

Fingal News

Issue
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2020

PLEASE PLAY YOUR PART



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Comhairle Contae
Fhine Gall
Fingal County
Council



Your Council,
working for you

Mayor's Message



Fingal County Council has continued to provide key services to our residents as well as completing and starting many projects across the county to invest in our communities and to help them through this incredibly difficult Covid-19 period.

Fingal launched its revised Tree Strategy, Forest of

Fingal, out for public consultation recently to show the Council's continued commitment to looking after one of its most important natural resources and assets, its trees. Trees enhance our citizens' Health and Wellbeing and Quality of Life and will help to secure a sustainable future in Fingal.

I would also like to remind our residents the importance of keeping our parks and green spaces clean and litter free. There has been an uptick in the levels of litter in our parks, placing a larger burden on them and the need for greater maintenance. I would ask users of our parks to take their litter home with them or to use the bins provided, and if necessary, to report to the litter wardens for the parks.

As we head into the Winter it is important that everyone does their part in taking the correct actions in tackling the rising cases of Covid-19. We must protect the vulnerable members of our community and we can only do so if everyone plays their part.

I was immensely proud to join the three other elected leaders of the Dublin Local Authorities, the Health Service Executive and An Garda Síochána in issuing a joint appeal to citizens to redouble their efforts to slow the spread of COVID-19 and work together to get Dublin down to Level 1 in the Government's National Framework for Living with COVID.

We are urging Dubliners to take personal responsibility for their actions and work together to reduce case numbers, to decrease the rate of infection and to lower the numbers being admitted to hospital. Dubliners are urged to follow HSE Public Health advice and guidance in the ongoing battle against a dangerous enemy which is causing so much damage to people's health, the Dublin economy and the way Dubliners live.

I'd also like to remind our citizens, particularly those who are cocooning or who may be medically vulnerable that the Community Call service is still available for all who need it. If you need services, support or just a chat our team is there to assist.

Cllr David Healy
Mayor of Fingal

Chief Executive's Message



With a rise in Covid-19 cases and an increase in restrictions on our lives, Fingal County Council is continuing to deliver key services to residents, while also planning for the year ahead.

We are currently in the process of drafting our Budget for 2021, which will come before councillors in November. In September

councillors voted to retain the 10% Property Tax reduction which will be crucial in maintaining council services next year as the decision will yield €2m in funding which will be ring-fenced for a range of services for important areas such as housing, parks and open spaces, operations, community and libraries

Returning to 2020 and as Covid-19 is still with us, it is important to know that the Council is providing a range supports and services have been provided for the residents and businesses of Fingal to help them get through this period.

Our Community Call service is still operating all week and is available to anyone who needs support during these difficult times.

To support our local businesses and to utilize the public space which is available Fingal County Council is seeking suitable businesses to apply to be Parklet Partners. Parklets are a cost-effective way to create more vibrant streets and support local business. These spaces will support local businesses to remain open and to provide a safe space for people to dine.

The Shopfront and Residences Improvement grant was also available for businesses and residents to apply for funding for renovations or improvements on their shopfronts or residences. This scheme seeks to improve the public sphere and main streets of the towns of Fingal during this difficult period.

Fingal County Council is to commence the roll out of a €3.9m programme aimed at developing safer infrastructure for cyclists and pedestrians in towns and villages across the County. It is important that people who would otherwise use public transport are encouraged and facilitated in choosing a sustainable form of transport such as walking and cycling.

Thank you for reading this edition of the Fingal News

AnnMarie Farrelly
Chief Executive

Council to prioritise promotion of Active Travel following changes to departments

Fingal County Council is to prioritise the promotion of Active Travel as part of its ongoing commitment to Climate Action, with additional changes to Council departments to further strengthen the Council's housing delivery and economic development capacities.

Chief Executive AnnMarie Farrelly announced the creation of the Environment, Climate Action and Active Travel Department which will have responsibility for mobility planning and the delivery of the National Transport Authority's cycle network within the county. The new department will continue to look after Climate Action, the enforcement of environmental regulations and the protection and promotion of the environment.

Active Travel is travelling with a purpose using your own energy which usually means walking or cycling as part of a purposeful journey and the Council's objective is to build active travel into everyday life as part of normal daily routines.

Director of Services, David Storey, will move from the Operations Department to head up the new department with the Council's newest Director of Services, Mary T Daly, replacing him as Director of Operations and Water Services.

Ethna Felten, who had been Director of Environment, Climate Action and Water, will now head up the Aircraft Noise Competent Authority, succeeding Gilbert Power who retired during the summer.

The Chief Executive also announced some other changes. Responsibility for Arts, Libraries and Creative



Ireland moves from the Housing and Community Department to the Economic, Enterprise, Tourism and Cultural Development Department which will continue to be led by Director of Services Emer O'Gorman.

Matthew McAleese is now confirmed as Director of Planning & Strategic Infrastructure, having held the role in an acting capacity following the appointment of Ms Farrelly as Chief Executive last year. A native of Hollywood, Co. Down, Matthew has more than 20 years professional planning experience with Meath and Fingal County Councils and the Northern Ireland Planning Service. He has led the delivery of many of the key projects in the County in recent years including the Fingal Development Plan, Dublin Airport Local Area Plan, Swords Masterplans, Donabate Distributor Road and Baldoyle to Portmarnock Greenway. Matthew is a graduate of Queens University, Belfast and holds a Masters degree in Business Administration from Dublin City University.

Mary T Daly has returned to Fingal County Council having spent the past 13 years in a variety of roles with Dún Laoghaire Rathdown and Louth County Councils. Altogether, she has more than 33 years' service and experience in Local Government across a broad range of service delivery and policy development at urban, rural and town level.

She previously worked for Fingal County Council from 1997 to 2007 before joining Louth County Council where she was Acting Town Clerk for Drogheda. With the onset of local government reform in 2014, Ms Daly was appointed acting Director of Services for Louth where she successfully established the new Directorate of Economic, Planning, Infrastructure and Compliance with a portfolio covering the economic, planning, tourism, festival and infrastructure briefs. She left Louth in 2017 and has spent the last three years as Director of Corporate Affairs at Dún Laoghaire Rathdown County Council.

REDOUBLE EFFORT TO SLOW SPREAD OF COVID-19 APPEAL

The elected leaders of the four Dublin Local Authorities, the Health Service Executive and An Garda Síochána issued a joint appeal to citizens to redouble their efforts to slow the spread of COVID-19 and work together to get Dublin down to Level 1 in the Government's National Framework for Living with COVID.

An Open Letter to the citizens of Dublin has been signed by the Lord Mayor of Dublin, Hazel Chu; The Cathaoirleach of Dún Laoghaire Rathdown, Cllr Una Power; The Mayor of Fingal, Cllr David Healy and The Mayor of South Dublin, Cllr Ed O'Brien along with the Director of Public Health for HSE East, Dr Deirdre Mulholland and An Garda Síochána's Assistant Commissioner for Roads, Policing & Community, Paula Hilman.

The four local authorities, the HSE and the Gardaí are all members of the Eastern Regional Steering Group (ERSG) which has been co-ordinating support from the other agencies to the HSE since the COVID-19 pandemic began in March.

The Open Letter calls on Dubliners to take personal responsibility for their actions and work together to reduce case numbers, to decrease the rate of infection and to lower the numbers being admitted to hospital. Dubliners are urged to follow HSE Public Health advice and guidance in the ongoing battle against a dangerous enemy which is causing so much damage to people's health, the Dublin



economy and the way Dubliners live.

The letter states: "We already know that this disease shows no respect for your age, gender, for who you are, or where you live. We have got to view it as a dangerous enemy and work together to stop it sweeping through our communities and affecting the lives of our loved-ones, neighbours, colleagues and friends."

The Open Letter was formally signed at the Mansion House, Dublin, and will be conveyed to Dubliners via the websites and social media channel of the four local authorities. The four local authorities are also running a radio and digital audio campaign aimed at the changing the behaviour of 15-34 year-olds in Dublin towards the COVID-19 virus.

The signing was hosted by the Lord Mayor of Dublin, Hazel Chu, who said: "Aside from the obvious cost on us all as people, the last six months have been incredibly difficult for the economic life of Dublin. We all have family members, friends, and neighbours who have lost their jobs or businesses and are struggling to get by. Please think about what you can do to help tackle this virus so we can get back the Dublin we all know and love."

Cllr Una Power, Cathaoirleach, Dún Laoghaire Rathdown County Council, said: "I'm asking young people in Dublin to redouble their efforts to reduce social contacts to help stop the spread of this virus. Do the easy things right - wear a mask, wash your hands properly, maintain social distance and reduce your social contacts as much as possible. It's been hard, I



know, and especially for young people working on the front lines and in precarious work. Unfortunately, the virus is spreading again, and we need to count on each other to do the right thing."

Cllr David Healy, Mayor of Fingal, said: "As we head into Winter we need to be aware that taking responsibility for our actions in relation to COVID-19 will also help vulnerable members of our community. They are already trying to minimise their risk and we can reduce that risk further by following the public health guidelines and slowing the rate of infection. "

Cllr Ed O'Brien, Mayor of South Dublin County, said: "Everyone in Dublin will always be grateful to every frontline worker and volunteer who has worked tirelessly to keep us safe during this pandemic. But the best way we can all show that gratitude now is by going the extra mile to follow the guidelines and slow the spread of the virus. We are asking you all to be volunteers and to give up those social interactions, visits to our favourite places and impromptu social events so that we can again flatten the curve."

Dr Deirdre Mulholland, Director of Public Health, HSE East, said: "If a person has symptoms of COVID-19 it is important that they contact their GP and follow advice. If our GP or Public Health advise us to isolate, or restrict our movements, it is important in order to break the chain of transmission that we follow that advice. For information on protecting yourself and others, please visit <https://www2.hse.ie/coronavirus/>"

Paula Hilman, Assistant Commissioner Roads Policing and Community Engagement, An Garda Síochána stated: "Gardaí countrywide continue to work with our partners in the Local Authorities and the Health Service Executive to address the needs of vulnerable and hard to reach communities. Since the beginning of the COVID-19 Pandemic our resources have focused on 'Engaging, Explaining and Encouraging' people we meet to adhere to the Covid Health Regulations. In situations where individuals or groups have been identified as vulnerable, Gardaí throughout the country have worked closely with colleagues in the Local Authorities, HSE and voluntary services to ensure that those identified have been contacted and provided with the support they need. As the circumstances change, Gardaí across the country are tasked with supporting local individuals and communities. We continue to liaise with our colleagues in the HSE and Local Authorities in order to provide an appropriate response to the community. Anyone who requires Garda assistance should contact their local Community Garda / Garda station directly or, in an emergency, dial 999 or 112."

To protect yourself and protect others the HSE advice is to wash your hands properly and often. Cover your mouth and nose with a tissue or your sleeve when you cough and sneeze and put used tissues into a bin. Clean and disinfect frequently touched objects and surfaces. Avoid close contact with others by keeping a distance of two metres between you and others.

Council to carry out emergency coastal defence works in Portrane

Fingal County Council is set to carry out emergency works in Portrane including protection works at Quay Road and the relocation of Seabees at Burrow beach.

Engineering experts have recommended an extension of the existing rock armour defence by approximately 50metres along Quay Road to protect the area through the winter of 2020/21.

An examination of services and ground conditions around the toilets will be carried out as soon as the rock armour works are completed to establish if any additional protective works are required in that location.

Following the completion of rock armour, the demolition and removal of the existing toilets is planned. Temporary public toilets are expected to be installed during November.

In addition, Fingal County Council plans to relocate 70 seabees which



were recently moved without authorisation causing damage to the dune system at Beach Lane. Following review by expert engineers the Council intends to replace these Seabees to their optimal position in the sea defence system to continue to reduce and delay coastal erosion. As an interim measure, 1km of Seabee' concrete units were installed in an optimal position in two phases along Burrow Beach. These Seabees were designed to reduce and delay coastal erosion and were put in place until a feasible and effective

long-term solution is implemented.

The remedial works outlined above are to be undertaken under provisions of the Roads Act and will take approximately three weeks.

In August, storm force winds and strong tidal surges associated with Storm Ellen and Storm Francis undermined the ground around the disused toilets and foundation stone on which RMS Tayleur commemorative monument was located until it was moved some time ago to a safer location.



Inside Fingal Podcast launch

We have launched our podcast channel, Inside Fingal. A podcast is an audio programme, just like Talk Radio, but unlike a radio broadcast it is accessible whenever the listener wishes to listen to it.

The purpose of the podcast is to take listeners inside Fingal County Council and give an insight into the work being done by councillors and staff to make Fingal a better place to live, work, visit and do business in.

The first episode features interviews with the Mayor of Fingal, Cllr David Healy, and the Chief Executive, AnnMarie Farrelly as well as a report on the Community Call Forum and Helpline, a news bulletin and a competition.

It can be accessed via the council website, fingal.ie, our social media channels or apps such as iTunes, Spotify, Stitcher, Castbox and Google Podcasts.

All podcasts will also be posted to www.fingal.ie/podcast where past podcasts will also be available. Make sure to listen in.

LAUNCH OF 'FOREST OF FINGAL' TREE STRATEGY

Fingal County Council has launched its draft Tree Strategy entitled "Forest of Fingal, A Tree Strategy for Fingal – Draft Document". The Draft Strategy is now going through a Non-statutory Public Consultation Process which began on National Tree Day 2020 on October 1 until the end of National Tree Week in March 2021.

The purpose of this Consultation Process is to provide the public with an opportunity to examine the objectives, policies and actions outlined in the Draft Strategy and to suggest changes as appropriate.

Mayor of Fingal, Councillor David Healy, said: "The revision of Fingal's Tree Strategy Forest of Fingal is an indication of the Council's continued commitment to looking after one of its most important natural resources and assets, its trees. Trees enhance our citizens' Health and Wellbeing and Quality of Life and will help to secure a sustainable future in Fingal."

Fingal County Council manages



approximately 2,000 Hectares of Public Open Space and many public parks in the county have significant stands of woodland framing important and often iconic landscapes. Fingal also has approximately 70,000 trees located in streets and residential open spaces, most of which are maintained by the local authority.

Fingal County Council Chief Executive AnnMarie Farrelly said: "The Council recognises how significant urban trees and green space have helped to shape the landscape of towns and villages

across the county and I hope people will take the opportunity to read it over the coming months and suggest changes where they feel they need to be made."

The Draft Tree Strategy document has been prepared in the context of the Council's Climate Change Action Plan 2019-2024, Biodiversity Action Plan and Open Space Strategy.

To view the Draft Strategy and to have your say on its contents please visit our on-line consultation portal <https://consult.fingal.ie/browse>

Fingal County Council COVID-19 Community Call Helpline

- ✓ Collection & delivery of food, other items
- ✓ Social isolation supports
- ✓ Garda related issues
- ✓ Other medical or health needs



01-890 5000
1-800-459-059



covidsupport@fingal.ie



“KEEP WELL” CAMPAIGN TO SUPPORT PHYSICAL AND MENTAL HEALTH

An Taoiseach, Micheál Martin, has launched the “Keep Well” campaign which aims to support people and communities to mind their physical and mental health over the coming months.

The Government Plan for Living with COVID-19: Resilience and Recovery 2020-2021 highlights the important role that individual and community resilience will play in contributing to our ongoing response to COVID-19.

The “Keep Well” campaign is aimed at showing people of all ages how we can mind our own physical and mental health and wellbeing by adding healthy and helpful habits to our daily and weekly routines. It will provide guidelines, information, and tips on things that will help us keep well through the coming months. All of this will be available on gov.ie/healthyireland

The launch includes the allocation of funding from Sláintecare to support a number of initiatives through the Healthy Ireland Fund that will be rolled out over the coming months. Information about local resources and initiatives will also be available on fingal.ie/keepwell..

This launch builds on the “In This Together” campaign which happened earlier in the year.

The “Keep Well” campaign is focussed on five main themes:

• **Keeping active** - keeping active and being outdoors, even during the winter, is important to help physical and mental health and wellbeing.

Sport Ireland is leading a series of initiatives that will support people



to stay active in their own local areas throughout the winter. In addition, sporting organisations and clubs are invited to develop ways to support local communities.

• **Staying connected** - staying connected with people, addressing isolation, supporting volunteerism and initiatives that support person-to-person connection is important to our wellbeing.

• **Switching off and being creative** - switching off and being creative or learning something new, getting back to nature and finding ways to relax can help our general wellbeing.

The Local Authorities and libraries, with advice from the Creative Ireland Programme, and working with partners at national and local level, will provide a range of initiatives to support individual and community creativity in the arts, crafting, culture and heritage.

• **Eating well** - by nourishing our bodies and minds, we can develop a better connection between the food we eat and how we feel and positively impact our physical and mental wellbeing.

Bord Bia will provide information and resources to support healthy eating this winter. Safefood will implement the next phase of their “START” campaign, focussing on making the most of family time and adding healthy habits. • **Minding your mood** – equipping people with information on where to go if they need support. This will also be linked with the local community helpline to ensure that people can access the support they need.

The HSE will launch a series of “Minding Your Wellbeing” resources in the coming days. In addition, the Children and Young Peoples’ Services Committees (CYPSC) around the country are being supported to provide enhanced services to children, young people and families over the coming months.

The National Framework for Living with COVID-19

Taking Care of our Wellbeing & Resilience in Dublin



Coronavirus
COVID-19
National
Programme

COVID-19 has turned 2020 into a year like no other.

The National Plan for Living with COVID-19 is fundamentally about our personal and collective resilience and wellbeing. So, let's start with ourselves – keeping well individually will help us support one another and our communities.

We all need a little help at times – Healthy Ireland is building a programme of activities around five simple actions that we can all take to keep well.

1 Keeping active

Outdoor activity is important for physical and mental health. Sport Ireland will support people to stay active through the winter. Look out for online activities you can join.

2 Keeping in contact

Person-to-person connection is vital to our wellbeing. Don't let isolation become a problem – ask for help if you need it, offer help if you can. The Dublin City and County Councils will provide a helpline and support services as part of The Community Call.

3 Getting creative

Learn something new, get back to nature, find ways to relax, rediscover your own locality. Engage creatively with local historical spaces and places. The Dublin City and County Councils and the Creative Ireland Programme will provide initiatives in the arts, crafting, culture and heritage.

4 Eating well

Make the connection between the food you eat and how you feel, mentally and physically. Bord Bia will support healthy eating this winter. Libraries will promote a grow your own food initiative for spring. Safefood's *START* campaign will help parents to introduce healthier habits with their kids.

5 Minding your mood

Anxiety is a real problem – do not ignore it. Find out where to go if you or someone you know needs support. The HSE's yourmentalhealth.ie website has useful information and look out for the upcoming HSE online Minding Your Wellbeing programme.

Make a daily plan to do at least one thing every day that will keep you well.

There is an abundance of things to do and to discover in Dublin.

Find what's available at gov.ie/HealthyIreland or at the Dublin City and County Councils' websites.



The National Framework for Living with COVID-19 will help us to manage the risk associated with the virus. However, we also need to focus on wellbeing – the wellbeing of our country and the personal wellbeing of every one of us. That requires three things: healthy people, strong businesses and resilient communities.

Dublin Community Call helpline is there if you need practical support or someone to talk to:

01 222 8555 City

01 271 3199 Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown

1800 459 059 Fingal

1800 240 519 South Dublin



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Government of Ireland



COUNCIL AND O'DWYERS SIGN CONTRACTS FOR GAA CLUB'S MOVE TO BREMORE REGIONAL PARK



Fingal County Council and O'Dwyers GAA Club completed the signing of contracts which will allow the club to proceed with its planned move to a new state-of-the-art facility at Bremore Regional Park in Balbriggan.

O'Dwyers have sold their facility at Hamlet Lane to the Council and taken a long-term lease for a 10-acre site on the northern boundary of Bremore Regional Park which it will now proceed to develop into a state-of-the-art sporting facility.

The Chief Executive of Fingal County Council, Ann Marie Farrelly, completed the contract process when she put pen to paper during a virtual meeting involving club officials, council staff and councillors from the Balbriggan Local Electoral Area. The meeting was held online to comply with Government measures in relation to COVID-19.

"The move to Bremore Regional Park will allow O'Dwyers to put in place the foundations for the next 100 years of its history and will also assist the club with the work it is doing for the youngest population in Ireland," said Mayor of Fingal, Cllr David Healy.

In 2018, members of O'Dwyers agreed to move to a new facility at Bremore Regional Park and to sell their current ground at Hamlet Lane to the Council to facilitate road improvements and new housing in the area. The club are planning to develop a new clubhouse, sports hall, sports pitches, parking and training areas at Bremore which will be in alignment with the council's overall vision for the park.

Ms Farrelly said: "We are delighted that we have now signed the contracts and look forward to seeing O'Dwyers develop a top-class sporting facility in Bremore. The rejuvenation of

social issues such as Anti-Social Behaviour.

Liam Howley, Chairman of O'Dwyers GAA Club, said: "It has taken a long time and a lot of hard work to get to this point and are delighted that we can now plan to commence construction and deliver this fantastic project. O'Dwyers is a fully integrated club, active in all areas of social and sports activities promoted by the GAA. The new facilities will allow us to better cater for our growing membership and increased number of teams. We are all very excited about delivering this project for the whole of the Balbriggan area. I would like to thank everyone who has helped get the project to this stage."

Fingal County Council's Director of Planning and Strategic Infrastructure, Matthew McAleese, said: "This agreement gives O'Dwyers the opportunity to develop a state-of-the-art sports facility that will cater for their growing membership and will be another excellent facility attached to Bremore Regional Park as well as being a major asset for the town of Balbriggan."

Bremore Regional Park is a 100-acre facility in north Balbriggan along the R132 which is being developed by the council to support and service the outdoor recreational needs of the town's young and rapidly growing population. It will feature a major community and tourism hub focused around the restored medieval Bremore Castle and associated visitor services.

A range of sporting facilities will be provided including the already completed 3G All-weather sports pitch as well as at least six additional public grass pitches.



Balbriggan through Our Balbriggan is a key priority for the Council and the provision of better sports facilities across the town is very important. Sport has an important role to play in terms of physical and mental well-being, community integration and tackling



Fingal Fieldnames now available to view on database

The Fingal Fieldnames Project has reached a milestone as the names recorded so far have now been made available online for the first time. In a collaboration between Christine Baker, Fingal Heritage Officer and Mairéad Nic Lochlainn of Fiontar & Scoil na Gaeilge, Dublin City University the information has been made available on the Meitheal Logainm.ie site.

The Fingal Fieldnames Project aims to explore and record the rich legacy of fieldnames and related heritage in our local landscapes. Every field in Fingal, and across Ireland, has a name or had one in the past. Names may derive from the topography of the land, or from the owners, or may describe the purpose of the field, its size or may relate to some event that took place in the field. Together these names tell us much about the history and heritage of our local landscapes.

Since 2018, volunteers across the county were given the training by Abarta Heritage to record the field names of their localities. They have been consulting old maps and documents, speaking to farmers and gathering as much knowledge as they can. 'Back of the Yard', 'Front of the House', 'Ladies Stairs', 'Long Leg' and 'Collier's Horn' are just some of the field names in Fingal which have been collected. Now you can view the results to date, of the Fingal Fieldnames project on <https://meitheal.logainm.ie/fingal-fieldnames/>. Meitheal Logainm.ie is a tool for storing and sharing placename data. Developed by Gaois, Fiontar & Scoil na Gaeilge, DCU, in collaboration with the Placenames Branch of the Department of Tourism, Culture, Arts, Gaeltacht, Sport and Media, Meitheal Logainm.ie gives users the opportunity to promote the cultural heritage of the country in the digital age by mapping and sharing fieldnames and minor placenames online.

Applications now open for financial assistance for 2021 Festivals and Events

Members of community groups and organisations across Fingal are being invited to let their creativity and imaginations run wild, dust off the disappointment of 2020 and begin to plan for next year.

It's time for them to put their thinking hats on and start planning for 2021 when restrictions will hopefully be eased and much-missed events and festivals can return to the calendar.

If you have an idea for a new event for 2021, or simply want to re-invigorate and re-energise an existing event, it's time to start planning ahead because there's a wonderful opportunity under Fingal County Council's Events and Festival financial assistance scheme to get some support.

Applications from groups and organisations seeking financial assistance from Fingal County Council's Events Section for Festivals and Events taking place in 2021 will close on Tuesday, 15 December 2020, at 3pm.

Applications will be accepted for existing and/or new events or festivals which animate public spaces in creative and innovative ways, and which are focused on developing measurable tourism impacts in the County. Interested parties must meet several other eligibility criteria including:

- Have a Covid-19 compliance plan in adherence with current government guidelines.
- Have a general audience appeal and be socially inclusive.
- Clearly demonstrate potential to generate economic, social and/or cultural benefits.
- Complement the County's calendar of events in relation to attracting overseas' visitors.
- Meet the Events Unit's objective of compiling a varied programme of events throughout the year including content, seasonal and geographical spread.
- Demonstrate financial sustainability and the capacity to develop the event.
- Have a clear PR and marketing plan including a social media strategy to actively promote the event.

For more information and an application form, please email events@fingal.ie or visit www.fingal.ie/festivalandevents2021

COUNCIL BEGINS €4M SCHEME AND PEDESTRIAN MOVEMENTS

Fingal County Council has commenced the roll out of a €3.9m programme aimed at developing safer infrastructure for cyclists and pedestrians in towns and villages across the County.

The funding was part of a €55m allocation by the National Transport Authority under the Government's July Jobs Stimulus Plan to support local authorities' response to Covid-19 challenges and assist with their work to equip local communities and businesses with improved walking and cycling infrastructure.

The first scheme to commence will be in Dublin 15 with the creation of a 5km segregated cycle track, 2.5km in in each direction, along Hartstown/Hunstown Road which will provide safer cycling route for local people to access schools, recreational areas and local businesses.

The scheme commenced on October 12 and will involve the installation of a concrete kerb and delineators for the cycle lanes along with improvements to existing junctions and cycle lanes. To minimise disruption to local traffic the works will be undertaken overnight, with a stop/go traffic management in place. Residents and businesses owner living in the area will be informed in advance.

Other projects to have received funding are:
R108 Sillogue – Road Network upgrade including advisory cycle lanes

R132 Lissenhall, Minister's Road to Blake's Cross and Kilhedge Lane – Improve cycle connection from Lusk to Blake's Cross via Corduff NS. Traffic calming to reduce speeds and redesign of former national road for reduce

volumes of traffic and increase cycling and pedestrian activity

R108 Naul GAA Club – junction improvement required for all road users including cyclists

Malahide Estuary Cycle connections Seatown Road and Estuary Road – improve cycle connection from Swords to Malahide

Rathingle Road/River Valley Road, Swords – light segregation of existing cycle lane

Grange Road, Baldoy - light segregation of existing cycle lane

Howth Road - light segregation of existing cycle lane from Sutton to Howth villages

Skerries Road - light segregation of existing cycle lane
Skerries Coast – new cycleway beside existing walkway

Mayor of Fingal Cllr David Healy said: "I welcome the allocation of this significant funding from the NTA towards the development of walking and cycling infrastructure across the County. With the pandemic we are seeing much higher numbers of people walking in our communities. There has also been a resurgence of cycling during the Covid-19 period. With public transport capacity massively reduced, it is crucial that we develop quality routes for walking and cycling routes to allow movement within our communities.

"As we continue to work to protect ourselves and each

Think Local Shop Local

EVERYONE has a part to play in restarting the **FINGAL** economy

Support **FINGAL BUSINESSES** as they re-open by **SHOPPING LOCAL**

#fingalinittogether
#RestartFingal
#Shop Local

TO SUPPORT SAFER CYCLING



other from the Covid-19 pandemic, the availability of safe space for people to walk both for transport and for exercise is more important than ever.

“It is a key action in our Climate Change Action Plan to build out Fingal’s cycle network offering direct routes to local destinations, and this funding will very much allow this to happen. It will have the additional benefit of reducing car use and lowering carbon emissions and reducing congestion.”

Chief Executive AnnMarie Farrelly said: “We want to promote the development of cycling in the County with an emphasis on promoting direct, comfortable, convenient and safe routes. Encouraging people to walk or cycle will also help Fingal County Council to respond to Climate Change, while the promotion of active travel will also improve the health of citizens.

“With the impact of Covid-19 on the use of public transport, it is important that people who would otherwise use public transport are encouraged and facilitated in choosing a sustainable form of transport such as walking and cycling.”

Director of Operations David Storey said: “Fingal County Council is actively working to improve pedestrian and

cycling infrastructure and is prioritising the safety of cyclists through the development of segregated cycle paths where possible. Segregated cycle lanes are known to encourage a wider demographic across the community to cycle/scoot, rather than drive short distances to amenities and schools.

“Providing safe and sustainable infrastructure will undoubtedly assist the growing numbers of cyclists who are now using our roads in towns and villages across Fingal. The segregated cycle routes will encourage all age groups to take a bike to travel short and medium distances, which will help to removed unnecessary vehicular journeys and as a consequence, reduce traffic volumes. “

Chairperson of the Transport and Infrastructure Management Strategic Policy Committee, Cllr Ted Leddy, said: “I am looking forward to seeing the first pilot project commence in Dublin 15 as it will have significant benefits for the residents of this expanding area as they access schools, sports and community facilities, as well as local shops and businesses. The funding will also allow for changes to traffic management arrangements to facilitate the reallocation of overall road space to improve facilities and safety for pedestrians and cyclists.”

Excellent Results for Fingal Parks in Green Flag Awards

Fingal County Council has received a total of seven Green Flags as part of the prestigious Green Flag Awards 2020.

The Green Flag Award is an international benchmarking standard for parks and green spaces and the scheme aims to encourage the provision of good quality public parks and green spaces that are managed in environmentally sustainable ways.

As the awards ceremony couldn't proceed as normal, An Taisce chose some Fingal sites to record a virtual flag raising ceremony to congratulate all the recipients countrywide with Minister for State Joe O'Brien, Deputy Mayor of Fingal Robert O'Donoghue and a number of Fingal staff featuring in the video.

The award winning parks in Fingal to receive Green Flag Awards in 2020 are Ardgillan Demesne, Malahide Demesne, Millennium Park, Newbridge House and Farm, Santry



Demesne and St. Catherine's Park. Only awarded for exceeding tough environmental standards in green space management, and excellence of visitor attractions – the Green Flag Award for Parks is the mark of a quality park or green space and is



recognised throughout the world. It is therefore a huge achievement for the Fingal parks awarded.

As well as the overall awards Fingal was delighted to receive a 'Highly Commended' award within the Pollinator Project Award for Millennium Park, Blanchardstown as an acknowledgment of the management decision to cease all use of herbicides within the park.

the park's pollinator friendly initiatives. Mulch, the by-product of our tree maintenance programme, is utilised to great success as a weed suppressant around trees, benches, boundary walls, bins and other park elements. Not only does the use of

bark mulch eliminate the requirement to use pesticide but it also reduces our carbon dioxide emissions as the area of grass cutting decreases. The further reduction of grass cutting areas along with the annual addition of pollinator friendly planting emphasises the Green flag status of the park.

Fingal also received its first Community Award for the Rock Garden, Swords as an acknowledgment of collaboration between the local community group and Fingal County Council working together to improve a community green space. The small park on the Rathbeale Road was developed in 2018 in a joint effort between Fingal County Council and Swords Tidy Towns and is now a very popular outdoor space to sit and relax. In Ireland the coordination of the Green Flag Community Award Scheme, which empowers community groups to improve their local community and environment, is made possible by the support of the Department of Rural and Community Development.

Coronavirus COVID-19



Coronavirus
COVID-19
Public Health
Advice

Stay safe. Protect each other.

Continue to:



Wash

your hands well
and often to avoid
contamination.



Cover

your mouth and nose
with a tissue or sleeve
when coughing or
sneezing and discard
used tissue safely



Distance

yourself at least
2 metres (6 feet) away
from other people,
especially those who
might be unwell



Avoid

crowds and
crowded places



Know

the symptoms. If you
have them self isolate
and contact your GP
immediately

COVID-19 symptoms include

- > high temperature
- > cough
- > breathing difficulty
- > sudden loss of sense of smell or taste
- > flu-like symptoms

If you have any symptoms, self-isolate to
protect others and call your GP for a
COVID-19 test.

#holdfirm

For more information

www.gov.ie/health-covid-19
www.hse.ie

Ireland's public health advice is guided by WHO and ECDC advice



Riadas na hÉireann
Government of Ireland



MEMORY MAKERS COCOONERS

Fingal County Council's Community Development Office has launched "Memory Makers - Reflections and Recollections Cocooners Special Edition 2020", which features inspirational poems and short stories from cocooners across the County.

The beautifully designed publication celebrates the voices of cocooners, reflecting and recollecting on memories, current or past events or fictional work inspired by these unprecedented times we are living through.

In March 2020 due to the COVID-19 pandemic the Government advised many older people or those who were classed as vulnerable due to ill health to cocoon and remain at home in order to minimise their risk of infection and prevent further spread of the virus. The Fingal Community Call Forum was set up in response to the Government's request to assist the at-risk members of our community to access essential services.

In response to this, "Cocooning - A collection of activities for those self-isolating" was developed by the COVID-19 Fingal Community Response Project which is a collaboration between Fingal County Council, Age Friendly Fingal, Castleknock Community Centre Laurel Lodge, Blakestown Community Centre, Corduff Resource Centre, and Huntstown Community Centre. One element of this publication was the Short Story & Poetry

Competition. Cocooners were invited to submit a short story or poem that evoked a memory of a moment in time or a special event that connected in some way to what is happening in Ireland today.

The response was impressive with 39 entries received in the poetry section and 41 submissions in the short story category. The breadth and depth of the written work is truly impressive.

Two volunteer judges, Marie McCaffrey and Domhnall Drislane had the difficult task of selecting three awardees in each category. They both found the experience of reading all the entries a great privilege and most rewarding experience wishing they could present more awards and wish to congratulate everybody who submitted work

We are delighted to announce the winners:

- Poetry Category:
1. Tom Sullivan - "Come play here with me grandad"
 2. Peter Owens - "Cocooning in the lockdown"
 3. Rita Ennis - "Cocooning reflections".

Short Story Category:

1. Pauline Mooney - "Hello sweetness"
2. Tom Reilly - "The morning after"
3. Colleen Davey - "A Covid story"

Mayor of Fingal Cllr David Healy: "I would like to congratulate all those who took part in this wonderful publication which records



- REFLECTIONS AND RECOLLECTIONS, SPECIAL EDITION LAUNCHED



and documents the creative talents of our cocooners. 2020 has been a year like no other, and publications are so important and it provides an outlet for those whose lives were restricted during the year but also records the unprecedented times. I would also like to thank the two judges who carefully considered all the entries and had the unenviable task of choosing the winners."

Chief Executive AnnMarie Farrelly said: "Fingal County Council's

Community Department has played a major role providing practical supports to people, particularly cocooners during the Covid-19 period, and this publication is a perfect example of that. I would like to thank all those who took the time to create and share their work in what is a wonderful addition to the Memory Makers collection, and which will be looked upon in years to come as a reminder about these times."

Director of Housing and Community Margaret Geraghty said: "Fingal County Council is delighted to record and share these stories and poems in this special Memory Makers Reflections and Recollections edition. As well as giving a voice to cocooners in our community to share their thoughts and experiences, it is an important record of a special time in our history and will be cherished for generations to come. A big thank you to everyone who participated and took time to create and share their work with us."

The first edition of our Memory Makers Reflections and Recollections collection was published in 2008. The intention was to create a collection of some of the amazing work created by our seniors from across the county. It was a way of creating a keepsake of precious memories for seniors involved in our memory makers competition and their families.

Due to current Government guidelines and restrictions we were not able to do celebrate the authors at a physical event. We timed our soft launch of the publication with the Positive Ageing Week that took place from September 28 to October 2, which was organised by Age Action.

This publication is an important historical document and can be found in Fingal Libraries and the National Archive. A soft copy of the publication is also available at <https://www.fingal.ie/sites/default/files/2020-09/a4-memory-markers.pdf>

Helping your business
respond to COVID-19

Visit [LocalEnterprise.ie/Response](https://www.localenterprise.ie/Response)



Local
Enterprise
Office



FINGAL BUILDINGS TURN RED

A number of landmark buildings throughout Fingal turned red as part of Dublin Fire Brigade's annual national Fire Safety Week.

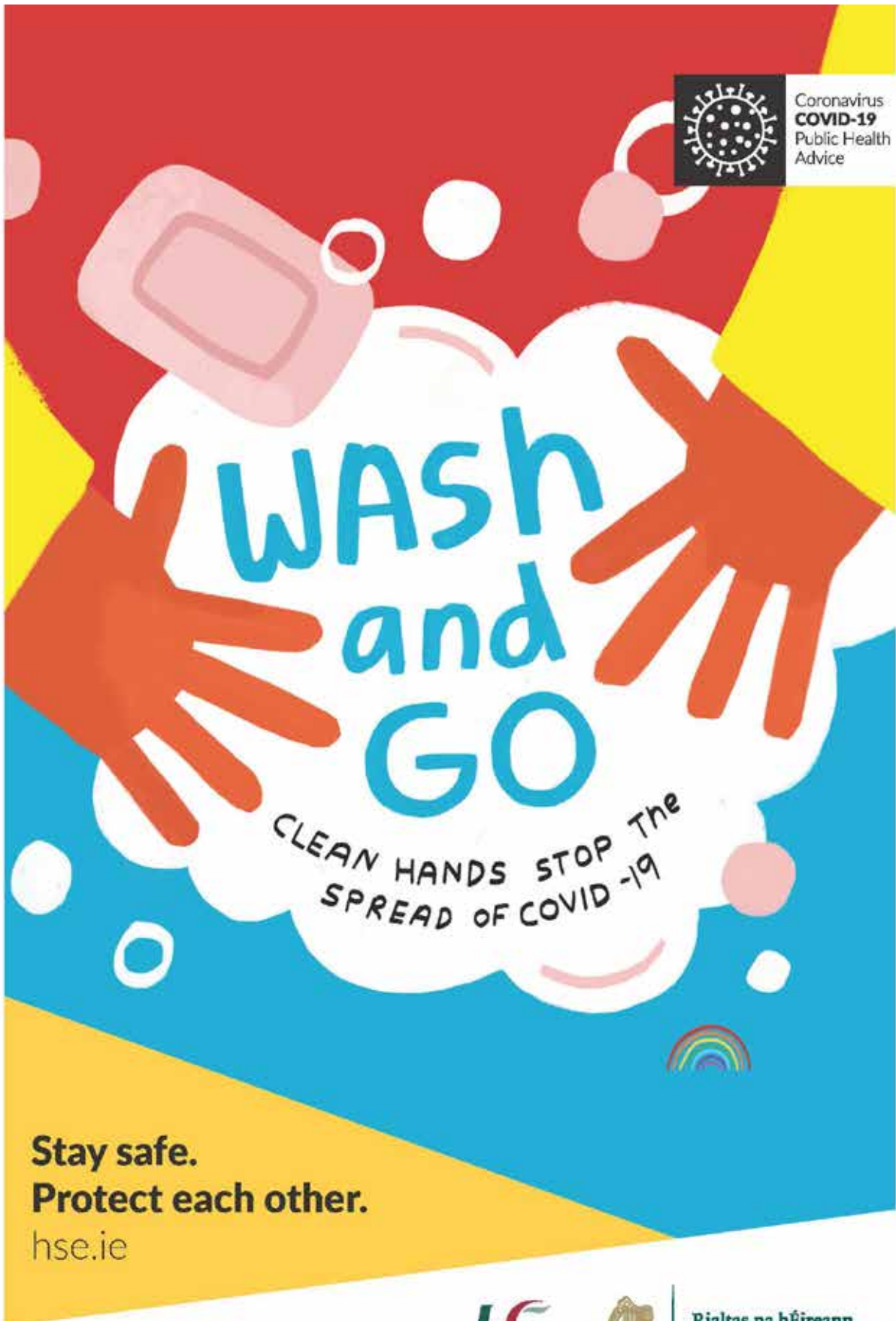
The civic offices in Blanchardstown (main photo), along with Swords Castle (right), the Casino in Malahide (below right) and Ardgillan Castle were all illuminated as part of the campaign.

Dublin Fire Brigade's traditional face-to-face interactions with the public and its long established fire safety awareness campaign options are currently curtailed in light of restrictions due to Covid-19. So this year they looked at new and innovative ways of raising fire safety awareness throughout our communities.

"I would like to thank the operators of all these buildings for their support in helping to raise awareness of fire safety," said Dennis Keeley Chief Fire Officer, Dublin Fire Brigade. "We have had to be a bit more creative this year with our campaign and I am delighted that so many landmark buildings are taking part by turning red to highlight the fire safety awareness message and provide a visual reminder and cue for Fire Safety Week."

National Fire Safety Week, which ran from October 5 - October 12, was about enhancing fire safety, particularly in the home. This year's theme was "Smoke Alarms Save Lives".





Coronavirus
COVID-19
Public Health
Advice

**WASH
and
GO**

CLEAN HANDS STOP THE
SPREAD OF COVID-19

**Stay safe.
Protect each other.**
hse.ie



**Rialtas na hÉireann
Government of Ireland**

Fingal receives €74,000 from Town and Village Scheme for COVID-19 projects

Fingal County Council has been awarded over €74,000 in funding by the Department of Rural and Community Development under the Town and Village Renewal Scheme for Accelerated Measures in response to COVID-19.

The money will support specific projects in Donabate, Portrane, Balrothery and Naul and will support those communities in responding to the specific challenges posed by the COVID-19 pandemic, helping them to shop, socialise and work safely.

Welcoming the announcement of the allocations by the Minister for Rural and Community Development, Heather Humphries, TD, the Mayor of Fingal, Cllr David Healy, said: "Adhering to the public health guidelines protect ourselves and each other from COVID-19 is extremely important and this funding will allow these villages in Fingal to proceed safely with their community projects which, in turn, will support local businesses as they re-open."

Among the recipients was a grant of €24,750 to enable the Seamus Ennis Arts Centre in Naul, which has been closed since March, to reopen safely and meet social distancing requirements.

The money will be used to provide all-weather awning to extend the useable outdoor space, and outdoor furniture and sanitising units which will facilitate the Centre hosting a range of events and increase the social distancing capacity of the

Centre.

The award of €24,300 to Balrothery for the provision of picnic benches, a smart bench, bicycle stands, lighting and safety bollards will allow the repurposing of public space in the village. This will facilitate the consumption of meals outdoors and assist local businesses who had to close indoor seating areas on their premises because of the COVID-19 regulations.

Director of Economic, Enterprise and Tourism Development, Emer O'Gorman, said: "We have worked closely with Donabate and Portrane Summer Festival Committee, the Seamus Ennis Arts Centre and Balrothery Community Association to develop these projects and the €74,000 we have received in funding will allow the projects to proceed and deliver a much-needed boost to the local community and the local economy."

This year, the Scheme has been tailored to address the emerging challenges associated with COVID-19 and 106 towns and villages across Ireland will benefit immediately from €2.8 million in funding announced this week.

The July Stimulus Package includes an additional €10m for towns and villages, €5 million for upgrading and improving community centres and €2 million extra to support the islands.

Scenes from around Fingal.



Main Pic: Skerries Harbour
And clockwise: Malahide Castle;
Drumanagh Tower; Lambay Island;
Balbriggan



Council successful secures funding for two projects from Public Service Innovation Fund

Fingal County Council has been awarded a total of €35,000 under the Public Service Innovation Fund, which aims to support innovation from public service bodies to promote collaboration and improved approaches to service delivery.

Two Digital Fingal projects - the 3D Virtual Reality Model to Enhance Citizen Engagement and the Building Smart Traffic Control Room and IoT Sensor Testbed for Traffic Congestion - were successful in their applications.

Some €20,000 has been awarded to develop a 3D Virtual Reality model to enhance citizen engagement in Balbriggan. The proposal is to create a 3D Virtual Reality (VR) Model which will be located in the new Our Balbriggan Hub to connect with residents, public services and business in a meaningful way.

The Hub situated in Georges Square, in the centre of the town will be the engine room for the recently published Our Balbriggan 2019 – 2025 Town Rejuvenation plan and is where the Our Balbriggan team will be based. Having VR technology will enable the team to engage further with the citizens and help them to visualize how their town will be developed. This project will be led by the Economic, Enterprise and Tourism Department, supported by the Digital Fingal Team.

A further €15,000 has been secured for the

development of a smart pilot project. The funding will go towards developing intelligent traffic solutions and trialling IoT sensors in the Dublin 15 pilot area, in partnership with ESB Innovation. This will enable Fingal County Council to use real-time data to improve traffic flows, reduce congestion and monitor traffic and environmental data. This project will be led by the Operations Department of Fingal County Council, supported by the Digital Fingal team.

Mayor of Fingal, Cllr. David Healy said: "Using all forms of technology to better engage with and improve the lives of residents is a key goal for the Council. The funding that has been secured will allow us to do this through engaging better with our communities and to improve the efficiency of infrastructure in the county for the benefit of our residents."

AnnMarie Farrelly, Chief Executive of Fingal County Council said: "Fingal County Council is always looking to innovate and use the latest technology in the services that we provide to our communities. The funding secured from the Public Sector Innovation Fund will allow our Digital Fingal team, alongside the Our Balbriggan team, to engage better with our residents in Balbriggan as well using technology to improve the road experience of our residents. We will continue to invest in new technology to keep up to date to provide top quality services to our residents."



Council welcomes progress on improvement works project in Malahide

Fingal County Council welcomes the significant progress on the Village Green Improvement Works project in Malahide, which is expected to be completed before the end of the year.

The project led by the Council's Parks and Green Infrastructure Division is set to re-invigorate and improve the quality of the village green and to enhance the open space as an area to visit and enjoy.

The works have been undertaken by Malahide-based company Peter O'Brien & Sons Landscaping Ltd, which was awarded the contract following the conclusion of a competitive tender process.

The scheme forms part of the Public Realm Strategy for Malahide undertaken by Fingal County Council in 2014. The approved plan for the Village Green resulted from an extensive public consultation process and was designed by Murray and Associates Landscape Architecture and involves a series of public realm improvements, including the installation of new paving, street furniture, re-contouring the open space as well as planting.

The project reflects the important link between the built and natural environment, providing a wonderful redesigned space for people to enjoy both the village and the sea.

Mayor of Fingal Cllr. David Healy said: "I am delighted to

see that substantial progress has been made on this project, notwithstanding the delays caused by Covid-19 restrictions. The project will provide a wonderful new focal point for both residents and visitors to Malahide and I look forward to seeing the project completed shortly."

Chief Executive of Fingal County Council AnnMarie Farrelly said: "Fingal County Council's significant investment in this project will greatly enhance the core village area, providing a new and improved space for both residents and visitors to relax and enjoy. The works will strengthen the link between The Green and Malahide village while creating a strong focal point and identity within the village and enhance the coastal views that can be enjoyed from the open space."

Director of Planning and Strategic Infrastructure Matthew McAleese said: "The completion of this project with its improved layout and facilities will add to this popular amenity in the town for everyone to enjoy."

Senior Parks Superintendent Kevin Halpenny said: "The involvement of the local community in the planning and design process for the redevelopment of The Green is a great example of the benefits of local input into public realm projects. The reimagined new space will be a wonderful amenity for the local community to enjoy."

FIRST BOTTLE

Europe's first contactless bottle filling stations are being rolled out in the Fingal area by a local company Ecofil for Fingal County Council.

The first of nine Ecofil units was installed in Howth village and the contactless installation is now in operation at the junction of Harbour Road and Abbey Road.

The new bottle filling stations provide contactless, clean and safe water without the risk of touching high-use buttons that could increase the spread of infection. Users can simply place a water bottle into the holder and the sensors will pick up on movement and activate the machine. To further reduce the potential spread of pathogens, the 'no touch' design prevents the bottle rim from coming into contact with the nozzle.

Mayor of Fingal Cllr David Healy said: "Fingal County Council is committed, through our Climate Change Action Plan, to establishing a network of public drinking water fountains to help reduce plastic waste. Reducing reliance on plastic and improving water sustainability is vital as we work to combat climate change and protect our environment and oceans. This new installation has the added benefit of playing a vital role in protecting public health during the Covid-19 period."

Peter Wynne, Managing Director of Ecofil said: "The team at Ecofil are delighted to be working with Fingal County Council in the rollout of our new contactless bottle filling stations. During the height of the Covid-19 pandemic, we temporarily decommissioned our units and worked

CONTACTLESS WATER STATION



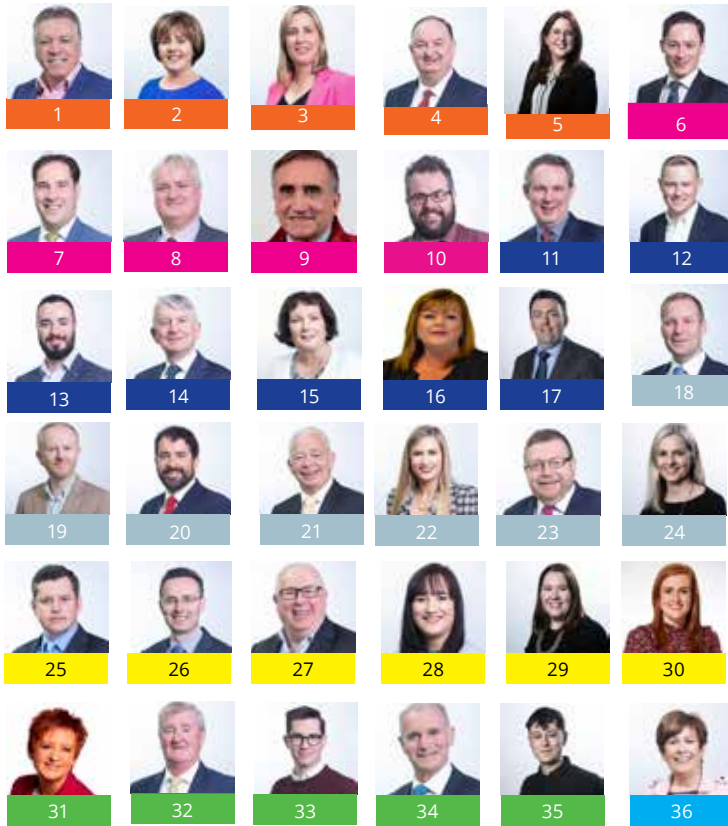
on diversifying our product range to ensure we could continue to provide access to water in a safe way. At Ecofil, we believe that access to clean water in public areas is instrumental in the fight against single-use plastics.”

Additional units are also set to be installed across the Fingal area in Newbridge Demesne, Malahide Demesne, Ardgillan Demesne, St. Catherine’s Park, Swords Castle, Millennium Park, Santry Park and Hartstown Park.

Director of Operations at Fingal County Council David Storey said: “The contactless bottle refilling machines will be easy to access and use and are an environmentally friendly health and well-being initiative. As well as preventing plastic pollution and protecting the environment, there is an important element in terms of public health during the Covid-19 period as it eliminates machine contact.”

The units being installed in Fingal have digital water flow meters with remote monitoring built in, which monitors the output to determine the amount of plastic water bottles which have been prevented from entering circulation in Ireland. An analysis of fifty Ecofil public water stations in local authorities, conducted in 2019, found that 365,000 litres, or 730,000 bottles, are saved from landfill on an annual basis.

Your Councillors



Local Electoral Areas



Balbriggan

1. Cllr. Tony Murphy
Independent
tony.murphy@cllrs.fingal.ie
086 277 2030
2. Cllr. Grainne Maguire
Independent
grainne.maguire@cllrs.fingal.ie
087 943 6650
3. Cllr. Seána Ó Rodaigh
Labour Party
seana.rodaigh@cllrs.fingal.ie
085 831 3801
4. Cllr. Tom O'Leary
Fine Gael
tom.oleary@cllrs.fingal.ie
087 245 9897
5. Cllr. Karen Power
Green Party
karen.power@cllrs.fingal.ie
089 965 4529

Rush- Lusk

6. Cllr. Robert O'Donoghue
Labour Party
robert.odonoghue@cllrs.fingal.ie
083 0545554
7. Cllr. Adrian Henchy
Fianna Fáil
adrian.henchy@cllrs.fingal.ie
087 681 4485
8. Cllr. Brian Dennehy
Fianna Fáil
brian.dennehy@cllrs.fingal.ie
085 229 8201

9. Cllr. Cathal Boland
Independent
cathal.boland@cllrs.fingal.ie
086 257 7672

10. Cllr. Paul Mulville
Social Democrats
paul.mulville@cllrs.fingal.ie
086 378 7395

Swords

11. Cllr. Darragh Butler
Fianna Fáil
darragh.butler@cllrs.fingal.ie
087 959 5378
12. Cllr. Ian Carey
Green Party
ian.carey@cllrs.fingal.ie
086 307 4004
13. Cllr. Dean Mulligan
Independents4Change
dean.mulligan@cllrs.fingal.ie
087 966 6260

14. Cllr. Joe Newman
Independent
joe.newman@cllrs.fingal.ie
087 245 7729

15. Cllr. Brigid Manton
Fianna Fáil
brigid.manton@cllrs.fingal.ie
086 247 6596

16. Cllr. Ann Graves
Sinn Féin
ann.graves@cllrs.fingal.ie
087 272 4359

17. Cllr. James Humphreys
Labour Party

18. Cllr. Eoghan O'Brien
Fianna Fáil
eoghan.obrien@cllrs.fingal.ie
086 858 0562

Howth - Malahide

19. Cllr. David Healy
Green Party
david.healy@cllrs.fingal.ie
087 617 8852

20. Cllr. Brian Mc Donagh
Labour Party
brian.mcdonagh@cllrs.fingal.ie
086 385 8979

21. Cllr. Jimmy Guerin
Independent
jimmy.guerin@cllrs.fingal.ie
086 014 3346

22. Cllr. Aoibhinn Tormey
Fine Gael
aoibhinn.tormey@cllrs.fingal.ie
087 754 6258

23. Cllr. Anthony Lavin
Fine Gael
anthony.lavin@cllrs.fingal.ie
087 993 1329

24. Cllr. Joan Hopkins
Social Democrats
joan.hopkins@cllrs.fingal.ie
083 1031541

Castleknock

25. Cllr. Ted Leddy
Fine Gael
ted.leddy@cllrs.fingal.ie
087 327 6630

26. Cllr. John Walsh
Labour Party
john.walsh@cllrs.fingal.ie
087 648 6228

27. Cllr. Howard Mahony
Fianna Fáil
howard.mahony@cllrs.fingal.ie
087 0506146

28. Cllr. Natalie Treacy
Sinn Féin
natalie.treacy@cllrs.fingal.ie
085 128 5493

29. Cllr. Pamela Conroy
Green Party
pamela.conroy@cllrs.fingal.ie
086 8462891

30. Cllr. Siobhan Shovlin
Fine Gael
siobhan.shovlin@cllrs.fingal.ie
087 3984778

Ongar

31. Cllr. Tania Doyle
Independent
tania.doyle@cllrs.fingal.ie
085 780 9292

32. Cllr. Tom Kitt
Fianna Fáil
tom.kitt@cllrs.fingal.ie
086 199 5801

33. Cllr. Daniel Whooley
Green Party
daniel.whooley@cllrs.fingal.ie
087 397 8024

34. Cllr. Kieran Dennison
Fine Gael
kieran.dennison@cllrs.fingal.ie
087 259 5949

35. Cllr. Aaron O'Rourke
Sinn Féin
aaron.orourke@cllrs.fingal.ie

36. Cllr. Mary McCamley
Labour Party
mary.mccamley@cllrs.fingal.ie
087 650 1441

37. Cllr. Breda Hanaphy
Sinn Féin
breda.hanaphy@cllrs.fingal.ie
087 162 0917

38. Cllr. John Burtachaell
Solidarity
john.burtachaell@cllrs.fingal.ie
087 102 9372

39. Cllr. Punam Rane
Fine Gael
punam.rane@cllrs.fingal.ie
089 254 4372

40. Cllr. Freddie Cooper
Fianna Fáil
freddie.cooper@cllrs.fingal.ie
087 052 5628