

Fingal News

Issue
No 17

February
2021

Your Council,
working for you

Comhairle Contae
Fhine Gall
Fingal County
Council



A NEW DAWN

MEETING THE CHALLENGE OF
CLIMATE CHANGE IN FINGAL

INSIDE

Help Stop Illegal Dumping - Page 3

Scenes from Fingal - Pages 12 and 13

Success for Swords - Page 23

Sunrise at Shenick Island, Skerries

Mayor's Message



As we enter 2021, we face many challenges as a community. We are still in the grip of the Covid-19 pandemic and we all still need to follow public health guidelines and current restrictions to play our part in fighting the virus. Along with our public health authorities, we must protect ourselves and each other.

Fingal County Council will continue to support all in our communities to get through the current restrictions and come out on the other side stronger as we look to a more prosperous 2021. My colleagues and I in the Council passed a strong budget for 2021 and we look forward to it being implemented.

Central to that work in 2021 will be further implementation of measures to facilitate active travel, given that walking and cycling are so important to our physical and mental health. In addition, Fingal County Council's Sports Office resumed its Fingal HomeFit Live Sessions available at <https://learning.fingal.ie/course/view.php?id=175> to support residents looking to exercise at home.

Waste services continue to operate normally under current Covid restrictions, and unfortunately the message has to be repeated that illegal dumping is not just unsightly, it also poses risks to wildlife and the environment. There is no excuse to not take responsibility for all waste and as a Council we are committed to enforcement action against illegal dumping including householders who give waste to unauthorised operators.

The new Village Green in Malahide was completed last December and is available as a newly revamped public space for residents. The Village Green project was part of the Public Realm Strategy for Malahide and has improved the public space that is available to the community. The space is available for residents' use now but only those who have access to the new Village Green within in their 5km should visit it. In all public places, remember to follow social distancing guidelines.

We all look forward to a more hopeful year in 2021 and I, personally, look forward to continuing to represent the people of Fingal as Mayor in 2021.

Cllr David Healy
Mayor of Fingal

Chief Executive's Message



As we navigate the Covid-19 Pandemic and the challenges it presents, Fingal County Council enters 2021 with an ambitious plan to continue providing quality services to its residents and to improving and delivering new infrastructure in the County.

The Council passed a strong budget for 2021 which stands Fingal in good stead to meet both opportunities and challenges this year.

Despite the circumstances brought on by Covid-19 our ambition has not been dampened and the many projects that will be progressed this year include the design of the Fingal Coastal Way, a 32km high-quality recreational walking and cycling route along the coast of Fingal, the Royal Canal Greenway in Dublin 15 which is currently at the preliminary design stage, and further progress in the Our Balbriggan project to continue the rejuvenation of Balbriggan.

Fingal County Council will continue to deliver social housing units and to provide housing solutions in accordance with the Rebuilding Ireland Action Plan as Fingal County Council has been set new targets for 2021. The Council has an ambitious construction programme underway with sites across the county such as in Church Road, Dublin 15, College Street, Baldoyle and Wellview Cul de Sacs, Wellview, Dublin 15.

For 2021 we will be promoting Active Travel as an easy and accessible way for people to build physical activity into their daily lives, encouraging walking and cycling when making every day journeys to work, school or shops. This also helps us to live safely with Covid-19, to tackle climate change and to improve our physical wellbeing.

There is still a lot of work that needs to be done in relation to Covid-19. We still need to be vigilant, we still need to wash our hands, wear a face mask, observe social distancing and reduce our social contacts.

Thank you for reading this edition of the Fingal News Stay safe.

AnnMarie Farrelly
Chief Executive

Major initiative to combat illegal dumping - Your County, Your Waste

Fingal County Council's Environment Department is working hard to ensure Fingal is a great place to live, work, visit and do business however illegal dumping and illegal waste collectors are destroying our countryside.

To help stop illegal dumping the Council is taking part in a National Awareness Campaign entitled - Your County - Your Waste which was launched by the Minister for the Environment, Climate and Communications, Eamon Ryan TD. Under this campaign, Local Authorities are focusing on raising public awareness on the importance of having a bin collection service and how this helps tackle illegal dumping and environmental pollution. We need to highlight the negative aspect of waste build-up in back gardens and associated illegal dumping as a result of households not having a bin collection service in place.

Our beautiful landscape is being threatened and degraded by incidents of illegal waste collections and dumping of household and bulky waste, visible along our roadways and fields. In recent months there has been a significant increase in the number of illegal dumping incidents and calls to Fingal County Council regarding households with no bin collection service. The rise in reports is an indication that people want to put a stop to illegal dumping and unauthorised waste management practices.

Householders have a legal obligation to dispose of their waste in a responsible and sustainable manner by having an active bin service with an authorised waste collector or by transferring their

waste to an authorised waste facility. Waste Presentation Bye-Laws were introduced in Fingal to cater for this and to ensure that both household and commercial wastes are managed effectively. Failure to comply with the Bye Laws can result in an on the spot fine of €75 or prosecution in the District Court if found to be guilty of an offence.

Speaking about the campaign Mayor of Fingal Cllr David Healy said: "This National Awareness campaign 'Your County - Your Waste' is very important. Illegal dumping is not just unsightly, it also poses risks to wildlife and the environment and this campaign along with enforcement of the byelaws will be of great benefit in combatting this."

Director of Service David Storey commented: "Waste services continue to operate normally under current Covid restrictions and householders should ensure they only use authorised waste collectors or local recycling centres to dispose of household and bulky waste items. When illegal collectors are used your waste ends up being dumped in laneways and fields causing environmental pollution."

Unauthorised waste collectors and householders can be fined up to €5,000 if found guilty of illegal waste activities or dumping waste.

Waste is still a valuable resource if segregated and disposed of correctly. If you have bulky items to dispose of bring them to your local recycling centre (Coolmine Recycling Centre and Estuary Recycling Centre) for recovery/disposal. Waste electrical and electronic equipment (WEEE), clothes, paper, plastic bottles, packaging and glass can also be recycled free of charge.

Mywaste.ie is Ireland's official guide to managing waste. On the my waste.ie site you will find everything you need to know about how to manage your waste responsibly and efficiently. People are encouraged to browse this site for local waste services, recycling facilities, information on preventing, reusing and disposing of waste.

To report unauthorised waste collectors or dumping incidents please contact environment@fingal.ie or Tel: 01 890 5000.

Making progress on the Climate Change Action Plan

The first Annual Progress Report on Fingal County Council's Climate Change Action Plan (CCAP) was published and presented to councillors at the January Council meeting.

The report presented to councillors showed that in 2020, the implementation of the Plan was well underway. The Council achieved its targets of a 33% improvement in energy efficiency a year ahead of schedule and became certified in an ISO 50001 compliant energy management system.

The CCAP was first published in September 2019 and outlined 133 actions in total across five themes. These actions are broad-ranging, have a rolling duration across a five-year timeline and are generally greater than one year in life-span.

One of the four targets set out in the Action Plan was the improvement of energy efficiency of the Council of 33% by December 2020 which was achieved a year ahead of schedule. The Energy Management Team's Energy Review for 2019, in collaboration with Codema, Dublin's Energy Agency, saw the Council's energy efficiency improve by 34.5%, effectively exceeding the 33% target for 2020. This improvement amounts to an absolute saving of 12.4 GWh of primary energy or 4,578 tonnes of CO₂.



The Energy Management Team also developed an ISO 50001 certified energy management system, which enables improved oversight of energy accounts on a monthly basis. This ensures oversight on every account and will support continuous improvement.

The Mayor of Fingal, Cllr. David Healy commented about the first Annual Report: "The Regional approach taken in drafting the Climate Change Action Plans across the 4 Dublin Local Authorities and the collaborative implementation approach led by the Dublin Climate Action Regional Office and Codema is working. We are embarking on the challenging and rewarding process of transitioning a climate-neutral and resilient region."

"I would like to thank the Council officials for the 'can-do' attitude which is reflected in

the good progress in Fingal in the first year of the plan. I look forward to working with fellow Councillors, Council officials and civil society representatives on the further implementation of the plan in coming years, particularly through the Climate Action, Biodiversity and Environment Strategic Policy Committee."

70% of public lighting has now been converted to LED and on course for completion in 2021. The transitioning of Fingal County Council's vehicle fleet to an electric one is at 15% with 34 fully electric road vehicles in operation and 15 more on order for early 2021.

Seven parks received green flags as sustainable green spaces in 2020. The acreage of wildflower meadows in parks, open spaces and road margins are increasing steadily. A Biodiversity Action Plan is

being drafted which will deliver a climate change resilient ecological network throughout the county and Climate & Environmental Awareness Programmes are ongoing with both staff and public.

AnnMarie Farrelly, Chief Executive of Fingal County Council, said: "We have made great progress in this first year of our Climate Change Action Plan, nevertheless we have much more to do."

"The Council will continue to work with CARO, Codema, all Dublin local authorities and the Department of Communication, Climate Action & Environment to tackle the challenges presented by climate change and to lead in taking action against climate change."

Dave Storey, Director of Environment, Climate Action and Active Travel for Fingal County Council said: "The Progress Report demonstrates the commitment the Council has shown in the first year through the ongoing implementation of the Climate Change Action Plan, and of supporting plans, and through the development of the new

Environment Climate Action and Active Travel Department. This will ensure active travel initiatives are streamlined with the resources to deliver."

The continued implementation of the Action Plan, in collaboration with the CARO, Codema and other stakeholders, supported by Government policy, can contribute to setting a pathway to

ensure a climate-resilient region by 2030, and assist in laying the foundations for a carbon-neutral society.

The CCAP and the First Annual Progress Report can be viewed at <https://www.fingal.ie/climate-change-action-plan-2019-2024>



Fingal Community Call

We're here if you need practical support or someone to talk to.

We can help with:

- Delivery of food, medication, fuel or other household items
- Someone to talk to or keep in touch with
- Other practical supports
- Signposting and referral to reliable information and services

1800 459 059

covidsupport@fingal.ie

KEEP WELL
IN YOUR COMMUNITY

Comhairle Contae
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Council



Rialtas na hÉireann
Government of Ireland

Fingal Libraries launch new eServices for lockdown learning

Homeschooling and online learning can be extremely tricky, especially under the current circumstances.

Fingal Libraries are ready to lend a hand with the launch of two brand new eServices which support literacy and STEAM education.

Lexia is an online program designed to help improve reading skills. With Lexia, users get to practice and develop the skills that make a successful reader. These include fluency, vocabulary and comprehension. Also, they are designed in a way which enables learners to use the program at school, in the library and at home.

There are two versions of Lexia available to our members: Lexia Core 5 is suitable for use by primary school pupils, and the Lexia Power Up literacy program is for secondary school students and adults.

Coding is an increasingly important and popular skill to have, and it allows children to become digitally literate in a fun, exciting way. Fingal Libraries' new Coding Clubs with Coding Ireland will provide easily accessible and practical lessons and experiments for parents, teachers, and children.

There are four clubs currently open for membership for ages 6-7; 8-10; 11-13 and 14+. While the younger age groups will require parental assistance, the classes are set up to allow the older age groups to work independently at their own pace.

Lexia and Coding Clubs join eServices including BorrowBox, RBDigital, Universal Class, Transparent Language and Britannica, to name a few.

All eServices are available free of charge to library members and can be accessed at <https://www.fingal.ie/council/service/fingal-library-eservices-and-eresources-online>.



'People-centred service': libraries in the time of Covid-19

Fingal Libraries has responded to the Covid-19 pandemic by meeting the challenge of providing services in different ways.

County Librarian Betty Boardman said: "Initially what we had to do was move everything to the digital and virtual space, and e-services became very important.

"At the height of the lockdown in May 2020 we recorded an 82 per cent increase in e-services use from January 2020."

E-services include e-magazines, e-books, audiobooks, e-learning courses and music streaming services, all free-of-charge on the Fingal Libraries website and the official Fingal Libraries app, enabling users to access e-services, check the catalogue, and reserve books from home.

The diverse Programme of Events hosted and organised by Fingal Libraries also moved to the virtual space, which prompted staff to display their creativity and versatility.

Betty said: "In some cases, the people who would normally



deliver these events came on board and did videos and podcasts, but often our own staff created the content.

“They did storytelling sessions, photography courses, yoga classes, and poetry workshops, and they have been very creative and hardworking over 2020.”

At the beginning of the first lockdown, Local Authorities coordinated with Government, community groups and other organisations to start the Community Call service, and Fingal Libraries saw the Housebound Service as a contribution to this.

Betty said: “We’ve always had a Housebound Service to deliver books to people unable to leave their homes and we decided to rebrand it as the Cocooning Library Service

“It was essentially a book delivery service for people who were cocooning.

“Over the last few months, we’ve made 300 deliveries of 4000 books to 166 people.

“The feedback from the service has been very heart-warming – people are delighted and it’s been a lifeline for a lot of people.”

These efforts reflect a commitment to a democratic

and people-centred service.

Betty explains: “Libraries are judged not just by their book collections, but by the spaces they provide for people .

Well-known Dublin writer Dermot Bolger has described libraries as “the most democratic, non-judgemental spaces we have, where we become citizens not consumers.”

“You don’t have to pay any money to be a member of the library, and nobody’s going to force you to buy anything when you come in to a library, so it is a very relaxed place in which to be.”

**Comhairle Contae
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Council**

INSIDE FINGAL

**THE FINGAL COUNTY
COUNCIL PODCAST**

Inside Fingal Podcast launch

Inside Fingal is a podcast produced by Fingal County Council's Communications Unit to give listeners 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.

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.

To date, five episodes have been produced and a sixth is due at the end of February. The episodes cover topics such as Fingal's Library Service, Business Supports, the Climate Action Plan, Sustainable Fingal and Fingal's Local Enterprise Office.

All episodes are also available at fingal.ie/podcast

Fingal Town and Villages share €190,000 in new funding from the Town and Village Renewal Scheme

Fingal County Council has been awarded €190,000 in funding by the Department of Rural and Community Development under the 2020 Town and Village Renewal Scheme. The new funding will support projects in St. Margarets, Balrothery, Rolestown and Lusk.

The funding is aimed at helping communities respond to COVID-19 through the development of outdoor amenities and the enhancement of public spaces together with an emphasis on supporting remote working in rural communities.

This funding, awarded under the latest round of the Town and Village Renewal Scheme 2020, brings the total funding awarded to 10 towns and villages in Fingal to over €422,000.

Funding of €21,600 will be provided for the upgrade of areas selected as Broadband Connection Points to facilitate remote working and digital access for the local population in Rolestown and Lusk (Man O War).

An award of €99,000 to Balrothery will allow for the development of new walking and cycling facilities, together with enhanced streetscape measures.

St. Margarets will benefit from grant aid of €69,525 to improve the local area with the development of a new green area with improvements to heritage assets and access in the village.

Welcoming the announcement of



the new funding by the Minister for Rural and Community Development, Heather Humphries, TD, the Mayor of Fingal, Cllr David Healy, said "I welcome the Minister's announcement. Active Travel is a priority for Fingal County Council so I particularly welcome funding for improved walking and cycling routes. The development of Broadband Connection Points is most welcome and will greatly benefit workers, students and the wider community in these areas".

Chief Executive of Fingal County Council, AnnMarie Farrelly said "Fingal is at the forefront of the community response to Covid-19 and the Council will continue to lead the local response to the pandemic through community and business supports and infrastructure development. The Town and Village Renewal Scheme is one more source of such support, at a time when it is most needed".

Fingal County Council's Director of Economic, Enterprise, Tourism & Cultural Development, Emer O'Gorman, said: "This funding continues Fingal County Council's success in securing additional resources for local areas during this challenging time. This year has been particularly difficult for businesses and communities alike and the Town & Village Scheme is just a further example of the ongoing investment in Fingal through a range of measures to stimulate business confidence and in helping communities become more resilient".

The Town and Village Renewal Scheme is provided through the Department of Rural and Community Development to promote rural and community development and to support vibrant, inclusive and sustainable communities throughout Ireland.

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.



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

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.



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Right Care. Right Place. Right Time.



Riailtas na hÉireann
Government of Ireland

Council tackles illegal vehicle disposal sites

Fingal County Council have issued 75 Fixed Payment Notices to the owners of vehicles following two major End-of-Life Vehicle (ELV) operations at Dunsink Lane, Finglas, Dublin 11 and St. Christopher's Lane, Cappoge, Dublin 11 in July and October 2020.

The operations saw a total of 360 End-of-Life Vehicles (scrap cars) removed from the sites and brought to an Authorised Treatment Facility (ATF) for proper recycling and disposal.

It is envisaged that a further 150 Fixed Payment Notices will be issued by Fingal County Council to the owners of other scrap cars found on Dunsink Lane and St. Christopher's Lane.

The End-of-Life Vehicles Regulations 2014 require that the owner of a scrap car only discard that vehicle as waste at an ATF. Failure to do this is an offence for which a Fixed Payment Notice of €100 applies.

A certificate of destruction (COD) should be obtained from the ATF for the disposal of the vehicle and to confirm that it is off the road.

If the car is not brought to an ATF and a COD obtained, the owner of the vehicle may be issued with fines for motor offences or be accused of illegal activity, if their vehicle is later involved in a crime.

The Mayor of Fingal, Cllr. David Healy said: "Everyone needs to take responsibility for their waste, and this is even more important for our larger possessions such as vehicles. Unauthorized ELV sites are a burden on the environment in Fingal and pose a significant risk for both environmental and personal safety. Fixed Payment Notices will apply to owners of vehicles in these sites, so I encourage residents to check the details of anyone offering this service."

AnnMarie Farrelly, Chief Executive of Fingal County Council said:



"Unauthorised End of Life Vehicle (ELV) sites have been highlighted as a National Waste Enforcement Priority for local authorities across the country and Fingal County Council has completed operations in clearing some sites in the county. Fixed Payment Notices are part of this campaign and are important to deter people from using these illegal services. There are legal, authorized treatment facilities available where residents can bring their vehicles to be properly recycled, free of charge."

It has come to the Council's attention that some recovery truck operators have been charging members of the public to "scrap" their car. An ATF may charge a pick-up fee if they collect your scrap car, but they will not charge you to scrap it – this service is free. Members of the public should keep details of who they hand their car over to and, if they sell it, make sure to fill in the change of ownership details themselves and return this to the Department of Transport in Shannon. This will prevent unscrupulous buyers from leaving the car in the person's name and then using it to carry out illegal activity.

David Storey, Director of Environment, Climate Action and Active Travel said: "Fingal County Council have identified several unauthorised ELV sites across Fingal.

"These sites will be inspected in 2021 using a multi-agency approach

and shut down if found to be operating illegally without necessary authorisations. Fixed Payment Notices will be issued to owners of vehicles found at any illegal site."

Unauthorised storage and dismantling of ELV's poses a significant risk to the environment. ELV's contain waste oils and other fluids which can have significant environmental effects, and contain many hazardous materials such as lead acid batteries; fluids, including lubricating oil, coolant and brake fluid; and catalytic converters, all of which must be disposed of safely in order to prevent pollution.

There are three Authorised Treatment Facilities in Fingal where you can bring your old car for recycling free of charge:

- 1/ Gannon's City Recovery & Recycling Services Ltd. Web: www.gannonscityrecovery.ie
- 2/ Industrial, Agri & Engineering Salvage Ltd. (IAES). Web: www.scrapmycar.ie
- 3/ St. Margaret's Recycling and Transfer Centre Ltd. Web: www.stmargaretsrecycling.ie

Further information on End of Life Vehicles is available at ELVES: <https://www.elves.ie/How-to-Recycle> or by contacting Fingal County Council - Environment Section Tel: 01 8905000.

Clár Éire Ildánach
Creative Ireland
Programme
2017–2022



Creative Ireland initiative 2021 now open for funding

Fingal County Council is now accepting applications as part of Fingal's Creative Ireland Programme 2021.

The fund supports individuals and/or local groups operating on a not for profit basis for creative projects addressing themes of Community Wellbeing and Culture, Heritage, Music, STEAM (science, technology, engineering, arts and mathematics) and Irish Language.

Due to Covid and physical restrictions, applicants are advised to consider and re-imagine proposals via virtual and online platforms.

Mayor of Fingal Cllr David Healy commented: "I welcome the announcement of this funding which will be of great assistance to groups and individuals in Fingal as they develop projects in their area, which will be a positive benefit for the community at a time when it is really needed."

Chief Executive AnnMarie Farrelly said: "Fingal County Council, through its Creative Ireland Strategy is committed to providing opportunities for people throughout the county to realise their full creative potential."

Emer O'Gorman, Director of Services for Economic, Enterprise, Tourism and Cultural Development commented: "Our community and local groups have demonstrated their commitment to contributing to culture and creativity in Fingal through this funding. We look forward to seeing this continue in 2021, albeit in a reimagined online format."

Closing date for applications is 4pm on Friday 5th March 2021. Further information can be obtained by emailing: creativefingal@fingal.ie or visit our website:

www.fingal.ie/council/service/creative-ireland

Fingal Arts Office presents 'Once Upon A Sound at the Hide Sculpture' series

'Once Upon A Sound at the Hide Sculpture' sees acclaimed broadcaster Donal Dineen take us on a deep exploration of music in the company of some of the finest music makers in the land, as they tell the story of their sound, the songs, the instruments and their connection to them in an ongoing online series.

In each series, they will perform at the Hide Sculpture, a sculpture by artist Garrett Phelan that invites contemplation and deep listening. Located along the Rogerstown Estuary, North County Dublin, it's home to a diverse population of resident and migrating birds that have chosen this place as their home.

The latest edition features Niwel Tsumbu. He has developed an enviable reputation as a masterfully elegant and fluent guitarist, vocalist, musician, collaborator and composer since arriving in Ireland in 2004 from the Congo. He has performed with the finest Irish and international musicians while continuing to craft his own distinctive fusion of new jazz, rumba, world, flamenco, rock, soukous and classical.

Mayor of Fingal, Cllr. David Healy said: "These recordings are another innovative use of the Hide Sculpture at Rogerstown Park and I congratulate those who are developing the park as a greater asset for the Fingal community."

Emer O'Gorman, Director of Tourism, Economic and Cultural Development for Fingal County Council said: "We are delighted to support this series especially as part of our significant investment in the Hide Sculpture at Rogerstown Park, Lusk especially during Covid 19 where it is more important than ever to support artists, especially musicians affected by the reduced opportunities to tour and perform live which has been very much missed by everyone."

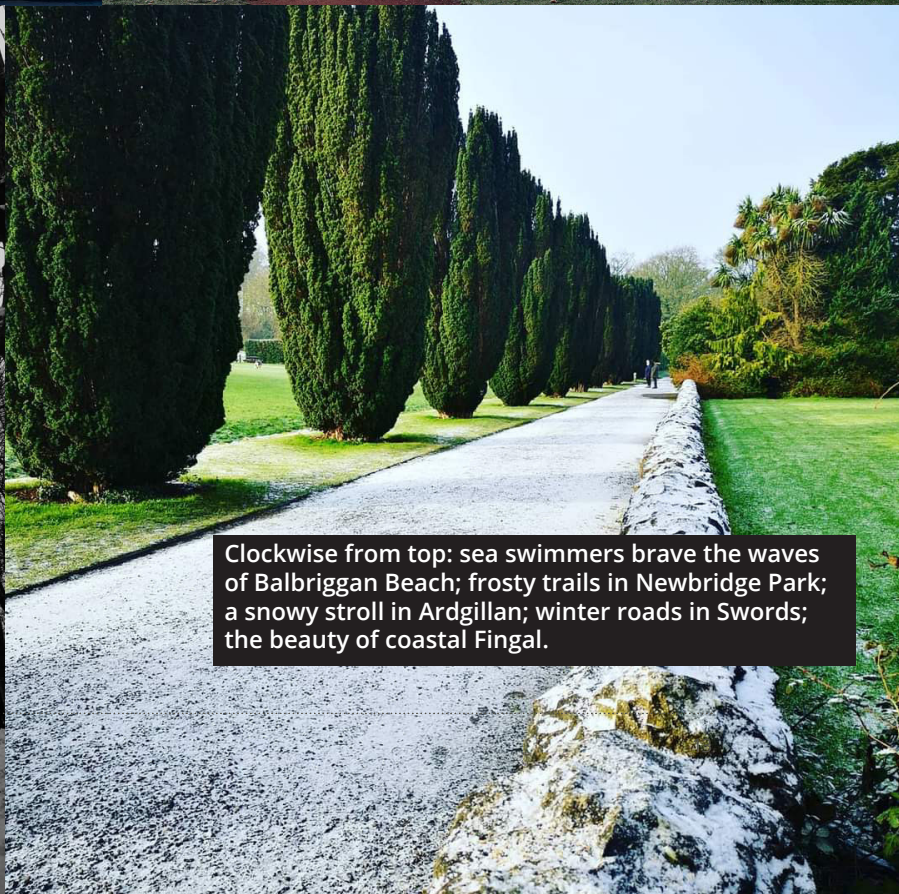
'Once Upon a Sound at the Hide Sculpture' featuring Niwel Tsumbu will be available to view on Fingal Arts Vimeo at <https://vimeo.com/516309893> and www.thehideproject.com, where you can also catch up on the series so far with stunning performances by Liam Ó Maonlaí and Anna Mieke.

A WINTER'S TALE:



Clockwise from top left: sunrise at Shenick Island, Skerries; the snowy surrounds of Swords Castle and Town Park; a Fingal Christmas (photographer: Tony Healy - tony@dublinhousephotography.com / 086 8054 275); Sunset at Balbriggan Beach; a winter wonderland at Ardgillan Demesne.

FROST IN FINGAL



Clockwise from top: sea swimmers brave the waves of Balbriggan Beach; frosty trails in Newbridge Park; a snowy stroll in Ardgillan; winter roads in Swords; the beauty of coastal Fingal.

Redeveloped Village Green in Malahide opens for all to enjoy

The Village Green in Malahide has undergone significant redevelopment, with a new green public area which will re-invigorate and enhance the open space as an area to visit and enjoy for all.

These works were carried out over 2020 and saw a major aim of Fingal County Council's Public Realm Strategy for Malahide 2014 accomplished even with the difficulties that have been brought on by the Covid-19 pandemic.

The project was led by the Council's Parks and Green Infrastructure Division, and the approved plan for the Village Green resulted from an extensive public consultation process and was designed by Murray and Associates Landscape Architecture.

The Village Green involved a series of public realm improvements, including the installation of new paving, street furniture, re-contouring the open space as well as planting. It has the potential to become a hub of economic activity and a social gathering place for travellers using the planned greenway network. The Town Plaza, one part of the new Village Green, is a paved open space and will be used for various cultural and commercial opportunities.

The Mayor of Fingal Cllr. David Healy spoke on the completion of the project: "The Village Green project was part of a larger overall Public Realm Strategy for Malahide which sought to improve the public space that is available to the community of the town. To see the Green fully completed and open is a wonderful



example of the continued hard work of everyone involved during such difficult times. The restrictions have delayed this project but the commitment to provide an improved amenity for Malahide did not change and this green space will provide a needed break into nature in the middle of the town for the residents."

AnnMarie Farrelly, Chief Executive of Fingal County Council spoke about the benefits of the investment to the town and the opportunities that it will provide: "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 will also enhance the coastal views that can be enjoyed from the open space."

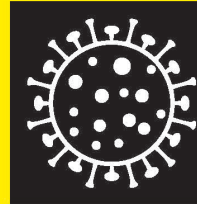
The scheme forms part of the Public Realm Strategy for Malahide

undertaken by Fingal County Council in 2014. The Town Plaza to the Green has been enlarged, providing a new urban plaza at the transition space between the village and the Green.

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. This is a wonderful new piece of public realm infrastructure that sees part of the Public Realm Scheme Strategy for Malahide completed."

Kevin Halpenny, Senior Parks Superintendent for Fingal County Council, said: "The Green is a significant and historically important open space in the centre of Malahide and the redevelopment has transformed it into a multifunctional civic space. Throughout the process, there was a very strong emphasis on quality of design and quality of finish, and this is reflected in the completed park."

Coronavirus COVID-19



Coronavirus
COVID-19
Public Health
Advice

Stay safe. Protect each other.

Continue to:



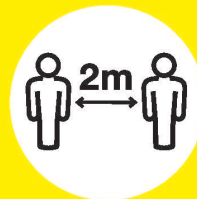
Wash

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



Rialtas na hÉireann
Government of Ireland

COUNCIL DONATE REPLICA SACK OF BALBRIGGAN EXHIBITION

Fingal County Libraries have donated a replica of the Sack of Balbriggan Exhibition (comprising of 6 panels) to the Balbriggan and District Historical Society.

The official donation took place on 16 December in front of Fingal Libraries, Local Studies and Archives Service on 46 North St. Swords.

Fingal County Librarian Betty Boardman said: "I am delighted to present a replica of the Sack of Balbriggan Exhibition to the Balbriggan and District Historical Society. The exhibition vividly illustrates the impact the Sack of Balbriggan had on the town and its residents, and the Society has been to the fore in marking the Centenary of the event this year."

Cllr. Grainne Maguire, representing the Mayor of Fingal at the donation said: "The Balbriggan and District Historical Society has been doing excellent work on highlighting and promoting the history of Balbriggan. This exhibition shows one of the most important moments in the town's history and everyone in Balbriggan should get the chance to view the exhibit to learn more about this history of the town."

AnnMarie Farrelly, Chief Executive of Fingal County Council said: "Fingal County Council were delighted to present this replica exhibition that shows one of the most historic moments in Balbriggan's and Fingal's history. I want to commend Fingal Libraries and our County Archivist for their tremendous work in the commemorations this year."

Fingal Libraries produced an exhibition during 2020 about the Sack of Balbriggan curated by Catherine Keane, Senior Librarian, Fingal Local Studies and Archives. It has been on display in the Atrium at County Hall, Swords since September for and is also available for viewing online.

Balbriggan and District Historical Society was established in 1981 to promote an interest in the local history of Balbriggan and District through lectures, publications and exhibitions and to establish a Museum.

Chairperson of the Balbriggan and District Historical Society and Committee member, Brian Howley also presented one of their commemorative medals to the Mayor of Fingal, the Chief Executive, Director of Services Emer O'Gorman and County Librarian Betty Boardman.



Fingal County Council welcomes Cricket South Africa Tour

Fielding one of the world's best cricket teams including the world's fastest international century-maker David Miller, South Africa will be returning to Fingal and Ireland, for the first time in fourteen years from July 11th to 20th 2021, as both teams seek to secure the qualifying points for the Cricket World Cup to be held in India in 2023.

Mayor of Fingal, Cllr David Healy was delighted to welcome the news of the South African tour adding: "This is a tremendous boost for Fingal. It shows yet again, that if we can work together to defeat this virus now, we can look forward to world-class sport in our local community in July."

Cricket Ireland will continue to work with Cricket South Africa, Sport Ireland, Sport Northern Ireland, and the Sports Expert Group to ensure all fixtures comply with the COVID-19 protocols in place, so all details are subject to change.

Ireland v South Africa series

- 11 July: Ireland v South Africa, 1st ODI (Malahide)*
- 13 July: Ireland v South Africa, 2nd ODI (Malahide)*
- 16 July: Ireland v South Africa, 3rd ODI (Malahide)*
- 20 July: Ireland v South Africa, 1st T20I (Malahide)

* Matches form part of the ICC World Cup Super League

Second Women in Sport Coaching Series masterclass launched

The second online masterclass discussion in the Women in Sport Coaching Series has been launched by Fingal County Council Sports Office and the Tyrrelstown/Mulhuddart Community Sports Hub.

Clíodhna O'Connor, All-Ireland winner and coach appeared in conversation with Cliona Foley, renowned freelance sportswriter and presenter of women's sport podcast "Off the Bench".

From the Naomh Mearnog club in Fingal, Clíodhna O'Connor was a key member of the ground-breaking 2010 team that won their first Brendan Martin Cup for Dublin.

She won three All-Star awards, was selected as goalkeeper in the LGFA/TG4 Team of the Decade, and represented Ireland against Australia in the 2006 International Rules Football series.

Since her retirement as a player, she has been very active as a coach - in 2017 and 2018 she was part of the coaching team with Cuala during their All-Ireland club hurling double, and currently works as a coach with the Dublin Senior Hurling Team.

Cliona Foley's quality coverage across a variety of sports has seen her recognised among the best in Irish sports writing. An advocate of increasing the

profile and coverage of women in sport, she has covered 3 Olympic Games, 20 World and European Championships and over 100 All Ireland finals.

To register for the Women in Sport Series visit the Healthy Fingal Learning Portal at <https://learning.fingal.ie/>

Junior Parkrun at Millennium Park Needs You

Junior Parkrun is a weekly two-kilometre run for children aged 4 to 14 held all over Ireland - free and safe to participate in, completed by running, jogging or walking.

For this to happen in Millenium Park we need volunteers to give 1-2 hours of their time on a Sunday morning!

The event will only take place once public health guidelines permit.

A team of volunteers is required each week. Tasks include organising finish funnels, operating timers, or scanning runners' barcodes. To contribute please complete the expression of interest at <http://bit.ly/d15juniorparkrun>.

For more information contact: Gordon Ward, Fingal Community Sports Hub Officer:

gordon.ward@fcrs.ie / 083-326-7071.



Clíodhna O'Connor appeared on the second online masterclass.

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FIRST PHASE OF WETLAND DEVELOPMENT WORKS COMPLETED IN TURVEY NATURE PARK

Fingal County Council has completed the first phase of a wetland development project in the Turvey Nature Park in Donabate.

An existing wetland area was extended and a new two-acre wetland area was created.

A new Sand Martin Hut was also installed which is the first of its kind in Ireland.

Building on this progress next year the Council intends to construct another two large wetland areas to create a connected series of freshwater ponds and wetlands in the Nature Park.

It is envisaged that this will attract a wider range of plants and animals to the park.

Hans Visser, Fingal's Biodiversity Officer is delighted with the results and commented: "With the new Sand Martin hut we hope to attract Sand Martins as a new breeding bird in the park .



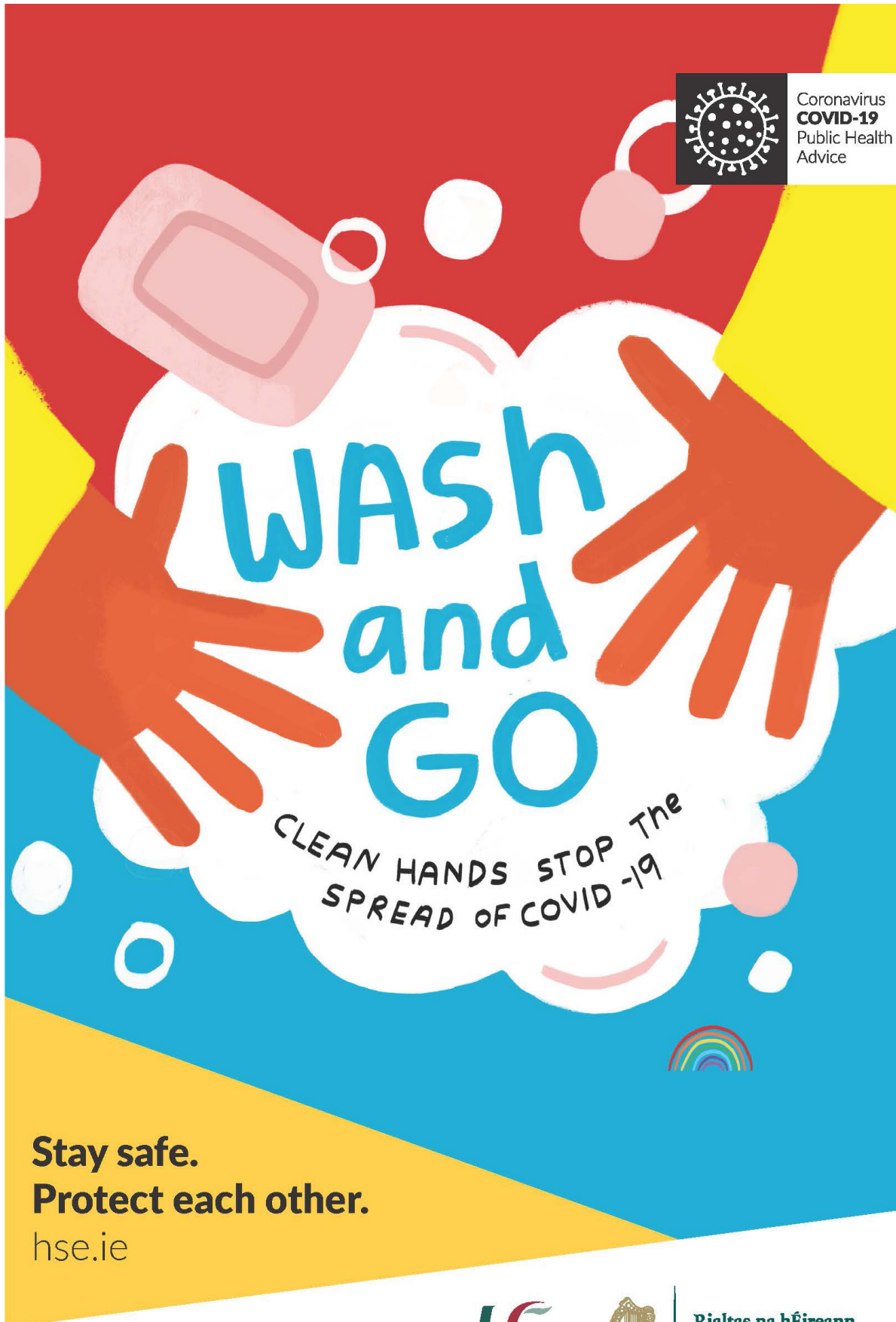
"We will be monitoring the use of the new nesting site by Sand Martins in the years to come."

The wetland development works and path upgrading works will also give visitors a better opportunity to experience the wetland and its associated wildlife up close.

The development of the wetland is part of the Council's commitment to address biodiversity loss and Climate Change.

The project was grant aided by the National Parks and Wildlife Service (NPWS) under the National Biodiversity Plan Local Authorities Biodiversity Project fund.





Coronavirus
COVID-19
Public Health
Advice

**Stay safe.
Protect each other.**

[hse.ie](https://www.hse.ie)



**Rialtas na hÉireann
Government of Ireland**

Significant LEADER Funding approved for new projects in rural Fingal

Fingal County Council has welcomed the approval of €637,000, including a half-a-million euro contribution grant towards the development of a community centre in Lusk, for six rural Dublin projects under the Leader Programme.

At its December meeting which was held online, the Dublin Rural LEADER Local Action Group, which oversees the LEADER Programme in Dublin, approved the projects in the areas of economic development and social inclusion. Five of the approved projects are located in Fingal.

Funding worth €500,000 was awarded to Lusk Community Cultural Centre, which is being promoted by Lusk Community Council, towards the transformation of a derelict historic cottage using restoration and conservation principles to create a new community facility for Lusk.

Located on Church Road, the site is known as Katie Hunt's Cottage and is currently derelict. Its redevelopment, in conjunction with the neighbouring proposal for a small Fingal County Council residential development, will greatly enhance the amenities of the area and provide a new focal point for both visitors and the community of Lusk. The project is due to commence shortly and be completed by autumn 2021.

The other projects which were approved for funding are:

- St Maur's GAA Club in Rush - €39,262.10 for a Clubhouse Upgrade
- Ballyboughal Boxing Club CLG - €18,785.31 for Boxing Club Equipment
- Balbriggan Rugby Football Club - €28,257.24 for Club Lighting Development Works
- Lusk Community Council CLG has also been approved for an additional €26,854.74 for the Lusk Vision 2030 Feasibility Study
- The ReNewcastle Community Group in South Dublin - €23,010.99 for the Newcastle Lyons Heritage Trail Project

Welcoming the latest funding announcement, the Mayor of Fingal, Cllr. David Healy said: 'I would like to thank the Local Action Group for its support of the Lusk Project and the other new projects that will enable the continued development of sustainable communities in our rural areas.'

Brian Arnold, Chairperson of Lusk Community Council said: "Lusk Community Council has achieved a major milestone for the development of a new Community Cultural Centre in Lusk with the financial backing of Dublin Rural LEADER and Fingal County Council.

"We have been working closely with both Dublin Rural LEADER and Fingal County Council since January 2020 to make this project a reality and we believe that this project will become a very important community facility in the heart of medieval Lusk."

Eilish Harrington, Chief Executive Officer of Fingal LEADER Partnership stated: "This project is a great initiative which Dublin Rural LEADER are pleased to be in a position to fund.

"This project is a great example of a Community Group, Dublin Rural LEADER and Fingal County Council working together with a fantastic end result for the Community of Lusk."

Laurence Ward from the Irish Farmers Association who is the current Chairperson of the Dublin Rural LEADER Local Action Group said: "This investment decision is great news for Rural Dublin and Rural Fingal and is a much-needed boost to our rural areas during a very challenging time."

Commenting on the outcome of the meeting Emer O'Gorman, Fingal County Council's Director of Economic, Enterprise, Tourism and Cultural Development said: "The Dublin Rural LEADER LAG and Fingal County Council continue to work together to support investment in our rural areas. This partnership approach helps to support our communities and provides much needed stimulus to the local economy."

Declan Ryan, the LAG Manager, thanked the LAG members for their continued support in approving the projects, stating: "The current LEADER Programme will now deliver its full allocated funding to new projects by the end of the year. The Dublin Rural LEADER LAG will continue to deliver new investment in rural areas 2021 and is actively seeking new project ideas and proposals in this regard."



An impression of the proposed community centre in Lusk

Fingal's Student Entrepreneurs Begin Online Road to National Success

Student entrepreneurs across Fingal have begun their journey in this year's Student Enterprise Programme (SEP), with eyes on the National Final.

This programme run by the Local Enterprise Office (LEO) is being delivered differently given the current restrictions across the country, and the Final, which will take place on Friday 14th May 2021, will be a virtual one.

Owing to the COVID-19 pandemic, the final event of the previous Fingal Student Enterprise Programme (2019/20) was deferred.

But this week, each of the three winning student enterprises received their prizes and awards: Loreto Secondary School in Balbriggan for the junior category with a business called "Campo de Fiori", which produces a range of flower decorations for various occasions; Edmund Rice College in Blanchardstown for the intermediate category, with their enterprise called "Candle Holders Out Of Sustainable Equipment (C.H.O.O.S.E)"; and senior category winners Castleknock Community College, with "Globenomics", an innovative card game which gives an in-depth insight into economics for students of the new Junior Certificate programme.

This is the 18th year of Ireland's largest secondary school entrepreneurship programme and has seen over 200,000 students take part since it began. The Final usually takes place in Croke Park but in May 2021, the event will take place online in keeping with current guidelines.

The students, who will compete across three categories, Junior, Intermediate and Senior, will see judging take place virtually via electronic submissions. Each student enterprise is challenged with creating, setting up and running their own business, which must show sales of their service or product.

The programme will also include two additional categories that students can enter. These are the "Most Creative Business Idea" video competition for the senior category and the "My Entrepreneurial Journey" category for the Junior and Intermediate categories.

Of the 25,000 students participating nationally in last year's Student Enterprise programme, some 2,500 (or 10%) are from Fingal, from 25 secondary schools. Despite the pandemic, the number participating again this year is very similar.



Fingal has had previous success in the competition with Malahide-Portmarnock Educate Together School scooping the top prize in the Junior category at the National final in 2019 with "SpecRest", a device for conveniently storing eyewear.

Oisín Geoghegan, Chair of the LEO Network and Head of Enterprise in Fingal said: "We are encouraging students to come up with business ideas that are adapted to new enterprise challenges and that are sustainable in today's economic climate.

"With this in mind the programme has changed and even though the way it is being delivered (which is mainly online), is different, the students will still be able to work together in their school setting to develop their businesses. This will be our most challenging year to date in the Student Enterprise Programme's history, but it will be exciting to see what new world businesses our students bring to the table".

The 2020 Student Enterprise Programme National Final winners in the senior category were Handy Hose Holders from CBS Thurles in Tipperary for their practical milking parlour hose solution that has since been picked up by Glanbia.

The Intermediate category was won by Aim It Board from Loreto College in Dublin while Sofatop from Ballybay Community College in Monaghan took the Junior category award.

Since the SEP began in 2003, over 200,000 students have taken part, learning key skills on how to create a business idea, start a business and grow a business.

The SEP also has new range of online resources for 2020/2021 at www.StudentEnterprise.ie, which will feature regular blogs and houses a full range of Student Enterprise resources for students and teachers.

Council welcomes launch of Age Friendly Housing Technical Advisor initiative

Fingal County Council welcomes the launch of Age Friendly Housing Technical Advisor positions in each of Ireland's 31 local authorities.

A member of staff with appropriate technical expertise has undergone training with Age Friendly Ireland to enable them to provide specialist advice to Fingal County Council, to private sector interests who want to get involved in providing age-friendly housing, and to members of the public.

The initiative reflects the ambition to enable everyone, of all ages, to live longer healthier lives in their own homes and communities, empowering older people with greater choice by developing a range of housing options suited to their needs.

This is in line with the Department of Housing and Department of Health's joint policy statement Housing Options for Our Ageing Population and the vision of an Age Friendly Ireland expressed in the July 2020 Programme for Government.

Mayor of Fingal Cllr David Healy said: "I welcome the launch of the Age Friendly Housing Technical Advisor role, and thank Age Friendly Ireland and the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage for their support in the initiative.

"Our communities are enriched by the character, experience and engagement of people of all ages, and the Age Friendly Housing Technical Advisor position will help us to deliver more positive, sustainable housing outcomes for older people."

Chief Executive of Fingal County Council AnnMarie Farrelly said: "The launch of the Age Friendly Housing Technical Advisor will support Fingal and other local authorities in addressing Age Friendly housing needs across the community.



"Fingal is a diverse community in terms of age as in many other respects, so the Advisor will have a valuable role in the delivery of housing that is responsive and appropriate to Fingal's population."

Minister of State for the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage Peter Burke TD said: "Action 4.13 introduced a novel idea that local authorities should appoint a member of staff as a technical advisor on age friendly housing with the intent that this person would be a resource for older people, for the local authorities, and indeed for anyone who wants to access information about age friendly housing.

"In late 2019, my Department wrote to the Chief Executives of local authorities asking them to do this, and in the wholehearted way in which they have embraced other elements of the Age Friendly Ireland programme they all agreed to do so."

Jackie Maguire, Chief Executive of Meath County Council, host to the Age Friendly Ireland Shared Service said: "The launch represents another substantial development in the joint departmental housing policy and also acknowledging the sterling work of local authorities, both Departments, the Age Friendly shared service and partner organisations on the Implementation Group."

GREAT SUCCESS FOR SWORDS TIDY TOWNS IN PRIDE OF PLACE AWARDS



There was great success for Swords Tidy Towns representing Fingal at the IPB Pride of Place Awards.

The virtual Award Ceremony was hosted by Marty Morrissey and featured a message to the community groups from President Michael D Higgins. While they weren't able to be present at the awards ceremony as usually occurs, this didn't lessen the excitement for Swords Tidy towns when the result was announced.

Swords Tidy Towns achieved the runners up position in category for population over 5000. This hard-working local group is the life and soul of Swords and has worked very hard to keep things going throughout the worst of the lockdown months. The group took part in a zoom call with the two judges in August where they showcased the excellent work they were doing in the town.

Pride of Place is an all-island competition that recognises improvements made by local communities to create civic pride in their area. The competition's focus is about people coming together to shape, change and enjoy all that is good about their area.

It is organised by Co-operation Ireland and is open to every local authority north and south to nominate groups to represent their county and has become one of the most prestigious community awards on the island of Ireland.

Mayor of Fingal, Cllr David Healy said: "I would like to

congratulate the Swords Tidy Towns for their fantastic achievement in the Awards. This Pride of Place award recognises the significant positive impact of their commitment and work for their local community, in partnership with Fingal County Council, especially in a year like 2020 with the challenges of the Covid 19 pandemic."

Director of Housing and Community Margaret Geraghty praised the achievement saying: "Huge congratulations to Swords Tidy Towns Committee on this award and well done to the Fingal Community Development staff for their ongoing work with community and residents groups to foster communities that people can be happy and proud to live in."

Chief Executive of Fingal AnnMarie Farrelly said: "We in Fingal County Council really value the work done by Swords Tidy Towns and they are very worthy winners of this Pride of Place Award. The contribution of Tidy Towns Committees like them and other Community Groups in Fingal is invaluable as they continue to work hand-in-hand with us to make Fingal a great place to live in or visit. I would like to also commend the other Fingal nominees Ballyboughal Hedgerow Society and Skerries Age Friendly for their great work in the community."

You can view the online ceremony and find a full list of winners on the Pride of Place website at www.prideofplace.ie

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