

Fingal News

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**YOUR
COUNCIL,
WORKING
FOR YOU**

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Comhairle Contae
Fhine Gall
Fingal County
Council



Mayor's Message



The past few months as Mayor of Fingal have been hugely rewarding. I am learning every day and couldn't do it without the support of those around me. Without doubt, the best part about being Mayor is meeting so many people from all walks of life in Fingal. Our people are truly our greatest asset and I love to

encounter the rich tapestry of life. The return of in person engagements and events was all the more enjoyable as we have been kept apart for so long. There was a thirst for connection again. The vibrancy and commitment of community workers, volunteers, Fingal County Council workers and other stakeholders inspires me every day as we who work together to make Fingal a great place to live.

I have attended over 40 events and engagements since June and enjoyed every one of them.. In September, Culture Night was celebrated across Fingal with a series of free arts and culture experiences. The outdoor screening of 'A Burning Tide' beside the boathouse in Loughshinny was a windy but spectacular highlight... Mental Health Ireland chose Balbriggan as their location for a Thrive project, a community-led positive mental health initiative, and I was honoured to launch the first of many Thrive n' Conversations.

In the Chamber itself, I chaired the first phase of the Fingal Development Plan meetings and the usual full Council meetings. The Fingal Women's Caucus had its inaugural meeting in July in Newbridge House. I am hopeful that this will lead to greater participation of women in politics. Balance is better.

Bike Week and Positive Ageing Week took place in September too. Both of these annual milestones were occasion for celebration as the team in Fingal County Council were delighted to bring you exciting events once again with everything from ukulele lessons for older people during Positive Ageing Week to a Glow in the Dark Cycle at Malahide Castle for Bike Week.

During Positive Ageing Week, Fingal County Council planted a commemorative tree at Town Park in Swords. This tree was planted on the International Day of the Older Person to remember the many people who died during the pandemic. Further commemorations will certainly follow as we absorb the enormous loss that Ireland and the world has experienced, but this acknowledgement allows us to pause and reflect right now and reminds us to keep those who are grieving in our thoughts.

Finally, I want to thank everyone who is making a positive impact on our communities, no matter how small. Ní neart go cur le chéile.

-Cllr Seána Ó Rodaigh

Chief Executive's Message



It is hard to believe that we are in Autumn once again but the leaves have indeed started to fall and preparations for Halloween celebrations are in full swing. I have been very pleased to see a safe and gradual return to live and in person events across the county. The Fingal Events, Arts, Heritage, Community and

Active Travel teams, among others, have been particularly busy in the last few weeks with well attended and exciting events and it has been a pleasure to join many of you enjoying yourselves at screenings, family days out and exhibitions.

Life inside the Council has been just as busy and in these pages you'll find news of lots of exciting developments including plans for new and improved playgrounds and parks, a big step forward for the Sustainable Swords project and you can even meet the Goats that are changing the face of gorse growth management in Howth. At the heart of every one of these projects is innovation and enterprise. Our teams are constantly working hard to bring you initiatives that will continue to make Fingal the best place in Ireland to live, work and do business.

It was recently announced that nine Fingal County Council projects have received nominations for the All Ireland Community & Council Awards. These awards showcase successful collaborations between communities and councils and provide a platform for recognising and acknowledging unsung heroes. Projects nominated include Fingal Festival of History, our Weather stations for schools, our free outdoor Wi-Fi project and our contactless water bottle refilling stations. The awards take place in late November and I wish everyone involved the very best of luck.

Work is progressing in Balbriggan with the demolition of O'Sheas at the harbour now underway. This will make way for a stunning public recreation space with views of the sea and the town and will be transformative for Balbriggan. I'd like to take this opportunity to welcome Leah Walshe to her new role as the Community Development Officer for Balbriggan. Leah brings extensive valuable experience to the role and will be a great addition to Balbriggan's resources.

While we are enjoying some new-found freedom it is important that we don't forget the basics; keep up regular handwashing, social distancing where possible and remain at home and get tested if you experience any symptoms of Covid-19. We have worked so hard to keep one another safe and can continue to show that kindness throughout the coming months.

-AnnMarie Farrelly

Shackleton Garden officially opened

The development of The Shackleton Garden in Clonsilla took a major step forward with the official opening by the Mayor on the 17th September.

Since acquiring The Garden in 2017, Fingal County Council has been working on its restoration with a view to opening up to the public as an important local amenity, visitor attraction and tourism asset in the Dublin 15 area. The restoration works have involved the rebuilding of large sections of the garden walls, upgrading of paths and the restoration of garden buildings. The works are part of a €400,000 investment from Fingal County Council and Fáilte Ireland.

Cllr Seána Ó Rodaigh, officially opened the redevelopment alongside the Tánaiste, Leo Varadkar, TD, Fingal County Councillors, Oireachtas members, volunteers and members of the Shackleton Family.



Mayor of Fingal Cllr Seána Ó Rodaigh and Tánaiste, Leo Varadkar

Speaking at the launch, The Mayor said: “Fingal County Council, the Shackleton Garden volunteers and our contractors have worked tirelessly over the past few years in order to restore these beautiful gardens. It is an absolute delight to be here today and to see the massive amount

of work that has gone into this project.”

The Gardens, which are inside a 1.5-acre walled garden, are home to a wide range of rare and exotic plants including an important collection of herbaceous perennials, grown in large flower borders.



Chief Executive of Fingal County Council, AnnMarie Farrelly, said: “I am delighted to see The Shackleton Garden open officially today. The Garden will provide a fantastic tourist attraction for Dublin 15 and will be an excellent addition to the Liffey Valley Trail in Fingal.”

The Shackleton Garden is easily accessible and sits immediately adjacent to the commuter rail station at Clonsilla.

Sustainable Swords strategic priorities open for consultation



In spring of 2021 Fingal County Council invited local residents and businesses, to get involved in the Sustainable Swords place making project. The 'Your Swords, Your Say' survey gave people an opportunity to share their opinions and comments on how to best develop Swords sustainably.

Insights from the survey have been brought together with the Fingal County Development Plan 2017-2023 to help shape the Emerging Themes for the Sustainable Swords strategy.

The ambition of Sustainable Swords is to create a multi-faceted approach to the planning, design and management of the town, in order to achieve better quality places as the physical setting for life in the town and Swords. The project will also set specific objectives for the town centre with the goal of increasing the resilience of the local economy and fostering an enhanced, accessible, inclusive, child friendly and healthy urban environment. A vibrant town for all.

The public are now invited to explore these emerging themes and share their comments and observations. Feedback from local residents and businesses is essential to the success of the strategy

Mayor of Fingal Cllr Seána Ó Rodaigh, believes that creating a vision for Sustainable Swords in collaboration with the public is essential. "Creating a vision for Sustainable Swords must be a true collaboration with the public. Fingal County Council is presenting these themes to inspire contributions from the public on key topics.

Everyone living or working in Swords has the potential to influence these plans and everyone is invited to take part."

Speaking about the design team, Fingal County Architect, Fionnuala May, said: "I am delighted with the appointment of O'Donnell and Tuomey Architects to the Swords Cultural Quarter project. This important milestone heralds the start of the design period for our new County Library and Arts Centre. Our aspiration is for a design that appropriately signals our pride in Swords as our county town and I have no doubt that this will be realised by O'Donnell and Tuomey and their team."

As the project progresses Fingal County Council will continue to share updates on the proposed designs so look out for more news in future editions of the Fingal News.



Composting for schools project

The Dublin Local Authorities Chief Executives have announced the launch of the Composting for Schools Initiative. This pilot is being led by Composting Ireland with funding support from the four Dublin area local authorities and the Eastern-Midlands Regional Waste Management Plan Office.

Hugh Coughlan Coordinator of the EMRWMPPO is delighted to help fund the Composting for Schools Project. "This is a vitally important initiative that aims to increase knowledge and skills about food waste and composting among students of all ages and the wider school community. This project is highly replicable and what is achieved in schools in the Dublin region can be duplicated right across the Eastern-Midlands Region and indeed, throughout the whole country".

The aim of the programme is to help schools to reduce waste, save money and combat climate change. It will also assist them in attaining Green School Flags and Sustainable Development Goals. Alongside this, the programme will give teachers access to a variety of fun, participatory and interactive activities for school children to learn about composting and gardening. These activities will support children's understanding of the underlying principles of ecology, biology and biodiversity that underpin all life on our planet.

Fingal County Council Environment, Climate Action and Active Travel Department Director Dave Storey stated: "This is a great opportunity for Fingal schools to tackle climate change and reduce emissions from food and landscape waste while also creating a quality compost in the circular economy. We look forward to working with both primary and secondary

schools on the initiative".

Craig Benton from Composting Ireland said: "I am thrilled to see this come to fruition and look forward to working with over 100 schools, teaching them about the main elements of composting and installing systems that they can use to reduce emissions and recycle natural resources".

Teachers and other school staff are invited to participate in an online training programme to learn about composting and how it supports essential water, nutrient and carbon cycles that allows us to grow the food we need to thrive. After the training, a specialist from Composting Ireland will conduct a site visit to each participating school to help it set up systems for separating food waste for brown bin collection, establish composting systems for garden and landscape materials and/or install wormeries to compost food waste from staff and student lunches. All of these will prevent waste and decrease greenhouse gas emissions as well as provide the tools for students to learn about soil ecology and the biology of composting organisms.

Each participating school will receive a €250 voucher from Fingal County Council to spend on in-school collection caddies, a variety of composting systems and composting tools.

Environmental Education Officer with Fingal County Council Sinéad Fox has been working on developing this Composting For Schools Project and is looking forward to engaging with schools in Fingal.

To sign up for the programme, teachers, caretakers and school office staff can visit the Composting Ireland website to read about how the programme works, fill out a short survey about their school and choose a set of training dates to get started.

Places are limited and are given on a first come first served basis. So please do not hesitate to jump on this unique opportunity by visiting www.compostingireland.ie/schools/



Children taking part in the Composting for Schools Initiative

Dublin Climate Action Week 2021

Fingal County Council recently hosted Dublin Climate Action Week 2021 (DCAW21), an initiative of the four Dublin local authorities, CARO & Codema. It looks to showcase climate action progress, and demonstrate how local authorities and partners are leading on climate action.

A broad range of online and in person events were held across the Dublin region covering the themes of Energy and Buildings, Transport, Flood Resilience, Nature Based Solutions, Resource Management and Citizen Engagement.

Among the highlights of DCAW21 was an online Climate Action panel discussion with the Chief Executives of each of the four Dublin Local Authorities, where shared and local approaches to Climate Action were discussed, along with Climate Action progress across the Dublin region.

Some very interesting and informative Energy themed events also took place such as 'Women in Energy' a collaboration between the Sustainable Energy Authority Ireland SEAI, Renewable Energy Ireland and Codema with the aim of reconnecting all women across Ireland working in the energy sector. 'Save Energy at Home' demonstrated Codema's award winning Home Energy Saving Kits which are available to borrow for free from over 100 libraries across Ireland.

Fingal hosted a number of site visits including to Rogerstown Estuary where Fingal's Biodiversity Officer, Hans Visser spoke about the Let it Flood project. It has made space for floodwater, alleviated potential flooding locally and created a rich saltmarsh habitat which has the benefit of enhancing local biodiversity. Hans also gave a talk at St. Ita's Wetland in Portrane about the climate and biodiversity benefits of rewetting wetlands under the Climate Action theme of Nature Based Solutions.

Under the theme of Resource Management, Fingal hosted an in-person site visit at Rogerstown Park in Lusk, the former Balleally landfill site which has been capped and an extensive restoration project undertaken. It is now a park and will be a valuable public amenity. Representatives from Fingal's Environment, Climate Action and Active Travel Department spoke about waste management practices in Ireland old to new, landfill restoration,

13 - 19 September 2021



Local Authorities Leading on Climate Action

the benefits of landfill gas extraction systems which harness greenhouse gases to create electricity and tips for waste minimisation in the home were provided.

One of the most important objectives of DCAW21 was to make climate action a 'reality', allowing citizens to see what Climate Action looks like. Most importantly it was encouraging that awareness was raised of the link between our own daily activities and the impact on the environment. No action is too big or too small and taking action together will help us to create a sustainable future for all citizens across the Dublin region.

You can find out more about Climate Action and can view webinars from DCAW21 at: <https://dublinclimatechange.codema.ie/climate-action-week/event-resources/>

Ireland's waste action plan for a circular economy

Moving towards a Circular Economy

Ireland's new Waste Action Plan for a Circular Economy sets a pathway towards a more circular style economy by shifting focus away from looking at how we dispose of our waste to looking at how we design, make and use our goods and products in a way that allows us to keep them in use for as long as possible.

There is an emphasis on composting food waste which is hugely important as in Ireland alone we generate more than 1 million tonnes of food waste every year, representing a carbon footprint of 3.6 million tonnes of carbon dioxide. It is estimated that food waste generates 8 to 10% of global greenhouse gas emissions.

The new plan identifies plastics as a key priority and sets out measures to reduce plastic packaging waste which is a significant problem in Ireland. All plastic packaging waste on the EU market must be fully recyclable by 2030. EPA figures indicate that plastic packaging waste put on the market is rising by 10% every year. Currently 63% of packaging waste ends up being burned in incinerators to generate electricity and this produces 350,000 tonnes of carbon dioxide which is equivalent to the entire annual emissions from a town the size of Kilkenny.

Why is it important for us to move to a Circular Economy?

The consumer goods we use on a daily basis such as washing machines, TVs, computers, cars and children's toys have been made from raw materials extracted from the earth. Up until relatively recently, we disposed of these items by sending them to landfill. This was an extremely wasteful process. Some of these goods contained valuable raw materials which could have been reused. For instance, up to 80% of the raw materials in a large household appliance like a washing machine can go for recycling and reuse. Making new consumer goods requires fossil fuels to produce energy for manufacturing, releasing greenhouse gases such as carbon dioxide into the atmosphere and contributing to Climate Change. Extracting raw materials from the Earth for new products involves mining, quarrying and cutting down forests, activities which result in more greenhouse gases being released into the atmosphere worsening the climate crisis. Worldwide, we are extracting three times the amount of raw materials from the Earth now than

we were 50 years ago. This is unsustainable. If we continue like this, we will need three planet Earth's by 2050 to meet our demand for natural resources! It is very clear that we need to transition from a linear economy to a circular economy. Lifelong products that can be renewed, re-used, repaired and upgraded are key, along with products that have reached the end of their life being reused to create other useful products. This is a far more sustainable approach.

How can individuals, households and businesses support the plan?

Deposit and return schemes for aluminium cans and plastic bottles are being introduced, this is a smart way to incentivise people to recycle more.

Some 22,000 coffee cups are disposed of in Ireland every hour. This promotes an unsustainable linear economy, encouraging a take, make and throwaway lifestyle. One simple and effective action for individuals is to choose reusable cups. The Conscious Cup Campaign, a non-profit organisation that aims to reduce and eventually eliminate single use cups in Ireland has prepared a Café Map where you can search for cafés in your local area that welcome reusable cups. Go to: <https://www.consciouscup.ie/cafe-map.php>

Alongside this, there are 220,000 plastic water bottles generated in Ireland every day. Worryingly, 68% of these are not recycled. Bringing a reusable water bottle with you when out and about and using refill points helps to cut down on plastic waste and benefits the environment. TAP MAP (<https://refill.ie/tap-map/>) is an innovative tool where you can search for refill points in your local area.

Ultimately, the success of this plan relies on behavioural change. Each of us needs to become aware of the link between our own daily activities and the impact on the environment. Old habits of reusing, repairing and exchanging have gradually given way to replacing and disposing of items. We must return to those more sustainable practices: to be smarter in how we use our resources and to ultimately being better at looking after the environment.



Fingal commemorates Covid-19 victims on International Day for Older Persons

1 October 2021 marked a special commemoration for the lives of those lost to Covid-19, when a memorial tree in Townpark Swords was planted. This was one of several events taking place across the country to mark International Day for Older Persons.

The tree plantings are part of a national campaign led by John Keogh, who tragically lost his sister Amanda to Covid-19 in 2020, for a national memorial forest. The campaign aims to have many more trees planted to commemorate all those who have died as well as those who made enormous sacrifices to provide front line services throughout the pandemic.

Cllr Seána Ó Rodaigh spoke about the impact Covid-19 has had on older people in particular. 'When our older people cocooned, they sacrificed their social wellbeing to stay safe at home and they lost the important opportunity to grieve together and comfort one another when friends and relatives passed away. Today is an important moment to pause, acknowledge that sacrifice and make time for



Mayor of Fingal Cllr Seána Ó Rodaigh, Chief Executive AnnMarie Farrelly and Martina O'Connor

remembrance.'

Chief Executive of Fingal County Council, AnnMarie Farrelly, spoke too about the importance of commemoration. 'Our communities have been deeply affected by Covid-19 but they have also rallied behind their friends, family and neighbours in their time of need. On International Day for Older Persons we commemorate not only those whose lives were tragically cut short, but we also remember the care and kindness that has carried us through such hard times.'



AnnMarie Farrelly, CE, Fingal, Cllr Seána Ó Rodaigh, Mayor of Fingal with the O'Brien, O'Connor and Keogh families

The tree planting took place adjacent to the rock garden within the Townpark, a setting chosen for its tranquil location within Swords. It offers a place for quiet contemplation to visitors who may also wish to remember their own loved ones and all those who have passed away throughout the pandemic.

Old Irish goats return to Howth Head after century long wait

Fingal County Council are delighted to announce a ground-breaking conservation grazing project, with Old Irish Goats, at Howth, in the Dublin Bay UNESCO Biosphere Reserve. The scheme, which will last for three years, is a partnership project between Fingal County Council and the Old Irish Goat Society with support from the Howth SAAO.

A group of 25 Old Irish Goats, originating from the national herd in Mulranny, Co Mayo, recently arrived in their new home on Howth Head as the first phase of the project got underway. The project will utilise traditional methods of management, a goat herder and sheepdogs. It will also trial, for the first time in Ireland, the Norwegian "No-fence" system which employs GPS tracking to define fenceless grazing areas.

The Old Irish Goat Society has hired Melissa Jeuken to manage the grazing project on Howth. Seán Carolan, of the Old Irish Goat Society said: "The herder will manage the goat herd on Howth, move the goats on a daily basis from site to site and look after the breeding programme".

This critically endangered, native breed of goat makes its return to the heathlands of Howth Head, after a hiatus of nearly a century. These goats will play an important role in managing growth to reduce fire risk to homes, while also enhancing the biodiversity of the priority heathland habitats. The Old Irish



Mayor of Fingal Cllr Seána Ó Rodaigh and Melissa Jeuken, Shepherd in charge of the new goat herd at Howth Head

goat has the ability to control the accumulation of gorse, especially after fires and due to their grazing behaviour and efficient digestive systems, adapt to feeding on harsher environments with low nutritive quality heathlands. They effectively offer a more economical and sustainable solution to managing the landscape.

The project is seeking to re-establish the traditional grazing role of the goat by reinstating the indigenous breed to the heathlands overlooking Dublin City. A breeding programme is being run by the Old Irish Goat society to conserve the breed and Fingal County Council will work in partnership with the society to continue this very important endeavour.

Ms Jeuken has the unusual job of taking care of this herd and says their presence won't affect visitors to the popular beauty spot. "We are reminding the public to keep their dog on a lead and ask you to please not to feed the goats if you encounter them. You can and should keep visiting this incredible place and enjoying the walking routes and scenery that Howth has to offer."

Chief Executive of Fingal County Council, Ann Marie Farrelly, echoed these sentiments. "Howth Head is a stunning location and a place loved by so many. This project will help us protect and ensure the sustainable future of the area and we look forward to its success as Howth's newest residents settle into their new home in the coming weeks and months."



Fingal Libraries

Work Matters

Work Matters service at Fingal libraries assists job seekers and business start-ups. It is also the perfect place to explore, research and learn new skills. There are resource collections available to aid business and employment related topics such as job preparation, start your own business, marketing of small to medium enterprises (SMEs) and the use of social media to promote business.

Work Matters service includes:

- Free membership here: <https://lgma.iii.com/selfreg>
- Business and employment books, journals, reports
- eBooks, eAudio and eMagazines
- Computers and Free Wi-Fi access
- Meeting rooms for groups, study and research
- Printing, scanning and photocopying
- Staff who are all fully trained information professionals at hand to ensure a welcoming and supportive environment to carry out research

Business.ie

Business.ie is Ireland's largest business contact database of over 130,000 companies and 80,000+ executive contacts. Search businesses in Ireland by category, location, sector, type, product, employee size and executive role. Increase your sales, source suppliers and reach the top business-to-business contacts.

<https://business.ie/home>



Mintel

Mintel market research reports are available through Fingal Libraries. Mintel Ireland reports cover market, consumer and brand research as well as tracking international market insights and trends. Mintel's up to date Irish database contains a wealth of analysis and is an excellent resource for business people and those seeking to develop their career.

<https://www.mintel.com/>



Vision-Net

Vision-net has access to documents filed in the Irish Companies Registration Office. Information available includes Irish company and business addresses, activities, directors, profit and loss, assets etc. This information is updated daily. Printouts are available. Limited information on UK and Northern Ireland companies.

<https://www.vision-net.ie/index.jsp>



Mintel, Business.ie and Vision-net are all beneficial for Business and Marketing students at 3rd level education. It also serves as a good resource tool for secondary school students in TY researching businesses or companies for work placements.

As part of the Autumn/Winter events at Fingal Libraries, Mintel will be running Online Live Events. Take a look at our Autumn/Winter 2021 brochure: <https://www.fingal.ie/sites/default/files/2021-10/fingal-libraries-autumn-winter-2021-brochure.pdf>

The Business, Enterprise and Employment Support Centre in Fingal Libraries is a workspace available for anyone seeking employment or career development as well as entrepreneurs of all levels. A great benefit for marketing students in college and business-oriented students in secondary schools.

Contact your local library branch for more on Work Matters

New Community Development Officer for Balbriggan

Leah Walshe succeeds Mick Dunne who had held the post for several years. Leah, who has worked for Fingal County Council for the past five years, had been based in Dublin 15.

She has over 20 years' experience of working with a broad range of communities in the Philippines, the Caribbean, Australia and in Ireland and has a social justice background with an emphasis on upholding standards of honesty, ethics and integrity.

She has academic qualifications in International Community Development, Journalism and Housing and has extensive experience in the social sector with a focus on vulnerable migrant families and children as well as having a firm understanding of the asylum system internationally and the situation of migrants in Ireland.

The Mayor of Fingal, Cllr Seána Ó Rodaigh, said: "The development of strong, self-reliant and sustainable communities is central to the work of Fingal County Council's Community Development Office and they support our citizens to build better communities through a programme of supports. I welcome the appointment of Leah Walshe as the new Community Development Officer for the Balbriggan area and wish her well in her new role."

Liam Burke, Acting Director of Housing and Community Development at Fingal County Council, said: "The Community Office, in partnership with our



Leah Walshe, Community Development Officer for Balbriggan

community centres in Balbriggan at Flemington and Castlelands, encourages community participation and the appointment of Leah Walshe as the Community Officer for the area will facilitate that work in many different ways."

Speaking, following the announcement of her appointment, Leah Walshe said: "Balbriggan is the youngest and one of the fastest growing and most diverse communities in the country. This brings with it many strengths, but there are also many challenges that come with rapid change over a short period of time. As the Community Officer in Balbriggan I want to create opportunities for meaningful interaction between people from all backgrounds. I want to mitigate prejudice whilst increasing constructive attitudes. I want to support the process for building trust and understanding and I want to help create a common identity."

Leah is currently preparing a reopening reception and launch of the Fingal Community and Sports Hub in Balbriggan which will include a series of open days showcasing a range of community groups, and community support services.

A poster for a public consultation. The background is a scenic view of a city under a blue sky with clouds. The text is in white and blue. At the bottom, there are logos for various organizations including Dublin City Council, Fingal County Council, and the Department of the Environment, Climate and Communications.

**Public Consultation for
Dublin Region Air Quality Plan 2021**

Date: 18th October 2021 to 15th November 2021

To submit your views and participate in the Public Consultation follow
<https://consultation.dublincity.ie>

Alternatively, email at airquality@dublincity.ie or
write to Air Quality Monitoring and
Noise Control Unit, Environment & Transportation Department,
Block 3 Floor 1, Civic Offices, Wood Quay, Dublin 8.

Fingal Festival of History 2021

The fifth annual Fingal Festival of History took place online this year with all talks being made available on the Fingal Libraries YouTube channel and social media platforms.

The programme featured the History at the Castle day with a variety of speakers presenting on topics relating to Partition, The Truce, The Anglo-Irish Treaty and other political conditions relevant during this period of Ireland's history.

Speaking on the event, Mayor of Fingal Cllr Seána Ó'Rodaigh said: "This year's Fingal Festival of History brings together an excellent mix of local and national topics which will appeal to anyone with an interest in the Irish revolutionary period. It incorporates music, song & history recorded in the wonderful Swords Castle setting, which is a rich source of history and a notable cultural attraction."

County Librarian Betty Boardman said: "Although library services are gradually coming back to normal, it will be some time yet before we can welcome live audiences to events in libraries. This year's Festival of History will be held online, with the talks recorded and broadcast for people to enjoy on Fingal Libraries YouTube channel and our social media platforms. The Events Team in Libraries have put together a fascinating programme covering the subjects of Partition, The Truce & The Anglo-Irish Treaty, alongside topics of local interest such as The Coastguard Station at Robswall & The Great Northern



Emer O’Gorman - Director of Services, Mayor of Fingal Cllr Seána Ó’Rodaigh and Betty Boardman - County Librarian

Railway.

The talks, which were recorded in the Chapel at Swords Castle, included the following topics:

- A recall of what life in Fingal was like during 1921 by Declan Brady
- A look at the impact of partition in Ireland by historian Cormac Moore
- Everyday life in extraordinary times discussed by Lou Boland
- The Peace Process & The Truce discussed by John Dorney and Bernard Kelly
- "Dark Days, Homeward Bound to Better Times" is the title of the talk given by Cllr Cathal Boland.
- Children's author Brian Gallagher discussed the historical inspiration to his book Taking Sides
- Garry Ahern looked at the demise of the Coastguard at Robswall
- Siobhan Osgood explored the architecture and historic events around the Great Northern Railway
- The anti-vaccination movement in the revolutionary period, looked at by Bernard Kelly.
- To conclude, David O'Connor accompanied by Aidan and Helen Lawlor performed a selection of music and songs relating to the period and songs included 'Shanagolden'

**FINGAL
FESTIVAL
OF HISTORY**
25 September -
2 October

Culture Night 2021

Fingal County Council has run an exciting programme of free events across various locations in Fingal to celebrate Culture Night 2021. Culture Night, now in its sixteenth year, is an annual national public event that celebrates culture, creativity and the arts.

For one night only arts and cultural organisations, castles and historic houses in Fingal extend their opening hours to the public, showcasing a wealth of local talent and superb cultural facilities. Audiences of all ages can 'Come Together Again' and enjoy a variety of music, poetry, art, tours and talks specifically programmed for Culture Night in Fingal either online or at participating venues and locations.

Fingal Arts Office presented two special events; a viewing and talk by curator Marysia Wieckiewicz Carroll of 'New Considerations of Familiar Settings', a contemporary art exhibition for the inaugural 'GUEST' programme at Newbridge House and the screening of 'A Burning Tide', at Loughshinny Harbour.

As part of this year's programme Ardgillan Castle's newly established artists' studios was opened to visitors. This artists' studios initiative by Fingal County Council in partnership with Ardgillan Castle provides supported studio space for artists living and working in Fingal. Visitors had the opportunity to meet the artists and designers now based at the bespoke studios in the castle.

Fingal Libraries hosted an online poetry and music event which can now be accessed through the Fingal Library YouTube Channel. Our Balbriggan welcomed visitors to view their photographic exhibition highlighting Balbriggan's wonderful coastline. The Irish Institute of Music and Song, a superb music facility in Balbriggan, hosted a music trail through their campus and DIAS Dunsink Observatory presented a night among the stars including 'Light-speed' talks. Visitors also explored the beautiful interiors of Malahide Castle, one of Fingal's finest heritage properties.



**Emer O'Gorman - Director of Services,
Mayor of Fingal Cllr Seána Ó Rodaigh and
Susan Lovatt - Fingal Libraries**

Speaking about the programme Cllr Seána Ó Rodaigh said: "This wonderful programme for Oíche Chultúir/ Culture Night celebrates our rich culture through poetry, song, creative writing, including as Gaeilge, photographic exhibitions, opportunities to engage with artists in Ardgillan Demesne and Newbridge House, and much more. Well done to all involved and I am sure it will be a great success."

Chief Executive AnnMarie Farrelly said: "I welcome the opportunity on Culture Night each year to celebrate and support culture and artistic endeavour in Fingal and to showcase our Heritage properties as we open their doors to the public. This year is no exception and the programme planned offers many exciting opportunities to connect with and enjoy creativity and culture at both online and in person events."

Emer O' Gorman Director of Services said: "The last eighteen months have been very challenging for Culture and the Arts but have also highlighted their very important role in society. I am very pleased to present this fantastic programme for Culture Night at an exciting time for the arts."

Positive Ageing Week 2021



Deputy Mayor Daniel Whooley, Bridie O'Neill, Caroline Power, Fingal and Cllr Tom Kitt



Julie and Bernard Daly





Dagmar Smith, Elizabeth Hogan



Community Event at Irish Institute of Music & Song, Balbriggan

Development project at Naul Village park & public play space at Garristown library



Fingal County Council has announced commencement of the formal planning process for the proposed Development Project at Naul Village Park and the proposed Public Play Space at Garristown Library. Both projects, which are led by the council's Parks & Green Infrastructure Division, aim to deliver spaces which are sensitive to and reflective of the cultural, historical and natural heritage of the site.

The Naul Village Park will consist of a number of elements:

- **Arrival Space:** This is the main pedestrian entrance and meeting point to the park from the Balbriggan Road.
- **Village Green:** A strategically placed village green creates a centrepiece around which other elements will be arranged.
- **Playground:** The playground will borrow themes from Naul's rich heritage to create a play experience that is rooted in its' context.
- **Recreation and Fitness Area:** The fitness area, located immediately south of the playground, is a space designated for sport and fitness activities and is intended to cater for a wide age-range of users.
- **Reflection Garden:** A Reflection Garden is proposed in the south-west corner of the site. This location seeks to make a feature of the old buildings and walls that partly define the park boundary.
- **Parking Area and Potential for Farmers markets:** The car parking area is to be designed incorporating reinforced grass and will be future proofed by the inclusion of ducting to facilitate electric car charging.

Speaking on the proposed Development Project at Naul Village Park, Mayor of Fingal Cllr Seána Ó Rodaigh said "The proposed Naul Village Park Development Project will be a fantastic community meeting point and provide recreational facilities for young and old alike.

The Public Play Space at Garristown Library will consist of a number of elements:

- **Entrance Plaza Space:** An architecturally sensitive approach has been taken in the proposals for the improvement of the landscape at the entrance to the Carnegie Library which respects the relationship between the Library and the Church of the Assumption.
- **Picnic and Sculptured Lawn Space:** At the south of the library's southern façade, a versatile space is proposed that will facilitate casual play.
- **Woodland Themed Play Garden:** The Woodland Themed Play Garden will cater for a wide age range with opportunities for adventurous, challenging, and social play within a natural setting.

Speaking on the proposed Public Play Space at Garristown Library, Chief Executive of Fingal AnnMarie Farrelly said "This outdoor recreation and community facility is designed to be accessible for diverse abilities and is sensitive to the existing heritage and biodiversity of the site."



Sixth TY Football and Fitness course launched by Irish legend

Former Republic of Ireland international John O'Shea was the special guest at the launch of the Football and Fitness Transition Year Course 21/22. This is the 6th year of the course, which is run by Fingal County Council and the Football Association of Ireland.

The course, which attracts participants from across Fingal, gives TY students an opportunity to sample full-time football training while also fulfilling their educational requirements and obtaining qualifications in coaching and fitness training.

John O'Shea, who won 118 international caps, and is one of Ireland's most successful footballers ever, took part in a Q&A session during which he imparted plenty of sound advice to the young students who travel every day to Corduff from across the county.

Speaking at the launch, Ireland Under-21 assistant coach and former international player O'Shea said: "It was a pleasure to meet all the students and coaches at Corduff and to help them celebrate the launch of the sixth year of the Football and Fitness Transition Year course run by the FAI and Fingal County Council. As I explained to the students, I would have loved to have such an opportunity available to me when I was their age. This is a great programme which offers them a pathway into football and the fitness industry whilst continuing their studies at the same time. There are so many career opportunities now available in sport and I wish them all the very best of luck for the year ahead."

Over the course of the 2021-22 school year, the 25 Transition Year students participating in the programme will mix academic subjects such as Maths and English with a range of football coaching courses



Former Ireland international John O'Shea with participants of the Football and Fitness Course

and modules in Fitness Instruction, Media Skills and Personal Development as well as football training and strength and conditioning work. In addition, the participants will undertake an ITEC Fitness Instructors Course delivered by Litton Lane Fitness Training. They will also return to their local primary school one day a week to work with teachers in the delivery of physical education and gain valuable work experience.

Course Co-ordinator Denis Hyland, who is a co-funded FAI Development Officer with Fingal County Council, said: "This course allows the players to live in a proper football environment for a year while also meeting their educational needs. They are at an age when some young players head abroad to join professional clubs and this programme allows them to reap the same footballing benefits and a lot more while remaining at home with their families and putting something back into their local communities.

"Since we started in 2016 the course has gone from strength to strength creating pathways for players into full-time scholarships, first team contracts in the League of Ireland, professional contracts abroad and underage International football. In the last week we've had seven past students selected for Under-17s, three for the Under-19s and five for the Under-21s squads. The last month was a real milestone with Andrew Omobamidele from our 2018 course playing for the senior international team. This is fantastic and I believe the relationship between the underage clubs and ourselves has been a massive success in assisting to develop these players. These graduates are now role models for the course, and they've set the barometer and shown our current students that with hard work they can follow in their footsteps."

To watch highlights of the launch: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=iHufAOzAwsI>



Marathonkids Ireland 2021

Marathonkids Ireland is an 8-week programme for 5th-6th class students in Ireland. The programme entails daily short runs, physical & mental health education, nutrition and exercise. The programme aims at promoting physical activity among students and fighting child obesity.

The launch of this year's Marathonkids Ireland Programme took place at Morton Stadium in Santry. Over 12,500 students from the administrative areas of Fingal County Council, Dublin City Sport and Wellbeing Partnership, South Dublin County Council, Galway County Council and areas throughout the Gaeltacht representing over 200 schools have enrolled for the programme.

There will be over 3,000 students from 24 schools in Fingal participating in this year's programme. Mayor of Fingal, Cllr Seána Ó Rodaigh, who is a primary school teacher herself, said: "The MarathonKids programme has been a tremendous success since its launch in 2014. The students look forward to it every year and especially get excited about doing their final mile in Morton stadium. Hopefully next year we can once again bring schools together and have the event the students deserve after their 8-weeks of training". Chief Executive of Fingal AnnMarie Farrelly said



"I am delighted to see the continued enthusiasm for this fantastic Marathonkids Programme which encourages a healthy active lifestyle among school children in Fingal".

Marathonkids ambassador, two-time European Champion and Olympian David Gillick stated: "The Marathonkids Ireland programme is going from strength to strength and has seen significant growth in the last six years. Over 40,000 students and 300 schools across Ireland have completed the programme to date. In 2021 we will see the Marathonkids participation and completion surpass 50,000 students since launch".



Marathonkids ambassador, 2-time European Champion and Olympian David Gillick with participants of the Marathon Kids programme

Fingal projects shortlisted for national awards

Fifteen Fingal County Council projects have been short-listed for prestigious national awards.

A total of ten Fingal projects and initiatives have been nominated in nine categories for this year's LAMA Awards.

The All Ireland Community and Council Awards, presented by LAMA and sponsored by IPB Insurance, are an opportunity to highlight and promote the work carried out in our communities. Now in their 15th year, the awards have consistently showcased the successful collaborations between communities and councils over the years and have provided a platform for recognising and acknowledging unsung heroes.

The nominations for this year's awards are:

- Whitestown Estate Management – Community Environmental Initiatives - *Best Environmental or Ecological Project or Initiative*
- Contactless Bottle Filling Station and Fingal County Council Public Wi-Fi Roadmap - *Best Business Working with the Community*
- Clean Up! - *In Best Waste Management Programme*
- Free Outdoor Wi-Fi - *Best Connected Council*
- Millennium Park - *in Best Public Park*
- Weather Station for Schools - *Climate Change Best Education/Training Initiative*
- Weather Station for Schools - *Climate Change Best CSR Community Programme*
- Swords Castle Conservation Project - *Best Heritage Project*
- Fingal Festival of History - *in Arts/Culture (inc. festivals & events)*

The awards ceremony, which will be hosted by RTÉ presenter Marty Morrissey, will take place on 27 November at the Crown Plaza Hotel, Dublin Airport.



Created by Riyan Resdian

Fingal County Council projects have also been nominated in five of the 16 categories in the Chambers Ireland 2021 Excellence in Local Government Awards.

The five categories we have been nominated in are:

- Gearing Up for Training in Supporting Sustainable Communities
- Inside Fingal Podcast in Local Authority Innovation
- Transcending Time, Artist Aoife Dunne in Sustaining the Arts
- Swords Castle Conservation Project in Heritage and Built Environment
- Digifit for All in Disability Services Provision

Chief Executive of Fingal County Council, AnnMarie Farrelly said: "I am very pleased that so many Fingal projects have been acknowledged for their excellence. It is a great testament to the incredible work carried out by the council in conjunction with our local communities over the last year."



Active Travel In Fingal

Bike Week 2021

Bike Week 2021 saw a host of exciting, live and virtual events held across Fingal, lead by the Active Travel team. The week kicked off with Councillor cycles in Newbridge House, Malahide Castle and St. Catherine's Park Lucan where Councillors from across Fingal took to their bikes .

Throughout the week we welcomed the public to Adult Cycling Workshops where rusty cyclists were given theory and practical cycle safety training culminating in a group cycle on our newly implemented protected cycle lanes in Swords and Hartstown. Members of the public of all abilities also joined in a community cycle on the Baldoyle to Portmarnock Greenway where the council offered the use of our Triobike and Bleeper Bikes. A highlight of the week for many was the exciting Glow in the Dark Cycle at Malahide Castle where cyclists decked themselves in glow in the dark gear and headed into the forest for a specially lit cycle in the dark followed by ice-cream and coffee.

The week culminated in a Family Fun Day at St. Catherine's Park in Lucan where the Active Travel team showcased the latest cycling tech from E-Bikes to E-Cargo Bikes, street velodrome, kids cycle safety course and BMX tracks alongside the weekend market. A beautiful sunny weekend made this a day to remember for all who came along!

Bike Week will return with more exciting activities in 2022 so keep an eye open for updates in the new year and make sure to register early!

Safer Routes to School



Roisin, Trevor, Cara and Barbara Towell at the Glow in the Dark Cycle at Malahide Castle & Demesne



Glowing cyclists at Malahide Castle

Under the Safe Routes to School Programme, 3 priority sites have been chosen from the initial list of 11 schools as part of Phase 1. These accommodate 5 schools to include St. Benedicts & Castaheany, Rush & Lusk Educate Together and Bayside Jnr and Snr Schools. Engagement has commenced with the schools and Hands-Up surveys have been completed by Staff and Children to determine the preferred method of travelling to and from school.

Detailed design drawings are being prepared for each site and following that, public engagement will commence and a tender package for construction works will be prepared. It is hoped to deliver on these schools in early 2022.



Jeremy and Frank Pigott at the Glow in the Dark Cycle at Malahide Castle & Demesne.

Connected Hubs Scheme

Fingal County Council is delighted to welcome €115k funding under the #OurRuralFuture Connected Hubs Scheme which will help to facilitate remote working. Minister for Rural and Community Development, Heather Humphreys TD, announced over €8.8 million in funding under the Connected Hubs Scheme – a key deliverable of Our Rural Future.

The funding will enable existing hubs and broadband connection points to enhance and add capacity to remote working infrastructure in every region across Ireland. Grants will also fund measures to assist hubs to deal with COVID related challenges. Fingal's remote working hubs look forward to participating in the new national connectedhubs.ie platform, where remote workers can book space and services in remote working hubs across the country.

The grant of €75,000 secured by Base Enterprise Centre will compliment investment already being made in the centre to upgrade its facilities and make the space within the centre more accessible and suitable to remote workers, start-up businesses and established business in the Fingal area.

The funding provided will enhance remote working

infrastructure at the existing Broadband Connection Points in the Liam Rogers, Applewood, Tyrellstown and Luttrellstown Fingal Community Centres. These centres will provide a space for local businessmen and women, students and entrepreneurs to work remotely within their locality in a safe friendly welcoming environment. The funding will allow for the installation of workstations, screens and technology upgrades to enhance these facilities.

Welcoming the announcement Mayor of Fingal Cllr Seána Ó Rodaigh said: "The announcement of this funding is great news for the many Fingal workers who have discovered the benefits of remote working over the last year. It will allow them to work in their own locality while availing of the facilities and supports of an office environment."

Chief Executive of Fingal AnnMarie Farrelly said: "Fingal County Council is committed to enhancing digital opportunities in Fingal and facilitating the development of sustainable working models. We welcome this funding provided for our remote working hubs which contribute to a better work life balance, are beneficial to the local economy and assist workers to work in their local communities."



Fingal Local Enterprise Development plan launched

Fingal Local Enterprise Office (LEO) has launched its new plan for stimulating and supporting enterprise in the region for the period 2021 - 2024. The official launch took place during a visit by Minister of State for Business, Employment and Retail, Damien English T.D., who joined the Deputy Mayor Cllr Daniel Whooley and Fingal County Council Chief Executive AnnMarie Farrelly at the event in County Hall.

The Local Enterprise Development Plan provides a comprehensive framework for building upon the many successes to date for the Fingal area. LEO Fingal, aims to ensure that all aspiring and established entrepreneurs in their community receive a support structure that is practical, contemporary, multi-faceted and comprehensive, to enable the local small businesses to thrive.

Commenting on the emphasis on sustainable business in the new plan, the Deputy Mayor of Fingal, Cllr Daniel Whooley, said: "As we all know climate action is incredibly important. So, through initiatives like Sustainable Fingal and Green for Micro, we are looking for businesses to become more sustainable



Fingal County Council Director of Services, Emer O’Gorman, Minister of State for Business, Employment and Retail, Damien English T.D, Oisín Geoghegan, Head of Enterprise at Fingal LEO, Deputy Mayor Cllr Daniel Whooley and Fingal County Council CE AnnMarie Farrelly

with power and wastage and ensuring that, when they’re talking to the customers they can say ‘we are ethical, we are meeting green standards’, and ensure that those customers appreciate that.”

Minister Damien English said:

“The Local Enterprise Office in Fingal has worked hard with businesses across the county over the past 18 months and continued to offer exceptional services such as mentoring, training, upskilling and financial supports. I am grateful to Oisín Geoghegan and the LEO team for helping local firms to protect their businesses and maintain job opportunities, and especially for their commitment in assisting businesses to make the transition to online trading during the pandemic.”

AnnMarie Farrelly, Chief Executive of Fingal County Council, said:

“LEO Fingal is now engaged with more businesses than ever before because of the work they did during the pandemic and we are going to continue to make sure that we can maintain that ongoing support to business into the future.”



Minister Damien English at Drinan Enterprise Centre

Fingal By Numbers

9,282

The number of Teams meetings that took place in September alone. 39,052 Calls took place, and 807,077 emails were received or sent by the Council.

20

The number of Fingal Schools registered to take part in this year's Fingal Student Enterprise Programme (SEP)

1,061

The number of planning decisions which had been made to the end of August 2021. There have been 926 decisions to grant permission (86%) and 145 refusals of permission

€600,000

The Fáilte Ireland funding secured by Fingal County Council for the provision of a permanent Outdoor Dining facility in Howth under the Outdoor Dining Enhancement Scheme.

47

The number of WiFi access points which are being installed at 18 locations across Fingal

531

The number of LED Upgrade works carried out during September in:

- Balbriggan •Baldoyle
- Howth •Carrickbrack Heath/Hill/Lawn, Offington Avenue/ Drive/Park, Sutton
- R132 Airside to Pinnock Hill Swords

200

The number of young people who attended the cycling velodrome on the grounds of Flemington Community Centre. The event organised by the Sports Office and funded by Sport Ireland was promoting participation in sport while encouraging kids to get on their bikes and get active

280

The number of planned route inspections which were carried out by the Litter Wardens in September.



Free outdoor public Wi-Fi across Fingal towns and villages

A total of 47 Wi-Fi access points have now been installed in 18 locations throughout Fingal.

The initiative is supported by the WiFi4EU voucher scheme which aims to provide high-quality internet access across the EU to citizens and visitors via free of charge Wi-Fi hotspots in public spaces such as town and village centres, parks and civic spaces. Magnet Networks were awarded the contract to install the access points in Fingal.

The Mayor of Fingal, Cllr Ó Rodaigh, who launched the Wifi for Skerries, Lusk, Rush, Garristown and Naul, said: "I am delighted, along with the Minister and Chairs of the three Area Committees, to launch the free outdoor public Wi-Fi in Fingal. It is wonderful to see how many local businesses supported this initiative to give our towns and villages free public Wi-Fi."

The live access points are mounted on the outside



Dominic Byrne, Head of IT, Fingal, Clodagh Kelly, Magnet Networks, Cllr Eoghan O'Brien



Clodagh Kelly - Magnet Networks, Camille Dennis - Wisteria Florist, Phil Clasperton - Magnet Networks, Cllr Seána Ó Rodaigh - Mayor of Fingal, Aisling Hyland - Fingal Digital Strategy Unit

of participating businesses premises and each has a range of 150m outside but will not extend inside the business premises or interfere with the businesses' own broadband.

Minister O'Brien, who launched the free Wi-Fi for Swords, Donabate and Portrane at an event in Swords Castle, stated: "It is great to see this free service go live in Fingal. Public Wi-Fi means no mobile data fees for accessing the internet or using the apps that we all rely on. I want to commend Fingal County Council for their excellent work during a very challenging time, this is a forward looking and genuinely helpful project that many of us in the area will benefit from."

Chief Executive AnnMarie Farrelly said: "This initiative forms part of our Digital Strategy which aims to make Fingal the place of choice to live, work, visit and do business in Ireland. Having access to free public Wi-Fi is a huge asset to our residents, visitors and businesses and shows Fingal as the progressive and digitally inclusive area it is."

New provider of Dog Shelter services appointed

Fingal County Council has appointed Midland Animal Care Limited to provide Dog Shelter services for the next 12 months.

Midland Animal Care will also provide Dog Shelter services at Hollygrove Kennels in Newcastle, Co Dublin, for Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown County Council and South Dublin County Council.

Midland Animal Care was established in 2014 and employs 17 staff members. They also provide Dog Shelter services to Carlow County Council, Kilkenny

County Council, Clare County Council, Roscommon County Council and Meath County Council.

All Midland Animal Care staff members working with dogs on behalf of Fingal County Council will be trained to veterinary nurse standard or equivalent and the company currently have working arrangements with four registered veterinary practices for the provision of veterinary and animal welfare services. They also proactively work with 15 rescue organisations across Ireland to rehome dogs.

First installation of ubitricity EV lamp post charge points in Dublin

Fingal County Council and ubitricity, a member of the Shell Group, have partnered to test new EV charging options for motorists in Fingal.

As part of the joint pilot scheme, ubitricity has recently retrofitted two lamp posts in Malahide village with its EV chargers that are stored inside the post. Fingal County Council will cover the costs of using the chargers during the initial trial, later moving to a pay-per-use model.

ubitricity is the largest public EV charge point operator in the UK, and the two lamp posts located next to Malahide Garda Station and Train Station are its first charge points in Ireland. By offering a public charging solution for residents without access to off-street parking like a private garage, ubitricity's objective is to charge EVs when and where they park: overnight and on the street right at their doorstep. Drivers can charge without the need for a subscription by simply scanning the QR code and following the instructions.

An amendment to the Planning and Development Act in March 2020 extended the use of street lighting poles to include EV charging, enabling the lamp post charging pilot project. To make the transition towards more sustainable transportation easier for Fingal residents, the Council decided to test solutions that would allow on-street parking EV-drivers to charge right where they are parking. The participation and feedback of the local residents will be key to defining the future strategy for rollout of charging infrastructure across Fingal.

Fingal County Council is committed to finding the best solution for its residents and expects testing of the ubitricity solution to be very successful.

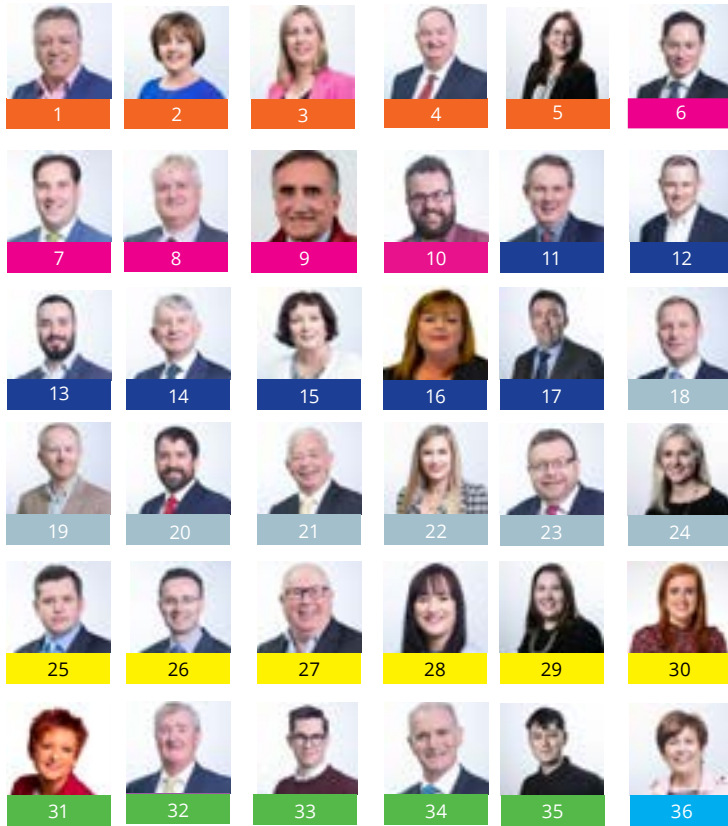
Lex Hartman, CEO of ubitricity said: "We look forward to working with councils across Ireland, including Fingal County Council, to help them and customers



to switch to electric vehicles. As public demand for EV charging infrastructure is growing exponentially a highly-scalable, and easy to deploy solution is needed for a fast roll-out. The unique compactness helps the charge points to blend in well with the street scenery and keeps the sidewalks clutter-free. Recharging the battery whenever the car is parked anyway will accelerate EV adoption as charging becomes simpler and more convenient."

David Storey, Director of Services for Environment Climate Action and Active Travel at Fingal County Council is looking forward to the further development of EV infrastructure throughout the county: "The ubitricity pilot in Malahide allows us to gauge public reaction and level of use of this very convenient and non-intrusive type of charging facility. This is just one element of the wider plan for EV infrastructure and sustainable transport within Fingal and we expect it will be well-received by residents and visitors alike."

Your Councillors



Local Electoral Areas



Balbriggan

1. Cllr. Tony Murphy
Independent
tony.murphy@cllrs.fingal.ie
086 277 2030

2. Cllr. Grainne Maguire
Independent
grainne.maguire@cllrs.fingal.ie
087 943 6650

3. Cllr. Seána Ó Rodaigh
Labour Party
seana.rodaigh@cllrs.fingal.ie
085 831 3801

4. Cllr. Tom O'Leary
Fine Gael
tom.oleary@cllrs.fingal.ie
087 245 9897

5. Cllr. Karen Power
Green Party
karen.power@cllrs.fingal.ie
089 965 4529

Rush- Lusk

6. Cllr. Robert O'Donoghue
Labour Party
robert.odonoghue@cllrs.fingal.ie
083 0545554

7. Cllr. Adrian Henchy
Fianna Fáil
adrian.henchy@cllrs.fingal.ie
087 681 4485

8. Cllr. Brian Dennehy
Fianna Fáil
brian.dennehy@cllrs.fingal.ie
085 229 8201

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

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

Swords

11. Cllr. Darragh Butler
Fianna Fáil
darragh.butler@cllrs.fingal.ie
087 959 5378

12. Cllr. Ian Carey
Green Party
ian.carey@cllrs.fingal.ie
086 307 4004

13. Cllr. Dean Mulligan
Independents4Change
dean.mulligan@cllrs.fingal.ie
087 966 6260

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

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

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

17. Cllr. James Humphreys
Labour Party

james.humphreys@cllrs.fingal.ie
083 8560832

Howth - Malahide

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Castleknock

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

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

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

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

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

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

Ongar

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

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

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

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

35. Cllr. Aaron O'Rourke
Sinn Féin
aaron.orourke@cllrs.fingal.ie
087 7042783

Blanchardstown- Mulhuddart

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

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

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

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

40. Cllr. John-Kingsley
Onwumereh
Fianna Fáil
jk.onwumereh@cllrs.fingal.ie
089 9642783