have spent the last two years working on creating a website which allows us to better inform citizens, visitors and businesses as to what we do while at the same time making sure that information relating to the hundreds of services we operate is easily available."

The new website was a joint project between the Council's IT and Communications Units with the site designed by the award winning Creative Digital Media Agency, Emagine, while software development was undertaken by the multi-award

winning team at Annertech. An Irish language version of the new website is also available.

A detailed development plan will be activated over the next few years to ensure that the new site remains up to date with the latest trends in website development. This will see new features being regularly rolled out as the Council opts for a fluid rather than a static website.

Fingal County Council was the first local authority in Ireland to introduce webcasting of its Council and Area Committee meetings and also operates a consultation portal, consult.fingal.ie, which enables citizens to view proposals and make submissions online. Other digital innovations that the Council has introduced include Digital Libraries, Smart Benches, Public WiFi, Open Data, Wayfinding and Unheard Voices challenges, Digital Customer Care Units and Digital Council meetings. The Council also publishes a digital e-zine, Fingal News, every two months.

Council declare Halloween Amnesty an overwhelming success

Fingal County Council has declared its Halloween amnesty which allowed householders dispose of combustible material for free as an overwhelming success.

As part of its commitment to protecting the environment and its contribution to the Safer Halloween initiative, the local authority's recycling centres in Swords and Coolmine in Dublin 15 accepted a range of material such as mattresses, sofas and wooden doors on four separate days in the build-up to October 31.

The response was overwhelming from the general public with over 4,000 vehicles passing through the Estuary centre. 86 skips were filled, along with 40 cages of small electrical waste, a huge amount of large electrical items and 35 crates of paint. In Coolmine, 2,645 vehicles visited which saw 79 skips filled during the four specified days of the Amnesty.

Mayor of Fingal Cllr Eoghan O'Brien commended the local

authority for the initiative. "The Halloween Amnesty was a massive success and was enthusiastically supported by the general public. Along with the Festival of Fire initiative, Fingal County Council can be proud of the role it played in ensuring a Safer Halloween for everyone."

Director of Operations David Storey said: "This year we made the decision to offer the amnesty to reduce the amount of material which may otherwise be disposed of on bonfires locally with consequent health and safety risks and damage to public open spaces and have are delighted with the overwhelming positive reaction from the public."

"The initiative involved a considerable financial investment from Fingal County Council as part of its commitment to reducing the environmental impact on green areas and open spaces over the Halloween period. The council will now move to dispose of the waste, which we estimate will cost in the region of €45,000."



Wonderful new skateparks open in two locations

Mayor of Fingal, Cllr. Eoghan O'Brien, and Chief Executive of Fingal County Council, AnnMarie Farrelly, were on hand to officially open two brand-new Skate Parks in Skerries and Balbriggan

Fingal County Council's newest sporting facilities have been created for the local skateboarding community and with Fingal having the youngest population in Ireland these amenities are vital for our young people to enjoy in their local area.

The skate park in Skerries is designed as a bowl-style facility while Balbriggan's new skate park is designed in the classic plaza style. Both have been designed specifically to complement the character of the sites in each community and will cater to a wide age-range and level of experience.

Mayor of Fingal, Cllr. Eoghan O'Brien, who opened the





parks, said: "By providing accessible facilities like this in Skerries Town Park and Balbriggan Skate Park, the council hopes to foster a culture of health and outdoor recreation amongst users that will be passed on to the generations after them.

"I would like to thank Kevin Halpenny, Senior Parks Superintendent, his team and the contractor, Freestyle Skate Parks, for their hard work on this project. I would also like to especially mention the local Skatepark Committee whose support and dedication have been invaluable to deliver the excellent amenity we have here."

Fingal County Council recognises the importance of health and recreation in the lives of our citizens. Skateparks provide many benefits to the community including, health & wellbeing, physical activity for children and young people, a safe and challenging place for skaters to develop their skills, and skateparks support vibrant healthy communities, just like other sports facilities and create a positive environment for young people where they forge friendships and camaraderie.

AnnMarie Farrelly, Chief Executive of Fingal County Council, said: "I am delighted to be here to open these two fantastic skateparks that will provide the

needed space for the skateboarding community in the areas.

"I would like to thank my team in the Parks & Green Infrastructure Division for their hard work on delivering this much sought after skatepark and I look forward to seeing users young and old availing of this wonderful sporting facility."

Community engagement was a hallmark of the project. A key aspect of the success of the project is that the design of the skatepark was informed by the users' needs and compliments the character of both sites.





Communities and volunteers honoured

Communities and volunteers have been honoured in the annual Fingal Greener Communities Awards.

This important competition has over the years enhanced Fingal County Council's relationship with residents,

community groups and individuals of the county. In attendance on the night were Mayor of Fingal Cllr. Eoghan O'Brien and Fingal County Council Chief Executive AnnMarie Farrelly.

The focus this year was on increasing pollinators and biodiversity and on fostering sustainable communities, a key role we can all play in creating a more sustainable future. Communities were also encouraged to play an increasing role in our environmental response to climate change and environmental improvements.



Mayor of Fingal Eoghan O'Brien commented: "The Greener Communities awards foster great community spirit - we owe a great deal of gratitude to those people who encourage the rest of us to take pride in our surroundings".

Chief Executive, AnnMarie Farrelly remarked that "The standard this year was higher than ever before and is a continuing testament to the concern and pride Fingal residents, community groups and individuals have for



the environment in which we work and live".

Awards were presented by Craig Benton, Benton Ecological Solutions, Roger Warburton, Rediscovery Centre, Ballymun, John Daly Acting Director of Services Environment Climate Action and Water Services Department and Fionnuala May, County Architect, Fingal County Council.

Many community groups from

throughout Fingal participated in this year's event with over 100 entrants across all categories, which range from Best Front Garden to the Biodiversity Award. A total of 40 prizes were awarded on the night. The overall prize was awarded to Whitestown Estate Management for their excellent work and dedication to their area.

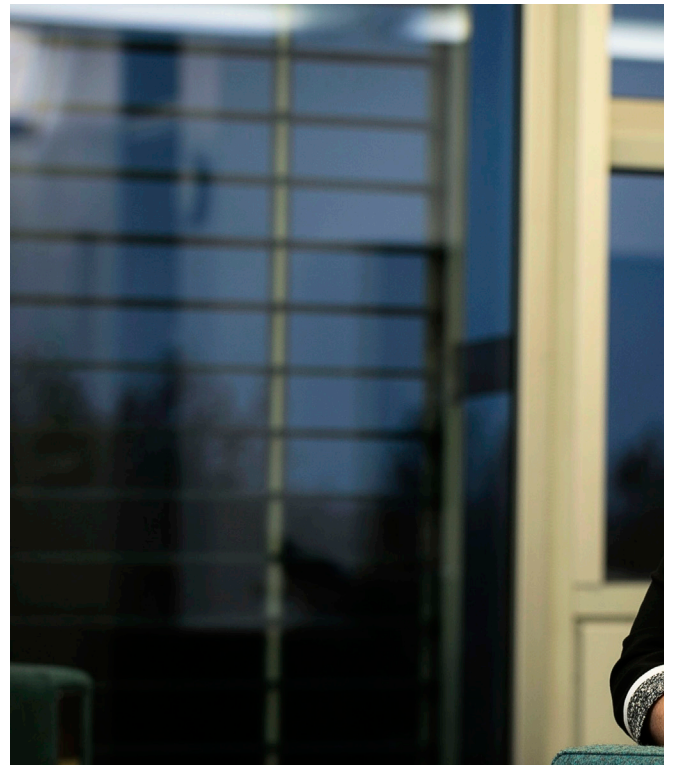
Sinead Fox and Carla McKenna, Environmental Education Officers who organised the event

commented on the outstanding contributions made by all applicants and congratulated all those who received awards. "Biodiversity is an integral part of the web of life and we all have a part to play in protecting and enhancing the biodiversity that exists in our county. Thank you to everyone for making the night a resounding success."

Full list of winners available at <https://bit.ly/2CG3GRe>.



NEW CHIEF EXECUTIVE OF FINGAL COUNTY COUNCIL



Fingal County Council has formally appointed AnnMarie Farrelly as its new Chief Executive.

At a special meeting, the Elected members of Fingal County Council passed a resolution to appoint Ms Farrelly to the Chief Executive position. The Corporate Policy Group had unanimously supported the recommendation of the Public Appointments Service.

Welcoming the appointment Mayor of Fingal Cllr Eoghan O'Brien said: "I was delighted to support the recommendation

of the Public Appointments Commission to appoint AnnMarie Farrelly. I firmly believe that she is the right person to lead our Local Authority. She is an exemplary public servant whose knowledge of the sector is second to none. AnnMarie Farrelly is a true professional and someone who displays the utmost respect for her colleagues in Fingal County Council and the Elected Members."

Ms Farrelly becomes the sixth person, and first woman, to take over the role of Chief Executive/ County Manager of Fingal County

Council, which is celebrating its 25th anniversary this year. She had held the position of Interim Chief Executive since May following the departure of Paul Reid to become CEO of the Health

Service Executive.

Speaking on her appointment, Ms Farrelly said it was an "honour and a privilege" to be appointed as Chief Executive of Fingal County Council.

"I have achieved this ultimate leadership role because of the tremendous experience and career opportunities local government has afforded me. It has always been a privilege to work in local government and to work in a County like Fingal makes it even better."

"The County has transformed since the Council was established in 1994. Over the past 25 years, for example, our population has doubled to 300,000. Our rates income, which was €3.7m back in 1994, has risen to €129m this year. This level of growth is an indication of our success but has also presented some challenges, which we will continue to address."





She added: "I want to build on our achievements to date and I will work with the Council to ensure that the County continues to prosper and to ensure we protect the quality of life of the people who live here by helping to address their housing, economic and recreational needs.

"I also want to ensure that Fingal remains a vibrant, outward-looking and well-run council and that we embrace opportunity and diversity. We will need to take a lead on issues such as Climate Action, public transport improvement, employment and housing.

"As a local authority we need to protect, manage and improve what we have and to plan and prepare for our future sustainable growth and expansion. It is also important that we perform our core responsibilities well and I do intend to keep a focus on this area, particularly on our roles as regulator."

Ms Farrelly concluded: "I will continue with my management team and staff, to deliver essential projects including housing delivery on public lands at Donabate, the continued transformation of Swords, the regeneration of Balbriggan, the Coastal Way, as well as important projects in Dublin 15 such as the Snugborough Interchange Upgrade, and to ensure a good quality of life for all our citizens both young and old."

Pilot project set to engage with "unheard voices"

An innovative pilot project to engage with traditionally unheard voices through the Fingal Voices smartphone app has been launched by Fingal County Council.

Fingal Voices is an app which allows citizens to ask questions, respond to surveys and engage in dialogue with Council departments. As users engage with the app, they gain points which can be redeemed for various prizes.

Geolocation technology is used to match users with questions and surveys relevant to them, such as events they are attending or issues affecting their locality.

A beta version of the app is being rolled out which will be evaluated during the pilot project, which will run from October 23 2019 to

January 31 2020.

The launch event at Swords Castle chapel involved a showcase of the app by Grégoire Piette, co-founder of Smart Futures who designed the app as part of the Unheard Voices project, a collaboration between Enterprise Ireland, Cork City Council and Smart Dublin.

The Fingal Voices app is an exciting way of encouraging people to get engaged and get involved, and I look forward to seeing its progress during the pilot project."

The Fingal Voices app is available for Android devices at https://play.google.com/apps/testing/io.smartfutures.fingal.unheard_voices and for Apple devices at <https://testflight.apple.com/join/vOTWO3Qe>.



Financial Assistance Scheme for 2020 Events and Festivals

Fingal County Council's Events Unit has launched its call for applications for groups and organisations seeking financial assistance for Festivals and Events taking place in 2020.

Applications will be accepted for existing and/or new events or festivals which animate public spaces in creative and innovative ways and which are focused on developing measurable tourism impacts in the County.



Interested parties must meet a number of other eligibility criteria including:

- Have a general audience appeal and be socially inclusive.
- Clearly demonstrate potential to generate economic, social and/or cultural benefits.
- Complement the County's calendar of events in relation to attracting overseas' visitors.
- Meet the Events Unit's objective of compiling a varied programme of events throughout the year including content, seasonal and geographical spread.

- Demonstrate financial sustainability and the capacity to develop the event.
- Have a clear PR and marketing plan including a social media strategy to actively promote the event.

Fingal County Council's Events Unit supports tourism through the Fingal Statement of Tourism Strategy 2017 - 2022 and businesses in our towns through a wide-ranging programme of events.

Since the formation of the Events Unit in 2010, the number of events being held and supported annually has increased year on year. The programme is a combination of Fingal County Council's own events, events in partnership with other bodies that have similar objectives, and events run by external

organisers who receive direct funding contributions from Fingal County Council through a financial assistance programme.

The closing date for applications for funding is on Tuesday 17th December 2019 at 3pm for events taking place in 2020. To download the Eligibility Criteria and Application, click [here](#).

For more information and an application form, please email events@fingal.ie.



Councillors have approved a Capital Programme worth €619m. The three-year rolling programme runs from 2020 to 2022 across seven divisions and represents a €30.63m increase on the 2019-2021 Capital Programme and a 91% increase on the €324m provided for in the 2017-2019 Capital Programme.

A total of 236 projects are included with an estimated spend of €187m in 2020. The following year, 2021, capital expenditure will be in the region of €233m with €209m earmarked for 2022.

Fingal County Council Chief Executive AnnMarie Farrelly said: "Given Fingal's importance to the national economy and the Greater Dublin region, it is important that our capital budget is spent strategically, and I believe we have achieved this in our 2020-2022 Capital Programme. There is a strong emphasis on housing and infrastructure as well as economic and community development while our commitment to Climate Change is



€619M CAPITAL PLAN APPROVED

reflected in the continued roll-out of LED Street lighting, Electric Vehicle Charging Points and increased cycling infrastructure."

Almost half of the Capital Programme will be spent on housing as the Council continues its commitment to fully engage with the Rebuilding Ireland Action Plan for Housing and Homelessness. Over €94m has been earmarked for housing in 2020 with €208m due to be spent over the following two years.

Planning and Strategic Infrastructure projects, such as the Snugborough Road Interchange in Dublin 15, will account for €36m in 2020 and there is a total commitment of €151m over the three-year period of the Capital Programme.

Provision has also been made for cycling infrastructure and there is a planned expenditure of €43m over the three years on Greenway Projects such as the Broadmeadow

Way, Fingal Coastal Way and Royal Canal Urban Greenway. Cycling infrastructure is also being included the road investment programme which includes projects such as the R135 North Road, Ballycoolin Road and Swords to Malahide Estuary.

Economic Enterprise and Tourism Development will account for almost €73m with €23m being spent in 2020 on projects such as Our Balbriggan and Howth Courthouse as well as the purchase of development lands and the servicing and improvement of existing industrial lands.

The development of the Swords Cultural Quarter will continue over the next three years and the project is expected to ramp up considerably in 2020 following the announcement that Turner and Townsend have been appointed as Project Manager. The Cultural Quarter includes existing buildings such as Swords Castle, The Atrium at County Hall and Carnegie Hall on North Street

while a new Civic Centre and County Library is to be built on the junction of North Street and Seatown Road.

Over €13m will be spent on Community infrastructure over the next three years including the progression of Community Centre projects in Meakstown and Baldoyle. The Council's commitment to introduce LED street lighting continues with €5.3m due to be spent over the next three years including €2.4m in 2020 and 2021.

The Capital Programme is funded from a variety of sources including levies, loans, grants and the Council's own revenue streams. The presentation of the 2020-2022 Capital Programme to councillors can be viewed at www.fingal.ie/council-meetings

A copy of the 2020-2022 Capital Programme can be viewed at <https://www.fingal.ie/council/service/capital-programme>



Luttrellstown Community Centre opens

The official opening of Luttrellstown Community Centre, a new multi-purpose state-of-the-art facility which will provide a focal point for local residents and organisations, has taken place.

Mayor of Fingal Cllr Eoghan O'Brien, in the company of AnnMarie Farrelly, Interim Chief Executive of Fingal County Council, was on hand to open the wonderful new centre in the Dublin 15 area.

Luttrellstown Community Centre opened in June and the modern multi-purpose-built facility includes a full-size sports hall with changing rooms, a dance studio, meeting rooms and a childcare room.

The Centre is located adjacent to Luttrellstown Community College and was constructed under the "Fingal Schools" model, which has been operating successfully across a number of communities since its inception in 2010.

The Community Centre is available for hire to the community directly through the Luttrellstown Community Centre and will be available according to demand.

Mayor of Fingal Cllr Eoghan O'Brien said: "Strong communities are a source of social support and well-being for the people who live in them. It is vital therefore that communities have dedicated

spaces for people to meet, convene, discuss and play.

"Fingal County Council has a major role to play in developing these communities of Fingal, and in particular newer communities like Luttrellstown, through the work of the Community Culture & Sports Division.

"Now, more than ever, there is a need for cohesion and a sense of community spirit and pride. Fingal County Council has been, and continues to be, committed to engendering this community spirit by the provision of new community facilities."



Fingal LCDC approves round of community funding

Fingal County Council has been allocated funds of €150,521 under the 2019 Community Enhancement Programme and an additional €13,089 for Men and Women's sheds.

The Community Enhancement Programme is funded by the Department of Rural and Community Development.

It provides funding to communities to enhance facilities in areas of disadvantage. LCDC's are responsible for allocating funding to projects in their area as they are ideally placed to identify suitable local projects.

The LCDC approved funding for a total of 101 applications for both schemes in the Fingal area. 90 applications were approved under CEP 2019 and 11 applications approved for Men's & Women's Sheds Fund 2019.

The Department of Rural & Community Development recommended that funding for sheds should be allocated in a relatively equal manner across eligible sheds who submitted a valid

application. All Men's Sheds in Ireland affiliated with the Irish Men's Shed Association were eligible to apply. Women's Sheds were also eligible to apply.

Under the Community Enhancement Programme. Swords Community First Responders, Balbriggan Cricket Club and Barnardos Corduff were among the 90 groups awarded funding.

Valid applications were received from 10 Men's Sheds and 1 Women's Shed in the Fingal area. The Funding Sub Group met and agreed to divide this year's Men's and Women's Shed fund of €13,089 equally between the 11 sheds' as per the Department's guidelines.

Fingal County Council's Director of Economic, Enterprise and Tourism Development, Emer O'Gorman said: "We are delighted with the funding secured for 2019 which will allow substantial investment in communities across Fingal. We look forward to working with many communities and voluntary groups and assisting them in delivering their projects."

Chief Executive AnnMarie Farrelly said: "Fingal County Council has been involved in the design, support, operation and management of community facilities across the county for over 20 years. In Luttrellstown we mark the official opening of a new shared community facility that will be a focal point for the local community .

"This new facility in which we are standing today is the result of a very successful partnership between Fingal County Council and the Department of Education & Skills and is a prime example of the "Fingal

School's Model", a model which we are proud to have rolled out over the past number of years.

Director of Fingal County Council's Community and Housing Department Margaret Geraghty said: "It is wonderful to see the opening of another new community facility in this emerging area which will be of great benefit to residents and organisations.

"The focus of the Community Development Office is to develop strong, engaged and integrated communities across Fingal where people are proud to live."





Council remove three wrecks from harbour

Fingal County Council has removed three wrecks from Balbriggan Harbour as part of its plans to improve the Harbour under the Balbriggan Rejuvenation Plan.

The operation was led by a team from the Council's Operations Department. As the boats were lifted out of the water they were placed on a truck and taken away for break-up. Some of the wrecks had been lying abandoned in the Harbour for a number of years.

Improving the Harbour is one of the 20 things to be undertaken in the first 12 months of the Our Balbriggan 2019-2025 Rejuvenation Plan and, in addition to removing the wrecks, it is also planned to install lighting inside the town's historic viaduct bridge and supply power to the Harbour. Other works in the pipeline include the refurbishment of the RNLI Boat House. These improvements will

mark the beginning of a process of reimagining the harbour area, creating an exciting, lively pier and waterfront, linking numerous leisure and tourism opportunities.

Mayor of Fingal, Cllr Eoghan O'Brien, said: "This is a significant moment for the Our Balbriggan project because the harbour area has huge potential and its redevelopment is a key part of the Rejuvenation Plan."

Chief Executive of Fingal County Council, AnnMarie Farrelly, said: "The Our Balbriggan team are working hard to fulfil their commitment to have 20 things done in the first year of the Plan and over the next few months there will be further improvements made to Balbriggan Harbour in order to fulfil the pledge to improve Balbriggan Harbour."

To view a video click <https://bit.ly/2P1vEhM>.

Climate Change Action Plan launched

Fingal County Council has launched its Climate Change Action Plan, which contains 133 actions that are on-going or planned within the Council, covering five key action areas – Energy and Buildings, Transport, Flood Resilience, Nature-Based Solutions and Resource Management.

Four key targets have been identified, namely:

1. 33% improvement in the Council's energy efficiency by 2020
2. 40% reduction in the Council's greenhouse gas emissions by 2030
3. To make Fingal a climate resilient region
4. To actively engage and inform citizens on climate change

Following an extensive six-week public consultation process in February/March of this year, almost 170 people attended four events across Fingal and over 120 submissions were received. The Plan was adopted by the Elected members in May.

Mayor of Fingal, Cllr Eoghan O'Brien, said: "I am delighted to launch the Climate Change Action Plan which sets out a range of actions and measures which will help to make Fingal climate resilient. Fingal County Council will set out to actively inform and engage the public, through a range of innovative programmes and partnerships and, where possible, facilitate bottom-up, community-led solutions."

Chief Executive of Fingal County Council, AnnMarie Farrelly, said: "Climate Change is one of the most pressing challenges facing local governments today. Fingal County Council is committed to continued climate action, across the key areas of adaptation, mitigation and public engagement. The Council will continue to work with key stakeholders to influence and support carbon reduction initiatives across the County."





2019 RESULTS:

Town (Category)	2018	2019
Ballyboughal (A)	283	289
The Naul (A)	230	245
Balrothery (C)	253	258
Lusk (D)	311	316
Howth (D)	281	287
Rush (D)	278	286
Portmarnock(D)	239	245
Skerries (F)	333	338
Malahide (G)	320	327
Balbriggan(G)	291	296
Castleknock (G)		230
Swords (H)	317	323

Tidy Towns committees hailed for wonderful efforts during 2019

The hard-working Tidy Towns committees across Fingal have been congratulated for their efforts in their communities in the national Tidy Towns competition over the past year.

The SuperValu Tidy Towns competition is now entering its seventh decade and Glaslough, Co Monaghan was the overall winner from a record number of 918 entries to the competition this year.

Skerries committee, who won the National Award in 2016, won the County title again as well as a Gold Medal. They received 338 points in the F Category (population between 10000 and 15,000) which is 5 points more than last year.

Malahide again received a gold medal with 327 points in the G category (populations between 15000 and 25000). Swords was awarded a silver medal in its

Category H (population 25000 and over) with 323 points and member Matt Cullen was highly commended in the Community Heroes award category. Lusk received a Bronze medal with 316 points in Category E (population between 5,001 and 10000. All the dedicated committees across Fingal were rewarded for their efforts by gaining more points than in 2018 with The Naul gaining 15 points and Castleknock returning to the competition this year.

Mayor of Fingal, Cllr Eoghan O’Brien commended the Tidy Towns committees saying “It is wonderful to see the work of the hardworking Tidy Towns committees in Fingal being recognised with these awards. On my visits to various parts of the County as Mayor I have seen the fruits of their efforts in enhancing the appearance of their areas as well as having a positive effect on the environment and fostering

community spirit”

Fingal County Council Chief Executive AnnMarie Farrelly said: “The efforts of the Tidy Towns Committees across the County are hugely valued, as they work to make Fingal a better place to live, work or visit. Fingal’s Operations Department are delighted with their positive engagement with these groups as they work together in keeping our communities litter free, improving the natural landscape and through their pollinator friendly planting improving biodiversity and contributing to climate action.”

Fingal County Council’s Director of Operations David Storey added: “This year’s Tidy Towns awards reflect the continuous efforts and dedication of all the committees across Fingal. I’m delighted to see that once again their commitment and hard work has been acknowledged.”

Fingal Arts Office announces recipient of the Graduate Award

The successful recipient of the Graduate Award 2019, awarded by the Fingal Arts Office, in partnership with MART, is Sharon Ramsey.

As part of an ongoing commitment to emerging artists Fingal County Council's Arts Office offer a one-year Graduate Studio Award in MART with inclusion in the 'Award 'show in March 2020, an exhibition which is dedicated to the support and professional development of recent graduates.

The Graduate Award will provide an ideal environment for Sharon to develop her practice and an opportunity to network with other artists. In addition, Sharon will also have access to 'Smart Talks', a series of professional development presentations and workshops presented by MART.

Sharon Ramsey is a recent Master of Fine Art (MFA) Graduate of NCAD. On hearing of her award, she commented; "I am delighted and honoured to receive this Graduate Award. Having the support of Fingal Arts Office and



MART has been an incredible boost to my confidence as a recent graduate and I look forward to working with them both in the coming year. It will give me an opportunity to establish a working practice within a vibrant and supportive art community and help to facilitate a greater understanding of what it means to pursue a career as an artist."

Sharon hopes this opportunity will allow her the space and time to cultivate and expand her practice outside of an academic context. This will be an exciting step in the

development of her career.

Speaking about the Graduate Award, Fingal County Council's Deputy Arts Officer, Sarah O'Neill said; "The Fingal Arts Graduate Award is invaluable for any emerging artist. It is essential for a graduate to have both space and time in order to expand and strengthen their practice. The award also offers a nurturing environment allowing the graduate to connect with their peers, Fingal Arts Office are delighted to offer the award in partnership with MART."

Fingal participate in Acorn Pilot Project

Fingal County Council along with two other local authorities and Age Friendly Ireland piloted the ACORN tablet with members of Older People's Councils. Minister Ring officially launched the findings from the ACORN Pilot Project.

In the last 10 years there has been a revolution in social networks and human interaction; smart devices have fundamentally changed how

people interact. They have become the primary mechanism for many in maintaining and establishing real-world connections plus they are a source of news, entertainment and commercial engagement. Now more than ever, citizens not connected to modern life are at greater risk of social exclusion and, consequently, associated health and wellbeing issues.

The ACORN project pilot is aimed to trial a digital solution for use by

older people, to provide a simplified, customised age-friendly platform on a tablet computer that can positively impact on, and contribute to improved outcomes for older people, particularly those in rural areas or small towns, isolated or otherwise vulnerable older people. The Community Department was the recipient of the Communications award for the ACORN project at the National Age Friendly Recognition and Achievement Awards.



ENERGISE MULTI-SPORTS DAY IS AN ABSOLUTE KNOCKOUT

Fingal Sports Office's Exercise Energise Multi-Sports Day was launched in the National Indoor Athletics Arena. The Mayor Cllr Eoghan O'Brien, Fingal County Council Senior Executive Officer, Íde De Bairtiseil and 2018 Women's World Boxing Champion Kellie Harrington were in attendance.

300 girls from eight post-primary schools across Fingal attended the Multi-Sports Day. The girls got to try out various activities such as Zumba strong, gymnastics, circuit training and Athletics (both Track & Field) under the guidance of accredited coaches from the National Sports Campus. Both the Mayor and Kellie Harrington were there to offer the girls their encouragement.

Speaking about the launch of this year's event, Mayor of Fingal Cllr Eoghan O'Brien said; "I am delighted to see an emphasis on sports for those who are not currently involved in sport or physical activity. Sport plays an important role in the lives of young people and I hope after taking part in the Exercise

Energise Multi-Sports Day many of the participants will choose to make sport a regular activity in their lives."

The Exercise: Energise Multi-Sports Day is held during the European Week of Sport each year and is part of Fingal's Sports Office's initiatives under the Federation of Irish Sport's 20X20 campaign. This year there was an increase in participation from last year's attendance.

The Exercise: Energise programme is aimed mainly at girls aged between 12-15 years, (First or

Second Years) who are not currently involved in sport or physical activity and the primary objective of the programme is to help combat the drop off from sport among this age group.

The activities are mainly taking place at lunchtime and after-school. The girls are involved in selecting the activity and this has proven to be successful with over thirty girls participating in each school. The activities range from Judo, Martial Arts, Dance, Futsal, Basketball, Hip-Hop, Zumba and Gym work.



Pupils are encouraged to read through participation in 'Battle of the Books'

Schoolchildren across Fingal are currently participating in the annual "Battle of the Books" competition which will conclude early next year.

The Battle of the Book is a reading Programme running from October 2019 until March 2020 between Fingal Libraries and primary schools within the Fingal area.

This initiative is very kindly supported by Dublin Airport. The programme is designed to encourage children to read, gain confidence and to discuss a common book, providing a shared experience of reading which will encourage reading for life.

Speaking about the programme Mayor of Fingal, Cllr Eoghan O'Brien said; "The Battle of the Book programme is a great way to encourage children not only to read but to interact with one another to discuss the book's themes and hear each other's insights. I am delighted to see it



return this year."

This year the featured book is "World War 1 - When the Lights

Went Out in Europe" by local author Rod Smith and published by Poolbeg Press. Both Rod himself and Paula from Poolbeg were on hand to help launch the programme and present signed copies of the book to students Finn Morrissey and Chelsea Camerino from St Marnocks NS.

This year the schools involved are Mary Queen of Ireland NS, St Helens NS, Portmarnock, St Laurence's NS, Baldoyle, St Marnocks NS, Portmarnock and St Margaret's NS.

The children will be participating in different activities organised by Fingal Libraries surrounding the themes presented in the book.

The programme will culminate in a "Battle" to be held early in 2020 in the Riasc Centre.



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 delighted to receive Right to Read Champion Award

Fingal County Libraries has received a Right to Read Champion Award in recognition of its ongoing efforts to support literacy development through the library service.

Minister of State at the Department of Rural and Community Development Seán Canney presented the Right to Read Champion Awards, which is part of a collaborative cross-government initiative that provides a nationally coordinated framework for literacy support and reading development in all local authorities.

The Awards, which were hosted by the LGMA at Local Government House in Dublin, were presented



to 30 library authorities in recognition of the support and promotion of literacy skills development through initiatives such as the 'Summer Stars Reading Programme' and 'Spring in to Storytime'.

Speaking at the event, the Minister said: "I am delighted to be here today to present the Right to Read Champion Awards to local authorities who led on and delivered the Right to Read Programme, it is a great initiative

that has committed us, both at a national and local level, to improving literacy standards." The delivery of the Right to Read programme at local level is led by the public library services in each local authority and the implementation is overseen by a Right to Read co-ordinator in each library service.

Fingal Senior Librarian and Right to Read co-ordinator, Marguerite Drake, who accepted the award, said: "I am delighted to be here today and see the recognition of the work of the public library services to support and promote literacy development. It is an important part of the library service and it is great to see that it is being treated as such."



AMAZING TURNOUT AT #NWNED EVENT

Over 400 female entrepreneurs attended the Fingal National Women's Enterprise event, which highlights the success stories of women who continue to do amazing things in business, across every sector

An initiative of the Local Enterprise Offices (LEOs), the day was opened by Pat Breen, Minister of State for Trade, Employment, Business, EU Digital Single Market and Data Protection, in the Crowne Plaza Hotel in Blanchardstown.

The theme for this year's event was "Making It Happen" in what is NWNED's 13th year run by the LEOs nationwide and supported by Enterprise Ireland, with funding from the Government of Ireland. The Dublin NWNED event was funded by the LEOs in the Dublin Region and Enterprise Europe Network.

The event has grown year-on-year with 17 events taking place across the country and over 1,700 female entrepreneurs in attendance. This growth in popularity has been reflected in the national growth in female entrepreneurship. There was an 18% increase in female

entrepreneurs taking LEO training programmes last year as almost 22,000 female entrepreneurs engaged with their LEO on supports in 2018.

Some of Ireland's best-known female entrepreneurs shared their experience at the event in Dublin. These included; 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 featured: Jo Harpur, CEO of Jo Harpur Jewellery; Emer Cleary, Founder of Emu Ink Publishing; Aimée Madden, CEO of Clinishift; Jessica Conlon, Founder of Twigs; and Jenny Melia, Business Development Manager at Enterprise Ireland. The Dublin Region NWNED Ambassador for 2019 was Ann McGee, Director of MIAS Pharma.

Oisín Geoghegan, Chair of the Network of 31 Local Enterprise Offices and Head of Enterprise in Fingal, said: "National Women's



Enterprise Day is an important date on the Local Enterprise Office calendar. It gives us the opportunity to highlight the success stories of women who continue to do amazing things in business, across every sector. The day itself is an opportunity for businesswomen to network, engage, share tips, advice and encourage each other. It also gives those, who are thinking of taking the step, the chance to learn from female entrepreneurs who have been in that position and understand that the support is there if you ask for it. The hardest part is taking that first step and when you do speak to your Local Enterprise Office you will quickly see the support is there to help you make your idea a reality."

AnnMarie Farrelly, Chief Executive of Fingal County Council, added: "Fingal County Council, through

the Local Enterprise Office, is delighted to have hosted the biggest National Women's Enterprise Day ever in the country with over 400 female business owners/managers in attendance. Many of the speakers present have created their business in their communities, contributing to job creation in their local economies. We encourage all potential female entrepreneurs to engage with their local enterprise office and avail of the many supports available to them. It is fantastic to see that 60% of participants on our management development programmes are female."

With over 1,700 attendees at National Women's Enterprise Day, the figures for female entrepreneurship continue to rise. Over 4,500 female entrepreneurs availed of business mentoring in 2018 up 19% from the previous

year with nearly 22,000 taking part in a range of Local Enterprise Office training programmes, a rise of 18% from 2017. The 2018 Global Entrepreneurship Monitor report also shows that nearly 40% of new business owners in Ireland are now female.

NWED is just one of the initiatives of the LEOs aimed at fostering entrepreneurship and assisting companies to start up across the country. Others include Local Enterprise Week, Ireland's Best Young Entrepreneur, the National Enterprise Awards, the Student Enterprise Programme and the Local Enterprise Village at the National Ploughing Championships.

For more information on supports available to Fingal businesses, please visit www.localenterprise.ie/Fingal

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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)

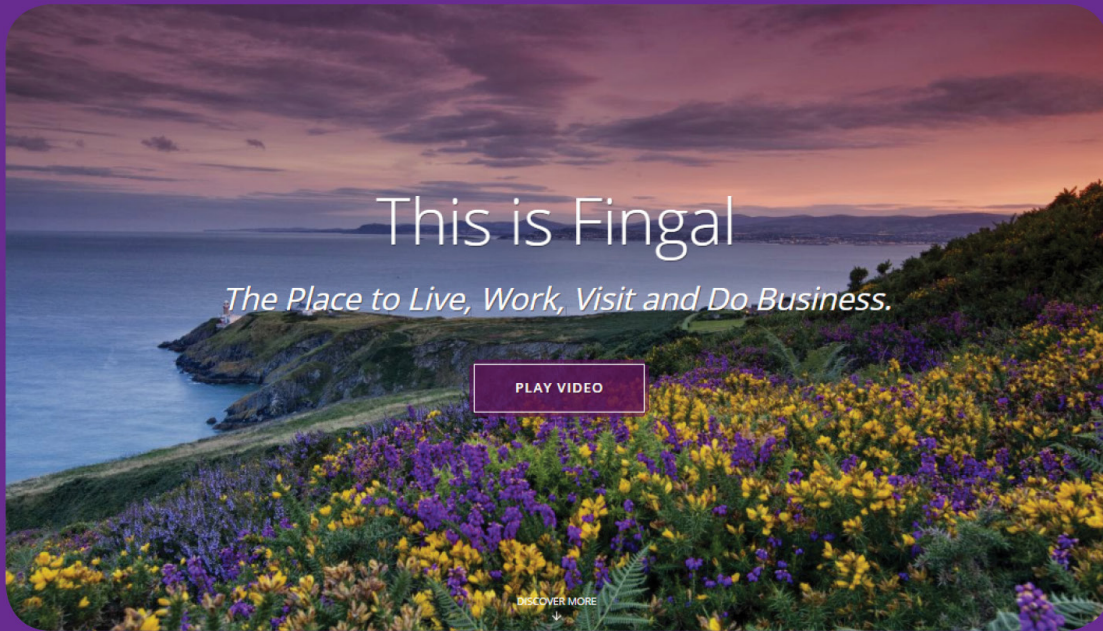
For opening hours and more details see
link <http://fingal.ie/environment/waste-and-recycling/recycling-centres/>

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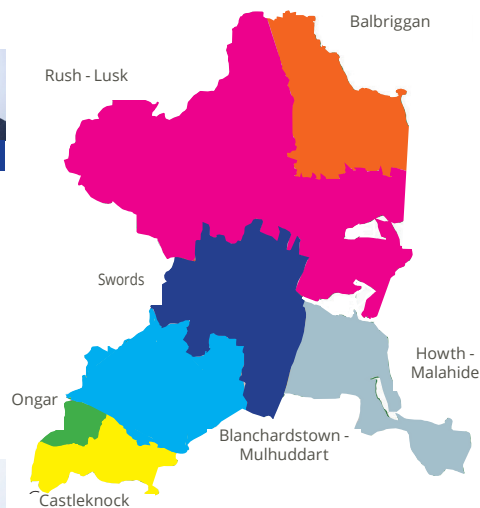


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Your Councillors



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