



Fingal News

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COUNCIL OF THE YEAR!

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25
BLIANA
YEARS

Comhairle Contae
Fhine Gall
Fingal County
Council



Your Council,
working for you



Mayor's Message



The Christmas period is in full swing now, but the work of the Council continues, and we are as busy as ever.

The Council adopted a new budget of €269 million in November for 2020 to provide services and investment for the residents of Fingal.

This budget process began immediately after the election of the new Council in June and I would like to thank my colleagues on the Corporate Policy Group and staff across departments in the Council for the work put in to provide an increase in services for everyone in Fingal.

Fingal County Council was named as Local Authority of the Year at this year's Chambers Ireland Excellence in Local Government Awards. I was honoured to receive this award alongside AnnMarie Farrelly, Chief Executive, at the event in Crowne Plaza Hotel Santry.

This award recognises the great work of Fingal staff across all departments along with the elected members who work together to make Fingal the best place to live, work, visit and do business in and it is extremely humbling to be recognised as the best Council in Ireland.

In Malahide we launched the first ever School Streets initiative in Ireland. This saw a section of Grove Road, outside the entrance to St. Oliver Plunkett's Primary School, temporarily closed during drop off and collection times to allow for a safer and cleaner environment for kids to travel to school. It was a fantastic launch with everyone there engaging with the scheme as kids played on the street outside before going in for lessons. I am hopeful that this pilot initiative will be a great success and will lead to it being rolled out for other schools in Fingal.

I would like to thank everyone involved, and in particular the Road Safety section of the Operations Department in Fingal County Council, for the great work they did in getting this initiative off the ground.

I'd like to wish everyone in Fingal a Happy Christmas and a peaceful and prosperous New Year. I would also like to thank the community and sports organisations as well as the Fingal based businesses that I've had the pleasure of meeting over the first six months of my term as Mayor. The work that you do in your communities is greatly appreciated by all of us in Fingal County Council.

Cllr Eoghan O'Brien
Mayor of Fingal

Chief Executive's Message



The final few months of 2019 have been a successful and busy period for Fingal County Council. We have strived to finish off the year of our 25th Anniversary successfully.

The Council adopted its budget for 2020 which will see increased investment in services for Fingal. We

launched the School Street initiative that seeks to improve the health and lives of children attending primary schools in Fingal.

Fingal County Council was named as Local Authority of the Year at the Chamber's Ireland Excellence in Local Government Awards in November. I received the award on behalf of the Council alongside Mayor of Fingal, Cllr. Eoghan O'Brien.

This award recognises all the hard work done by the members and staff of Fingal County Council this year. We always strive to be the best and therefore we are delighted to win this award.

The Community Car service was launched in November. This first of its kind pilot scheme is looking to tackle social exclusion for people living in isolated places and will provide access to transportation for people who may lack adequate bus services or are unable to get the bus due to mobility issues.

A new Arts Plan was set out in November in Swords Castle. This is our strategy for arts development over the next seven years. Arts is an essential part of people's lives and we always look to support the arts in our community. We are proud of the job that we do in supporting and investing in the arts in Fingal.

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.

I also would like to wish everyone in Fingal a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

AnnMarie Farrelly
Chief Executive



SOLAR POWERED SMART BINS UNVEILED IN HOWTH

Fingal County Council has installed 35 solar powered compactible bins in the prime tourist town of Howth, following a successful pilot scheme.

The bins feature sensors which alert Council staff when the bins become full, as well as pedals for hands-free opening and flaps that keep out seagulls and rodents.

The 35 smart bins replace 70 conventional bins that had serviced the Howth area.

PEL Waste Reduction Equipment, an Irish-owned manufacturing company, were awarded the tender via an open tender competition managed by Fingal County Council.

Mayor of Fingal, Cllr Eoghan O'Brien said: "I am delighted that PEL Waste Reduction Equipment has been recognised with the

Irish Times Innovation Award in the Manufacturing & Design category for 2019.

"I recognise the importance of the Council collaborating with companies like PEL Waste in future initiatives for manufacturing and green technologies."

David Storey, Director of Services, Fingal County Council, Operations Department said: "The technology alerts us when the bins need to be emptied so this will put an end to any

overflowing bins and the associated expensive clean-ups.

"These compacting bins operate with an integrated compaction system and an ultrasonic bin-fill sensor which communicates data to a digital dashboard of bin-fill levels and collection requirements."

Caroline Power, Administrative Officer for Howth/Malahide Operations Department said: "The new solar compacting bins provide a more efficient level of service. Following

their installation there has been substantial reduction in cigarette butts outside the DART Station in Howth."

Fingal County Council is committed to rolling out the solar compactible bins to other urban areas within the county.



€95,000 awarded under the Youth Sports Grants Scheme

Fingal County Council has awarded over €95,000 to 91 sports clubs throughout Fingal under the Youth Sports Grants Scheme.

Councillors have approved the funding which will see €1,050 allocated to each of the successful organisations.

The purpose of the Youth Sports Grants is to assist existing sports clubs towards the purchase of equipment and refereeing/coaching fees, with the main aim of increasing participation levels in their local communities.

The Fingal Sports Office, part of the network of

Sports Ireland Local Sports Partnerships, invited sports clubs to apply for a small grant under this scheme. Successful applicants had to meet a number of criteria such as to have sport for young people as its primary focus and have a voluntary management committee with elected officers.

Mayor of Fingal Cllr Eoghan O'Brien said: "I am delighted to see this allocation of funding to sporting organisations across Fingal, which play such a pivotal role in the health and wellbeing of our young people. I would like to commend all those volunteers who give so freely of their time and energy to their clubs."

Fingal County Council Principal Sports Officer, Marion Brown said: "Sport is an extremely important part of the lives of young people, I am delighted that this is being recognised and that we are able to provide funding to the chosen sports clubs to ensure that young people in Fingal can continue to enjoy playing sport in their local clubs."



School Streets Initiative making the school run safe in Malahide

An ambitious new pilot initiative to improve the safety and well being of pupils attending two primary schools in Malahide - the first of its kind to be rolled out by a local authority in Ireland - has been launched.

The School Streets programme originated in Italy in the early 1990s and has been successfully introduced in London, Bristol, Birmingham and other UK cities in recent years following trial periods.

Mayor of Fingal, Cllr. Eoghan O'Brien, Chief Executive of Fingal County Council, AnnMarie Farrelly, local councillors, council staff and members of the media recently saw for themselves the success so far that the School Streets initiative has had outside St. Oliver Plunkett's National School.

Mayor of Fingal, Cllr. Eoghan O'Brien said: "The School Streets initiative is a bold plan. The situation outside both St. Oliver Plunkett's and St. Andrew's schools was unsustainable, and this initiative is a hugely positive scheme with massive potential to benefit



everyone in the community. If this pilot continues to prove successful, I can see other School Streets being established across Fingal in front of existing and new schools.

School Streets is an initiative to improve the safety and well-being of pupils attending both St. Oliver Plunkett's and St. Andrew's National Schools. It was approved by approved by the Howth-Malahide Area Committee at a meeting in November.

A section of Grove Road outside St Oliver Plunkett's Primary School has been transformed temporarily into a car-free, pedestrian and cycling zone to create a safer, cleaner and more environmentally friendly space outside the school.

The School Streets scheme was implemented due to the traffic challenges that were faced outside both St Oliver Plunkett's and St Andrew's Primary Schools, which are adjoined to Grove Road and Church Road respectively.

The challenges included school gate congestion, unsafe parking and blocking of footpaths, road safety risks due to vehicular movements, children being exposed to excess air pollution, and car-dependent children being less physically active.

The initiative provides a pedestrianised zone on Grove Road where access for vehicles to this section will be

restricted during drop off and collection times of the school. These times are between 8:30-9:15am and 1:00-2:45pm, Monday to Friday during term time only.

Exemptions to School Streets will include Disabled Badge holders, if living within the zone, and residents with permits living on Grove Road between Church Road and The Rise. Teachers of St. Oliver Plunkett's arrive at the school before the 8:30am start.

Mayor of Fingal, Cllr. Eoghan O'Brien continued: "I'm delighted that Malahide will lead the way with the first School Streets Initiative in Ireland. This approach has been proven to work extremely well in other countries and if everyone gets behind it, we can make this a success."

David Storey, Director of Operations at Fingal County Council, added: "This initiative is being introduced to tackle the significant traffic safety issues surrounding St. Oliver Plunkett's and St Andrew's Primary Schools. Through consultation with the many stakeholders involved, we believe this scheme will reduce the road traffic risks present outside the schools while providing a safer, cleaner, greener, and healthier environment for children and parents."

The School Street initiative will be enforced strictly by An Garda Síochána and Fingal County Council parking wardens with violations resulting in fines.



Fingal is 2019 Local Authority of the Year

Fingal County Council has been named Local Authority of the Year for the second time in four years at the Chambers Ireland Excellence in Local Government Awards.

Fingal had been nominated in 11 different categories and picked up two awards as Our Balbriggan

was named Best Practice in Citizen Engagement and the Dublin Bay Prawn Festival was named Festival of the Year.

The Award was presented to the Mayor of Fingal, Cllr Eoghan O'Brien and the Chief Executive of Fingal County Council, AnnMarie Farrelly, by Siobhan Kinsella, President of

Chambers Ireland, at the Awards Banquet which was held in the Crowne Plaza Hotel in Santry.

Mayor of Fingal, Cllr Eoghan O'Brien, said: "This is a huge honour for Fingal County Council, its elected members and its staff. We all work together to make Fingal the best place to live, work, visit and do business in and it is extremely humbling to be recognised as the best Council in Ireland, especially in the year that we celebrate our 25th anniversary."

This is the third time in 11 years that Fingal County Council has been named Local Authority of the Year at the Excellence in Local Government Awards having previously received the accolade in 2009 and 2016.

Ms Farrelly said: "Being named as





Local Authority of the Year is recognition of the excellent work all our staff and elected members do every day on behalf of the citizens of Fingal. It also shows we are a progressive Council and one that is always looking for new and better ways to deliver our services."

The other Fingal County Council projects short-listed for Awards were:

- 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
- 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



Awards roll in for council projects

Fingal County Council enjoyed a great end to the year with a number of projects receiving national recognition.

The Community Department claimed the Communications award for the ACORN project at the National Age Friendly Recognition and Achievement Awards.

At the Engineers Ireland Excellence Awards 2019, the Architects Department received the Heritage and Conservation award for their innovative work on Swords Castle.

Meanwhile, Newbridge House and Farm won the Best Leisure/Tourism Service at the Fingal Dublin Chamber Business Excellence and CSR Awards in the Crowne Plaza Hotel.

During the Fingal Dublin Chamber ceremony, the Mayor of Fingal, Cllr Eoghan O'Brien and Chief Executive AnnMarie Farrelly were presented with an accolade to recognise the 25th anniversary of Fingal County Council.





THE PRIDE OF FINGAL!

There was great success for Fingal at the IPB Pride of Place Awards as Flemington, Balbriggan was awarded 'Best Urban Neighbourhood' and the residents of the Whitestown Estate, Dublin 15 were runners-up in the 'Best Housing Estate' category

Some 900 representatives from counties across Ireland gathered in the Lyrath Estate Hotel for the Annual Pride of Place awards, hosted by Kilkenny County Council.

Flemington is one of the fastest growing new communities in Ireland and the new Community Centre in Flemington is the neighbourhood hub where many new clubs and groups have emerged in recent years. The judges were highly impressed with the rich variety of active clubs in Flemington providing an inclusive environment for all who wished to participate in their activities.

The area also takes in Bremore Castle which was restored in partnership with a DDETB training programme and gained national exposure as HQ for this year's Operation Transformation on RTE. The Flemington Local Development Group (FLDG) which is coordinated by the Fingal Community Development Office is a forum for representatives from the local community, local authority,

state agency and local development in the Flemington area to work collaboratively to address issues emerging at a local level. With busy Foróige youth projects and a strong integration forum, the urban neighbourhood of Flemington is very much reflective of present day Fingal and modern Ireland.

Runners-up in the 'Best Housing Estate' category were the Whitestown Estate, Dublin 15 residents. The group has recently embarked on an ambitious community arboretum project to remember deceased members of the local community within the estate and were recognised for their hard work and dedication to their local area.

Mayor of Fingal, Cllr Eoghan O'Brien said: "I would like to congratulate the residents of Flemington and Whitestown for their fantastic community work which was recognised in these awards. The Pride of Place awards are very special as they recognise the significant positive impact of the partnership approach between Local Authorities and community groups in building sustainable, inclusive communities that are great places to live, and that residents are right to be proud of."

Margaret Geraghty Director of Housing and Community praised the achievement saying: "These two

Pride of Place awards for the Fingal area are a testament to the ongoing work of the Fingal Community Development staff in fostering relationships with and assisting local community and residents groups to bring about real and lasting improvements in their communities."

Chief Executive of Fingal AnnMarie Farrelly said: "Well done to the Flemington and Whitestown communities and our own Community Development office on doing Fingal proud in the Pride of Place awards. This Urban Neighbourhood award for the Flemington area is yet another positive story for Balbriggan where Fingal County Council and Our Balbriggan are implementing an imaginative rejuvenation plan."

"The competition showcased how Fingal County Council is working in partnership with other agencies, local businesses and the community and voluntary sector to harness local pride and enthusiasm to build a vibrant and inclusive community in the Flemington area.

"The Our Balbriggan €20million-plus rejuvenation plan is an ambitious new vision for the town, which has been shaped by the views of its population following award winning public engagement which saw 4000 people responding."



Council wins National Procurement Award

Fingal County Council received a National Award at The National Procurement Awards 2019 in recognition of its ongoing efforts to improve procurement in the local authority. The Council secured the prestigious “Best Public Sector, Semi-State or Government Procurement Project of the Year” for establishing a Central Procurement Unit.

The tenth annual National Procurement Awards ceremony took place at the Ballsbridge Hotel, Dublin. The awards ceremony saw trophies being awarded to some of Ireland’s most deserving procurement teams with 70 finalists from both the private and public sector competing in 15 awards categories. Fingal County Council was shortlisted as a finalist in three awards categories.

AnneMarie Farrelly, Chief Executive said: “The Central Procurement Unit team has been commended by the Council’s Executive Management Team for successfully establishing itself in early 2019 and delivering a number of significant contracts on

behalf of the organisation in a very short timeframe. The establishment of a Central Procurement Unit has also improved our Corporate Governance structures and has received a positive response from the Audit Committee and Local Government Auditor. It is a model that other local authorities will be interested in.”

John Quinlivan, Director of Services, Corporate Affairs & Governance, Human Resources and Information Technology said: “The Central Procurement Unit team have been very proactive to the needs of the Council’s Departments working collaboratively across the organisation on a number of strategically important procurements such as supply of electric vehicles, solar bins, an ICT Digital Transformation project and various professional services. The collaboration has also extended to working closely with the Office of Government Procurement (OGP) and the Local Government Operational Procurement Centre (LGOPC) on numerous procurement projects.”

Tendering process for improvement works in Rush commences

The tendering process for a main contractor to undertake improvement works to the Park Road, Rush has been commenced by Fingal County Council. The works consist of road widening of the Park Road south from St. Maurs GAA Club to the Kenure Lawns residential development.

The infrastructural site works will involve the construction of associated footpaths, cycleways, foul & surface water drainage, landscaping, public lighting, signalised pedestrian crossing, boundary treatment and ancillary services proposed to facilitate further housing developments on the adjoining lands.

The tendering process will be progressed over the course of the coming months with a successful tenderer expected to be identified in early 2020.

The main construction works are anticipated to commence in Q1 2020 with completion due by the end of the year.

Director of Planning and Strategic Infrastructure Matthew McAleese said: “This project will have massive benefits for the area. It is of strategic importance to the town of Rush as it will open adjoining lands to further development. I look forward to seeing this scheme moving onto the construction phase, which will hopefully get underway early next year.”

Senior Engineer Paul Carroll said: “While the project will improve traffic flows along the Park Road, it will also bring significant improvements for pedestrians and cyclists. One of the many benefits of this scheme is that it will facilitate further housing and school development in the area.”



FINGAL ADOPTS BUDGET OF €269M FOR 2020



Fingal County Council has adopted a budget of €269m for 2020 to provide services and investment designed to improve the county as a place in which to live, work and invest.

It is an increase of €32m from 2019 and is the equivalent of €911 per head of population. The 2020 Budget will enable the Council to continue managing the on-going demands of the fastest-growing and youngest county in Ireland.

Mayor of Fingal, Cllr Eoghan O'Brien said: "The budget process began as soon as the new Council came together in June and I want to acknowledge the work done by my colleagues on the Corporate Policy Group as well as the staff in the different sections of the Council. Despite the challenges we faced we have still been able to provide for a modest increase in services which

shows that Fingal County Council is a well-run and prudently-managed Council."

Almost €5m has been ring-fenced for additional investment in local services such as street cleaning, parks maintenance and other operational activities as well as housing and homelessness. This sum includes the €2m raised by the decision of councillors in September to only reduce the Local Property Tax by 10%.

Councillors also decided to apply a 40% refund on vacant commercial properties to provide funding for a number of areas including Climate Action projects and parking enforcement.

"This is the third year that our councillors agreed not to reduce the Local Property Tax by the maximum 15% and that has

allowed us to spend an extra €2m per year on services that directly improve the areas where our citizens live," said Fingal County Council Chief Executive AnnMarie Farrelly.

"It is a significant amount of money and will mean that by the end of 2020 we will have spent an additional €6m, that we would not have had otherwise, on a variety of improvement works in our towns and villages."

An additional €200k has been set aside in the Budget to provide support for remedial works to community facilities which are not in the Council's ownership. This is in response to issues which have been highlighted by councillors in recent months.

Three key core objectives have been set out in the 2020 Budget.



The main priority is to continue investment in the Housing and Community areas as well as maintaining service delivery and continuing to develop the economic and community plan for Fingal which supports job creation, tourism and sustainable communities.

The €269m Budget can be broken down as follows:

- €73.6m - Housing and Building;
- €28.6m - Road Transport and Safety
- €18.5m - Water Services
- €24m - Development Incentives and Controls
- €47.7m - Environmental Protection
- €45.2m - Recreation and Amenity
- €1.1m - Agriculture, Education, Health and Welfare
- €31.0m - Miscellaneous Services

The 2020 Budget has allowed for increases in several key areas across the Council. This increased expenditure provides for significant

investment in the County and builds on the investment made in previous budgets.

There will be an increase in the funding of capital improvement works in the social housing stock as well as additional funding for traveller estate improvement works. There is also an increase in housing adaptation grants.

The Budget allows for increases across several areas within Operations including road maintenance, public lighting, traffic management and street cleaning. There is also additional funding of €200k for costs under the Climate Change Action Plan 2019-2024.

A capital provision of €2m has been provided towards the funding of the Swords Cultural Quarter. This underscores the Council's commitment to this key flagship

project to deliver a County Library and Arts Facility in Swords. There is also more funding for heritage properties and expansion of events activities.

Ms Farrelly said: "It is vital that as the County continues to grow that the services, infrastructure and facilities provided by the Council keep pace with this. This is reflected in the 2020 Budget and also our three-year Capital Programme 2020-2022 where we are committed to spending a further €619m on 236 individual projects across the county."

The recent rates revaluation carried out by the Valuation Office has resulted in a rates reduction for 77% of rate-payers in Fingal. The revaluation process has created a financial risk for the Council around a possible reduction in rates income arising out of the appeals process. In order to mitigate this, the Council has a reserve of €21.8m in the 2020 Budget to provide for this risk in the future.

This reserve is funded by a combination of the Council's own resources and a mechanism in the Rates Limitation Order which allows for the inclusion of an amount to mitigate against future rates income losses. The Council has created this reserve without impinging or reducing services to the public.

A copy of the draft 2020 Annual Budget can be viewed at <https://www.fingal.ie/council/service/annual-budget>

The Council debate on the 2020 Budget can be viewed at https://fingalcoco.public-i.tv/core/portal/webcast_interactive/451730

Pilot 'Community Car' Service launched

A pilot 'Community Car' Service, the first of its kind to be implemented by a local authority in Ireland, is now operational in the Howth and Skerries areas.

Operated by Fingal County Council, in partnership with Local Link and GoCar, two electric Vehicles have been provided for this pilot initiative which recognises Fingal's commitment to Climate Change Action.



Local community travel is a lifeline for many people who do not drive, allowing them to get out and about, access local amenities and stay part of the local community. This very often isn't an option for those who live rurally or have no local bus service available to them or declining mobility may be preventing them from using public transport.

The Rural Transport Programmes mission statement is "to provide a quality nationwide community based public transport system in rural Ireland which responds to Local needs" and key priorities continue to include addressing rural social exclusion and the integration of rural transport services with other public transport services. The Fingal County Council Community Car Service also aims to assist those with mobility issues in attending Hospital or Health appointments and also social activities.

Mayor of Fingal Cllr. Eoghan O'Brien said: "I am delighted that

Fingal County Council is leading the way with the launch of a Community Car service for the Skerries and Howth areas. This service will be invaluable to local residents with mobility issues and is a real positive step forward by the Council in partnership with Local Link and Go Car."

Fingal County Council Chief Executive AnnMarie Farrelly said: "I am delighted to see the launch of the 'Community Car Service' which will play a key role in meeting the needs of people who may have no bus service or who have declining mobility that may be preventing them from using public transport. It is important that services are provided to assist in combatting social exclusion and providing access to local amenities. Fingal County Council is delighted to support this initiative in partnership with Local Link and GoCar."

Louise Edmonds, Programme Manager for Fingal Age Friendly, said: "Age Friendly Fingal are

delighted to work with Skerries Age Friendly Town committee in addressing some of the transportation needs of people in their area."

Miriam McKenna from Local Link said: "Local Link are very excited about this new Community Car Initiative and look forward to working in partnership with Fingal County Council and GoCar."

Colm Brady, Managing Director, Europcar Mobility Group Ireland, said: "We're very excited to partner with Fingal County Council for this innovative and valuable service. The Europcar Mobility Group is committed to open mobility for all, and so we are delighted to see the GoCar service being utilised to support community schemes such as this one."

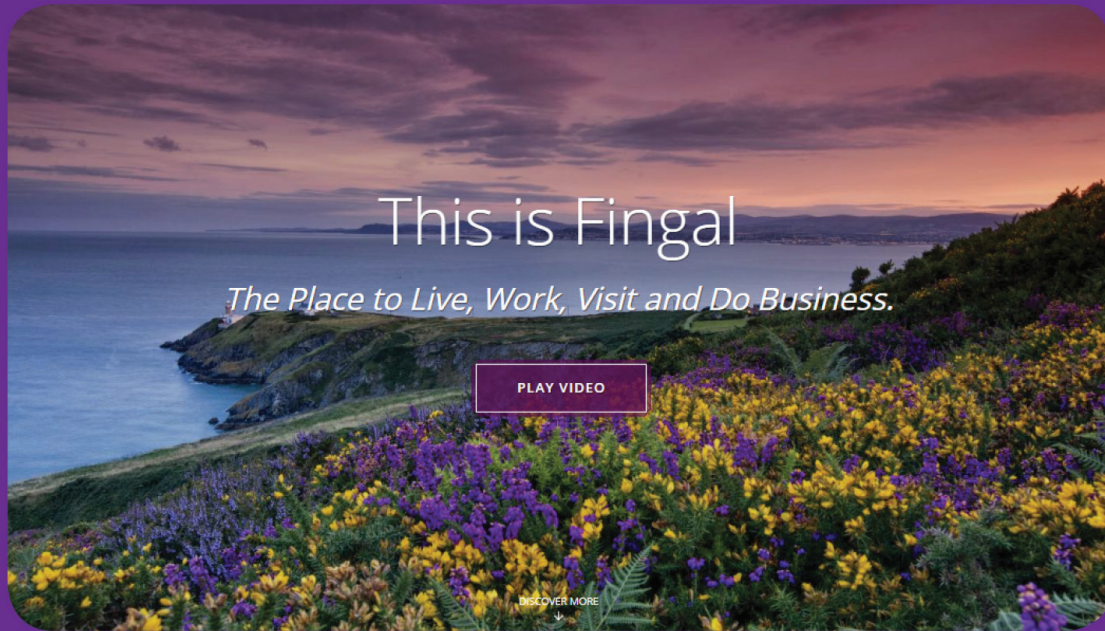
Members looking to book a seat in the Community Car to ring Local Link on 046 9074830 or email flexibus@localinklmc.ie.

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Your Information Website



Your Council,
working for you

Community Centres information booklet launched

The Fingal Community Facilities Network has launched an information booklet that provides information on the range of services, facilities and activities available across all of the 31 community facilities supported by Fingal County Council's Community Development Office.

The launch of the Fingal Community Facilities Network Information Booklet "Connecting Communities" by the Mayor of Fingal, Cllr Eoghan O'Brien took place at Donabate Portrane Community Centre.

The information booklet, compiled by the Fingal Community Facilities Network, provides a snap shot of what each community centre offers. It includes opening hours, activities, volunteering opportunities and what happens on a daily basis in any of the 31 Fingal County Council supported community facilities across Fingal, from Dublin 15 to Balbriggan and along the coast from Howth to Rush.

In an effort to ensure no one is excluded, the information booklet will also be available in Irish, Polish and French languages and will be available on community centre and Fingal County Council web sites.

AMBITIOUS NEW ARTS STRATEGY UNVEILED

A new Arts Plan 2019-2025 which will set out the strategy for arts in the county for the next seven years has been unveiled.

Mayor of Fingal, Councillor Eoghan O'Brien was joined by AnnMarie Farrelly, Chief Executive of Fingal County Council, Rory O'Byrne, Director of Housing and Community Margaret Geraghty County Arts Officer and special guest speaker Art O'Leary, Secretary-General to the President, in welcoming an audience of artists, cultural policymakers, educators, families and the general public.

Mayor of Fingal, Cllr. Eoghan O'Brien gave an opening address and stated: 'I'm delighted to be here to officially launch the Fingal County Council Arts Plan 2019 - 2025, which sets out a vision for the development of the arts over the next seven years. We commend the Arts Office team on their crucial work to date, and look forward, with confidence, to what the future will bring through the implementation of this plan'.

The Arts Office team consists of Rory O'Byrne (County Arts

Officer), Sarah O'Neill (Deputy Arts Officer), Julie Clarke (Youth & Education Officer), and Caroline Cowley (Public Arts Co-ordinator), and all were in attendance.

Speaking at the event, Rory O'Byrne said: "We have an extensive Arts Office programme of opportunities and initiatives informed by priority policy areas, complemented by the work of two thriving arts centres - Draiocht in Blanchardstown and the Seamus Ennis Arts Centre in the Naul.

'This plan takes account of recent developments locally and nationally. Over the next seven years, we will focus our efforts by making space for art, connecting people and ideas, enabling excellence, and developing our capacity to deliver this plan optimally.'

The content of the plan was informed by a process of public consultation that took place over six weeks from May to June 2018. The first stage of public consultation took the form of an online survey. The second stage of the consultation employed the 'World Café' methodology,



whereby the Arts Office hosted two half-day workshops with invited stakeholders.

The Arts Office consulted with young people through their Youth & Education Programme to ensure that Fingal's significant youth demographic had their voices heard and considered in the planning and delivery of arts and cultural services in Fingal. In addition, a workshop with the Public Participation Network was hosted by the Arts Office.

AnnMarie Farrelly, Chief Executive, said: 'Fingal County Council is celebrating its 25th anniversary this year, and from the very beginning the arts have been recognised as being essential to the life and wellbeing of our community. We are proud of our service which continues to help shape the culture of our county and to make it a better place to live, work and visit.'

Art O'Leary, Secretary-General to the President, praised the work of the art office and commented: 'Fingal is evidently a local authority committed to supporting artists and people of all ages through a quality service that reaches out across people, place and practice. It is the best arts plan that I have read to date.'

Guests were invited to experience two special exhibitions programmed for the occasion, which align with the planning and vision for Swords as a site for contemporary art in the context of the proposed new Cultural Masterplan.

Artist Michele Hetherington presented Talk Softly, new site-specific work at Swords Castle. Hetherington is a local Fingal artist and was the recipient of the Fingal Arts Graduate Award in 2018. Alan James Burns presented Silicon Synapse, a Virtual Reality

and psycho-acoustic installation in the historic Carnegie Library, Swords. This artwork is jointly commissioned by Fingal County Council and the European Commission's SciArt programme and is funded by Arts Council of Ireland Open Call Award.

The Plan also features the artwork of photographer Rich Gilligan. A native of Fingal, now based in New York, Gilligan has been commissioned by Fingal Arts Office to document and capture the cultural landscape of the county. This process began in August 2019 and will continue through 2020. Mr O'Byrne concluded: "The arts plan is a celebration of the people and places that define our great county, and we look forward to working with as many people as possible over the coming years to realise our purpose - to bring the arts to life in Fingal and Fingal to life through the Arts."

Thousands of school children complete MarathonKids initiative

Thousands of schoolchildren completed the final part of the MarathonKids programme at a wonderful event at Morton Stadium in Santry.

The initiative saw 5,500 5th & 6th class students from 87 schools complete 25.2 miles over eight weeks, training four times a week in school before completing the last mile at the specially organised 1-mile event

Mayor of Fingal Cllr Eoghan O'Brien said: "MarathonKids is a fantastic opportunity for 5th and 6th class students to get active as well as to learn about the importance of sports. It was a pleasure to be joined by the Lord Mayor of Dublin, Paul McAuliffe and the Mayor of South Dublin, Vicki Casserly at the event."

Fingal County Council Chief Executive AnnMarie Farrelly said: "It is wonderful to see the rise in the numbers of students taking part in MarathonKids over the past four years, going from 800 students in 2015 to



5,500 this year. This really shows how worthwhile the programme is. I look forward to seeing its continued success for years to come."

This is the 5th year of the programme, which sees former Olympian and 400m European Champion and MarathonKids

Ireland Ambassador,

David Gillick working with Fingal County Council, South Dublin County Council, Dublin City Sport and Wellbeing Partnership and Dublin Marathon to promote the programme.

The students are supplied with a workbook, which highlights the benefits of sport and is used as both a training guide and learning tool for in classroom use.





CHAMPION BOXER NIAMH FAY HONOURED AT CIVIC RECEPTION

Fingal County Council held a civic reception at County Hall in Swords in honour of boxing champion Niamh Fay who won gold at the European Youth Boxing Championships.

A member of Swords Boxing Club, the Ballyboughal native won the gold medal when she defeated Croatia's Nikolina Cacic in Sofia, Bulgaria in September.

The 17-year-old comes from fine boxing stock – her father, Gary Fay, is her trainer and a former Irish title-holder, while younger brother John Fay won bronze at the Europeans last year.

Mayor of Fingal Cllr Eoghan O'Brien said: "I'm honoured to host the first civic reception of my tenure to recognise an inspirational athlete. Niamh was the only Irish boxer to reach the finals from a team of 19, and the youngest boxer in the finals

overall.

"Her long list of achievements reflects an incredible work ethic – she is currently training twice a day throughout the week and also studying for her Leaving Cert.

"I was particularly struck by how humble Niamh is given her talent, and I have no doubt that she can go as far as she wants to in the world of boxing.

"I hope that in years to come

Niamh returns to Fingal with a gold medal around her neck from the Olympic Games."

Chief Executive of Fingal County Council AnnMarie Farrelly said: "Niamh has made Fingal proud with admirable dedication, skill and determination. It's important that we recognise and appreciate a truly inspirational athlete, and I'd like to commend Niamh and Swords Boxing Club on their fantastic victory."



Fingal Libraries enhance digital technologies across the branch network

Digital technology infrastructure is to be significantly enhanced across Fingal Libraries branch network.

Fingal libraries has launched this enhancement to its digital technologies infrastructure on foot of an investment by Minister for Rural and Community Development, Michael Ring TD. This will result in enhanced library spaces and services for the public. Fingal County Council's contribution to the funding demonstrates commitment to and belief in public libraries as centres of learning and engagement in the community.

The creation of new meeting spaces, the installation of Tablet lending devices and Magic Table software will attract existing and new users of all ages to library service points and form part of an initial phase of the rolling out of new ICT facilities and services.

Mayor of Fingal Eoghan O'Brien said: "It is a pleasure to be here today to launch the new inno-



novative ICT technologies at Fingal Libraries. This will enable libraries to remain at the forefront of advances in technology thereby benefiting Fingal citizens."

Director of Housing and Community, Margaret Geraghty welcomed this enhancement to Fingal libraries digital technologies infrastructure saying: "I would like to reiterate the importance and huge popularity of the library service in the community and these new digital services are part of the ongoing enhancement of our range of services."

County Librarian Betty Boardman, said: "This funding has come at a very good time for Fingal Libraries as it will assist us in achieving two of the main objectives in our Development Plan published earlier this year - to continue to provide high quality, welcoming, accessible spaces which meet the needs of library users and to reinforce the position of libraries in the community as key points of access to information technology and digital services."

The new services launched include the Magic Table installed at Rush and Malahide libraries. The Magic Table equipment consists of a projector that displays pre-loaded interactive games / images on to any surface below. These interactive games have been specifically designed for people with mid to late stage dementia and children with sensory issues.

New Meeting Pods with charging points have been installed at Blanchardstown, Malahide and Balbriggan libraries. These Meeting Pods are particularly useful for students or SMEs working on collaborative projects whether or not requiring access to wifi.

The Hublet tablet lending device has been installed at Baldoyle, Rush, Howth, Garristown and Donabate libraries. These hand held tablets allow access to apps for children and adults and can be used to print documents at the self-service photocopiers at these libraries.

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!



Soapbox Success for Blanchardstown Europe Direct Information Centre

The Blanchardstown Europe Direct Soapbox champion has her sights set on Brussels after a landmark win at the National Final.

Beverley Joseph, who works with e-Bay in Blanchardstown, first impressed judges to top the 19 and over competition at the Regional Soapbox round in Blanchardstown Library, with her impassioned speech on the theme 'Climate Change is not my Problem'.

Representing Blanchardstown's Europe Direct Information Centre alongside the Under 18 regional champion Emily O'Shea from Portmarnock Community School, Beverley was ecstatic to win the top prize of €1,000 and a trip to Brussels, where she will receive a tour of the European Parliament and other EU institutions. "I feel great," she smiled. "It's



really a privilege. It was such a nice event as well and there was a really great atmosphere."

Looking forward to the trip to Brussels, Beverley is also excited to publish her first children's book early next year under Olympia publishers entitled 'Ernest and the Prince of Peace'.

Congratulating both Beverley and Emily on their fantastic performances at the National Final, Manager of the

Blanchardstown Europe Direct Information Centre, Siobhan Walshe added; "Beverley was a worthy winner at the Regional Final in Blanchardstown, and her passion for the topic shone through her speech. We are delighted for Beverley, and we would like to thank both Beverley and Emily for representing our Europe Direct Centre at such a high standard on the national stage."



PLAY IT AGAIN – FINGAL RE-HOMING INSTRUMENTS IN THE COMMUNITY

A wonderful new initiative which sees unwanted or unused musical instruments collected and distributed to organisations has been a fantastic success.

The instruments can be dropped off at the recycling centres at Estuary Swords and Coolmine. The Environment Department will then pair them with locations and organisations that need them.

Environment Awareness Officer Sinead Fox said: “Regularly we receive instruments such as guitars, fiddles, drum-kits, ukuleles and more that have been previously loved and need a new home. We get them fixed up to a playable condition and gather them for distribution. We have been contacting organisations such as Swords Tidy Towns Groups who have paired these instruments with local schools.”

She added: “We would like to hear from organisations such as Youth and Family Centres, Centres for Autism or residential homes for Addiction - all sorts of organisations that might have a need for a mix of instruments. This is a great initiative which addressed Waste Prevention and gives back to the Community.

If you are aware of any such location that would use these instruments, please email environment.education@fingal.ie.

FEMALE BUSINESS NETWORK GET FESTIVE

Over 100 Fingal female entrepreneurs joined the Mayor of Fingal Cllr. Eoghan O’Brien, Chief Executive AnnMarie Farrelly, and the Local Enterprise Office to celebrate the start to the festive season at the annual Fingal Enterprising Women Network (FEWN) Christmas Lunch at the Roganstown Hotel and Country Club.

The theme and keynote of the event was: “Work Smarter Not Harder: Skyrocket your Business Success in 2020”.

Special guest speaker Breda Stackpool is an International Productivity and Performance Coach who works with women in business to help them make more money in less time. She helped attendees prepare for the coming year with a stimulating interactive

session on developing the mindset to move forward with confidence, purpose; and the relevant actions to deliver business success in 2020.

FEWN is run by the Fingal LEO. It organises networking and learning opportunities for women in business in the region. The network meets up every quarter and provides a platform to female entrepreneurs (and aspiring entrepreneurs), to network, build useful local business contacts and keep up to speed with key issues affecting business. . If you are a female business owner/manager, or if you are actively involved in establishing your own business, you should check out the LEO Fingal website for its many learning potential and networking opportunities.

Business Desk



Contact




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Swords, Co. Dublin
K67 X8Y2

Fingal County Council
Civic Offices
Grove Road,
Blanchardstown,
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Tel: (01) 890 5000

Web: www.fingal.ie
Email: customer-care-unit@fingal.ie
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/>

**Your Waste:
Your Responsibility
Your Court Fine
of up to €5,000
or Prison Term of up to 12 months**

BEWARE!
ILLEGAL WASTE COLLECTORS



#stopthedumping

No Permit - It's Illegal
Check if Authorised: www.nwcpo.ie
Report to - environment@fingal.ie



**Comhairle Contae
Fhine Gall
Fingal County
Council**



Your Councillors



Local Electoral Areas



Balbriggan

1. Cllr. Tony Murphy
Independent
tony.murphy@clrs.fingal.ie
086 277 2030
 2. Cllr. Grainne Maguire
Independent
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087 943 6650
 3. Cllr. Seána Ó Rodaigh
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085 831 3801
 - 4 Cllr. Tom O'Leary
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087 245 9897
- * 5. Vacant - Joe O'Brien (GP) elected to Dáil.

Rush-Lusk

6. Cllr. Robert O'Donoghue
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083 322 7472
7. Cllr. Adrian Henchy
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9. Cllr. Cathal Boland
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10. Cllr. Paul Mulville
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