

Fingal News

Issue
No 19

June 2021

Your Council,
working for you



HERE
COMES
THE
OUTDOOR
SUMMER

INSIDE

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Comhairle Contae
Fhine Gall
Fingal County
Council



Mayor's Message



I am delighted to see so many people enjoying our beaches and parks daily, with visitors and Fingal residents alike making the most of outdoor amenities across the county.

If you're out and about, whether having a picnic or meeting a friend for coffee, please dispose of

your litter responsibly.

If you come across a full bin, please don't leave your rubbish but take it home and dispose of it there instead. If you're caught littering you could be in line for an on the spot fine of €150, or up to €3000 if taken to court.

Removing litter and illegally dumped waste costs councils millions annually. We each have a part to play and if we work together, we can keep our county beautiful and protect it for future generations.

One example of caring for the environment in action is the Restore & Protect project which recently launched at Donabate beach. In partnership with Clean Coasts, an initiative from An Taisce, Fingal County Council Operations department are trialling new beach management practices.

'Beach wrack', naturally occurring debris on the sand, is being left in place instead of being removed during beach cleaning. You can find out more about the positive impact this project is having inside this issue of Fingal News.

It's not only our beaches that provide healthy and active outlets for our citizens. 'Cycling Without Age' will launch soon in several locations around Fingal.

This initiative, led by our Active Travel department, helps older people with limited mobility by offering free trishaw bike rides and is just one of a range of positive and inclusive projects underway including the Argillan Story Walk launching in June and the SportsCon online programme for those with additional needs.

On a personal note this will be my final Mayor's Message. I am looking forward to welcoming the incoming Mayor when my term ends on June 18th.

It has been a privilege to serve the people of Fingal and I will continue to do so as a Councillor. I'd like to thank my colleagues at Fingal County Council for their ongoing innovation and hard work to meet the needs of our culturally diverse and growing community.

CLlr David Healy

Chief Executive's Message



Summer has arrived bringing brighter days and as the Recovery phase of the pandemic develops, I feel optimistic for a very enjoyable summer.

Our teams are working diligently to provide outdoor dining spaces, such as the proposed pedestrianised areas in Malahide, Swords and

Skerries, while also acting to meet increased demand for public toilet facilities and bins in our towns and at our many beauty spots. I hope you're enjoying Summer in Fingal.

We continue to plan for the future as well as managing current challenges. The most recent stage of public consultation on the Fingal Coastal Way concluded in May and is ongoing for the Royal Canal Urban Greenway.

These projects will offer world class cycling and walking facilities for residents and visitors alike. I look forward to seeing the development of these recreational amenities and would welcome you to engage with the consultation process.

Our mandate from Government is to provide housing and, since 2015, we have used many mechanisms to ensure the construction of social, affordable and private homes across Fingal.

On May 25th Fingal councillors voted to approve the disposal of land at Ballymastone, Donabate, for the construction of up to 1,200 homes by Glenveagh Living Ltd. The development will provide 20% affordable housing and 20% social housing.

I am very happy to confirm delivery of affordable homes to first time buyers at a unit cost of €250,000 to €270,000.

Site works have also begun at Dun Emer in Lusk, where Fingal County Council will deliver 39 affordable homes and 12 social homes. We have received an overwhelmingly positive response to this scheme and are currently processing applications for these homes.

Finally, I am delighted to announce the appointment of Valerie McAllorum as Integration Officer. As a county with one of the most diverse and dynamically growing populations in Ireland, it's imperative that Fingal prioritises integration. Valerie's appointment will help Fingal to achieve this in a strategic and effective way.

Thank you for your continued support and stay safe.

AnnMarie Farrelly

Balbriggan 3D Model is a new and exciting vision of the town's future

The tool is helping citizens visualise the changes outlined in the Our Balbriggan 2019 – 2025 Town Rejuvenation plan.

An interactive web viewer has been created for the public to view and immerse themselves in Balbriggan's reimagined spaces.

Using this web viewer, you can walk down Quay Street and toggle to a festival view, where people are enjoying outdoor craft fair, food and music.

This 3D environment showcases the potential of the Our Balbriggan 2019 – 2025 Town Rejuvenation plan.



A vision for Quay St

Many ways to engage

The project originated in 2020 as Fingal County Council was awarded funding of €20,000 under the Public Service Innovation Fund to develop a 3D Virtual Reality model to enhance citizen engagement in Balbriggan.

Galway based 3D modelling company, RealSim, were awarded the contract to develop the model.

Multiple user engagement options are available including movie, web, desktop and VR-headset.

This is facilitated by the underlying game engine technology used by

RealSim, Unity3D, the most popular game engine in the world.

“3D technology advances enable stakeholders to analyse proposed developments in greater detail than ever before”

Senior Executive Officer Aoife Sheridan noted that “post-Covid, VR headsets will be available at the Our Balbriggan Hub - the engine room for the Our Balbriggan 2019 – 2025 Town Rejuvenation Plan and the base for the Our Balbriggan team - to residents and businesses to explore the 3D model.”

“The VR assets will also be used at

events and in schools to showcase the Our Balbriggan plans in a fun and meaningful way.”

A range of aspects

Digital Strategy Manager Aishling Hyland highlighted the possibilities: “3D technology advances enable stakeholders to analyse proposed developments in greater detail than ever before.”

“By creating a 3D model of Balbriggan, we can view it from a range of aspects, such as: ground level, bird’s eye view, time of day and year, inspecting shadowing analysis and lots more.”

“The model has been created with open source and open data in mind, the source data of the model will be made available in accessible formats and released as open data on the Fingal Open Data platform.”

“The model data will be made available for the Smart Balbriggan Hackathon event which takes place in June 2021.”

Why not try walking through the 3D Balbriggan model? [Click here to visit the Smart Balbriggan website and take a virtual walk through the project.](#)



Proposed new facilities for Balbriggan Harbour

Outdoor Summer comes to Fingal



With the Government and NPHEP urging people to “Think Safe, Think Outdoors” over the coming months, Fingal County Council has made plans for an Outdoor Summer.

Outdoor Dining is key to Summer 2021 plans for many Fingal towns. Public Information Leaflets are being sent to all households in Swords, Skerries and Malahide outlining Outdoor Dining measures relevant to their area.

New Street in Malahide has been pedestrianised, and Outdoor Dining areas are being established on the Main Streets of Swords and Blanchardstown.

Outdoor Dining is also being facilitated in areas across the county, such as Balbriggan and Howth, through the issuing of licences, grants for outdoor dining furniture and a Parklet Partners scheme.

More information is available at <https://www.fingal.ie/outdoordiningsupports>.

Further measures include additional litter bins, public toilets and benches, additional staff resources

in key areas and changes to the Casual Trading Byelaws.

Upgraded toilet facilities including Changing Places Units in Millenium Park and at Newbridge Demesne playground are helping to make Outdoor Summer an inclusive one.

The installation of similar facilities is scheduled for Santry Demesne and Ardgillen Demesne. Toilets in libraries in Malahide, Blanchardstown and Balbriggan will also be opened to the public.

Our Active Travel team is working to deliver additional bike parking facilities and also recently expanded the Bleeperbike scheme into Balbriggan, Donabate, Rush and Skerries.



Councillors agree plans for outdoor enhancements

At the Council Meeting on 10 May, councillors agreed to a motion proposed by the Mayor of Fingal, Cllr David Healy, which was:

“That this Council makes provision for an Outdoor Summer in line with public health advice in order for the needs of the Fingal and wider community during the coming months and to include the following:

- Re-allocating space to and improving facilities for active travel throughout the County;
- Re-allocating street space and car parking space for public realm use and for use by restaurants and cafes;
- Providing increased public seating;
- Working to help businesses which produce packaging waste which risks becoming litter to move to more sustainable production and consumption models (including deposit and return schemes, use of compostable packaging and taking responsibility for that packaging);
- Promoting and enforcing compliance with litter legislation;
- Increasing maintenance of open spaces, beaches and street spaces;
- Protecting sand dunes from trampling and other vulnerable habitats from excessive visitor pressure;
- Increasing the availability of public toilets;
- Availing of Central Government funding for road space reallocation, prevention and management of litter, additional outdoor infrastructure and management of open spaces.

Outdoor Summer plans for Malahide, Swords and Skerries

Opposite: New Street, Malahide pedestrianisation map. This plan features canopies, bench and table layouts, planters, and access routes for emergency services and delivery purposes.

This page: Swords and Skerries pedestrianisation maps. Both plans feature a mix of outdoor dining areas, bicycle racks, additional bins, and disabled parking spaces.



Above: Swords Main St plans & Skerries Harbour Road proposals for outdoor dining



Have your say in Swords survey



Fingal County Council has urged local residents and stakeholders to get involved in the Sustainable Swords placemaking project which is focused on the regeneration and compact, sustainable development of the town.

Two surveys have now opened as part of the consultation process and local residents, businesses and interested stakeholders are urged to get involved.

The aim of Sustainable Swords is to identify a co-ordinated range of 'pipeline' projects for which future funding can be sought.

Mayor of Fingal Cllr David Healy outlined the vision of the project in terms of creating and sustaining a vibrant focal point for the surrounding community.

"Sustainable Swords will focus specifically on placemaking within the town centre and it is intended that the historic shift away from Main Street that commenced in the early 2000's will be reversed to facilitate better placemaking and a more resilient town centre.

"The Sustainable Swords project will facilitate an accessible, inviting public realm that links with the natural and historic context of the Ward River Valley Park and Swords Castle, will improve permeability and enhance the opportunities for local innovation and economic development."

Chief Executive AnnMarie Farrelly, emphasised the initiative's focus on working with all stakeholders.

"Crucially, this project involves working in a collaborative way with those who live and work or have an interest in Swords to discover what their needs and aspirations are and how these can be addressed through the Sustainable Swords Strategy.

"Ultimately it is about creating good places that promote people's health, happiness, and well-being."

The success of the project will rely on stakeholders to understand the existing space and contributors to the quality of life in the local community.

Matthew McAleese, Director of Planning & Strategic Infrastructure,

individuals to have their say.

"Going forward, public participation will be the key measure of success and therefore collaboration and public consultation will be prioritised and promoted throughout."

Work has already begun to consult with local school children. An Taisce's Green Schools are part of the project team and will be engaging with over 7,500 primary and secondary school students, undertaking audits of walkability and cyclability, and engaging with parents and students to understand what the children of Swords want their future to look like.

The Sustainable Swords strategy, which will include detail on a range of transformational projects, will be published in early 2022.

Fingal has appointed KPMG Future Analytics and Turner & Townsend to work with the Planning & Strategic Infrastructure Department to develop this Strategy.

More details on the project can be found at www.fingal.ie/sustainableswords

has urged interested groups and

Key Objectives of Sustainable Swords

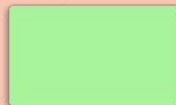
Enhance the identity of the town centre

- Development of Swords Civic Centre and Cultural Centre
- On-going implementation of the conservation plan for Swords Castle
- Delivery of an enhanced accessible child-friendly public realm including new public nodes in Swords Town Centre



Facilitate the creation of a new street /pedestrian walkway

- To front the river walk to the west of Main Street, opening up 'backlands'
- Support co-ordinated infill development on key strategic sites along Main Street and North Street



Promote core recreational and amenity spaces

- Ward River Valley Park
- Swords Cultural Quarter including Town Park
- Ward River Walk west of Main Street area



Explore the potential of establishing a Swords Business Improvement District

- Helping businesses maintain viability and vitality



Develop a multi-modal transport strategy for Swords

- Expand upon the recommendations in the Swords section of the South Fingal Transport Study
- Ensure transport plans are informed by in-depth research and analysis

Support community cohesion measures

- Explore initiatives such as the establishment of a collaborative 'what works' approach to promoting safer neighbourhoods and reducing antisocial behaviour
- Enable everyone to contribute to a sense of well-being within an improved quality of life

Enable regeneration of lands within the study area

- Ensure rejuvenation of the town centre
- Enable activation of land for compact development

Establish a prioritised, programmed and impactful package of measures and projects

Ballymastone project lays foundation for innovation



The recent decision by members of Fingal County Council to approve the disposal of land at Ballymastone, Donabate, is the latest milestone for an innovative model that is set to increase the mechanisms open to local authorities for housing delivery.

This is a local authority-driven model in which they will partner with Glenveagh Living Ltd to deliver a sustainable mixed tenure housing development of up to 1,200 homes.

Community, recreational and educational facilities will be provided along with improved transport links and public open spaces.

The tenure mix will be 20% social housing, 20% affordable housing and 60% private housing and the first homes could be ready for delivery in 2022 due to a commitment in the Development Agreement to be on site within 16 weeks of planning permission being granted.

The Development Agreement between the Council and

Glenveagh includes guaranteed delivery of two and three-bedroom affordable homes to first time buyers at a unit cost of €250,000 to €270,000.

Following concerns raised by councillors ahead of the land disposal, Glenveagh provided an undertaking that no houses will be sold to institutional investors.

They also undertook that 50% of the designated private apartment blocks within the development will be offered for sale to bodies who are permitted to offer cost rental accommodation to tenants, pursuant to the State support cost rental scheme.

“The Council now has a housing scheme with 1,194 homes which, subject to planning, will substantially alleviate the housing crisis in both the short and medium term.”

Glenveagh also committed, in respect of the balance, to making

the first offer to the private market.

The 238 social housing units will be made up of 126 houses and duplexes and 112 apartments, ranging from one to four-bedroom units, while the 238 affordable units will be in the form of two and three-bedroom houses.

The Council retains ownership of the land and will issue a Licence To Build to Glenveagh to begin construction subject to planning permission. Fingal will retain title to the social units and open spaces.

Title to the 238 affordable units will transfer to eligible purchasers nominated by the Council under the relevant Affordable Housing Scheme and will have a Council charge in line with the Affordable Housing Bill 2021.

The title to the 718 private units will transfer to Glenveagh in phases and only when units are deemed substantially complete. A Development Bond will be in place for each phase and

the Council's Development Contribution Scheme will apply to the private units.

Matthew McAleese, Fingal's Director of Planning and Strategic Infrastructure, who is leading the project, noted the contribution of the scheme to Fingal's housing provision plans.

"The Council now has a housing scheme with 1,194 homes which, subject to planning, will substantially alleviate the housing crisis in both the short and medium term.

"The project has met all the requirements of the Public Spending Code, including the requirement for robust governance structures."

In 2018 the Council created Project Talamh to drive development of its strategic landbanks across the county using innovative forms of delivery.

The Project Steering Group includes key members of the Council's Executive Management Team and representatives from the National Development Finance Agency and the Department of Housing Local Government and Heritage.

They oversee the work of a cross-departmental Project

Implementation Team and its advisors.

Chief Executive of Fingal County Council, AnnMarie Farrelly, emphasised the Council's varied and practical approach to housing delivery.

"Our mandate from Government is to provide housing and, since 2015, we have used many mechanisms to ensure the construction of social, affordable and private homes across Fingal.

"We have spent the last three years developing this new model of delivery, which can deliver a mixed tenure residential development.

"There was overwhelming support from our councillors for the Ballymastone project and we will continue to work closely with the elected members to improve the supply of all type of housing in Fingal."

Fingal are currently working on developing mixed tenure schemes at Church Fields in Dublin 15, Cappagh in Dublin 11 and Hayestown in Rush and are working with the Land Development Agency on schemes at Hacketstown in Skerries and Castlelands in Balbriggan.

A Simple Vision

- Deliver a successful and sustainable community through the provision of high quality and attractive residential development
- Provide homes at affordable prices
- Provide opportunity to first-time buyers
- Secure the sustainability of the development
- Provide accessible community, open space and recreational facilities



Childminding in focus as National Action Plan is launched

The National Action Plan for Childminding (2021-2028) sets out an incremental and supportive pathway to regulation.

The Plan was officially launched on 15 April by The Minister for Children, Equality, Disability, Integration and Youth, Roderic O’Gorman. Minister O’Gorman served as a Councillor for the Castleknock Local Electoral Area from 2014 to 2020.

Its overall objective is to improve access to high quality and affordable early learning and care and school-age childcare through childminding.

The Plan notes that: “Childminders play a central role in provision of both early learning and care and school-age childcare in Ireland. For many children in Ireland, a childminder is their main carer other than their parents, often starting in their early childhood and continuing into their school years.

“A childminder can be a cherished and constant figure in a child’s life – almost a second family.

“The research evidence points to positive outcomes for children of quality childminding, which may be linked to consistency of carer and a low child-adult

ratio.

“The evidence on outcomes for children makes a strong case for giving parents choice of provider-type, while continuing to raise quality standards.”

To achieve these goals, the action plan sets out an incremental and supportive pathway to regulation.

This will enable more childminders to access Government subsidies, making their services more affordable to parents.

It will also enable them to access a variety of supports to assist them in meeting regulatory and quality requirements.

For more information on this visit the National Action Plan for Childminding website or Facebook page.

If you are a childminder, thinking of becoming a childminder or require any support or advice in relation to your childminding service, you can contact the development team at Fingal County Childcare Committee by calling the main office on (01) 4851727 and you will be directed to the development officer in your area.

National Strategy on Outdoor Recreation open for consultation

Minister for Rural and Community Development, Heather Humphreys, has launched a public consultation on Ireland’s first ever National Outdoor Recreation Strategy.

The delivery of the strategy is a key commitment in Our Rural Future, the Government’s ambitious five-year policy to revitalise Rural Ireland.

The consultation will involve members of the public giving their views on how best to improve and develop our outdoor amenities such as our trails, cycleways, waterways, beaches, mountains, bogs and forests. The consultation will run for the next three weeks with the closing set scheduled for 5pm on 23 June, 2021.

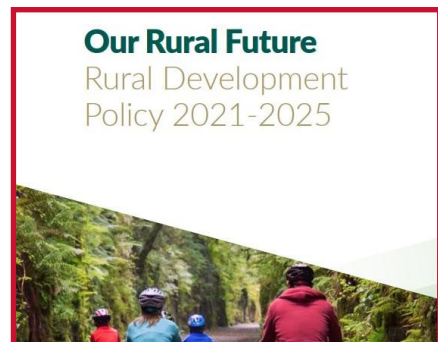
The strategy is being developed in partnership with Comhairle na Tuaithe (The Countryside Council).

Launching the public consultation Minister Humphreys said, “Our new National Outdoor

Recreation Strategy will be all about investing in our great outdoors. I want to get the views of as many members of the public and stakeholders on how best to develop our outdoor amenities such as our hiking trails, cycleways, rivers, forests and mountains.”

This is the first stage of a two-stage consultation process.

Interested stakeholders and individuals are encouraged to share their views on outdoor recreation via an online questionnaire - [click here to complete the questionnaire.](#)



Music Generation sets the stage for Fingal's future stars

'Music Generation Fingal' will be established as part of the programme's journey towards nationwide expansion.

Fingal is the latest area to commence participation in Music Generation, Ireland's national music education programme which strives to transform young people's lives by giving them opportunities to create, play and perform music in their own communities.

Locally, Music Generation Fingal will be led by DDLETB in partnership with FCC and local youth education services.

Over the coming years Music Generation Fingal will enrich local music education services by offering new opportunities for children and young people to participate

in dynamic and diverse performance music education programmes. Initiated by Music Network in 2010, Music Generation is co-funded by U2, The Ireland Funds, the Department of Education and Skills and Local Music Education Partnerships.

Currently it creates some 67,000 opportunities annually for young people to access music tuition, and 400 employment opportunities for skilled musician educators.

Since March 2020, Music Generation programmes have been adapting and innovating to find safe, inspiring ways to connect with children and



young people through music, in both online and offline contexts.

Rosaleen Molloy, National Director of Music Generation, said: "Fingal has demonstrated great ambition and real commitment in setting out its vision for performance music education.

"I look forward to working with all partners to bring about truly transformative outcomes for the county's next musical generation."

Libraries offer 'Contact and Collect'

Fingal Libraries 'Contact and Collect' service helps members to borrow books, DVDs and other materials from selected library branches while adhering to public health guidelines.

To avail of the service please follow these simple steps:

- Contact us via phone or email
- Books will be selected for you
- Collect your books by appointment only
- Read at your leisure
- Return when finished

Library materials can be collected and borrowed for a three-week loan period and if necessary, staff can amend the number of items on your account and the loan period.

The 'Contact and Collect' service is available at the following libraries.

Please note Blanchardstown Library is currently open

for Click & Collect ONLY due to ongoing refurbishment works.

All other branches are open for browsing at your leisure. You can find your local branch at www.fingal.ie/fingallibraries

- Blanchardstown**
 - 8905563 / 8905784
 - BlanchLibrary@fingal.ie
- Baldoyle**
 - 8906793 / 8906794
 - BaldoyeLibrary@fingal.ie
- Garristown**
 - 8355020
 - GarristownLibrary@fingal.ie
- Howth**
 - 8905026
 - Howth.Library@fingal.ie
- Rush**
 - 8708414
 - RushLibrary@fingal.ie
- Skerries**
 - 8905671
 - SkerriesLibrary@fingal.ie
- Swords**
 - 8905582 / 8905894
 - SwordsLibrary@fingal.ie



Fingal Libraries Summer Brochure is available at www.fingal.ie/fingallibraries



Clockwise from top left: Fingal Mayor Cllr David Healy cooks up a storm; Cygnets and swan at Skerries Mills; Full bloom at Ardgillan Demesne; Celebrating Pride in Swords Castle and Town Park



Selected Snapshots of Fingal's Summer



Clockwise from top: Swords from the air; Launching Fingal's first Cycle Bus at Castleknock Educate Together NS; Skerries by the sea



Fingal County Council appoints new Integration Officer

Fingal County Council has appointed Valerie McAllorum Byrne as Integration Officer, highlighting its commitment to inclusivity and progress throughout Fingal's communities.

Valerie has worked in Community Development for more than 25 years, and for the past 18 of those she has worked with the Fingal Community Development Office in the areas of Social Inclusion, Community Development, Capital and Strategic Projects.

She has coordinated projects such as the Volunteer Centre Fingal, Comhairle na nÓg and the development of Irish Human Rights and Equality Commission (IHREC) funded training "Intercultural, Diversity and Public Sector Duty".

More recently, Valerie has been involved in the development of the new Fingal Integration Forum.

"As a county with one of the most diverse and dynamically growing populations in Ireland, it's imperative that Fingal prioritises integration"

She has completed a review of Fingal County Council policies in conjunction with the Immigrant Council of Ireland (ICI) to ensure that they were equality and human rights proofed as set out in IHREC public sector duty guidelines.

Mayor of Fingal Cllr. David Healy emphasised the importance of integration to the continued successful development of Fingal.



"Integration is a vital element of healthy, cohesive and diverse societies, and I welcome Valerie's appointment as Integration Officer to spearhead Fingal's efforts in this direction."

Chief Executive of Fingal County Council AnnMarie Farrelly noted Fingal's position as a county with one of the most diverse and dynamically growing populations in Ireland: "It's imperative that Fingal prioritises integration."

"Valerie's appointment will help Fingal to achieve this in a strategic and effective way."

Valerie said: "I am very pleased to be taking on this new role within Fingal County Council in coordinating the goals of the Migrant Integration and Social Cohesion Strategy Actions and in supporting the development of the proposed outcomes."

"The appointment of an Integration Officer reinforces the commitment of the council to promoting integration across the county and to respond to the challenges and opportunities posed by the changing population which it serves".

Fingal celebrates PRIDE month

Fingal County Council celebrates Pride Week with a workshop designed to provide information and raise awareness about the LGBTQ+ Community in collaboration with Dublin Pride.



Journey of Pride

The Integration Officer presents a free, one hour online workshop. Everyone is welcome to an informative session that will help shine a light on all the work, past and present and how much there still is to do. Wednesday, June 23rd from 2 pm to 3 pm. [Click here to register](#)



Rising star signs up to champion cricket in D15

Fingal's Sports Office has partnered with Cricket Leinster to appoint Mitchell Thompson to its Cricket Development Team to support programmes in Tyrrelstown, Dublin 15.

Mitchell has recently joined the Munster senior IP squad, and is a first-year Sports Management and Coaching student at TU Dublin and YMCA club member.

His role commenced in May for a six-month pilot period with weekly school coaching visits arranged with Tyrrelstown Educate Together NS, Powerstown NS & Le Cheile secondary school.

The Cricket Development Team has fostered the growth of cricket in Fingal through their work with schools and clubs, and they have worked with clubs to create safe and community-friendly sporting environments during the Covid-19 pandemic.

Mitchell says he is honoured to be selected for the exciting new role.

"Development coaches helped me take my first step into cricket for which I will always be grateful."

"I hope to engage as many young people as I can to make that first, life-changing step into cricket in the Tyrrelstown community."

For more information on cricket please contact: Brian O'Rourke, Cricket Development Manager for Fingal, brian.orourke@cricketleinster.ie



Tyrrelstown FC Needs You!

The Football Association of Ireland and Fingal County Council's Sports Office are seeking expressions of interest from people who would like to be part of a volunteer team to organise, assist and/or coach at a reformed Tyrrelstown Football Club.

It's hoped to start operations in the summer with the vision of reforming the former football club (depending on government restrictions) as soon as possible. The main attributes in those we're looking for to help us out are:

- **Happy working as part of a team**
- **Passionate about football and community**
- **Organised and committed**

If this sounds like you, please fill out the expression of interest form at <https://forms.gle/DdtFrmB9PefazdL7>

For more information on this or any sport/football activity in Tyrrelstown contact:

Jamie Wilson, FAI Development Officer

- Jamie.wilson@fai.ie
- 086-047-2135 (Text messages only)



Pilot Restore & Protect project brings a new approach to Donabate Beach

This summer Fingal County Council is partnering with Clean Coasts, a conservation and climate action group run by An Taisce, to pilot the first Restore & Protect project in Fingal at Donabate Beach.

Beach wrack is the name used for any natural materials that wash up on the beach.

The majority of beach wrack is made up of seaweed, kelp, sea grasses and algae.

Leaving beach wrack in place helps support marine life by feeding creatures like crabs, worms and sand hoppers. It also fertilises the beach and supports dune build up by giving plants a place to grow.

It is normal for beaches to be cleaned using a mechanical rake during the busy Summer bathing season. This process removes all litter and debris from the beach including beach wrack.

For Summer 2021, as part of Fingal County Council and Clean Coasts pilot scheme, mechanical raking will be suspended and Fingal County Council are instead deploying an increased number of litter picking crews to remove waste by hand, leaving beach wrack in place.

“If we all play our part by leaving no trace of our beach visit we believe this can be a very successful project that keeps the beach beautiful while protecting the natural environment.”



Natural beaches contribute to the biodiversity and the beauty of our coasts. Many of us have become used to leaving areas of wild grass and flower to encourage pollination in our gardens and public spaces. In the same manner, leaving beach wrack will help to sustain our beaches and we hope that the new sight of natural material left on the beach will become a welcome sign of positive climate action.

Irish beaches are expected to welcome huge Summer visitor numbers in 2021. Martina O'Connor, Fingal Operations Department emphasised that keeping our beaches clean and environmentally friendly is vitally important.



“We are very pleased to be working with Clean Coasts this summer to pilot the ‘Restore and Protect’ project at Donabate beach.”

“We are deploying additional litter picking resources to manually clean the beach and are also appealing to visitors to Donabate beach to get involved by doing a 2 - minute beach clean.”



“If we all play our part by leaving no trace of our beach visit we believe this can be a very successful project that keeps the beach beautiful while protecting the natural environment.”

Clean Coasts is working with local schools to educate children on the importance of healthy beaches and will be hosting a number of community litter picking events for those who would like to get involved. This is a perfect opportunity to get to know others in your local area and a great activity to keep the kids entertained too!

See fingal.ie/restore-protect-donabate-beach for more information and look out for #RestoreAndProtect online.

Stop Dumping On Us!

This Summer we're spending more time than ever before outdoors. Sadly, the scourge of litter, dog dirt and illegal dumping continues to plague our beautiful county.

Dog dirt left on our pavements and streets is an annoyance and can be a health risk.

Be sure to always clean up after your dog.

Leaving behind dog faeces whether in bags or not, is inconsiderate and illegal and you can be fined €150 on the spot for this very serious offence or for littering in general.

Put your rubbish in a bin or take it home with you and dispose of it in your own bin.

Fingal County Council has doubled litter collection patrols in busy areas and we've added many extra public bins to accommodate a huge increase in visitors and residents enjoying the great outdoors.

We're emptying bins often but with so many people enjoying the outdoors they fill quickly.

Never leave your rubbish beside an overflowing bin; this is littering.

Take it home and bin it there instead.

Removal of illegally dumped waste costs Irish councils millions each year.

We know that much of this material has been dumped by unlicensed and unethical waste collection services.



Insist on seeing a waste collection licence.

What may seem like a cheap service can end up costing you up to €5,000 in fines if your waste is found illegally dumped by an ***"We've doubled litter collection patrols in busy areas and added many extra public bins"***

unscrupulous provider.

It is your responsibility as a homeowner to dispose of your waste properly.

Fingal residents can avail of two recycling centres at Swords and Coolmine.

It is free to dispose of recyclable materials at these centres including paint, electrical items, glass and clothing.

Non-recyclable items including wood, metal and garden waste are also accepted for a small fee.

If you see illegal dumping, know of a regular offender in your area or witness littering please get in touch with us by phone or email to report it.

Our litter wardens investigate incidents and will issue fines and take offenders to court if required.

You can email us at environment@fingal.ie or phone us on 01 890 5000.



STOP DUMPING ON US

Fine.
That's what you get for not using an authorised waste collector.

If you see illegal dumping call 01 890 5000 or send a picture to: environment@fingal.ie

#stopdumpingonus

Hospitality and tourism sector invited to apply for outdoor dining funding



Grants are available under The Outdoor Dining Enhancement Investment Scheme.

This investment scheme is being delivered under the Fáilte Ireland ‘Opening the Outdoors’ strategic pillar which aims to capitalise our outdoor assets and re-imagine our urban spaces.

Mayor of Fingal Cllr David Healy welcomed the Scheme as an important support.

“Upgrading and improving spaces

to provide for outdoor dining will play a significant part in allowing businesses to provide the necessary facilities to reopen in compliance with public health guidelines.”

Chief Executive AnnMarie Farrelly echoed this sentiment: “I am very conscious of the difficulties businesses across the county have faced and this scheme, which will enable the sector increase their dining and seating capacity, is another important initiative in allowing them to reopen safely.”

Director of Economic, Enterprise, Tourism and Cultural Development Emer O’Gorman said the funding would play a significant role in facilitating a safe dining experience for people to enjoy in line with public health advice.

“I would encourage eligible businesses to make their applications via the online portal that is now open.”

For further details on the scheme and the application process, visit www.fingal.ie/outdoordining.

Do I need a Street Furniture Licence?

In order to place furniture on the footpath, street or in the public realm, you need a Street Furniture Licence.

Visit <https://www.fingal.ie/council/service/street-furniture-licence> for details.

What costs are covered under the Scheme?

- Outdoor tables
- Outdoor chairs
- Umbrellas
- Electric heaters
- Screens
- Wind breaks
- Plant stands
- Wooden platforms

What period does the funding cover?

Expenditure for the above items must have been incurred between April 1 2020 and September 30 2021.

What funding is available?

The scheme will provide of up to 75% of the ex-VAT cost of equipment purchased/installed with a maximum allowable contribution of up to €4,000 per applicant.

When can I apply?

The scheme is open for applications from now until 30 September 2021, and all receipts must be submitted by 31 October 2021.

Who is eligible to apply?

- Attractions
- Hotels
- Restaurants
- Cafes
- Public houses
- Other tourism or hospitality establishments where food’s sold for consumption onsite.

Artists' Support Scheme Recipients Announced



Previous works by Elaine Granger, one of this year's scheme recipients

Earlier this year the Fingal Arts Office invited local artists to apply for funding under the annual Artists' Support Scheme.

Now in its eighth year, demand for the funding scheme has increased from 37 applications received in 2014 to 102 eligible applications received this year. The objective of the scheme is to support individual professional artists from Fingal to develop their artistic practise.

A sum of €150,000 was allocated to the Artists' Support Scheme in the Fingal County Council 2021 budget. This is an increase of €50k from the €100,000 fund shared in 2020. As a result, Fingal County Council has been delighted to increase the number of, and value of, recommended awards. In early May eighty-nine talented artists were revealed as recipients of the scheme funds for 2021.

Their work ranges across the arts and includes Drama and Film, Literature, Music, Dance and the Visual Arts.

[You'll find a full list of this year's recipients online on the Fingal website.](#)

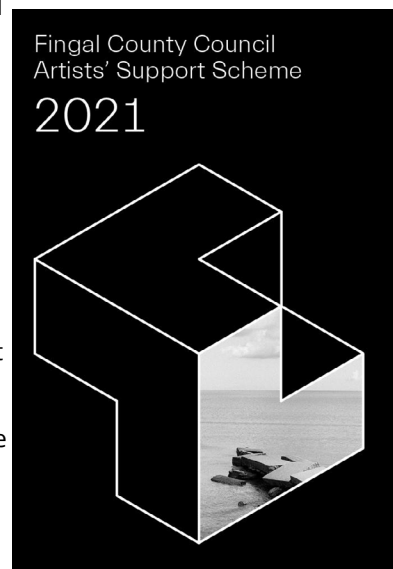
Howth native and visual artist Elaine Granger was just one scheme recipient. Growing up in Howth, Elaine had never visited Ireland's Eye and developed a fascination with it after reading a history of the

island. Presented with the basic facts of the place she wondered about the potential for a rich history of Ireland's Eye comprised of local memories and experiences.

Elaine's proposed work will gather stories from the local community and bring together elements of sound and water to create a temporary art installation.

"Water is a sound carrier" says Elaine, "and it will carry these impressions back to the Island". Elaine also proposed an online platform where audiences can engage with her process and learn more about the project.

You can see more of Elaine's work on Instagram @elainegart



Newbridge House plays host to 'Guest'



Fingal County Council's Arts Office is delighted to announce a new exhibition programme which has been developed in partnership with Newbridge House, titled Guest.

Adding to the tour experience of the house, Guest will invite contemporary art curators to engage with its collections through a new exhibition format which aims to show the visitor new ways to think about what is collected here and the place of the art and artists of today within its cultural history.

For the inaugural Guest exhibition at Newbridge House Marysia Wieckiewicz Carroll has curated the appropriately titled New Considerations of Familiar Settings.

Featuring 11 female and gender minority artists including Niamh McCann, Niamh O'Malley, Katie Watchorn, Ella de Burca, Eithne Jordan, Barbara Knezevic, Helen O'Leary, Liliane Puthod, Alice Rekab with Louise Meade & Emma Wolf Haugh whose work will be located throughout the house and brought to life in conversation

with the expert Newbridge House guide team.

Mayor of Fingal Councillor David Healy had an introduction to the exhibition at the house with Collections Curator, Cathal Dowd Smith and exhibition curator Marysia Wieckiewicz Carroll and commented: "Fingal is very proud of its heritage properties and any opportunity to promote and celebrate them as destinations to new visitors is welcomed and encouraged by Fingal County Council."

Public Art Co-ordinator Caroline Cowley explains: "Our first Guest curator, Marysia Wieckiewicz Carroll, works as part of the team at The Royal Society of Antiquaries of Ireland and is the founding director of Berlin Opticians Gallery where she represents a number of key Irish artists.

"Her experience of both historical and contemporary art practices and their potential to spark new conversations about collections makes her an exceptional first choice".

Marysia has reflected on the importance of Lady Betty Cobbe on the house, an avid collector of the objects, paintings and sculptures that have given Newbridge House its unique beauty.

The exhibition New Considerations of Familiar Settings presents new narratives about the role of women in society and the value art has in making new connections between the present and the past.

Guest at Newbridge House – New Considerations of Familiar Settings, Curated by Marysia Wieckiewicz Carroll, and featuring Niamh O'Malley, Katie Watchorn, Ella de Burca, Eithne Jordan, Barbara Knezevic, Niamh McCann, Helen O'Leary, Liliane Puthod, Alice Rekab with Louise Meade & Emma Wolf Haugh will run from 4th of June – 19th September 2021.

Entry is included in ticket price to Newbridge House and Farm.

Snugborough Interchange contract signing heralds progress

Contracts between Fingal County Council and BAM Civil Ltd, who were appointed following a competitive tender process, have now been signed.

Fingal Chief Executive AnnMarie Farrelly and Tadhg Lucey, COO of BAM put pen to paper at the Civic Offices in Blanchardstown.

They were joined by Deputy Mayor of Fingal Cllr Robert O'Donoghue, Director of Planning and Strategic Infrastructure Matthew McAleese and Senior Engineer Paul Carroll.

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 scheme has been designed to address network congestion issues and deliver significant

improvements for pedestrians, cyclists and bus services.

The project includes 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 initiative. The entire project is expected to take two years to complete.

Works to be carried out in the coming months include the construction of earth retaining structures to the south of Snugborough Road which will facilitate commencement of new underpass construction. The construction of retaining walls to the west of the bridge to facilitate widening of N3 off ramp and Blanchardstown SC link road will also commence, while piling works on the new bridge structure are expected to begin in August.

Traffic management and regular project updates will be available at <https://www.snugboroughinterchange.ie/traffic-management-updates/>



L to R: Matthew McAleese, Tadhg Lucey, Deputy Mayor of Fingal Cllr Robert O'Donoghue, Fingal County Council Chief Executive AnnMarie Farrelly, and Paul Carroll

Fingal By Numbers

223

applications submitted for the Small Business Assistance Scheme for Covid

1 Blue Flag for the Velvet Strand Portmarnock.



470_m

of full road widening and reconstruction with fully segregated cycling and pedestrian infrastructure at the newly upgraded Park Road Rush

€30,000

in grant funding successfully applied for by Fingal's Heritage Office under the Heritage Council's County Heritage Plan Projects Scheme 2021

450

native broadleaf trees planted by students at Blakestown Community School as part of their Micro Forest



23

Tidy Towns groups across Fingal working with Fingal County Council to develop local Biodiversity Action Plan with up to 10 Biodiversity actions per town or village location

387%

increase in monthly Bleeper Bike rides from March 2020 to March 2021



+70

new Bleeper Bikes added across Fingal in May 2021

600

wellness packs distributed by Fingal Mobile Libraries

318

housing units for Fingal residents delivered from January to May 2021 by Fingal County Council

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