

# Fingal News

Issue  
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2020



## FULL STEAM AHEAD!

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Comhairle Contae  
Fhine Gall  
Fingal County  
Council



Your Council,  
working for you

## Mayor's Message



2020 has begun with a flurry of positive activity in Fingal.

Mid-January saw Fingal's ongoing commitment to climate action and sustainability highlighted in the Profile of Local Government Climate Actions in Ireland report.

This followed the admirably prompt response to Storm Brendan, which saw Council staff from various departments working to keep our communities safe.

I was delighted to officially open the Casino Model Railway Museum, Malahide following the completion of a €4m restoration programme on the historic Casino building and conservation of the Fry Model Railway Collection. This is a significant addition to the wealth of heritage and cultural amenities in Fingal, and I commend all those involved in bringing this project to fruition.

Support for the local arts sector has been a theme of the first months of the year, with the Creative Fingal Project Awards and the Artists Support Scheme both open for applications.

I was delighted to kick off the Fingal Fit Kids programme, where 24 transition year students train over 500 Fifth and Sixth Class students across Dublin 15 in fitness, exercise and sports skills. This is an innovative and exciting way of building healthier, stronger and more active communities.

The 2020 LAMA Awards saw Fingal honoured in a range of categories. The conservation and restoration of the Casino Building in Malahide, the Donabate Portrane Community Centre, the continued work on our three public parks in Malahide, Newbridge and Tyrrelstown, and the 'Community Car' Age-Friendly Sustainable Transport Service in Fingal were all recognised. These victories were well-deserved and I congratulate all involved on their hard work, dedication and community spirit.

Seachtain na Gaeilge will be in full swing from March 1 to 17, with a variety of events celebrating one of the jewels in Ireland's cultural crown - the Irish Language. In a similar vein, preparations for St. Patrick's Day are proceeding apace. Seven parades are organised across the county with Malahide set to host their first parade. I look forward to seeing you out and about on the day.

Cllr Eoghan O'Brien  
Mayor of Fingal

## Chief Executive's Message



The opening months of 2020 have seen significant progress. The Council's commitment to forward-looking, proactive action was recognised in a number of ways.

The LAMA Awards were one example, with nominations for ten projects across eight categories resulting in four

awards. This is testament to the continued effort, expertise and dedication of staff, partners and community members alike.

The Profile of Local Government Climate Actions in Ireland report demonstrated that Fingal County Council has been proactive in areas including energy efficiency, sustainable transport development, flood risk management, waste and resource management, nature-based solutions and public engagement.

Stronger links were forged with Fingal Public Participation network as a Memorandum of Understanding was signed. This outlines the roles and responsibilities of both parties in the delivery of the PPN Programme in Fingal, a vital element in our efforts to build and maintain strong and genuine relationships with the communities we serve.

Infrastructure projects have also been a focus, with the important Donabate Distributor Road completed, and the Hole in the Wall Road / Mayne Road Junction Upgrade scheme progressed. An innovative approach was highlighted by the launch of the first Mobility Hub in Ireland by a local authority. This piece of infrastructure features five designated parking bays for different needs and types of travel, which allows for more varied and more sustainable travel especially for those with accessibility issues. The Hubs will be rolled out across Fingal in the coming months.

Events and initiatives are soon to begin as part of Seachtain na Gaeilge leading into the St. Patrick's Day celebrations. I encourage everyone to take part no matter your level of familiarity or fluency in Irish, and you are very welcome to our seven parades across Fingal on March 17.

In the meantime, enjoy the latest edition of Fingal News.

AnnMarie Farrelly  
Chief Executive



# WORKS AT HOWTH COURTHOUSE UNDERWAY

The Old Courthouse of Howth is set to have a new look as refurbishments on the historic structure on Harbour Road are underway and set to continue over the next few months.

Fingal County Council's Economic, Enterprise and Tourism Development Department has appointed Tolmac Construction Ltd as the main contractor for the refurbishment of the Old Courthouse in Howth. The works started on site in early January 2020 and it is expected to take six months to complete.

Mayor of Fingal, Cllr. Eoghan O'Brien said: "The refurbishment of the Courthouse in Howth is welcome news and is much needed for such an important historic site. It is also great to see that it will remain an important community space to use for the residents of Howth as well as a

central spot for tourist information." The building is a protected structure in a prominent site at the junction of Harbour Road and Church Street in the town. The refurbishment will allow for greater public use of the building with improved access for the public.

Following the completion of works, the Fingal Tourism Tourist information office will be relocated from an existing temporary cabin on Harbour Road and the main hall will be retained as a flexible space for Community use.

A significant element of the work involves forming a new entrance courtyard to the western side to accommodate ramped access and allow for universal access to the building. The new landscaped entrance courtyard will provide an elevated amenity space with seating

overlooking the harbour area. AnnMarie Farrelly, Chief Executive of Fingal County Council, added: "The refurbishment works of the Courthouse in Howth is another example of our continued commitment to investing in the heritage of Fingal. The refurbished building will provide much-needed community space for the residents of Howth."

Emer O'Gorman, Director of the Economic, Enterprise and Tourism Development Department, said: "Fingal County Council continues to invest in the heritage of the county and the refurbishment of the Old Courthouse in Howth will provide a restored space for the community."

The refurbishments will continue over the coming months of 2020 with works hoping to be completed within six months.

## Climate Change actions outlined in key report

Local authorities have undertaken a vast range of actions to tackle climate change and promote climate action, according to a new report

A Profile of Local Government Climate Actions in Ireland, featuring research conducted by the Local Government Management Agency (LGMA) on behalf of the County and City Management Association (CCMA).

You can read about and access the report at [fingal.ie/news/new-research-shows-how-fingal-county-council-joined-other-local-authorities-taking-lead](http://fingal.ie/news/new-research-shows-how-fingal-county-council-joined-other-local-authorities-taking-lead)

The report shows that Fingal County Council has been proactive in areas including energy efficiency, sustainable transport development,

flood risk management, waste and resource management, nature-based solutions and public engagement.

In addition, Fingal has been at the forefront in responding to extreme weather events linked to climate change and have developed a Climate Change Action Plan 2019-2024 to ensure we build our resilience and preparedness. You can read that Plan at [fingal.ie/climate-change-action-plan-2019-2024](http://fingal.ie/climate-change-action-plan-2019-2024).

In recent years the Dublin region has experienced intense weather events more frequently.

An Garda Síochána, the Health Service Executive and Local Authorities like Fingal County Council are the Principal Response Agencies for Major Emergencies.



Your Council  
working for you  
on climate action

## Fingal all set to go green for St Patrick's Day

Preparations for this year's St. Patrick's Day are underway with seven parades organised across the county with Malahide set to host their first parade. The parades will yet again be lively celebrations of all things Irish and a fun day out for everyone.

Over 100,000 residents are expected to attend the parades, over 15,000 people will participate alongside up to 1,000 community organisations and businesses in the parades. This will be a huge boost to local economies as thousands of people will be packing the streets to enjoy the day.

Mayor of Fingal, Cllr. Eoghan O'Brien said: "St. Patrick's Day is a significant cultural event each year and the parades allow Fingal residents to celebrate it in their own communities. The parades are an opportunity for residents to see and engage with local community groups and businesses in their area. I look forward to attending the parades in Fingal and seeing all the diverse and creative floats this year. I would particularly like to welcome the addition of Malahide to the Fingal St Patrick's calendar."

The history of Balbriggan will be front and centre in their parade this year with the theme being the 'Sacking of Balbriggan', which took place a hundred years ago.

Fingal County Council operates the three parades in Swords, Balbriggan and Blanchardstown while financially and operationally supporting all seven parades. Davis Events have been again engaged by Fingal County Council to deliver the 2020 parades.

The Mayor of Fingal will be attending the parades in Swords, Malahide and Balbriggan this year with the Deputy Mayor attending the parade in Blanchardstown.

AnnMarie Farrelly, Chief Executive of Fingal County Council, added: "The Malahide community will be hosting their own St. Patrick Day's Parade this year.



# Seachtain na Gaeilge i bhFine Gall 2020



Beidh ceiliúradh den chéad scoth le Bhaghaidh Sheachtain na Gaeilge againn i bhFine Gall arís i mbliana agus clár iontach d'imeachtaí éagsúla á sheoladh ag Comhairle Contae Fhine Gall. Beidh an fhéile idirnáisiúnta Ghaeilge seo ar siúl idir an 1 Márta agus an 17 Márta, agus mana na féile ná triail a bhaint as an gcuid Gaeilge atá agat - Bain Triail Aisti.

Beidh imeachtaí curtha ar siúl ag an gComhairle i Halla an Chontae, Sord, i Leabharlanna Áitiúla agus eile agus beidh imeachtaí ar fud an Chontae eagraithe ag grúpaí teanga. Táthar in ann teacht ar chláir imeachtaí Sheachtain na Gaeilge i bhFine Gall ar shuíomh gréasáin na Comhairle [www.Fingal.ie](http://www.Fingal.ie).

Beidh Ceol, Craic agus Gaeilge in Áras Contae an Aitriam, Sord, Dé Máirt, ar 10 Márta ó 6.45 go 9pm, le ceoltóirí Paudie O'Connor, Aoife Ni Chaoimh agus Caoimhín Ó Fearghail agus ceoltóirí ó Comhaltas Ceoltóirí Éireann Átha Cliath. Ó cheantar Shliabh Luachra i gContae Chiarraí a thagann Paudie O Connor agus Aoife Ní Chaoimh. Is saineolaithe iad ar cheoil an cheantar sin agus cloistear go rialta iad ar chláir radio ar fud na cruinne. Is ceoltóir ildánach den chéad scoth ón Rinn, Contae Phort Láirge é Caoimhín Ó Fearghail. Tá cáil air mar pháirtithe ach seinneann sé an fliúit, an giotár agus an basúcaí ar ard chaighdeán chomh maith. Beidh Ceoltóirí Comhaltas ann freisin, agus iad ag súil le Fleadh Laighean ag teacht go Sord lúil 2020. Tá fáilte roimh chách agus beidh sólaistí ar fáil. Más rud é go bhfuil amhrán ann gur mhian leat casadh, beidh míle fáilte romhat!

Beidh Lón le Gaeilge lonnaithe sa séipéal dochreidte álainn i gCaisleán Shoirde Dé Máirt 3 Márta ó 1pm agus beidh siúlóid treoraithe i Diméin Ard Ghioláin ar an 12 Márta ag tosú ar

11am. Féachann gairdíní Ard Ghioláin amach ar Mhuir Éireann agus tá radharc dochreidte ann.

I measc na himeachtaí a bheidh ar siúl i leabharlanna áitiúla, beidh ceol a gcasfaidh Antaine Ó Faracháin agus Nollaig Mac Cárthaigh é, i mBaile Bhainséir ar an 12 Márta ag 1pm. Beidh Ciorcal Comhrá le filíocht i mBaile Brigín Déardaoin 12 ag 6.45pm agus beidh Ronaldo Fanzini i mBaile Bhainséir 19. Beidh Maidin Spreoi i Leabharlann Mhullach Íde 11 ó 10.30 - 12 le ciorcail cainte, ceol agus cluichí teanga. Beidh Óga Yóga Yoga as Gaeilge ar siúl freisin.

Imeachtaí de chuid Chomhairle Contae Fhine Gall:

- Ceol Craic agus Gaeilge, Áras Comhairle Contae, Sord, Dé Céadaoin, 10 Márta, 6.45-9pm.
- Lón agus comhrá Gaeilge, Séipéal Chaisleán Shoirde, Dé Máirt, 3 Márta, 1-2pm
- Maidin Spreoi i Leabharlann Mhullach Íde Dé Céadaoin 11 Márta, ó 10.30am go 12 le ciorcail cainte, ceol agus cluichí teanga
- Siúlóid treoraithe i Diméin Ard Ghioláin Déardaoin 12 Márta 11am
- An Amhránaíocht ar an Sean-Nós & an Ceol Traidisiúnta - Antaine Ó Faracháin (Amhránaíocht/Fidil) & Nollaig Mac Cárthaigh (Píob Uilleann) - Leabharlann Bhaile Bhainséir ar an 12 Márta 1pm,
- Ronaldo Fanzini - Cuirfidh sé sorcas iontach greannmhar is fíor craiceáilte ar siúl i Leabharlann Bhaile Bhainséir ar 19 Márta 3.30 - 4.30pm
- Roinnt imeachtaí eile
- Ciorcal Comhrá in Molly's Baile Brigín ar 7 agus 14 Márta ar 12-1.30pm agus Pop Up Gaeltacht Dé Luain an 9 Márta sa Central Bar ag 8.30 pm
- Scór na bPáistí i gCumann CLG Fhine Ghallainn Sord 1 Márta agus Ciorcal Comhrá le ceol ar 4 agus an 11 Márta agus Lá Mór na nGael ann ar an 17 Márta

**St. Patrick's Day PARADES 2020**

SWORDS.....	11AM
MALAHIDE.....	12PM
RUSH.....	1PM
LUSK.....	1.30PM
BALBRIGGAN.....	2PM
BLANCHARDSTOWN..	2PM
SKERRIES.....	3PM

**TUESDAY 17TH MARCH**  
**ALL WELCOME**  
PLEASE DRESS FOR THE WEATHER

MORE INFO ON:  
FACEBOOK.COM/EVENTSINFINGAL  
@EVENTSINFINGAL  
WWW.FINGALIE/EVENTS

Comhairle Contae Fhine Gall  
Fingal County Council

Fingal County Council is delighted to be supporting this parade and all the other community-led parades in the county. The Fingal Events team works to organise parades that are an entertaining and inclusive cultural celebration.”



# All aboard for the Casino Model Railway Museum

The official opening of the Casino Model Railway Museum in Malahide following the completion of a €4m restoration programme on the historic Casino building and conservation of the Fry Model Railway Collection.

The Casino building which occupies a prominent position at the entrance to Malahide is the only cottage Orne of this type in Fingal and is of significant historical importance to Fingal's

architectural heritage.

It has been carefully conserved, restored and extended to become a modern visitor attraction that is now the permanent home of the Fry Model Railway collection which is also of great historical importance not only to the people of Malahide but to model train enthusiasts worldwide. The carefully conserved collection is truly a national treasure that will now be displayed permanently for future

generations to appreciate and enjoy.

As well as the Fry Model collection, the museum will also accommodate a large modern model railway layout depicting several railway scenes-capes in Ireland, interactive displays, soundscapes, an education and exhibition space and historical interpretations and memorabilia from Irish Railways.

The project which has cost approximately €4m to deliver has been funded through Fingal County Council's capital programme and a generous donation of €1.5m from the late Mr Michael Gaffney of Malahide.



The official opening of this unique and very special visitor attraction by Mayor of Fingal Cllr Eoghan O'Brien marked the culmination of a project that first began over a decade ago and will be a valuable addition to the already extensive and impressive



portfolio of heritage properties owned by Fingal County Council.

Fingal County Council's Chief Executive AnnMarie Farrelly, County Architect Fionnuala May and Director of Economic, Enterprise and Tourism Development Emer O'Gorman, were present at the well-attended opening in addition to local councillors, elected representatives and members of the local community.

Mayor of Fingal Cllr Eoghan O'Brien said: "I am delighted to officially open the Casino Model Railway Museum, which has been beautifully conserved and restored. The redevelopment of the Casino has been one of the most eagerly-anticipated projects in the Malahide area so it fills me with pride to be able to stand here today to open this wonderful heritage property.

"It goes without saying that the Casino Model Railway Museum will be a spectacular amenity for local and visitors, both young and old, to enjoy for years to come.

"I would like to pay tribute to the Malahide Group, comprising GV Wright, Colette Smith, Michael Howard, Matt Ryan Jnr, Nora Owen, Matt McNulty and Alfie O'Dowd, who worked tirelessly over the years to ensure this proj-

ect got to this point today."

A special presentation was also made to Patricia Dillion, Cyril Fry's daughter, by the Mayor of Fingal at the opening



Fingal County Council Chief Executive AnnMarie Farrelly said: "The restoration and redevelopment of the Casino building has been a major capital project for Fingal County Council. This is a truly wonderful day for the Malahide area, and indeed Fingal as a whole, and I have no doubt that the Casino Model Railway Museum will become a popular tourism attraction going forward.

"The Casino is a unique property and the meticulous restoration and conservation work will ensure that the public will get to enjoy this modern visitor attraction accommodation in such an architectural-

ly significant and historic building."

Director of Economic, Enterprise and Tourism Development Emer O'Gorman said: "The Casino Model Railway Museum is a wonderful addition to Fingal County Council's heritage property portfolio, which includes Malahide Castle and Gardens, Newbridge House and Ardgillan Castle. Tourism development is a vital element of our department's work and this new property will be a great addition to our offerings for residents as well as visitors from both home and abroad."

County Architect Fionnuala May said: "The design by Fingal County Council architects on behalf of the Economic, Enterprise and Tourism Development marries the historic original cottage with a complementary new building. The Council has worked closely with all the contractors appointed to the project to ensure that each of the elements of the project were carried out by skilled craftspeople who are experts in their field.

Fingal County Council has awarded the contract for the operation of the Casino Model Railway Museum to Shannon Heritage. Six people will be employed at the new museum.



## First-ever Walking Festival held

Fingal County Council, in partnership with the FAI, hosted its first Walking Football Festival of the new year in the new state-of-the-art pitch at the National Sports Campus Indoor Arena in Abbotsstown.

Over 120 players took part on the day which saw teams from Blanchardstown, Santry, Balbriggan, Coolock, Finglas, Cabra, Drogheda, Offaly, Celbridge, Naas and Arklow playing off in three groups with qualification for semi-finals and finals. Kildare Celtic won, beating Celbridge on penalties in the all-Kildare Derby final.

Mayor of Fingal Cllr Eoghan O'Brien

said: "It is great to see so many people over 50 interested in taking part in sport and keeping active. The growing number of people interested in Walking Football shows how popular and worthwhile this event is."

Local FAI/Fingal County Council Development Officer Paul Breen commented: "Fourteen teams participated in a fantastic day's football, proving you are never too old to enjoy the beautiful game."

"Targeted for the over 50s, walking football is a great way for people to keep both physically and socially active, whilst enjoying the game," he said.

As numbers are now growing, the aim is to segment groups into two Divisions - 50 to 60 and over 60s. FAI Grassroots Manager Gerry Reardon said: "We believe this could be a new recruitment tool to bolster numbers as teams previously made up of players of both ages, will now have to go looking for mates to fulfil the two age groups."

Anybody who has an interest in Walking football or would like more details of where Walking Football takes place in their local area should contact FAI Grassroots Manager Gerry Reardon on [gerry.reardon@fai.ie](mailto:gerry.reardon@fai.ie) or FAI/Fingal Development Officer Paul Breen on [paul.breen@fai.ie](mailto:paul.breen@fai.ie)

## Council appoints contractor for road upgrade scheme

Fingal County Council has announced the appointment of SIAC Construction Ltd to deliver the Hole in the Wall Road / Mayne Road Junction Upgrade scheme.

The project involves the realignment of the junctions of the Mayne Road with the Hole in the Wall Road and the Drumnigh Road. It will create a much safer road layout for all road users by providing improved sightlines and new signalised crossing facilities, as well as new footpaths and cycleways and road pavement reconstruction.



Mayor of Fingal, Cllr. Eoghan O'Brien said: "Infrastructure upgrades such as the Hole in the Wall Road/Mayne Road Junction Upgrade scheme are necessary for supporting the development and growth of the area. These upgrades will provide a safer and sustainable

infrastructure for the road with new footpaths and cycleways that will create a supportable environment for all users."

Flood management measures and new water supply network infrastructure is also included. Construction started in February with a 14-month work programme. AnnMarie Farrelly, Chief Executive of Fingal County Council, said: "This project will further underpin the ongoing sustainable development in the area including in those lands earmarked for development under the Baldoye-Stapolin Local Area Plan."





## Fingal turns out in force for walks

The Operation Transformation walks were a huge success again in Fingal with enthusiastic walkers and runners taking part in five locations in Fingal. Organised by Fingal Sports Office in co-operation with Sport Ireland these were part of the Nationwide Walks campaign that saw 17,000 people take part in 143 locations.

There was a location to suit everyone with walks taking place in Balbriggan, Porterstown Park, Rivervalley Swords, Tyrrelstown Park and St. Catherine's Park. With distances of 3km or 5km the walks were a positive way to promote a healthy and active start to the new year in an inclusive and fun way that caters for all ages and abilities.

This was the first year for the walk in Tyrrelstown Park and Chief Executive of Fingal AnnMarie Farrelly and Acting Mayor Cllr Freddie Cooper joined the enthusiastic locals there.

Mayor of Fingal Cllr. Eoghan O'Brien led the way on the coastal walk in Balbriggan

along the beach to Bremore Castle. We partnered with Kildare Sports Partnership for the first walk to take place in St. Catherine's Park, while Porterstown Park and Rivervalley saw enthusiastic walkers mingle with the runners at the parkrun. Our Councillors were happy to lend their support with Cllr Grainne Maguire, Cllr Mary McCamley and Cllr Darragh Butler among those taking park.

Cllr Eoghan O'Brien said "I was delighted to support and take part in the Operation Transportation walk in Balbriggan on Saturday. These walks promote a healthy active lifestyle and are also great inclusive community events providing an opportunity for people to get together in a enjoyable outdoor setting."

Chief Executive of Fingal AnnMarie Farrelly said "These walks are another example of the many programmes and initiatives of our Sports Office which help promote and facilitate a healthy and active lifestyle for all the Fingal Community."

# BEaT EXPANDS OFFICE SPACE

Balbriggan Enterprise and Training Centre (BEaT) has announced an expansion in office space for small businesses and people who want to work remotely and reduce commuting.

"Balbriggan Enterprise and Training Centre is 20 years old this year and we are aiming to rebrand with a new logo and website by March" said BEaT manager Ria Stubbs. "The new facility will make use of Unit Nine in the Enterprise and Training Centre. The plan is to convert four existing training rooms and a kitchen into a shared work space."

LEADER funding of €200,000 has recently been pre-approved to enable the expansion of the BEaT facility, bringing the total budget available for the redevelopment to €260,000. Eighteen desks will be available, some in individual offices, and a meeting room and a shared space for use by community groups will be provided, in the revamped 3,200 square

feet facility. Five desks are being made immediately available for local people who need office space for their business, with plans to add a further 18 desks during 2020, offering a combination of hot desks and office space. BEaT's expansion responds to the desire expressed in the Our Balbriggan survey where 49% of the 4,000 people surveyed wanted to see the provision of a digital hub and start up space as part of the Council's €20m-plus transformation of Ireland's youngest town.

"These refurbishment and expansion plans will help support our commitments as part of the Balbriggan Rejuvenation Plan, to support emerging talent, grow enterprise and attract new jobs to the town," said Emer O'Gorman, Director of Economic, Enterprise and Tourism, Fingal County Council.

For more information on this Balbriggan facility, visit [beat.ie](http://beat.ie)



# THREE NEW HOUSING SCHEMES APPROVED



Councillors in Fingal County Council have approved plans to construct 87 more social homes on three sites in Swords, Cappagh and Clonsaugh as the Council continues to deliver on its commitments under the Rebuilding Ireland Action Plan.

Since 2015, Fingal County Council has delivered over 6,200 housing solutions through a range of delivery mechanisms including construction, Part V, acquisitions, leasing and Housing Assistance Payments (HAP).

“Over the past five years councillors and staff have worked together to deliver more housing in Fingal and each year we have managed to deliver more homes than the previous year. There is still work to do to reduce the numbers who are homeless and the numbers on the housing list but we are making progress,” said Mayor of Fingal, Councillor Eoghan O’Brien.

Since 2016 the Council has constructed 288 homes with

2019 seeing the completion and allocation of homes at Avondale and Church Road in Dublin 15 as well as Rolestown and Castlelands in Balbriggan. Construction is ongoing on four sites which will deliver a further 98 homes in 2020. Another 236 homes are at tender stage or in the planning process.

The Council owns and manages over 5,500 family homes, accommodating almost 20,000 people, and Margaret Geraghty, Director of Housing and Community, said that, in Fingal, social housing stock is allocated to eligible applicants on the Housing Waiting List, in accordance with the terms of the Allocations Scheme for Social Housing Support.

“There has been no change to our long-established policies which are the fairest way possible of allocating housing to those on housing list. We are responsible for meeting the housing needs of our community and, in Fingal, that is a community which includes the elderly, the disabled, the homeless, the travelling community and also

our growing migrant population. “The Council has recently published a Migrant Integration and Social Cohesion Strategy to ensure that Fingal County Council meets the needs of our growing and diverse population and also sets out our commitment to promote migrant integration in the county,” said Ms Geraghty.

She added that providing affordable homes is a key objective for the Council and pointed to the success of the Rebuilding Ireland Home Loan in Fingal. Since the scheme commenced in February 2018, 191 loans worth €41.78m have already been drawn down with a further 235 loans worth €52.27m approved.

The delivery of affordable homes in the county will be facilitated at four sites via €18m of funding to be provided under the Serviced Sites Fund. The first of these schemes will be introduced at Lusk during 2020 and the others will be rolled out in Mulhuddart, Cappagh and Hackettstown.



## Consultation for Donabate Urban Framework Plan commences

Fingal County Council has commenced an extensive consultation process in Donabate as part of our plans to create an Urban Framework Plan (UFP) for the town.

This Urban Framework Plan seeks to provide a vision for the Donabate town centre which will improve and enhance the Main Street area and guide careful urban improvement. It is envisaged this Plan will highlight the distinctive character of Donabate, its setting on the peninsula, current issues pertinent to Donabate and, lastly, outline a programme of actions which have been agreed with the community.

As outlined in the Fingal Development Plan, extensive and proactive participation with the community is a key feature of urban framework plans. In this regard, the work and the input from the community is crucial. The first part of this participation process took place recently in Donabate Library.

Further workshops are planned with businesses, residents' associations and schools as part of this extensive participatory process which will lead to a draft plan. This will be subject to further consultation and input from the local community.

The process mirrors what happened in Rush where the Council developed a similar plan, in collaboration with the local community, which seeks to rejuvenate and improve the town centre there.

Fingal County Council is also about to complete the construction of its first project under the Local Infrastructure Housing Activation Scheme with the Donabate Distributor Road almost ready to open. This will facilitate access to Council-owned lands at Ballymastone which will deliver between 1,000 and 1,200 homes through a mixed tenure development of 20% social, 20% affordable and 60% private housing as well as schools and a recreational hub.

Ballymastone is part of the Project Talamh initiative which is also developing lands for mixed tenure housing at Church Fields in Dublin 15 and Cappagh in Finglas. The development of these strategic landbanks has the potential to deliver over 2,000 homes.

Work on Fingal's second LIHAF project, the Rathbeale Road in Swords, is underway while the tender for the third project, at Stapolin, Baldoyle, has just been awarded. These three strategic projects will deliver 2,800 homes by 2021 and have the long-term potential to

facilitate the provision of 6,900 units.

Activity in the private housing sector is also positive and currently there are 135 sites in the county with planning permission granted for 15,430 units. Eighty-three of these sites are active and have delivered 4,950 units so far with another 2,400 currently under construction and a further 3,200 units to be delivered. In 2019, 14 sites were fully completed having delivered 1,290 units.

The Chief Executive of Fingal County Council, AnnMarie Farrelly, said: "Fingal County Council is working collaboratively with relevant stakeholders to ensure the development of social, affordable and private housing across the county. Since 2015 we have been focused on the need to deliver, in tandem, infrastructure and housing. The foundation on which our current Development Plan has been built is a determination to have Fingal grow in an organic sustainable way and ensure a seamless integration between established and new communities."

# Blanchardstown is home to the first-ever mobility hub

Fingal County Council has become the first Local Authority in Ireland to launch a 'Mobility Hub' to support accessible and sustainable travel on Main Street, Blanchardstown.

The hub comprises five parking bays with specific colour-coordinated functions including age-friendly, disabled, electric vehicle charging, bike rack (bike share and public), and car sharing.

The aim of the Mobility Hub is to encourage varied and sustainable types of transport in areas that are close to existing public transport links with high concentration of employment, housing, shopping, amenities and recreation.

This allows a greater number of citizens, including the aged and those with accessibility issues to travel in a greater variety of ways, and advances Fingal's climate action goals in the process.

Over the coming months, the



Mobility Hubs will be rolled out on a phased basis across Fingal towns and villages.

Mayor of Fingal Cllr. Eoghan O'Brien, said: "The Mobility Hub is a worthy initiative that shows Fingal's commitment to helping our people and environment to thrive. I look forward to seeing the

success of the Mobility Hub model in Blanchardstown and beyond."

Chief Executive of Fingal County Council AnnMarie Farrelly said: "The Mobility Hub reflects Fingal County Council's proactive approach to ensuring that our communities are provided with sustainable and accessible infrastructure.

"It also shows our commitment to integrating our climate action goals in every aspect of our work."

David Storey, Director of Operations said: "The Mobility Hub is an innovative piece of infrastructure that supports different modes of travel.

"I commend the Operations Department staff for their efforts and look forward to the expansion of the initiative across Fingal."



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News

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Residents

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# Fingal.ie

## Your Information Website

Comhairle Contae  
Fhine Gall  
Fingal County  
Council



Your Council,  
working for you

## New Coast Guard Emergency Signs on Howth Cliff Path



Fingal County Council together with the Irish Coast Guard's Howth Unit and representatives from local community groups Howth Pathways and the Howth SAAO Committee have installed emergency signage along the Lower Cliff Path in Howth.

The new signage is located along the Lower Cliff Path from Balscadden car park to Redrock with locations identified according to the Irish Coast Guard's mapping of incident 'hotspots'. Each sign has a unique number to enable the Irish Coast Guard to locate casualties quickly when they call 112 and provide the location number.

Visitors to Howth who get into difficulty along the cliff path are often unfamiliar with the area and unable to provide emergency services with an accurate location. This can result in the Coast Guard sending two or more search teams to find casualties, thus losing valuable time.

Mayor of Fingal Cllr Eoghan O'Brien commented on the new signage, saying: "This new emergency signage is a fantastic safety initiative and is especially important given the huge numbers of visitors this spectacular coastal path attracts."

Fergus Cooney of the Irish Coast Guard's Howth Unit said: "In a number of recent incidents the new signage has enabled a quicker response time to reach and treat casualties."

It is planned to extend the initiative to other areas of Howth and Fingal in the near future.

# PLAYGROUNDS GET BIG SEAL OF APPROVAL

Fingal County Council has opened two new playgrounds in Balbriggan.

The Bandstand playground near the Martello Tower and Quay Street playground were officially opened by Mayor of Fingal Cllr. Eoghan O'Brien in the company of Chief Executive AnnMarie Farrelly.

The playgrounds got a joyous seal of approval from the enthusiastic children from St. Molaga's National School on the day. Also in attendance at the opening were members of the Balbriggan Playground Committee and local Councillors Tony Murphy and Gráinne Maguire and former Councillor Malachy Quinn, who were very involved with the project from the beginning.

Fingal County Council recognises the significant benefit of investing in children's play as one of the important things we can do to improve children's health and wellbeing. The playgrounds were designed to provoke

children's imagination and fit into the landscape and resulted from extensive consultation and engagement with the local community.

The Bandstand Playground design has taken inspiration from its location overlooking Balbriggan harbour with a nautical theme including a replica of the iconic lighthouse and the Quay Street design has also taken inspiration from its location beside railway viaduct to inspire a railway themed playground.

Mayor of Fingal Cllr. Eoghan O'Brien said: "I am delighted to be back in Balbriggan launching these playgrounds after having launched the new town Skatepark late last year. These new play facilities are part of the response by Fingal County Council to address the deficit of infrastructure in Balbriggan. It is wonderful to see the excitement of the children from St Molagas who are trying out the playgrounds today."

Local engagement is key to way Fingal County Council does business



and provides services and the playgrounds were designed and developed with the support of the Playground Committee and following extensive engagement with the local community.

A representative from the Balbriggan Playground Committee welcomed the opening of the playgrounds and thanked the members of the committee for their commitment to the project over the years.

Chief Executive of Fingal AnnMarie Farrelly said: "It is really a great pleasure to be here for the opening of these playgrounds and I would like to commend Kevin Halpenny and the Parks team for meeting the challenge of delivering these projects in the first 12 months of the Our Balbriggan Rejuvenation plan. Fingal County Council has had a particular focus on Balbriggan for a number of years and will

continue to work to deliver infrastructure to meet the needs of the town and its young and diverse population."

A commitment to improve the number of public play and exercise facilities in the town is one of the "20 things to achieve in 12 months" contained in the Balbriggan Rejuvenation plan.

These playgrounds and the Skatepark opened in late 2019 will provide safe places where children in Balbriggan can engage in fun and healthy outdoor activity. The Council has committed significant capital funding for Balbriggan and strong progress has been made on plans for the Bremeore Regional Park, the Fingal Coastal Way and cycling and pedestrian schemes for the Harry Reynolds Road.



# New road safety experience 'Your Life – Your Choice' launched

For the first time Transition Year students at Castleknock Community College got to experience a road safety instruction programme through the use of modern Virtual Reality (VR) technology when Fingal County Council, in partnership with AVIVA Driving School, brought the VR experience 'Your Life – Your Choice' to Castleknock Community College for students to see at first hand the impact and results of car crashes.



Targeting young drivers aged between 16 to 25, the programme centres around a virtual reality headset that shows a unique seven-minute simulated experience of a road traffic accident, with the viewer being fully immersed as a front-seat passenger in the crash scenario.

The simulated crash highlights the impact of driver distraction, speed, mobile phone use and shows why wearing seat belts is so important for all passengers. Students will also witness, from the passenger seat, the immediate aftermath of a serious accident from when the first

responders (ambulance, fire services and An Garda Síochána) first arrive on the scene.

Mayor of Fingal, Cllr. Eoghan O'Brien, said: "Our objective with the 'Your Life – Your Choice' program is to better educate young people on the dangers of speed, distractions and using mobile phones whilst driving. The VR headsets are a tremendous example of how technology can be used innovatively in helping to change the drivers' behaviour on our roads."

AnnMarie Farrelly, Chief Executive of Fingal County Council, added: "Alongside An Garda Síochána,

this campaign provides a valuable opportunity to demonstrate to young drivers, through the use of new technology, the dangers that they face on the road and to drive home the message and importance of road safety awareness hopefully further reducing the number of serious/fatal collisions on our roads."

Over the coming months, the 'Your Life – Your Choice' VR experience will be rolled out to Transition Year Students across Fingal and Road Safety Officers from Fingal County Council will also be visiting the schools with the program.







## FINGAL PPN AND FINGAL CO CO SIGN MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING

A Memorandum of Understanding between Fingal Public Participation Network (PPN) and Fingal County Council has been signed, which outlines in a clear and unambiguous manner the roles and responsibilities of Fingal County Council and Fingal PPN with regards to the delivery of the PPN Programme in Fingal.

Fingal PPN was set up as part of Local Government Reform in late 2014 as an evolution of the previous community and voluntary forum structure. A Secretariat was first elected to lead and oversee the operations of the PPN in 2015.

The results of this can be seen today through the wide variety of over 800 organisations and individuals who avail of the training programmes, participate in the Linkage Groups, volunteer as PPN Representatives, contribute to consultation submissions and attend the Plenary meetings.

During the signing ceremony the Mayor of Fingal Cllr Eoghan O'Brien said: "Involving people in making the decisions that affect them and their lives is a core principle of democracy. I commend the Memorandum of Understanding and look forward to further collaboration."

Chief Executive of Fingal County Council AnnMarie Farrelly said: "I welcome the signing of the Memorandum of Understanding. Local authorities and PPNs work collaboratively to support communities and build the capacity of member organisations to engage meaningfully on issues that concern them."

PPN representatives were present at the ceremony from all over the county of Fingal to witness this important moment and Ema Idowu, on behalf of the Secretariat said: "We are committed to working with the community, environment and social inclusion sectors to support organisations to

contribute positively to their own communities and to the County of Fingal.

"We are also committed to engaging as an equal partner with decision makers at both local and national level."

Fingal Public Participation Network is a network of more than 800 community, voluntary, social inclusion and environmental organisations in the Fingal County area. The Fingal PPN plays an important role in representing communities in local decision making and policy making structures.

Fingal PPN also provides training, networking opportunities and funding information to members. For further enquiries, please contact Jenny Foley, Fingal PPN A/ Resource Worker, 0873828589, [jenny.foley@fingal.ie](mailto:jenny.foley@fingal.ie).

Get in touch at [ppn@fingal.ie](mailto:ppn@fingal.ie) or visit [www.fingalppn.ie](http://www.fingalppn.ie).

# Engineering Week returns to Fingal Libraries with lots of activities planned

Fingal Libraries are hosting Engineering Week which will be back in 2020 from the February 29 to March 6.

Engineers Week promotes engineering and the importance of the profession in Ireland. The annual event is coordinated on a national basis by Engineers Ireland's STEPS programme

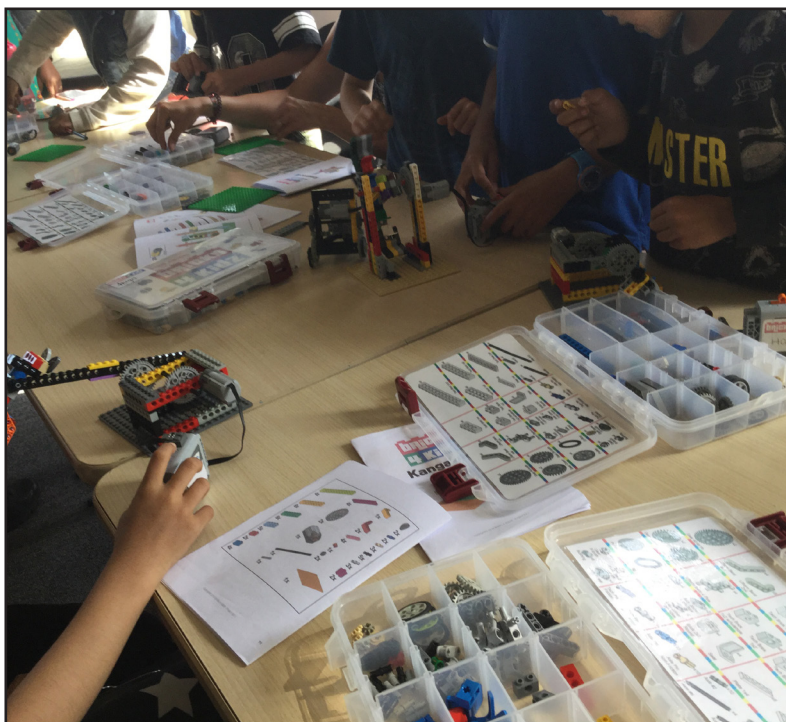
Three events will be taking place during the week across our branches to educate kids on the work of engineers and show them opportunities are accessible to all those who have an interest in it.

These events are:

**"Trust me, I'm an engineer"  
Taking Minecraft to the Redstone Level led by Sabine McKenna:**

Automatic doors?

Lamps you can switch on and off from far away?



Making things explode with TNT cannons, maybe?

Learn how to create simple and not-so-simple mechanisms with Redstone, the Minecraft equivalent of electricity, and become a Minecraft Engineer!

**Bricks4Kidz:**

Our workshops follow the Bricks 4 Kidz® motto: We Learn, We Build, We Play with... LEGO® Bricks.

We Learn – Teachers provide a 10-15 minute themed lesson  
We Build – Students build the model of the day with simple step by step instructions

We Play – Students explore their own creativity through free play time

**e2 Young Engineers Ireland:**

e2 Young Engineers is an enrich-

ment programme which provides theoretical and practical knowledge on basic principles in mathematics, science and engineering using motorised LEGO® bricks and other methods that produce motion.

The main idea of Young Engineers Bricks Challenge is learning the subjects through stories and demonstrations. The highlight of each lesson is the building stage of a model that demonstrates the lesson's subject using LEGO® bricks and Technic LEGO®.

Each participant works on our unique Young Engineers kit which has been designed and manufactured especially for this purpose.

Engineers Week will bring the fascinating world of engineering to life in communities nationwide, inspiring children and young adults to engineer the Ireland of tomorrow.

**STEPS Engineers Week**  
Feb 29 – Mar 6 2020

**Seachtaine an Innealtóra/ Engineers Week**

**"Trust me, I'm an engineer"**  
**Taking Minecraft to the Redstone Level** - Sabine McKenna

Automatic doors?  
Lamps you can switch on and off from far away?  
Making things explode with TNT cannons, maybe?  
Learn how to create simple and not-so-simple mechanisms with Redstone, the Minecraft equivalent of electricity, and become a Minecraft Engineer!

<b>Baldoye Library</b>	Saturday 29 February	11.00am – 12.30pm
<b>Malahide Library</b>	Saturday 29 February	2.30pm – 4.00pm
<b>Rush Library</b>	Saturday 7 March	11.00am – 12.30pm

Suitable for children aged 9 – 12. **Booking essential.**

## Fingal's Library Services

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

Fingal Libraries are on Social Media!



## Fascinating exhibition featuring range of human rights stories

Blanchardstown Library has hosted an exhibition 'What in the World - 50 Countries, 50 Stories' which featured a range of human rights stories from around the world.

The exhibition is a project launched by RTE documentary maker Peadar King, KMF Productions, Irish Aid and RTE and marks the fact that the "What in the World" series has now filmed in over 50 countries.

Some of the topics covered include: war, poverty, climate change, sexism and social justice issues.

Mayor Eoghan O'Brien said: "By speaking directly to people affected by violence, war, climate change and oppression and bringing their stories to us, Peadar King helps us realise that real people, who have



the same hopes, desires and wishes as we have, are suffering greatly around the world. Uncomfortable as this may be at times, it is vital that the human beings behind these distressing stories we see on the news are given a voice."

Peadar King then spoke about the exhibition and read from his latest book: War, Suffering and the Struggle for Human Rights. He spoke about the importance of giving witness to seldom-heard stories of poor,

dispossessed and disfavoured peoples across the globe.

Among the attendees were Transition Year students from Luttrellstown Community College and Hansfield Educate Together Secondary School as well as a group of home-schooled students.



# 130 SMALL FINGAL BUSINESSES GRANTS APPROVED

The Mayor of Fingal Cllr. Eoghan O'Brien and Chief Executive of Fingal County Council AnnMarie Farrelly presented successful grant recipients with certificates for business supported by LEO Fingal with funding provided by the Irish Government co-financed by the European Regional Development Fund. The companies were among 130 approved in the last 12 months for business priming grants (for start-ups), innovation grants, business expansion grants, Trading Online Vouchers, Exporter development grants and other schemes aimed at stimulating enterprise and job creation.

The approved businesses are responsible for many innovative ideas and products including: a cloud-based business management platform; manufacturers of environmentally-friendly packaging for the pharmaceutical industry; a bespoke digital education platform for managing personal finances; a range of high-quality vegan and vegetarian products; and manufacturers of high-end contemporary jewellery among others. While most are in the early stages of their development, some have already attained national and international success.

Presenting certificates to each of the grant approved businesses, Cllr. Eoghan O'Brien, Mayor of Fingal, commented: "It gives me great pleasure to see small local businesses develop in Fingal and perform so well in Ireland and abroad. The Local Enterprise Office plays a vital role in ensuring our entrepreneurs achievements are recognised in the global stage."

Fingal Local Enterprise Office (LEO) has launched a series of exciting business events and initiatives to take place across the County during Local Enterprise Week (LEW), which is happening between March 2 to 6.

This year LEW Fingal features a host of events and activities that are aimed at stimulating business activity locally, in conjunction with various key business support organisations and state agencies, including: Enterprise Ireland, Plato Dublin, Chambers of Commerce, Enterprise Centres, Empower, IBM Ireland and PayPal Ireland among others. During Enterprise Week last year LEO Fingal welcomed more than 1,500 business owner/managers to the various business events in Fingal.

At the launch, which took place in the Atrium of County Hall, Swords, Mayor of Fingal Cllr. Eoghan O'Brien highlighted the necessity for all small enterprises to use the opportunity as a platform for accelerating business growth: "Through our Local Enterprise Office, Fingal County Council is providing vital services and assistance to our local businesses, ensuring that they are availing of the array of state supports on offer. We want to ensure that our SMEs are well equipped to identify and take advantage of programmes and supports available to them through the LEO and other state bodies".

Oisín Geoghegan, Chair of the LEO Network and Head of Enterprise in Fingal said: "We have a great selection of opportunities for anyone involved in an existing business or a start-up. The events are occurring in various locations throughout Fingal. As with previous years, most of these events will be fully booked out in advance, so we are encouraging anyone interested in participating to book a place as quickly as possible to avoid disappointment."

The week kicks off on a high on Monday morning March 2 with an intensive half-day Business Start-up Bootcamp in Newbridge House in Donabate, aimed at helping those with an idea for a new business, or anyone who has recently



# LEO ARE “MAKING IT HAPPEN” FOR BUSINESSS

set up. The afternoon continues apace with a dedicated Leadership Skills workshop at the Marine Hotel in Sutton and a Digital Masterclass at the PayPal HQ in Ballycoolin.

On day 2, Tuesday March 3, local businesses will join Fingal Dublin Chamber for a networking breakfast focusing on several successful entrepreneurs, called “Behind the Business” in Malahide. At lunchtime, Plato Dublin will be running a seminar helping businesses to prepare for growth at the IBM Campus in Damastown. And in the evening “Empower Fingal” will host an Ethnic Enterprise Expo, aimed at encouraging ethnic minorities to pursue their entrepreneurial dreams in Fingal.

Wednesday March 4 will see three events taking place, with the LINC in Blanchardstown running a seminar in the morning for start-ups seeking to raise finance. Meanwhile in the Crowne Plaza in Blanchardstown,

Enterprise Ireland will host an informative event explaining how companies can benefit from accessing innovation grants to fund their continued growth. There will also be a full-day Brexit workshop happening at the BEaT Centre in Balbriggan for businesses who export to the UK.

On Thursday morning, Balbriggan Chamber will host a business networking seminar focusing on Productivity and Competitiveness, while simultaneously LEO Fingal is running a morning workshop on financial skills for SMEs.

The Fingal Enterprise Awards ceremony will take place on Thursday evening in County Hall Swords, where the best of Fingal entrepreneurship will be celebrated and will battle it out for the coveted 2020 winner of the “Fingal Enterprise Award”, with a top prize of €5,000, one small business will be chosen to fly the flag for Fingal to compete at the National Enterprise Awards in May.

Local Enterprise Week finishes up on Friday March 6 with two dynamic events. In the morning a Trading Online Voucher (TOV) seminar, at the Riasc Centre in Swords, will offer small businesses the opportunity to develop their website or digital marketing strategy by availing of a grant of up to €2,500.

Then at lunchtime the Fingal Enterprising Women Network, run by LEO Fingal, will celebrate International Women’s Day with a special business networking lunch at the Clayton Hotel Dublin Airport, featuring acclaimed chef and food entrepreneur Catherine Fulvio.

Several events are completely free of charge while some have a nominal booking fee of just €10. As with last year, many of the events are expected to book up quickly so early booking is strongly advised. You can find out more about Local Enterprise Week in Fingal at [www.localenterprise.ie/fingal](http://www.localenterprise.ie/fingal)

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## Fingal County Council Parks

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**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

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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**



**No Permit - It's Illegal**  
**Check if Authorised: [www.nwcpo.ie](http://www.nwcpo.ie)**  
**Report to - [environment@fingal.ie](mailto:environment@fingal.ie)**



**Comhairle Contae  
Fhine Gall  
Fingal County  
Council**



# Your Councillors



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