

Fingal News

Issue
No 18

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2021

Your Council,
working for you

FINGAL GO BRAGH

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Comhairle Contae
Fhine Gall
Fingal County
Council



Mayor's Message



The days are growing longer as we emerge into Spring which will allow us to enjoy the environment and natural beauty that is in Fingal once more, but we still face difficult challenges from the Covid-19 pandemic and we need to hold on and continue to follow public health guidelines. Fingal County Council will

continue to provide vital services for all residents.

The Council continues to develop sustainable travel infrastructure across the county with projects such as greenways and cycle tracks. The Fingal Coastal Way is a vital piece of active travel infrastructure with many benefits for the environment and people's health as well as creating opportunities for business and tourism for the towns in the proposed route.

I encourage all residents and stakeholders to view the plans and make their views known on the ongoing route selection process.

I was delighted to speak at this year's Local Enterprise Week "Working Smarter to Future Proof Your Business" webinar. There are a wide range of supports for small and medium businesses to tap into during this difficult period and our Local Enterprise Office is providing this vital assistance to our local businesses. I would encourage all our SMEs in Fingal to avail themselves of these supports.

A fantastic programme was put together this year for Seachtain na Gaeilge which focused on promoting the language to a much wider community in Fingal. This year's Seachtain na Gaeilge was able to successfully adapt to online platforms as in person events are restricted due to the pandemic and it was great to see the Irish language and culture being celebrated in these difficult times.

I joined Minister Darragh O'Brien in Balbriggan for the announcement of funding for the Balbriggan Rejuvenation Plan. This funding will help to improve public spaces in Balbriggan that will support community life and underpin local economic development.

The process for the new Fingal Development Plan 2023-2029 has begun. Policies and objectives within the Plan will form the basis for decisions on planning applications and many other aspects of the Council's work. How we use our land, where we put housing, employment, and community facilities, is of relevance to us all so therefore it is vital that we all have our say in the process. We need to ensure our Development Plan will put us on the right path.

Cllr David Healy

Chief Executive's Message



We are well into Spring now and whilst we continue to follow public health guidelines and restrictions to tackle the Covid-19 pandemic, the roll out of vaccines is an important and positive development as we look forward to brighter days ahead.

I am delighted with the announcement by the Minister for Housing, Local Government and Heritage, Darragh O'Brien TD, that €25.4m has been awarded under the Urban Regeneration Development Fund (URDF) for projects associated with the rejuvenation of Balbriggan.

Applications will be opening shortly for our first Affordable Housing Scheme in 11 years at Dun Emer, Lusk after Ó Cualann Cohousing Alliance was appointed as the developer to oversee the construction of the 51 homes. This is a welcome step in towards providing affordable housing to our residents.

Fingal County Council was one of eight councils from either side of the border to come together to launch the Dublin Belfast Economic Corridor. This initiative is in response to the difficult challenges facing the region after Brexit and the ongoing pandemic.

We celebrated International Women's Day in February by highlighting the work of so many women both working in the Council and in wider society in Fingal. International Women's Day is a great opportunity to celebrate the achievements of women and encourage women to embrace their part in leadership and change. I was also delighted to speak at the annual Fingal Enterprise Women Network event at this year's virtual Fingal Enterprise Week which helps to give women in business a needed platform to connect and build support networks in Fingal.

As the weather improves, I hope everyone gets to enjoy the outdoors but to remember to stay safe by following up to date health guidelines. If you are going out, consider walking or cycling rather than driving to enjoy the springtime and to help reduce carbon emissions. Also, I ask that we all do our best to keep our communities clean and tidy these coming weeks by taking any litter home with you or disposing of it properly.

We, as a Council, will continue to work with residents, businesses, and wider society to tackle this crisis and to make sure we get through it. Thank you for reading this edition of the Fingal News. Stay safe.

AnnMarie Farrelly

Affordable Housing Scheme progress as developer appointed



Fingal County Council has appointed a developer to deliver the first affordable housing scheme in the county in 11 years at Dun Emer, Lusk.

Ó Cualann Cohousing Alliance will oversee the construction of 51 homes, of which 39 will be affordable and 12 will be social housing.

Applications for the scheme are open from May 4 to May 31. To be eligible for the scheme a purchaser must be a first-time buyer, although certain exceptions will apply. The property must be suited to the applicant's household needs and they must have been resident in Fingal for more than 12 months.

The homes will be available to at prices that will be around 25% below their market value. The 39 units will be a mixture of two-bedroom apartments, three-bedroom duplexes, three-bedroom terraced and three-bedroom semi-detached.

Prices will start from €166,000 for the two-bedroom apartments;

from €206,000 for the three-bedroom duplexes; from €250,000 for the three-bedroom terraced; and from €258,000 for the three bedroom semi-detached homes.

"The appointment of Ó Cualann is a welcome step towards the realisation of our affordable housing scheme"

An Equity Charge will protect the public interest against equity speculation. One of the conditions of sale under this Scheme is that the purchaser will remain liable to repay the percentage discount below market value that they benefited from when buying the property. They can pay this off at any time or if the property is sold.

The Mayor of Fingal, Cllr David Healy, said: "Councillors approved the Dun Emer Purchase Scheme last November, so I welcome the appointment of a developer which is the next step in the process. I hope that the process

will continue to move quickly as councillors are very supportive of this scheme and are keen to introduce affordable housing into the county."

Chief Executive of Fingal County Council, AnnMarie Farrelly, said: "The appointment of Ó Cualann is a welcome step towards the realisation of our affordable housing scheme at Dun Emer in Lusk. They bring some welcome experience on the delivery of affordable homes and understand the importance of this project in terms of overall housing delivery within Fingal.

"We are continuing to work on our plans to develop more affordable housing in Church Fields in Dublin 15, Cappagh in Dublin 11, Ballymastone in Donabate, and Hacketstown in Skerries where we are working with the Land Development Agency. "

Find out more about the Dun Emer scheme here: <https://bit.ly/3uOx680>

It's your call, it's your Fingal as work starts on Development Plan

The review process for the Development Plan 2023-2029 has begun with the public urged to take an active part.

The Council is seeking to encourage public debate among citizens, businesses, community groups and other interested parties on what broad issues should be considered in the new Plan and online submissions can be made by citizens and organisations between now and May 12 on Fingal County Council's Consultation Portal, <https://bit.ly/3djPSPv>

An Information Booklet, summarising the seven themes contained in the Strategic Issues Paper, has been distributed to households across Fingal from March 22 but both can now be viewed at <https://bit.ly/3doxipv>

Seven themes

The seven themes are: People and Place, Climate Action, Connectivity and Movement, Employment, Economy & Dublin Airport, Cultural Heritage, Green Infrastructure & Natural Heritage



and Infrastructure & Utilities.

Four online consultation seminars featuring a total of eight presentations on topics raised in the Strategic Issues Paper will be held in April and a Minecraft workshop is also being developed to encourage the participation of younger citizens.

The Development Plan process is scheduled to run for the next two years and will involve three public consultation stages before the final plan is adopted by Councillors in February 2023.

Relevant to us all

Launching the Development Plan during an online meeting



The Virtual Consultation Room hosts information on the seven themes under which we have set out some of the key issues that may need to be addressed by the new Plan.

This resource can be found at <https://bit.ly/3ahHZYV>

which was attended by Councillors, Senior Council Officials and the Development Plan Team, the Mayor of Fingal, Cllr David Healy, said: “The process of reviewing and adopting a Development Plan is one of the most important functions of the elected members, acting as the blueprint for the development of Fingal from a physical, economic, social and environmental viewpoint.

“How we use our land, where we put housing, employment, and community facilities, is of relevance to us all. It will impact on how we respond to Climate Change, how we protect and restore nature, where we live and work, our health and the quality of our lives as individuals, families and communities.”

“How we use our land, where we put housing, employment, and community facilities, is of relevance to us all”

“We face the twin challenges of decarbonising our economy and society, and also adapting to the climate change which will result from emissions to date. To do so, we need to ensure our Development Plan will put us on the right path,” added the Mayor.

The Chief Executive of Fingal County Council, AnnMarie Farrelly, said: “The Development Plan review has come at a challenging and unprecedented time arising from the impacts of the coronavirus pandemic, Climate Change and Brexit.

“However, these challenges also present opportunities to build on our vision to make Fingal the place to live, work, visit and do business.”



Phase 1

The Strategic Issues Paper is published. Following the receipt of submissions, a Chief Executive’s Report will be compiled and this will feed into the preparation of the Draft Development Plan.

Phase 2

The Draft Development Plan will go out to public consultation in February 2022 after which another Chief Executive’s Report will be prepared on the submissions received and presented to councillors for consideration.

Phase 3

There will be another public consultation on the Amended Draft Development Plan in November 2022 followed by a Chief Executive’s Report on the submissions received.

Phase 4

Councillors will consider the Chief Executive’s Report in January 2023 and are expected to adopt the 2023-2029 Development Plan in February 2023. The new Development Plan will come into force six weeks after its adoption by the elected members.



“Women of Fingal” weaves many stories into one proud tale

The story of women in Fingal spans time, language, and culture. A new tapestry by Agnieszka ‘Uisce’ Jakubczyk weaves many stories into one piece.

The genesis for the “Women of Fingal” tapestry stretches back to 2019. Uisce recalled: “I met Caroline Cowley from the Arts Office, showed her a large embroidered work-in-progress and she remembered me later.”

“Caroline suggested creating a large tapestry related to the Fingal area, and we met with Fingal County Council Heritage Officer and Community Archaeologist Christine Baker to discuss the project further.

“From this meeting, the idea was born to create a large woven tapestry as a tribute to the women of Fingal, featuring motifs connected with women from the area from prehistory to the present day.”

Christine said: “There’s a natural

affinity between art and our cultural heritage – it’s a means of invoking responses to heritage and broadening the creative experience.

“This tapestry is a means of tangibly connecting audiences to the heritage of women that has so often gone unnoticed and unrecorded, celebrating the heritage of all women in Fingal.”

Archaeological heritage

The technique of weaving was chosen for its specifically feminine connotations and connection to Fingal’s archaeological heritage. Christine explained: “A number of artefacts including a loom weight and weaving comb were found during the community excavation of Drumanagh promontory fort. ”

The materials used are also significant, as Uisce explained: “Wool and linen yarns were the main materials used. These have been the most popular textile craft fibres in Ireland since the

Bronze Age.

“I also included fibres used for various purposes in Irish ‘cottage industry’ like hemp, nettle, and goat hair.

“These would be in the hands of women through various periods of the history of Ireland.”

Preparation involved research on Irish fibre use, women’s status, women in uprisings, and more, and fieldwork, as Uisce related: “When I found a trace of a notable woman, I was also searching for where in Fingal I could find a place in connection to her.”

A true heroine

“Usually these were journeys in search of these women’s graves.” This led Uisce from Lusk Heritage Centre the Abbey in Malahide Demense, and from Crickstown graveyard to Oldtown. This inspired Uisce to incorporate motifs including the Sheela-na-gig, a mysterious and provocative

image suggestive of both fertility symbol and gargoyle found in churches across Ireland, and Molly Weston who Uisce affectionately called “a true and indisputable heroine from Fingal, who rode to the battle of Tara Hill, fought and died there during the 1798 Rebellion against British rule in Ireland.

“She was embedded in my head for some time so intensely that she was galloping through my dreams on her white horse one night, and kept waking me up!” Annie L. Massey also features. Uisce explained: “She was a self-taught marine biologist, ornithologist, and internationally recognised expert on molluscs.”

“Four cephalopod species names originated from her name, and one of them - *Opisthoteuthis massyae* - is featured in the tapestry.

“Having co-founded the Irish Society for the Protection of Birds in 1904, it seems ravens were particularly dear to her. I decided to weave an entire group – ‘a conspiracy of ravens’ into the tapestry in her memory. As a raven is a symbol in Fingal County Council’s logo, I made the Fingal raven part of the group.”

Uisce came to Ireland in 2004 from Poland and moved to Fingal in August 2015, where she rediscovered her weaving practice.

“Weaving is a joyful, rewarding experience. It’s also a very demanding form of art.

“I find weaving special for its sensuality: touching, feeling materials with my fingers, and understanding how they work.”

Watch our video on ‘Women of Fingal’ here: <https://bit.ly/3do0vRy>



#IWD 2021 Fingal: celebrating leadership, creativity and change

To celebrate International Women’s day, Fingal County Council Community Development Office held a series of online conversations with women active in leadership in Fingal.

The participants were asked to give an insight into why they decided to pursue their chosen career, what achievements they are most proud of and what women inspire them, as part of a Fingal County Council initiative to build awareness of Local Government among women.

Fingal County Council Chief Executive AnnMarie Farrelly said: “International Women’s Day is a great opportunity to celebrate the achievements of women and encourage women to embrace their part in leadership and change. It is important to celebrate the occasion even though we cannot do so in a physical capacity under current restrictions.

“I am delighted to be part of this virtual event which will give people an insight into the invaluable role of women in politics, sport, the public and voluntary sector and all aspects of life.” The conversations explored the achievements, challenges

and opportunities that women experience when involved in community action.

Dr Lucy Michael was joined in conversation by Geraldine Rooney, Fingal PPN and Centre for Independent Living Blanchardstown; Ayodele Yusuf, Balbriggan Integration Forum; Bridie O’Reilly, Fingal Older People’s Council; Shelly Gaynor, Independent Living Movement Ireland; and Catherine Joyce, Blanchardstown Traveller Development Group.

Also on the day, Fingal Sports Office held female-only FAI Player Development Plan and Safeguarding workshops, and focussed on various projects and initiatives taking place under the pillars of the Women in Sport Policy.

Watch the IWD conversations on our YouTube channel: <https://bit.ly/2RB5X19>

Bonanza for Balbriggan



Minister for Housing, Local Government and Heritage, Darragh O'Brien TD announced €25.4m in funding for the Balbriggan Rejuvenation Plan.

The anticipated overall cost of the eight projects is €33.9m with Fingal County Council providing €8.5m to complete the public realm improvements, which are expected to be completed in 2027.

The plan includes improvements to Quay, Bridge and Railway Streets, upgraded Harbour, Promenade and coastal areas, and the development of Artists' Studios and a Digital Innovation/ Maker Space at 2/4 Dublin Street.

A Bremore Castle to Ardgillan Castle Cycleway will form part of the Fingal Coastal Way, and the town's urban core will be linked to its green corridor, the River Bracken, through Millpond Park.

Mayor of Fingal Cllr David Healy stated the Balbriggan Rejuvenation Plan is a priority for Fingal.

"Improvements to public space will support quality of life and community life in Balbriggan. In doing so they will underpin local economic development as well as the transition to a decarbonised economy and society which is at the core of both national and Fingal policies."

PHASE 1: 2021-2023
Reimagined public realm at Quay Street
Harbour area upgrades
Art and Innovation hub at 2/4 Dublin Street



PHASE 2: 2023-2026
Bridge Street development
Promenade and coastal area improvements
Castle to Castle Cycleway

PHASE 3: 2026-2027
Rejuvenation of Railway Street
Millpond Park development



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

Developer to deliver 1,200 homes at Ballymastone in Donabate



Glenveagh Living Ltd was chosen as the preferred tenderer for the contract for development of the 32-hectare site.

The developers expect to deliver approximately 1,200 residential units with a tenure mix as prescribed in the tender of 60% private housing, 20% private discounted housing and 20% social housing.

This is as part of Fingal County Council's commitment to increase the supply of private and public housing in the county and creating sustainable communities.

The site will be developed to the urban design and phasing requirements of the Donabate Local Area Plan (LAP) and will include the delivery of supporting social and physical infrastructure. Glenveagh Living Ltd will progress their plans through the planning process which

will provide an opportunity for public consultation within the ongoing process as well as be subject to the formal approval of the Elected Members for the disposal of land and the statutory planning process.

The Ballymastone development will be in accordance with the Fingal County Development Plan 2017 – 2023 and the Donabate Local Area Plan 2016 – 2026, both of which have undergone extensive public consultation, and which identify the strategic spatial planning issues and the vision for structured development and balanced growth for Donabate.

The private discounted housing is expected to be priced at €250,000 for a two-bedroom house and €270,000 for a three-bedroom house. Every house or apartment delivered will carry a minimum of an A energy rating.

Glenveagh Living Ltd also

propose to deliver approximately 12% of the site as public open space with small parks and pocket parks in proximity to housing.

Donabate plays an important role in the wider Fingal region with its potential to support a high quality of life which offers culture and heritage, access to the coast, waterways, the city and the airport.

The Council is focused on delivering a successful and sustainable community through the provision of social and physical infrastructure and improving connections between new and existing communities.

Find out more about our Ballymastone plans here: <https://bit.ly/3slZw8r>

**Artist's impressions of the completed
Ballymastone development**



FINGAL SPRINGS INTO



Clockwise from top left: Super School Warden Bridie O'Neill brings a festive St Patrick's Day feel to St Mochta's and Scoil Choilm National School, Clonsilla; Garda Tiberiu Badiceanu & Garda Robert Berg get into the spirit at Applegreen, Balbriggan; Homemade Parades bring the festivities home; Springtime sunrise at Broadmeadow Estuary; Seagrang Park in Baldoyle blooms beautifully

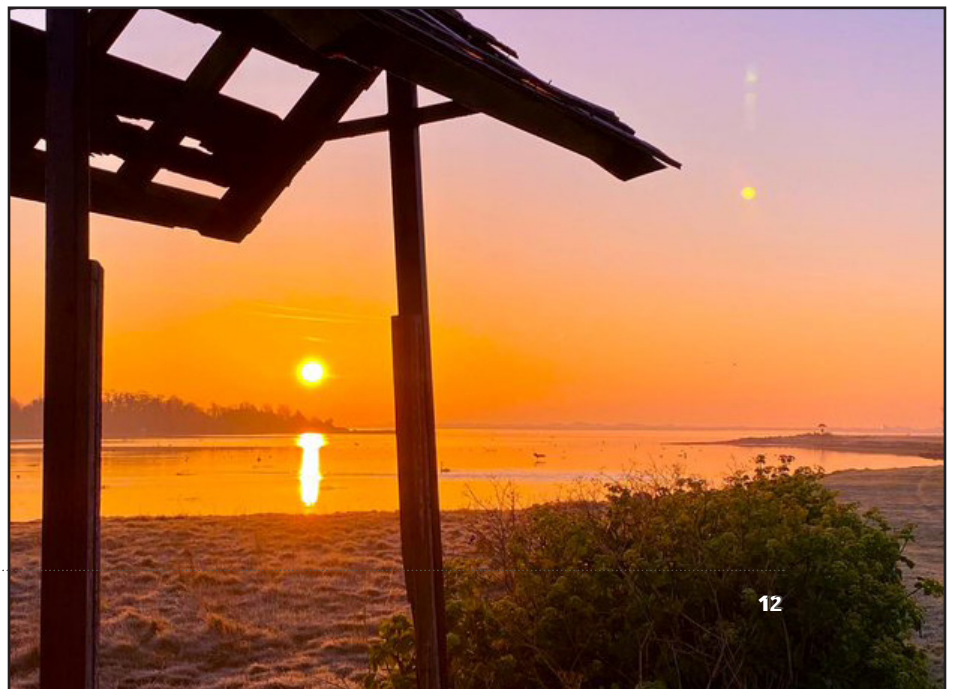
PARAID BHAILE

Cruthaigh do pharaid bhaile féin Lá Fhéile Pádraig chun seans a bheith agat cárta bronnánais €100 one4all a bhuachan

Comhairle Contae Fhine Gall Fingal County Council

DUAIS €100 ONE4ALL

#Homemade Parade



ST PATRICK'S DAY



Clockwise from top: "Dúisigh Éire" at Draíocht, Blanchardstown; Malahide Casino looking luminous in green; Newbridge House shows its true colours; Swords Castle honours Ireland's national day with an emerald glow



Eight councils launch Dublin-Belfast Economic Corridor

The Dublin-Belfast Economic Corridor has been established to respond to the difficult challenges facing the region that were identified by a joint report from Dublin City University and Ulster University.

The report, The Dublin-Belfast Economic Corridor: Current Profile, Potential for Recovery & Opportunities for Cooperation, states that this is an opportune time to create a north-south Economic Corridor given the challenges the region faces as it comes to terms with the impact of the United Kingdom’s exit from the European Union and the COVID-19 pandemic.

Fingal County Council joined eight other local authorities located along the Corridor, from both sides of the border, and the two Universities to work collectively to find ways of realising the potential benefits of further development of the Corridor.

With a population in excess of 2 million, younger and more diverse than any other part of Ireland with 15% born off the island, and an educated workforce with 34%

holding a Third Level qualification the region has potential to explode with opportunities for jobs.

Working governance structures will be established which will balance oversight and day to day activity and be provided by an Oversight and Governance Board. This will comprise of 24 councillors, three from each Council, with Fingal County Council being represented on the Board by Cllr. David Healy, Cllr. Tony Murphy and Cllr. Howard Mahony.

The Chief Executive of Fingal County Council, AnnMarie Farrelly, said: “There is awareness among all those involved in the Dublin Belfast Economic Corridor Project that developing a strong ethos of co-operation will require time, energy and support.”

There was awareness among all those involved that developing a strong ethos of co-operation will require time, energy and support. Though the immediate objective is to leverage the network’s resources in areas which can add significant value to the economic development of the region at a time of great economic and social uncertainty.

Find out more about the DBEC here: <https://bit.ly/3tqxyK3>

Local Authorities

Armagh City, Banbridge and
 Craigavon Borough Council
 Belfast City Council
 Dublin City Council
 Fingal County Council
 Lisburn & Castlereagh City
 Council
 Louth County Council
 Meath County Council
 Newry, Mourne and Down
 District Council

Partners

Dublin City University
 Ulster University

Fingal Coastal Way begins second round of consultation

The Fingal Coastal Way is the proposed 32km coastal pedestrian and cycle greenway from Newbridge Demesne to Balbriggan.

To provide an opportunity for interested parties to give feedback on the potential route options, an online non-statutory public consultation will take place from April 15 to May 27.

Due to current public health restrictions on gatherings, a traditional, in-person public consultation event is not possible, in lieu of this, a significant amount of background material is available on the Fingal County Council consultation portal, which can be accessed via <https://bit.ly/3snaCdz>

The information gathered as part of this exercise will inform the scheme assessment and design and assist the project team in identifying a preferred route for the scheme, to feed into a further consultation on the preferred route in 2021 and ultimately a formal planning application to An



Bord Pleanála in 2022.

Mayor of Fingal Cllr David Healy said: “The Fingal Coastal Way is a vital piece of active travel infrastructure that is being progressed by Fingal County Council. I encourage residents and stakeholders to view the plans and make their views known on the ongoing route selection process.”

“The benefits of greenways are many, ranging from cleaner air and improved public health, to lower carbon emissions and new recreation and tourism opportunities.

“We have seen the positive economic impact greenways have had in other areas around the country, and I am sure that Fingal County Council’s ambitious greenway programme will have a similar effect in Fingal.”

The flagship project will ultimately connect to the €12m Broadmeadow Way, a 6km off-road cycling and walking route linking Malahide and Donabate across the scenic Broadmeadow Estuary.

Design and planning on the Malahide to Sutton Greenway linking the recently opened Baldoyle to Portmarnock section to Sutton and Malahide, through Portmarnock village, is also progressing.

This landmark scheme will deliver a nationally important piece of greenway infrastructure and is being funded by the Department of Transport (under its Carbon Tax fund), the Department of



Housing, Local Government and Heritage (under the Urban Regeneration and Development Fund) and Fingal County Council.

Chief Executive AnnMarie Farrelly said: “The opportunities presented by the Fingal Coastal Way are immense, not just as a tourism offering but also as a valuable amenity for people living in the county.”

“The delivery of greenway infrastructure is a key priority for Fingal County Council, and we have spent the last number of years progressing a number of key projects through the planning and design stages.”

Submissions on this latest round of public consultation can be made up to May 27 via the public consultation portal <https://bit.ly/3wXZ9o9> or by post to Fingal Coastal Way, Senior Executive Officer, Planning and Strategic Infrastructure Dept, Fingal County Council, County Hall, Swords, Co Dublin.



Fingal celebrates Irish language and culture

Fingal County Council celebrated the Irish Language and culture with a fantastic online programme for Seachtain na Gaeilge this year.

In partnership with the Seamus Ennis Centre we hosted a celebration of traditional music, live on Facebook and Youtube featuring a stellar line up of musicians. Throughout the festival which runs from March 1-17 each year we aimed to reawaken love for the language with a wide range of online content including music, storytelling, and sport and encouraged everyone to use whatever Irish they had – Bain Triail Aisti.

Our online session with the Seamus Ennis Centre featured



musicians Conal Ó Gráda, Muireann Nic Amhloibh & Billy Mag Fhloinn, Róisín Chambers & Luke Ward, Caitlín Nic Gabhann and Ciarán Ó Maonaigh. The musicians zoomed into the session

live from all over Ireland and a great night was had with a huge international audience on the night and many more viewing the content on Facebook and Youtube later.

Antaine Ó Faracháin and Nollaig Mac Cárthaigh are old friends of Seachtain na Gaeilge in Fingal and we were delighted to welcome them again for an intimate Zoom musical get together.

Fingal Libraries provided live events including Coding in Irish with Academy of Code and storytelling with traditional Irish story-teller Niall De Búrca, who can be enjoyed on their Youtube channel. They also provided a knitting workshop and storytelling. Fingal Sports Office posted content everyday including skills videos from laochra spóirt – sporting heroes - Ciaran Kilkenny Dublin GAA star and Irish Cricketer Lorcan Tucker.

The main focus of all our online content was to celebrate and promote the language and culture and there was plenty of content to enjoy on our Social media including Logainm an Lae and Seanfhocal an Lae.

Mayor of Fingal Cllr David Healy said: “The Irish language is a living part of our heritage and Seachtain na Gaeilge is

an important yearly marker. This year, everything is different of course, and I am very pleased to see Fingal County Council embrace the online format to bring a fantastic programme together for Seachtain na Gaeilge and promote the language in a much wider community.”

Chief Executive of Fingal AnnMarie Farrelly commented that: “Seachtain na Gaeilge is a time when we traditionally welcome Irish enthusiasts in Fingal to events in our Libraries and County Hall and I hope that they, as well as an expanded audience, enjoyed the festival this year through our varied online content.

“Fingal County Council is committed to supporting the Irish language and Arts community and I am delighted to also do this through this festival by providing a platform for traditional musicians and their audience to engage with the language and culture online.”



Library events thriving online

Here's a taste of what's been happening - and what's in store.

Since the initial lockdown in March 2020 all events have moved solely online, facilitated by the Fingal Libraries YouTube channel and social media platforms. This has allowed us to continue our packed programme of events.

Our Spring brochure, accessible at <https://bit.ly/2QvOmb3> highlights a mix of online videos, webinars and online classes under programmes such as Healthy Ireland, Engineers Week and Seachtain na Gaeilge.

Live webinars include one given by GAA star Shane Carthy interviewed by RTE's Damien O'Meara. Upcoming webinars include journalist Edel Coffey in conversation with Doireann Ní Ghríofa (Winner of the An Post Book of the Year 2020) and Rónán Hession whose book 'Leonard & Hungry Paul' is the One Dublin One Book choice for 2021.

April is dedicated to Spring



into Storytime, part of the LGMA National Right to Read programme. Storytelling videos will be uploaded and shared on our channels throughout the month.

In May we celebrate Bealtaine, Ireland's national celebration of the arts & creativity as we age, with a programme of events to include a recorded performance by the Carnation Theatre (available on 27 and 28 May) and a live show Getting Hitched (Thursday 6 May at 11.30am).

Other Bealtaine delights include a 5 week online course entitled Getting to Grips with Google: An Introduction to Gmail, Google Search, Google Maps and Google Drive with cccSkerries, 4 live chair yoga sessions with Erica Tracey of the Yoga Sanctuary, recorded storytelling by Niall de Burca, recorded knitting classes by Cleas Teoranta and crafts with Wicklow Willow.

Real community in a virtual book club



The Fingal Libraries Online Book Club was born of necessity in September 2020.

We now have ten regular members, who meet via MS Teams, on the third Wednesday of the month.

The club enjoyed taking part in the Ireland Reads campaign in February and were thrilled to welcome Liz Nugent for an author visit in March. This month, we are reading 'Leonard and Hungry Paul' by Rónán Hession.

We're taking part in the RTÉ Radio One Book Show with Rick O'Shea in April and were delighted to have been matched with Rónán Hession for the show.

Be sure to listen as we ask about his writing process and what he loves about his local library in Baldoyle.

We are always happy to welcome new members to the online book club or you might prefer the format of the new Fingal Bookworms Club on our Facebook page.

If you are thinking about setting up your own book club, Fingal Libraries have lots of advice and resources available to you. Please feel free to get in touch with for more details at ciara.farrell@fingal.ie.

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Local Enterprise Office

Community spirit shines through in Baldoye

Mark Gibney and Lesleyann Flynn are proud residents of Baldoye.

Their involvement with Na Dubh Ghall GAA Club - Mark as Chairman, Lesleyann as parent and volunteer - has seen them get involved with their community and do a great deal of good.

Mark was clear about Na Dubh Ghall's community focus. "You're only going to get anywhere with community support. So we decided that we were going to be heavily invested both on and off the pitch in the community."

This has involved events like the Family Fun Day and Mayfest, but more recently the club has spearheaded food-shopping drives for vulnerable cocooners during Covid-19. "It's the people in Baldoye that make it happen. For the food shopping we had 50 volunteers. Some days we were doing 20 or maybe 25 shops - I stopped counting after 350 shops after the first couple of weeks.

Their efforts have also included the Street Ambassador Programme, a simple idea with a transformative impact.

"People were looking for new ways to help people out. That was a great thing that came from a dark time."

"One person would take charge for their road; they wrote a letter saying 'Hi I am such-and-such and I live at this number. If you need any help or anything let me know', and they just dropped the letters into the doors and it brought an awful lot of people together. People got reconnected with each other. The program was so good that it was taken abroad and used by certain councils in

the UK that rolled it out on their streets."

Mark took heart from the success: "People were looking for new ways to help people out. That was a great thing that came from a dark time."

"You're only going to get anywhere with community support."

Lesleyann got involved with the food shop volunteering service through the Na Dubh Ghall parents' Whatsapp group.

"It was something that I jumped on straight away. I said, absolutely I want to help. I wanted to feel useful at a time when I think a lot of people were in shock."

"It was like one minute, one day we were in work and next of all, it was all closing, and everyone has to go home, everyone has to work from home and children can't go to school, children can't go to sports, playdates or their after-school activities - it was just one thing after the other.

"So, I felt shocked and then I felt really useless and I wanted to help and wanted to get involved and do something within the community to help."

Lesleyann's volunteering experience brought her into

contact with vulnerable and isolated people throughout the community who were frightened, anxious, and, perhaps especially, lonely.

"The shopping is only one part of it really. The communication, socialization, meeting somebody on a weekly basis - I think one day I was standing on their doorstep for an hour just chatting. And I was the only person they would see each week for that chat."

"For me the biggest reward was that I knew that I was doing something very small, but very helpful"

Lesleyann explained that they needed somebody just to chat to, "so although it was shopping and providing them with an essential service, it was also about keeping in touch with people you know about.

"For me the biggest reward was that I knew that I was doing something very small, but very helpful."

Listen to the Valuing Our Volunteers podcast at:
<https://bit.ly/3mPicfS>





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Sustainable Business helps SMEs go green

The Sustainable Business initiative aims to encourage SMEs across Fingal to embrace sustainable measures in their businesses.

As part of our commitments in Fingal County Council's Climate Change Action Plan this will help businesses adopt practices that will see their impact on the environment reduced.

A dedicated Sustainable Fingal webpage can be found on Fingal County Council's website at <https://bit.ly/3ebl9DB>

The page features a variety of supports and information to help SMEs to incorporate sustainability under key headings Energy, Water & Waste.

Sustainability Prize

As part of this initiative, the Council is running a competition to inspire businesses on their sustainability journey with an opportunity to win a Sustainability Assessment & Action Plan from Balbriggan based Patel Tonra Ltd. Environmental Solutions.

"A sustainable business approach can lead to efficiencies, cost savings, and new customers"

Patel Tonra will review the enterprise's sustainability approach and provide a report and action plan.

Participating businesses can also win one of four €500 vouchers for their customers. The closing date for entries is **Friday, May 28th 2021.**

Cllr. Tony Murphy, chairperson of Economic, Enterprise and Tourism Development Strategic Policy Committee, emphasised the business case for going green.

"Embracing sustainability makes sense for businesses. A sustainable business approach can lead to efficiencies, cost savings and has the ability to position your business to win new customers and secure new contracts."

Chief Executive AnnMarie Farrelly said: "Fingal County Council adopted its Climate Change Action Plan in September 2019 and we have just published our first annual progress report and it shows significant progress made on the key targets of the plan."

Applications open for Small Business Assistance Scheme

Businesses in Fingal are encouraged to apply for funding under the new Small Business Assistance Scheme for COVID (SBASC).

This financial support is intended to target those businesses with operating costs that do not qualify for the COVID Restrictions Support Scheme (CRSS) operated by the Revenue Commissioners.

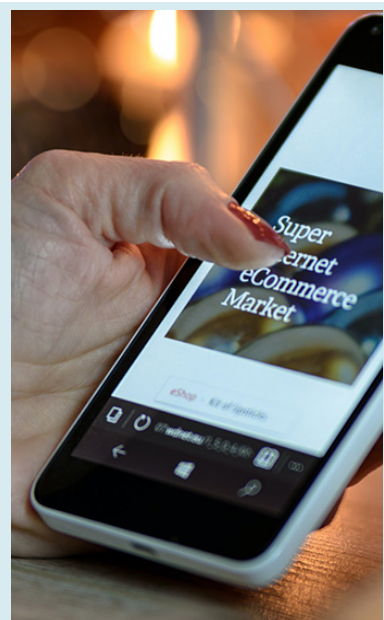
The grant, which is available as a contribution towards fixed costs to assist a business to keep operational for an eventual re-opening, is only available to an applicant operating from a

rateable property.

The scheme covers the period 1 January 2021 to 30 June 2021. Each eligible applicant will receive a payment of €4,000 with an additional payment of €4,000 from May 2021 to applicants continuing to meet the scheme eligibility criteria.

The closing date for applications for the initial grant under SBASC is 21 April 2021.

Full details can be found at <https://bit.ly/3mPiUd2>



First virtual Local Enterprise Week a resounding success

Supported by Fingal County Council and Enterprise Ireland, Local Enterprise Office (LEO) Fingal hosted the first virtual Local Enterprise Week (LEW) for over 2,000 entrepreneurs and business owners.

Highlights from the week included a guest appearance by National Enterprise Awards winner Derya Sousa; the 'Instagram for Business' webinar; the Fingal Enterprising Women Network (FEWN) online session featuring acclaimed TV presenter Gráinne Seoige—celebrating International Women's Day; and the official launch of the first season of the 'Fingal Business Podcast'.

The Head of Enterprise in Fingal, Oisín Geoghegan, spoke about the first online LEW: "We moved all our events for Local Enterprise Week online for the first time, making them as accessible as possible for local businesses.

"It's been a phenomenally successful week as we had over 2,000 start-ups and businesses from the county learning about areas like the green economy, becoming more competitive and exploring new opportunities online as well as finding out what supports could benefit their business in 2021."

Speaking at the "Working Smarter to Future Proof Your Business" webinar the Mayor of Fingal, Cllr. David Healy said: "Through our Local Enterprise Office, Fingal County Council is providing vital services and assistance to our local businesses. We want to ensure that our SMEs take advantage of the various programmes and supports available to them through the LEO and other state bodies."

AnnMarie Farrelly, Chief Executive of Fingal County Council, addressed the annual Fingal Enterprise Women Network lunchtime event where she spoke to over 200 businesswomen.

Emphasising the networking and access opportunities available, she affirmed the Council's support for women in business.

"Almost a year since the launch of the Fingal Enterprising Women Network online events, Fingal County Council remains committed to providing an online platform for all businesswomen in the region, which allows them to connect with one another and build much-needed support networks."

National Enterprise Awards 2021 triumph



LEO Fingal saw one of their supported companies win The Best Export Award at this year's National Enterprise Awards.

Kianda Technologies, who were supported by LEO Fingal, have achieved significant penetration in global export markets with their business automation software that streamlines business processes in areas such as finance, HR and quality and have recently moved to Enterprise Ireland.



Photos from top: Success for Kianda Technologies at National Enterprise Awards; Kianda founders Derya and Osvaldo Sousa celebrate their success; the Local Enterprise Week 2021 featured a range of online events under the motto "Making It Happen".

BAM begins work in Blanchardstown



BAM Civil Ltd. have commenced work on the Snugborough Interchange Upgrade Scheme in Blanchardstown.

The project, co-funded by the National Transport Authority, includes the construction of a second bridge over the N3 national primary route as well as new bus lanes, footpaths, protected cycle tracks and traffic lanes giving improved accessibility to Blanchardstown Shopping Centre and the Dublin Enterprise Zone in Mulhuddart.

The works are being carried out in accordance with public health guidance and appropriate safety measures are in place.

The works will involve significant traffic management on the N3 and Snugborough Road and further details will be communicated to the local community and other stakeholders as they are developed by the contractor and Fingal County Council.

The scheme has been designed

to address network congestion issues and deliver significant improvements for pedestrians, cyclists and bus services. The cost is expected to be in the region of €22m, and the project is expected to take 24 months to complete.

Measures to improve the operational efficiency of the two junctions either side of the N3 including bus priority measures that will support the Bus Connects project are included in the project.

Chief Executive AnnMarie Farrelly highlighted the benefits of the scheme for ease of travel and continued economic development in the area.

“The upgrade of the Snugborough Interchange is of strategic importance to the development of the Dublin 15 area. As well as providing for significant improvements for motorists, pedestrians and cyclists, it has a vital economic element as the upgrade will facilitate improved accessibility to the 800 businesses located in the Dublin Enterprise Zone.”

Matthew McAleese, Director of Planning & Strategic Infrastructure, stated: “Snugborough Interchange, which is a key project within our capital programme, will provide for significant transport improvements to Dublin 15.

“We welcome the NTA’s commitment to part fund this scheme and we are looking forward to delivering this project.”

Micheal Aherne, Head of Transport Development in National Transport Authority, underlined the importance of the scheme for improved travel networks: “The NTA are delighted to partner with Fingal County Council on this valuable improvement to the cycle and pedestrian and bus network in Blanchardstown area.

“This project is part of the five year walking and cycling plan for the Fingal area which along with Bus Connects will see a substantial investment in sustainable travel infrastructure for the Dublin 15 area in the coming years.”



Moving towards a safer Balbriggan

The Safe Balbriggan Pillar Group agreed a high-level work programme with three primary elements after its first meeting in March.

The group discussed the issues underpinning each of the three work themes and explored the challenges facing Balbriggan as the youngest and most diverse town in Ireland.

These challenges include universal access to services, resourcing, and physical improvements to public spaces to improve community safety.

The Pillar Group examined opportunities to address the underpinning issues of the three work elements, selected areas for collaboration to deliver on objectives, and identified other key stakeholders, in the town and beyond, to be consulted as their work progresses.

Representatives from the Department of Justice, An Garda Síochána, Foróige and Fingal County Council took part in the inaugural meeting to discuss the range of existing and planned activities in Balbriggan by these various agencies.

The chairman of the Safe Balbriggan Pillar, Michael O’Sullivan, spoke after the meeting: “It was a very productive meeting with a wide range of views and thoughts expressed during it.

Fostering community integration

Engaging & supporting our young people

Creating safer public spaces

“The importance of inclusivity and representation was very evident, as was the need for actions aimed at building trust, strengthening integration and improving community relations.

“We discussed the three High Level Objectives in detail and determined what needs to happen for each of these objectives to be achieved.

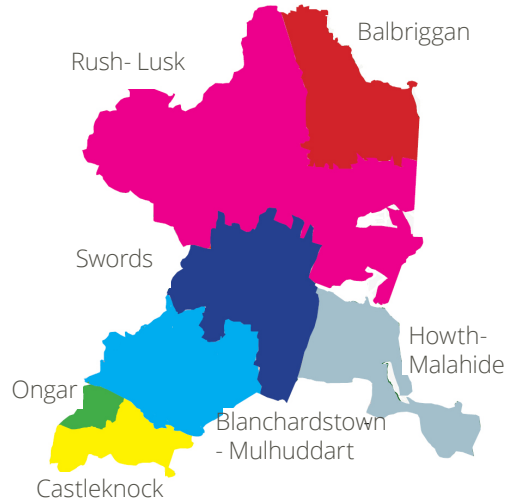
“We have identified the various agencies who will be responsible for the delivery of the actions that underpin the High-Level Objectives and will now start working with those agencies to develop an Action Plan and agree the timescales required to deliver them.”

Access Our Balbriggan here:
<https://bit.ly/32ntmPz>

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