

# Fingal News

Issue  
No 23

March  
2022



**SOLIDARITY  
WITH  
PEOPLE OF  
UKRAINE**

## **INSIDE**

**Fingal Shows Solidarity with people of Ukraine- page 4**

**St Cronan's Avenue & Brackenstown Road Protected Cycle Lanes-  
page 7**

**St Patrick's Day Festival Spread- page 12-13**

Comhairle Contae  
Fhine Gall  
Fingal County  
Council



## Mayor's Message



Tá an t-Earrach linn agus laethanta níos faide againn. Spring is here and brings longer days and hopefully warmer weather. It certainly means the beginning of our busy season.

On March 14th it was an honour to host a special reception for the Ukrainian community in the Atrium at County Hall. I invited the Ukrainian Ambassador to

Ireland, Larysa Gerasko, and members of the Ukrainian community to join us. The Ukrainian flag was raised at County Hall in what was a very emotional ceremony. We stand in solidarity with Ukraine and its people during this horrific time and extend a welcome to displaced people arriving in Ireland.

On a happier note, the highlight of my term so far as Mayor was St. Patrick's Day. We were delighted to welcome back parades across the Fingal region. Our St. Patrick's Day celebrations were a huge success with residents and visitors enjoying the glorious weather and the bustling streets filled with music, song and dance. It was certainly a St. Patrick's Day I will never forget. I wish to thank everyone who planned and participated in the St. Patrick's Day parade, and to all who contributed to making it an incredible success and a wonderful event for everyone. The pure joy on the streets was palpable.

Over the next few months, Fingal County Council are set to install 150 new solar powered compacting smart bins across high footfall areas in towns and coastal beauty spots across the County. These new bins features internal sensors that notify Council staff when the bin becomes full. With the summer months around the corner more residents and visitors enjoying our parks, coastal ways and beaches, these smart bins will become vital at helping keep litter at bay and Fingal beautiful for all to enjoy.

The Sutton to Malahide Pedestrian and Cycle Scheme is now open to the public to view and respond to the preferred route. This important walking and cycling infrastructure will offer a great coastline scenic route to travel into surrounding areas and create connectivity to Sutton, Baldoyle, Portmarnock and Malahide. We highly value the opinions of the public and encourage all members of the community to share their views and make a submission. This scheme and others like it are part of a vision for Fingal where Active Travel is the first choice for convenience, connectivity and climate. The Dublin Coastal Trail was also recently launched to promote the rich history and vibrancy of Dublin's coastal towns.

Finally there are so many positive news stories relating to the arts, sport, environment, heritage and community across Fingal. I am so proud of how our thousands of volunteers and Council staff co-operate to improve our communities every day.

Ní neart go cur le chéile. Looking forward to a beautiful Spring in Fingal!

-Cllr Seána Ó Rodaigh

## Chief Executive's Message



The opening months of 2022 have seen significant progress in many projects and initiatives, and we continue to move steadily ahead.

Fingal County Council has commenced public consultation on the Draft Fingal

Development Plan 2023-2029 and we are urging the public to review the document and those who have questions and want to learn more about the Development plan, the council will be hosting a series of drop-in sessions where you can speak to a member of Planning and Strategic Infrastructure Department.

I am delighted to see Skerries Carnegie Library undergo a full refurbishment and extension while maintaining its important heritage. This project will provide the growing community with state-of-the-art facilities in a multifunctional library space and I can't wait to see the new library development.

It was wonderful to be able to welcome people back into County Hall again to celebrate Seachtain na Gaeilge. The evening was full of music and song to help promote the Irish language. The last event held in County Hall before COVID-19 hit in 2020 was this particular event. I was delighted to be back with all our guests enjoying the evening filled with traditional Irish music, we have finally come full circle.

We celebrated International Women's Day in March by paying tribute to the significant role women play in our community and highlighting the work of so many women both working in the Council and wider society in Fingal. International Women's Day is a great opportunity to celebrate the achievements of women and it is also an important chance to highlight challenges and issues women face in society. I was delighted to speak at the Shine a Light for Women walk and tree planting ceremony in Millennium Park, Blanchardstown, highlighting the achievements of women.

More events and initiatives are scheduled leading into the Spring and Summer season and we hope you all can join us to enjoy all Fingal has to offer.

Please enjoy the latest edition of Fingal News.

-AnnMarie Farrelly

# Council wants to talk to public about Fingal's Draft Development Plan

**Fingal County Council is to hold a series of public consultation events to promote a greater understanding of the Draft Development Plan 2023-2029.**

At each event staff from the Planning and Strategic Infrastructure Department will be available to brief the public and answer questions on the Draft Development Plan.

The Drop-In events will take place between 4pm and 8pm on the following dates:

- March 31 - The Atrium, County Hall, Swords.
- April 5 - The Lecture Room, Blanchardstown Library.
- April 20 - The Lecture Room, Malahide Library.
- April 21 - Martello Room, The Bracken Court Hotel, Balbriggan.

The Mayor of Fingal, Cllr Seána Ó Rodaigh said: "The webinar and drop-in events are excellent opportunities for members of



the public to learn more about the Development Plan from members of the Fingal County Council Planning Department. The Development Plan will affect every individual, family and community so it is important that citizens are aware of it and make submissions on what they like and don't like in it."

Fingal County Council's Director of Planning and Strategic Infrastructure, Matthew McAleese, said: "Going out and explaining the Development Plan to

citizens is a very important part of the consultation process and we look forward to meeting people at the drop-in events or speaking to them on the webinar. I am sure they will have plenty of questions and our planning team are looking forward to engaging with them over the coming weeks. Queries can be also forwarded to [Fingal.DevelopmentPlan@fingal.ie](mailto:Fingal.DevelopmentPlan@fingal.ie)."

The Draft Development Plan is available for download from the [fingal.ie/developmentplan](http://fingal.ie/developmentplan) website. It can also be inspected at Fingal County Council's offices in Swords and Blanchardstown or any Fingal Libraries branch.

Submissions on the Draft Development Plan must be received by 11.59pm on May 12 and can be made online at [www.consult.fingal.ie](http://www.consult.fingal.ie) or by post to the Development Plan Team, Planning and Strategic Infrastructure Department, Fingal County Council, County Hall, Main St., Swords, Co. Dublin, K67X8Y2.

Further information on the Fingal Development Plan 2023-2029 is available at [www.fingal.ie/developmentplan](http://www.fingal.ie/developmentplan)



**Roisin Burke, Senior Planner, Matthew McAleese, Director of Planning and Strategic Infrastructure, AnnMarie Farrelly, Chief Executive and Mayor of Fingal Cllr Seána Ó Rodaigh**

# Fingal shows solidarity with people of Ukraine

**In a gesture of solidarity with the people and the country of Ukraine, the Ukrainian national flag was raised at County Hall, Swords, by the Mayor of Fingal, Cllr Seána O Rodaigh, in the presence of the Ukrainian ambassador to Ireland, Her Excellency Ms Larysa Gerasko.**

In a moving ceremony was also attended by members of the Ukrainian community in Fingal who had earlier been hosted by the Mayor at a special reception in The Atrium at County Hall. Fingal councillors and Oireachtas members stood in solidarity with them as the flag of Ukraine was raised and the Ukrainian national anthem was sung

The Mayor expressed her solidarity with the Ukrainian community and spoke of those she met earlier, saying: "Many relationships have been fostered today and many of us listened and we will continue to do so. We have a full Council meeting this evening and we will be discussing the situation then. I would like to commend those here who represent us in Dáil Éireann for what you are doing and I ask you to continue to do anything you can do to support the people of Ukraine."

Ambassador Gerasko thanked the Mayor for inviting her to the ceremony and added: "Ukrainians are facing a dark and terrible time, parts of country are destroyed including hundreds of schools and hospitals in this unjustified and terrible war. We need your support and we are grateful to the Government of Ireland for their huge support and solidarity and to the Irish nation for the many messages of support and offers of accommodation and humanitarian aid."

There was a discussion on the situation in Ukraine at the March monthly meeting of the Council before four motions relating to the Russian invasion were unanimously passed. These were:



**Ukrainian ambassador to Ireland, Larysa Gerasko and Mayor of Fingal Cllr Seána Ó Rodaigh raising the Ukrainian national flag**

"That this Council unreservedly condemns, in the strongest possible terms, Russia's totally unprovoked and despicable attack on the free and sovereign nation of Ukraine and call on Russia to immediately withdraw and make reparations." – proposed by Councillors Darragh Butler, Brigid Manton, Tom Kitt, Tony Murphy, Brian Dennehy, Joe Newman, Robert O'Donoghue, Grainne Maguire, Howard Mahony, Pamela Conroy, Daniel Whooley, JK Onwumereh, Ian Carey and Tania Doyle.

"That Fingal County Council calls on the Government to ensure sanctions are imposed to end Russian aggression against the Ukraine and that this Council calls for the expulsion of the Russian Ambassador. The Irish Government needs to play its part in forcing a complete withdrawal of Russian military forces from Ukraine. Fingal County Council stands in solidarity with the people of Ukraine" – proposed by Councillor Anne Graves.

"That this Council condemns the use of violence to achieve political aims, calls on Russia to withdraw from all Ukrainian territory and make full reparation to Ukraine." – proposed by Councillors Tom O'Leary, Anthony Lavin, Aoibhinn Tormey, Siobhan Shovlin, Punam Rane and Ted Leddy.

"This council calls on the Chief Executive and her team to immediately carry out an audit of buildings and locations, sites suitable for rapid build homes to cater for the humanitarian crisis as a result of the war and atrocities in Ukraine, so that Fingal can play its part in accommodating some of the projected 100,000 Ukrainian Refugee families expected to locate in Ireland." – proposed by Councillors Tom O'Leary, Punam Rane, Aoibhinn Tormey, Siobhan Shovlin and Anthony Lavin

The Ukrainian flag was also raised at the Council's offices in Blanchardstown which were lit up in yellow and blue along with Swords Castle in solidarity with Ukraine and its people.



**Ukrainian community as the flag of Ukraine was raised and the Ukrainian national anthem was sung**

## Fingal sets out ambitions to increase tree cover across county

**Fingal County Council has unveiled a new 10-year strategy it hopes will help boost the number of trees across north Dublin and ensure that Ireland's youngest county is left in a better state when it is handed over to future generations.**

The Mayor of Fingal Cllr Seána Ó Rodaigh launched the 'Forest of Fingal' tree strategy at a special community tree planting event in Skerries to mark the culmination of National Tree Week.

With the overall cover of tree canopy in Fingal currently sitting at only 6.5%, the council wants to significantly increase the number of trees in the county and ensure it delivers a tree population that not merely survives but thrives. The council said it hopes the new undertaking will protect and enhance the county's trees and woodlands in order to maximise both the benefits trees offer and the character they bring to the county.

Currently, Fingal County Council has around 2,000 hectares of public open space, of which a large proportion are heritage landscapes. It also manages approximately 70,000 street trees which help shape the landscape character of towns and villages across the county

For National Tree Week, the Council gave away 16,000 whips to members of the public

The council is calling on households to take photos of their tree being planted and to share the images via Fingal's social media channels:

- [facebook.com/fingalcoco](https://facebook.com/fingalcoco)
- [instagram.com/fingalcountycouncil](https://instagram.com/fingalcountycouncil)
- [twitter.com/fingalcoco](https://twitter.com/fingalcoco)

The Forest of Fingal tree strategy is available to view on the Council's website: [https://www.fingal.ie/sites/default/files/2022-03/forest-of-fingal-a-tree-strategy-for-fingal\\_2022-2032.pdf](https://www.fingal.ie/sites/default/files/2022-03/forest-of-fingal-a-tree-strategy-for-fingal_2022-2032.pdf)



**Mayor of Fingal Cllr Seána Ó Rodaigh at the Community Tree Planting Workshop at Skerries Town Park.**

## €20,000 in prizes for the Smart Dublin – Open Data Climate Action Challenge

**The Dublin Region Climate Action Open Data Challenge 2022 is organised by Smart Dublin, the Climate Action Offices of the Dublin Local Authorities and is seeking innovative ideas and applications that use open data to drive and support climate action. Participants have an opportunity to showcase their work, achieve recognition, attain prizes and help drive climate action in Dublin and beyond.**

We are looking to challenge participants to use available data to develop analyses, applications, tools, maps, etc. which can drive or support climate action in some shape or form. All data-based proposals with the potential to contribute to climate action are welcome. However, alignment with the DLA [Climate Change Action Plans 2019-2024](#) is of interest. Projects can cover five themes: Energy and Buildings, Nature Based Solutions and Biodiversity, Flood Resilience, Transport and Resource Management and the Circular Economy. €20,000 in prize funding is provided by DPER's

Open Data Engagement Fund as rewards for the best projects.

For more information and an application form can be found at [Dublin Region Climate Action Open Data Challenge 2022 - Smart Dublin](#)

A green banner for the 'Open Data Climate Action Challenge'. The text reads: 'OPEN DATA CLIMATE ACTION CHALLENGE', 'Help Dublin deliver Climate Action', 'Apply Now! Details at www.smartdublin.ie'. Below the text are five icons representing different themes: Energy &amp; Buildings (lightbulb), Nature-Based Solutions (leaf), Transport (bicycle), Resource Management (recycling symbol), and Flood Resilience (house with water). At the bottom, there are logos for CAC, Smart Dublin, and other partners.

## Sutton to Malahide Pedestrian and Cycle Scheme Public Consultation Opens

The council is inviting the public to view and respond to the preferred route for the Sutton to Malahide Pedestrian and Cycle Scheme. This amenity will offer a safe and attractive route to walk and cycle between Sutton, Baldoyle, Portmarnock and Malahide connecting local people to schools, shops, businesses and public transport. The proposed 7.5km scheme is supported and funded by the National Transport Authority and represents an investment of over €20m in Fingal. The route will form a key part of the NTA's Greater Dublin Area Cycle Network and will link into existing walking and cycling facilities at the Baldoyle to Portmarnock Greenway and onwards to the S2S and the Clontarf-City Centre Cycle Routes.

Following Feasibility and Constraints Assessments and a Route Options Public Consultation, which took place in 2017, the project team have now published the preferred route for Public Consultation.

The scheme design will allow people of all ages and mobility levels to travel safely between these coastal towns while enjoying the scenic coastline along the route.

Mayor of Fingal, Councillor Seána Ó Rodaigh, welcomed the opening of the consultation. 'The Sutton to Malahide Pedestrian and Cycle Scheme will offer a safe, climate-friendly way to travel to school, work or the local shops for those living in the area. I'm very pleased to see the development of this important cycling and walking infrastructure that both promotes a healthy, active lifestyle while nurturing the connection between Sutton, Baldoyle, Portmarnock and Malahide and will help sustainably support the growth of these coastal communities.'

Director of Planning & Strategic Infrastructure for Fingal County Council, Matthew McAleese, says the scheme will improve the local environment and provide benefits for residents, businesses and visitors to the area; 'The Sutton to Malahide Pedestrian and Cycle Scheme will bring positive changes for each of the areas it connects, making it easier to travel from one town to another by walking or cycling as well as providing an attractive coastal amenity that can be enjoyed by everyone, including visitors to the area, regardless of their level of cycling confidence. It will also improve links to the wider cycling and public transport network across Fingal. We are looking



Mayor of Fingal, Cllr Seána Ó Rodaigh and Laura Burke Executive Engineer launching the Sutton to Malahide Pedestrian and Cycle Scheme.

forward to hearing what the public have to say on the route we have brought forward'.

The public consultation will remain open until 09 May so that all members of the community have a chance to share their views. Those interested in making a submission are encouraged to visit [consult.fingal.ie](https://consult.fingal.ie) where they can view detailed scheme designs and share their comments. Postal submissions will also be accepted and details of how to make such a submission are also available online. If making a postal submission the public is encouraged to mark it clearly as a response to the Sutton to Malahide Pedestrian and Cycle Scheme. All submissions must be received no later than 23.59hrs, 09 May 2022.

Following the closure of this Public Consultation on 09 May, the project team will consider all submissions as they finalise the preliminary design for the scheme. A planning application is expected to be submitted to An Bord Pleanála in 2023.

You can find out more about the scheme, read the public information leaflet or register for a webinar at <https://www.fingal.ie/suttontomalahide>



Created by Iconathon

# St Cronan's Avenue & Brackenstown Road Protected Cycle Lanes

Fingal County Council is proposing to upgrade cycling and walking routes in the area of St. Cronan's Avenue and Brackenstown Road, Swords. This upgrade will improve safety when walking and cycling to school or work and will create better connections to public transport, Swords Manor Football Club, Swords town centre and within the local area and will make walking and cycling an easier choice.

This is in line with Fingal County Council's vision for active and sustainable modes of travel that contribute to safer routes to school, better mental and physical health and a cleaner climate.

Works proposed include:

- Providing segregated cycle lanes on the existing carriageway with bollards, line markings and coloured surface
- Constructing 280m of new off road two-way cycle lane between St. Cronan's Ave and St. Cronan's Junior and Senior National Schools.
- Upgrading junctions and footpaths to provide safer and high-quality crossings for pedestrian and cyclists.
- Incorporating traffic calming measures at St. Cronan's Junior & Senior National Schools.
- New signalised pedestrian crossing on Brackenstown Road into Swords Manor Football Club.

Cycle Lanes will be upgraded to protected cycle lanes along the Brackenstown Road at the Parkview Roundabout and run along both sides of the road past Swords Manor parklands, through St. Cronan's Ave junction and connect with St. Cronan's Junior and National School.

The scheme includes upgrading of existing cycle lanes along the full length of St. Cronan's Avenue, Murrrough Road and through the intersection at Rathbeale Road. The scheme finishes at Laurelton Estate. Scan the code on this leaflet to view an area map online.

Fingal County Council is inviting everyone to view and

**St. Cronan's Avenue & Brackenstown Road**  
 Consultation on Protected Cycle Lane Works

**Why is this scheme needed?**  
 Fingal County Council is proposing to upgrade cycling and walking routes in the area of St. Cronan's Avenue and Brackenstown Road, Swords. This upgrade will improve safety when walking and cycling to school or work and will create better connections to public transport, Swords Manor Football Club, Swords town centre and within the local area and will make walking and cycling an easier choice.

**This is in line with Fingal County Council's vision for active and sustainable modes of travel that contribute to safer routes to school, better mental and physical health and a cleaner climate.**

**Works proposed include:**

- Providing segregated cycle lanes on the existing carriageway with bollards, line markings and coloured surface
- Constructing 280m of new off road two-way cycle lane between St. Cronan's Ave and St. Cronan's Junior and Senior National Schools.
- Upgrading junctions and footpaths to provide safer and high-quality crossings for pedestrian and cyclists.
- Incorporating traffic calming measures at St. Cronan's Junior & Senior National Schools.
- New signalised pedestrian crossing on Brackenstown Road into Swords Manor Football Club.

**Where is the proposed work happening?**  
 Cycle Lanes will be upgraded to protected cycle lanes along the Brackenstown Road at the Parkview Roundabout and run along both sides of the road past Swords Manor parklands, through St. Cronan's Ave junction and connect with St. Cronan's Junior and National School.

The scheme includes upgrading of existing cycle lanes along the full length of St. Cronan's Avenue, Murrrough Road and through the intersection at Rathbeale Road. The scheme finishes at Laurelton Estate. Scan the code on this leaflet to view an area map online.

**How can I get Involved?**  
 Fingal County Council is inviting everyone to view and comment on the proposed plans as part of a 4 week Public Consultation, taking place from 25 March to 22 April 2022. We want to hear your views. Make a submission online at [consult.fingal.ie](https://consult.fingal.ie) or by post.

Postal submissions should be addressed to:  
 Senior Executive Engineer,  
 Fingal County Council, Department of Environment, Climate Action and Active Travel, Grove Road, Blanchardstown, Dublin 15, D15 W638

When making a postal submission please make it clear that it is for the St. Cronan's Avenue and Brackenstown Road Protected Cycle Lane. State your name, address and where relevant, the body or organisation you represent.

Submissions must be received no later than 23.59hrs, 22 April 2022.

This Active Travel project is delivered by Fingal County Council & funded by the NTA



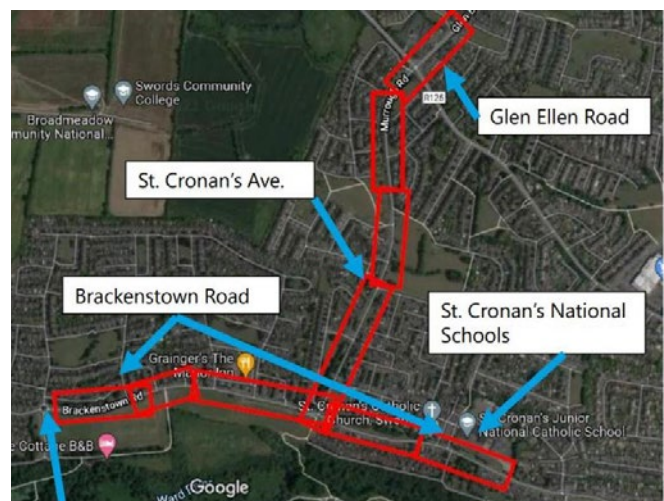
comment on the proposed plans as part of a 4 week Public Consultation, taking place from 25 March to 22 April 2022. We want to hear your views. Make a submission online at [consult.fingal.ie](https://consult.fingal.ie) or by post.

Postal submissions should be addressed to:

Senior Executive Engineer, Fingal County Council, Department of Environment, Climate Action and Active Travel, Grove Road, Blanchardstown, Dublin 15, D15 W638

When making a postal submission please make it clear that it is for the St. Cronan's Avenue and Brackenstown Road Protected Cycle Lane. State your name, address and where relevant, the body or organisation you represent.

**Submissions must be received no later than 23.59hrs, 22 April 2022.**



# Sod turned on Library refurbishment and extension project in Skerries

**On the 15th March 2022, Fingal County Council turned the sod on the refurbishment of and extension to Skerries library.**

Skerries Carnegie Library is a detached early 20th century limestone building, and a protected structure sited in a prominent location on Strand Street in Skerries between St Patrick's Church and Floraville Park, with a large site extending to Chapel Lane at the rear.

Fingal County Council Libraries Department proposes to provide a modern library facility which will include the refurbishment and full use of the existing two storey library building, with links to a new large 2 and 3 storey extension at its rear. The proposal, totalling 884sqm with a contract sum of €3.5 million, will accommodate multifunctional library spaces on two and three levels and will also include full upgrade of the public realm to the forecourt of Skerries Library and St. Patrick's Church.

The new library space will include, in addition to our book lending service, junior and young adult space, link to Floraville Park, study space with up to 40 desks, public PCs and printing / photocopying services, a maker space and meeting and event space.

The library building at Skerries is viewed as a building of special character and an architectural focal point. The sympathetic and complementary development of this building and extension is seen as a major resource in terms of infrastructure demands of the area.

"It is a very special day for the people of Skerries and the wider community. The library has always been at the heart of our town and the substantial investment by Fingal County Council in refurbishing it is going to transform it into a welcoming, modern amenity while maintaining its important heritage. I want to thank everyone involved in getting the project to this stage. We love our libraries and the wide range of services they provide. Táim ag súil go mór le cuairt a thabhairt ar an leabharlann athchóirithe nuair atá sé críochnaithe". - Mayor of Fingal, Cllr. Seána Ó Rodaigh.

"The new library development at Skerries will cater for the growing development of the town and surrounding catchment areas. I am delighted to see the new library development get underway which will provide the state-of-the-art facilities to serve the growing community". - AnnMarie Farrelly, Chief Executive Fingal County Council



**Fingal County Council Chief Executive, AnneMarie Farrelly, Mayor of Fingal Seána Ó Rodaigh, County Librarian Betty Boardman and County Architect Fionnuala May.**

"I know that Skerries Library holds a special place in the hearts and minds of the local community and that this is a much-anticipated renovation and extension project. The end result will be a combination of the traditional and the modern to give a welcoming, modern and flexible space in which people can meet, relax, read, learn and create". - Betty Boardman, County Librarian/

"The modern libraries that have been built in Fingal since its foundation have all demonstrated Architectural design of a high standard and have facilitated the development of the Library service in the County. Designed by Fingal County Architects, the new and revitalised Skerries library will be an eloquent addition to the County's portfolio of public libraries and to the public buildings of the town". - Fionnuala May, County Architect.





# Fingal MakerSpace

The **Make Create Innovate** was awarded the **Creator & Maker in Residence Programme** at Blanchardstown library. This programme is led by **Make Create Innovate CEO, Kate Delaney**, and it will run from 2021 – 2022. The project involves the establishment of a community makerspace at Blanchardstown library as well as the design and delivery of a creative programme of activities for the Fingal community. This new space is called **Fingal Makerspace** - it is a community space where creativity, ideas and exploration are fused together only limited by imagination amongst our diverse population in Fingal County and surrounding areas.

Fingal Makerspace is a physical space in Blanchardstown Library where people gather to share material, knowledge and ideas, to access equipment and guidance, and to learn new skills, all in a flexible format which responds to the interests and skill levels of the users collaborating on self-directed projects.

The Makerspace movement supports the mission of libraries to enable lifelong learning and to support knowledge creation within their communities.

Fingal Makerspace hopes to encourage a culture which brings together multiple and diverse groups of people, with varying interests. Makers, possessing differing skill backgrounds and knowledge bases, pair, and form groups with the common goal to inspire new ways to think and create all within a synergetic environment.

Fingal Makerspace provides space, resources, training, and technology that all enhance this makerspace culture. Libraries are now incorporating all aspects of learning, including technology,

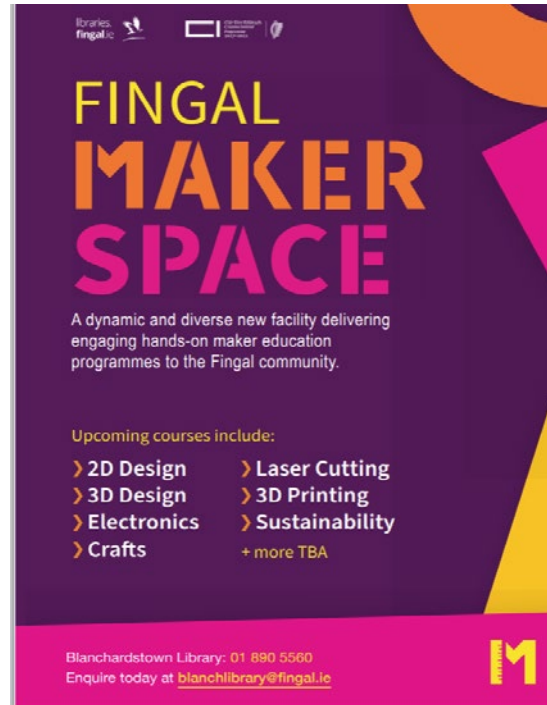
computers, and STEAM principles. Many offers community resources like 3D printers, software, electronics, craft, and hardware supplies, and more.

Fingal Makerspace provides a unique opportunity for users to engage in the process of making, and by doing so, develop important intellectual and life skills - build confidence, foster creativity, learn to communicate effectively, seek out challenges and learn higher-level thinking and analytical skills, learn, and contribute to society and become a valued part of the local community, as well as a global family.

Makerspace learning can also empower users, helping them to shift from being passive consumers of information and products to active creators and innovators. Users are responsible for their own learning.

Makerspace education has the potential to empower users to become agents of change in their communities.

Libraries have a long history of bringing communities together and helping people of all ages and backgrounds gain knowledge and learn about themselves and their worlds. Integrating



makerspaces into libraries provides a hands-on, interactive, and future-forward means to that end.

From March to May 2022, Fingal Makerspace is delighted to be delivering more than 20 workshops, for primary, secondary, and adult groups. For bookings, go to [Fingal Makerspace Events | Eventbrite](#)



# 150 new solar powered compactable smart bins to be installed across Fingal

More solar bins will be installed around the streets of Swords, Balbriggan, Castleknock and Mulhuddart after Fingal County Council confirmed it had ordered 150 of the compactable smart bins to help keep the towns litter free and drive down carbon emissions.

An initial order of 100 bins will be installed by April, with the remaining 50 bins to be installed by the end of summer. The bins will be situated in areas with high footfall, such as towns and coastal areas. Area Inspectors will identify locations where existing bins are inadequate for the amounts of waste being generated.

Future Street Ltd, the exclusive distributor of Bigbelly bins in over 15 European countries, were awarded the tender via an open tender competition managed by the Council.

The main features of the new bins include:

- An internal compactor which increases the litter capacity by 6 - 8 times that of a normal street bin.
- Internal sensors that notify Council staff when the bin becomes full.
- A foot pedal for hands-free use.
- The capability to transmit free public Wi-Fi.
- Each bin is 100% solar powered and only requires eight hours of daylight for one month's power requirements.

In addition to obvious benefits such as cleaner footpaths and streets, the bins can significantly reduce the number of street bin collections required, meaning more efficient waste management, lower



costs and helping achieve environmental benefits.

Mary T Daly, Director of Operations and Water Services in Fingal County Council said: "The launch of these new solar powered bins will provide increased capacity in street bins in high footfall areas across the County. Each bin is also fitted with a wheeled internal liner to facilitate less manual handling and this can help reduce the risk of injury to staff."

Sales Director for Future Street, Derek Davis said: "There is nothing more rewarding than to witness a local authority or private business reap the benefits of saving money and reducing Co2 with the Bigbelly bin. We look forward to working closely in partnership with Fingal County Council to ensure they realise all the potential and benefits of our Smart Waste System first-hand."



**Derek Davis, Future Street and Mary T Daly Director of Operations and Water Services in Fingal County Council**



Created by Alice Designs

# New trail launched to tempt visitors to Fingal and Dublin's coastal delights

**Key locations in Fingal feature as part of a new Dublin Coastal Trail launched today that has been developed to aid tourism businesses along the coast and promote the rich history and vibrancy of Dublin's coastal towns. The new tourist attraction stretches from Skerries in the north through to Killiney in the south.**

Easily accessible by rail and encouraging visitors to journey out of the city, the Dublin Coastal Trail brings aims to bring new life to Dublin's coastline. In showcasing the wide range of coastal locations, their proximity to the city centre, their accessible experiences and local authenticity, the coastal trail will further secure Dublin's position as a must-visit destination.



Developed by Fáilte Ireland in partnership with Fingal County Council, Dublin City Council, Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown County Council, and Irish Rail, it is hoped the trail will open access to the Dublin coastline and encourage visitors to explore the towns, outdoor activities and attractions that lie within easy reach of the city centre.

Fáilte Ireland has invested €700,000 into the trail, with signage installed in 11 towns and villages along the route, highlighting key visitor attractions and experiences. Along with Skerries, key locations highlighted in Fingal include Malahide and Howth.

The Dublin Coastal Trail is the culmination of a four-year orientation programme with key industry stakeholders and will enable visitors to better navigate and explore everything that Dublin city and county has to offer. Visitors will be able to walk, cycle or take a rail service along the route, with way-finding signs in six languages to ensure accessibility for international visitors. The new trail will encourage domestic and international tourists to explore Dublin's coastal region, immersing themselves in the coastal villages and increasing dwell time in the region.

Welcoming the opening of the new trail, Mayor of Fingal Cllr Seána Ó Rodaigh said: "This is a fabulous addition to a truly wonderful coastline that everyone should explore for themselves. We are delighted that Fingal has been able to partner with Fáilte Ireland on the development of the Dublin Coastal Trail and the opportunity it brings for us to showcase some of the most stunning views going and to highlight an area rich in history, natural beauty and man-made heritage.

"The easily walkable trail means visitors and local residents alike will be able to discover some hidden gems right across the County whilst also enjoying the fantastic benefits of being in the great outdoors.

What's more is that it's all readily accessible from the hustle and bustle of the city centre, making this a welcome tourist attraction that will not only help boost the local economy but also support the health and wellbeing of those taking in the memorable views."

CEO of Fáilte Ireland Paul Kelly added: "The launch of the Dublin Coastal Trail is a fantastic addition to the Dublin portfolio and adds to its appeal as a vibrant city break destination - where city living thrives side by side with nature. Improved visitor orientation from the city and out to the Dublin coastline will crucially enable visitors to better immerse themselves in local experiences which will spread the economic benefits of Dublin tourism across a wider geographical area."

The Dublin Coastal Trail will encourage more visitors to move outside the city centre and explore the coastal towns that lie within easy reach of the city centre. Dublin's coastline is dotted with beaches, golf links, adventure sports, castles, culture, heritage, coastal villages with local food and drink, and an abundance of things to see and do, visitors can enjoy different and often unexpected experiences on the doorstep of Dublin city centre. The trail will begin at Skerries and run to Killiney. There are plans to extend this over time. Each location along the Dublin Coastal Trail will have signage to greet the visitor upon arrival and within the town itself, offering a sense of the place and give them some suggestions of things to see and do. The trail encourages multi modal exploration - focusing on the rail line but also includes walking and cycling routes that run parallel.

To find out more about the featured locations on the trail go to: [Coastal trail stories](#)

# St Patrick's Day Festival



**A Special Welcome for our Ukrainian Friends to the Fingal Parades**



**Mayor of Fingal, Seána Ó Rodaigh and Stephen McGinn at Swords St. Patrick's Day Parade**



**Firebreathers at Skerries Parade**



**Crowds at Remembrance & Recognition Firework Display in Malahide Coast Road**



**Remembrance & Recognition Firework Display at Malahide Coast Road**



**Members of An Garda Síochána, Mayor of Fingal, Seána Ó Rodaigh and AnnMarie Farrelly, CEO of Fingal at Swords Chapel for Remembrance Ceremony**

## Local groups receive over €42,000 in grants to help design public spaces in Balbriggan

**Local history, exhibitions, community gardens and street art are just some of the projects which will benefit from Fingal County Council's announcement of successful grants, showcasing the town's creativity and helping to develop a sense of identity and social inclusion in Balbriggan.**

Local history, exhibitions, community gardens and street art are just some of the projects which will benefit from Fingal County Council's announcement of successful grants, showcasing the town's creativity and helping to develop a sense of identity and social inclusion in Balbriggan.

Over €42,000 has been awarded to 16 projects through the Our Balbriggan Placemaking Fund, which aims to inspire people to reimagine and reinvent public spaces in the charming seaside town in North Fingal.

Mayor of Fingal, Cllr Seána Ó Rodaigh believes that the sixteen projects provide a healthy mix of ideas helping to create a more welcoming environment in the town for all age groups.

"Balbriggan already has so much to offer, and this funding will further enhance the community's connection to public spaces here. It's great to see such a wide range of projects that will not only showcase the creative side of Balbriggan, but also help the many community and voluntary groups who work tirelessly to foster a sense of identity and social inclusion in the town," she said.

The various projects will help strengthen a sense of place and identity within the town, support opportunities for social connection and encourage new activities in public places. Successful projects include projects led by Foroige, Castleland Community, Bremore Educate Together, and the Grasshoppers Festival, with grants ranging from €1,100 to €5,000, and supporting projects that will enhance resident and visitor experiences.

Amongst the successful applicants is the Balbriggan Drama Society who were allocated €3,000 to host a photo and memorabilia exhibition celebrating the organisation's 75th anniversary. Running from March to December 2022, it will be on display in the La La Café at the Irish Institute of Music and Song complex.

Celebrating Balbriggan's maritime heritage and coastal environment, the Balbriggan Playground Group were awarded €4,500 to create visually stunning and effective stone sculpture work created by local artist Darren Rodgers.

The good work of Balbriggan Tidy Towns was also recognised with a grant of €1,250 for the 'Balbriggan is Buzzing' project, which aims to create natural play areas for children and, encourages them to connect with nature, while also learning about biodiversity.

The 'Community Canvass Project' under the stewardship of Alison O'Grady was awarded €3,000 and involves an illustration drawn on sixty canvasses, to combine into one large image. Residents are invited to pick a time and paint one of the canvasses, to form



one large image which will be digitised and reproduced for an installation.

Chief Executive of Fingal County Council, AnnMarie Farrelly, said: "Fingal County Council wants to continue to develop and support the vitality of Balbriggan through creative and engaging initiatives like these placemaking projects that will strengthen the social, physical, and economic fabric of the town and help attract new residents, businesses and visitors."

On his first official visit to Balbriggan recently, Taoiseach Micheál Martin undertook a tour of the harbour area and was briefed by the Council on the ambitious rejuvenation plans for the town. Over the period 2020-2027, Fingal County Council anticipates making a total projected public investment of more than €50m in Balbriggan.



## Calling Balbriggan – Artist Dave West is seeking your help! Answers on a postcard please

Fingal County Council is delighted to announce news of a new public artwork for Balbriggan. The work titled "Wish you Were Here" is by local artist Dave West and will be located at the prominent Banks site at Balbriggan Harbour. This work has been made possible through our ongoing partnership with Iarnród Éireann, Balbriggan and the Our Balbriggan Regeneration Programme

If you live in Balbriggan, local artist Dave West wants to hear from you. To gather inspiration for his new public artwork he wants to find out what everyone loves most about Balbriggan. It might be the beautiful coastline, the historic landmarks or the vibrant community. To facilitate this conversation we are distributing postcards featuring a historic image of the site courtesy of Fingal County Council's archive section. These postcards will be freely available at a range of prominent community sites including, the Our Balbriggan Offices, Community Centres, Balbriggan Library, The Balbriggan Train Station and more. He would love if you would take the time to write to him for this project, postcards can be returned to all pick up locations or you can also email the artist Dave West directly at [wishyouwerehere@davewest.ie](mailto:wishyouwerehere@davewest.ie)

Mayor of Fingal Councillor Seána Ó Rodaigh advocates that "Art and artists play a vitally important role in bringing our towns and villages to life for local communities and visitors alike. Opportunities like this demonstrate how we in Fingal value and support the creativity and professionalism of the artist in doing so as well as encouraging community engagement with public art projects such as this"

The project is part of the many initiatives currently underway that demonstrate how art and artists can enliven and celebrate our public spaces. Director of the Economic Enterprise, Tourism & Cultural Development Department Emer O'Gorman, shared with us that "The regeneration of Balbriggan is well underway and continues to reach visible milestones in its progress as demonstrated through the current programme of work and its commitment to celebrating all the town has to offer for its communities and visitors alike and art plays a huge part in this. I encourage the people of Balbriggan to take to opportunity to share with the artist what they love about Balbriggan and help shape his vision."



**Cllr Grainne Maguire, Artist Dave West, Mark Jolley Station Manager Northern Line and Cllr Tony Murphy,**

Dave West works across a variety of media including, painting, mosaic and glass.

Public Art Co-ordinator Caroline Cowley explains that "Our friends at Irish Rail Balbriggan have identified that this is a perfect opportunity to engage with the community so that the work which will be located at this prominent location will tell a story of what everyone loves most about the town. By taking the familiar holiday greeting of "Wish you Here" West is asking the people of Balbriggan to think about how they might describe the town to a visitor. Historically visitors would have taken a train journey out to the beach to enjoy a day at the beach and looking at the old archive postcards we are reminded of legacy of historical posters produced by Irish rail which featured artist renditions of Irish destinations as created by the famous Paul Henry".

The Banks by Sean Molloy is currently on view at the Harbour and Dave West's new work Wish You were Here will be installed in summer 2022.

[wishyouwerehere@davewest.ie](mailto:wishyouwerehere@davewest.ie). [www.fingalarts.ie](http://www.fingalarts.ie) for full detail of postcard locations

For further information: Please Contact Caroline Cowley – Public Art Co-ordinator  
[Caroline.cowley@fingal.ie](mailto:Caroline.cowley@fingal.ie) 01 870 8449

## Cultural Centre in Lusk awarded new funding

**Fingal County Council welcomes the award of €48,600 in new funding for the Cultural Centre project in Lusk. The funding is provided by the Department of Rural and Community Development under the 2021 Town and Village Renewal Scheme Project Development Measure. The funding is aimed at helping communities through the planning and identification of enhancements in public spaces together with an emphasis on supporting remote working options in rural communities. The Council looks forward to working with Lusk Community Council in the delivery of the project which will benefit the wider community in Lusk and surrounding areas. The funding is provided to conduct preliminary site investigation works and planning studies to facilitate the advancement of a Phase Two Development of the Lusk Cultural Centre project to planning and construction stages.**

Welcoming the announcement of the new funding by the Minister for Rural and Community Development, Heather Humphries, TD, the Mayor of Fingal, Cllr Seána Ó Rodaigh, said, "I welcome the announcement from the Minister. Funding from the Town and Village Renewal Scheme to help progress worthwhile projects is very helpful in the ongoing enhancement of the public realm in the county."

Chief Executive of Fingal County Council, AnnMarie

Farrelly commented, "Fingal is always looking to work with local communities to advance projects to tackle dereliction and make local towns and villages more vibrant. The Council congratulates Lusk on their successful application and looks forward to seeing the project progress."

Fingal County Council's Director of Economic, Enterprise, Tourism & Cultural Development, Emer O'Gorman, said: "This is further positive news of funding secured for local areas in Fingal, and compliments other recent awards of funding to Lusk under the new Town Centre First Policy. The Council look forward to working with Lusk Community Council on this initiative."

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





# New councillor co-opted for Ongar

**Angela Donnelly of Sinn Féin has been co-opted by the members of Fingal County Council to replace Cllr Aaron O'Rourke who resigned as a councillor due to time pressure. She will represent the Ongar Local Electoral Area.**

Cllr Donnelly was proposed by Cllr Ann Graves and seconded by Cllr Breda Hanaphy at the March monthly meeting of the Council.

The new councillor was welcomed to the Council by the Mayor of Fingal, Cllr Seána Ó Rodaigh.

Cllr Donnelly thanked Aaron O'Rourke for his service to Fingal County Council since he was co-opted two years ago and added: "It is amazing to be part of a team on Fingal County Council that has four female councillors. To have an all-woman team is very special."

Cllr Donnelly was also appointed to the Transport and Infrastructure Management Strategic Policy Committee, the Joint Fingal and South Dublin Liffey Management Advisory Committee and the Hansfield Strategic Development Zone Steering Group.



**Cllr Angela Donnelly of Sinn Féin**

## Midland Animal Care Limited to provide Dog Shelter services for the next 12 months

**If you are interested in Rehoming a stray or surrendered dog please contact Midland Animal Care, who provide dog shelter services at Hollygrove Kennels in Newcastle, Co Dublin.**

Midland Animal Care was established in 2014 and employs 17 staff members. They also provide dog shelter services to Carlow, Kilkenny, Clare, Roscommon, Meath, Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown and South Dublin County Councils.

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.

You can find the shelter on Facebook here: <https://www.facebook.com/DublinCountyDogShelter/>  
Watch our video below to learn more about Midland Animal Care.



# Commemorative tree planting and walk shines a light for women on International Women's Day

**Fingal County Council's Community Office, were delighted to be joined by Cllr Mary McCamley, deputising for Mayor of Fingal and Chief Executive AnnMarie Farrelly, in Millennium Park Blanchardstown to Celebrate International Women's day on March 8th and Shine a light on Gender Bias and Safety Issues for Women. Also in attendance at the commemorative tree planting and symbolic walk event were local councillors and Director of Housing and Community Robert Burns with participants lighting the way as they walked in solidarity with women.**

Speaking at the event Cllr Mary McCamley said "While International Women's Day is an opportunity to celebrate women it's also an opportunity to highlight challenges and issues that effect their lives." Cllr McCamley spoke of the struggles of all girls and women in Ukraine at the moment and asked that they be remembered during the walk saying the walk was an opportunity to shine a light on issues and challenges women in society face so, "lets shine a light for women going forward".

Chief Executive AnnMarie Farrelly echoed Cllr McCamley's sentiments for the women of Ukraine and said: "I am delighted to be here to mark this day with all of you and it is great to see so many local residents and groups along with so many local councillors which shows their commitment to their local constituents."

She went on to say "I also want to acknowledge the work of the community office in developing this exciting event. The community office has supported numerous events and activities across the county

today and during this week highlighting International Women's day and celebrating women across the county. These projects involve the work of many different departments, bringing Operations, and the Community and Sports department together in collaboration. It also gives the community office the opportunity to support social inclusion of women across the Dublin 15 area and encourages them to participate and raise awareness of issues that affect their lives."

Linda Ennis, Principal Community Officer said; "It is great to be back out meeting communities and groups again and supporting these community events. The work of the community department in bringing so many exciting events across the county this week in celebrating International Women's day and we feel that this is welcomed and celebrated after such challenging times.

Over 100 people registered for the 'Shine a Light' event and many more people engaged in all of our International Women's day events this week which is great to see. The Community Development team has been working hard on getting back out and engaging with local communities and groups and developing community initiatives. We look forward to opportunities for working with communities in the coming months."



**Deputy Mayor of Fingal, Daniel Whooley, Siobhan Shovlin, Cllr Tania Doyle, Chief Executive of Fingal, AnnMarie Farrelly, Cllr Tom Kitt, JK Onwumereh, Cllr Mary McCamley, Cllr Natalie Treacy and Robert Burns.**

# Awards for Fingal's Newest Leaders at She Leads Fingal Ceremony

**A new network of leaders were presented with Certificates of Achievement at the She Leads Fingal Awards Ceremony on Monday night by AnnMarie Farrelly, Fingal County Council Chief Executive and Cllr Karen Power, Chairperson of Fingal County Council Women's Caucus.**

The programme explored the achievements, challenges and opportunities that women experience in community action. Selected participants - all women in Fingal involved in their local communities - were supported to discover the leadership skills, resources and approaches already successfully used in Fingal. Certificates were awarded to Helen Galgey, Michelle Griffin, Sandra Losty, Carmelle Keane, Ginta Bezdeliga, Hanan Kaaouss, Akvile Simanskiene and Alison Herlihy.

Participants are interested in a wide variety of areas for community change. Sandra Losty is the founder of Recovery Hour, an online self-help community founded during the Covid-19 restrictions to aid people in recovery from addiction. Akvile Simanskiene is a Balbriggan artist creating murals with the community in public spaces. Helen Galgey is a coach and committee member at Baldoyle FC. Alison Herlihy leads a team supporting youth representation at Donabate Portrane Tennis Club. Carmelle Keane leads a mentoring programme for women in local radio at Phoenix FM.

A networking event held at the end of the programme saw guests with national influence meet with participants to provide opportunities for mentoring and connection with national and regional networks. Guests included the Mayor of Fingal Seána Ó Rodaigh, Louise O'Reilly TD, National Women's Council of Ireland, Sport Ireland, and Empower as well as influencers in the worlds of food, film, arts and wellbeing.

Participants have been supported through the programme by a team of tutors experienced in local leadership with real life advice, stories and feedback and given advice and feedback in the early development of their new leadership activities to improve life in our communities and neighbourhoods. The programme tutors are Geraldine Rooney, of the Independent Living Centre Blanchardstown, who is also a representative on the Fingal Public Participation Network, Ayodele Yusuf, Chair of Balbriggan Integration Forum and Catherine Joyce, Manager of Blanchardstown Traveller Development Centre.



**She Leads Award Ceremony County Hall Swords on March 7th**

She Leads Fingal was co-designed with Shelly Gaynor, a disability advisor and former Chair of the Independent Living Movement Ireland, Bridie O'Reilly, an experienced community activist and former Chair of the Older People's Council of Ireland, and Dr Lucy Michael, an experienced lecturer in community leadership.

She Leads Fingal is supported by the Community Development Office of Fingal County Council. A new one-day leadership programme for Fingal women is currently being planned.

"This is a very exciting time in Fingal County Council for women. In addition to being led by a female Chief Executive and a female Mayor, in July 2021 we established the first Fingal County Council Women's Caucus. The Women's Caucus, aims to advocate on issues that affect women and She Leads, We Lead will compliment and inform our work in Fingal" said Chairperson of Fingal County Council Women's Caucus, Cllr Karen Power.

"Fingal County Council are delighted to be part of She Leads We Lead. The involvement of women in decision making is central to policy making and building strong communities" said Fingal County Council Chief Executive AnnMarie Farrelly.

"She Leads We Lead enables women to share experiences and learn skills, resources and approaches needed to be effective leaders in our communities. Our office recognises the importance of supporting women in this journey and in the building of a women's network in Fingal" - Principal Community Officer, Linda Ennis

# Seachtain na Gaeilge celebrated with a Concert in County Hall Swords

A wonderful evening of music song and Comhrá as Gaeilge was enjoyed in County Hall Swords to celebrate Seachtain na Gaeilge with Antaine Ó Faracháin and Nollaig MacCarthaigh. Following on from years when all events had to be online everyone was delighted with the return of this live event. It was appropriate too that this was one of the first live events in County Hall since Covid as the Seachtain na Gaeilge concert was one of the last events to take place before restrictions were introduced in March 2020



**Nollaig MacCárthaigh, Chief Executive AnnMarie Farrelly and Antaine Ó Faracháin at Seachtain na Gaeilge Concert**

The large enthusiastic audience was welcomed by Irish Officer Bernie Kelly before being addressed by Acting Mayor Cllr Paul Mulville and Fingal Chief Executive AnnMarie Farrelly. Also, in attendance was Cllr Brigid Manton and many Irish Language enthusiasts were delighted to be able to attend a live event and were happy to join in and sing a song themselves on the night.

Antaine Ó Faracháin and Nollaig Mac Cárthaigh are old friends of Seachtain na Gaeilge in Fingal and were delighted to be able to play live again in County Hall. Antaine Ó Faracháin sings in the traditional style in English and Irish and runs the Sean-Nós Cois Life song festival. Nollaig, a fluent Irish speaker, is an

excellent piper and highly regarded as a musician who teaches the uilleann pipes and could be heard playing regularly at sessions.

Speaking in Irish Acting Mayor Cllr Paul Mulville welcomed everyone to the event and said "It is wonderful to hear our native language Irish being spoken and I am looking forward to the music. I would also like to thank you all for the work you are doing to promote the language in the community yourselves activities such as Irish language coffee mornings."

AnnMarie Farrelly spoke of the commitment of the Council to the Irish language "It is wonderful to be able to welcome you back to County Hall this evening as we can again welcome the people of Fingal to enjoy events in our head office. Events like tonight provide a great way for our community to celebrate the Irish language as well as enjoy this wonderful traditional music."

Other events for Seachtain na Gaeilge included an audience with Manchán Magan and coding and storytelling as Gaeilge organised by Libraries section and a guided walk in Ardgillan Demesne with Dominica McKeivitt.



**Nollaig MacCárthaigh, Cllr Brigid Manton, Acting Mayor Cllr Paul Mulville and Antaine Ó Faracháin at Seachtain na Gaeilge Concert**

# Hundreds of businesses flock to Local Enterprise Week 2022!

**Fingal's business community booked over 1,000 places at this year's Local Enterprise Week, run by Fingal Local Enterprise Office (LEO).**

A series of 20 exciting business events were run both online and in-person as part of Local Enterprise Week (LEW) this year. huge numbers of Fingal business owner/managers used the opportunity to network and learn about new supports and opportunities for their businesses.

The packed week of events included an in-person dynamic "Start-Up Bootcamp" in the Riasc Centre, Kinsealy. Forty aspiring entrepreneurs participated in the intensive bootcamp, where they participated in interactive group exercises and received real-world advice from business experts.

Another events saw a business breakfast hosted by Balbriggan Chamber, which featured a high-calibre talk on "Preparing Your Business for Growth". This seminar was centred around steering a business in the right direction by elevating performance and putting a plan in place to back it up.

The Fingal Enterprise Awards also took place with six finalists battling it out for the coveted prize of winner of the 2022 competition. Hosted in Sonica, Skerries, the evening was streamed online, highlighting the success of the six finalists from across Fingal: Dimension 88 (Nigel & Catriona O'Leary), Love the Mug (Pamela & Suzanne Hughes), Farmony (Dan O'Brien & John Paul Prior), Nufields Ltd (Denis Manzke), EcoFriendly Cups (Elaine O'Farrell) and Rubberduck EHJC Ltd (Ben Colwell).

Life Ahead Ltd. T/A Farmony who provide vertical farming solutions were announced as overall winners, scooping the top prize of €5,000 and will now represent Fingal Local Enterprise Office at the 22nd National Enterprise Awards at the Mansion House in Dublin on the 2nd June. Swords-based Khiron Ltd T/A Dimension88, a Digital Twinning



**Dan O'Brien, Deputy Mayor of Fingal Daniel Whooley, John Paul Prior from Farmony and Chief Executive AnnMarie Farrelly at Fingal Enterprise Week 2022**

/ Metaverse / Digital Innovation company were also announced as the winner of the Highly Commended award at this year's awards ceremony.

One of the highlights of the week was a networking lunch hosted by Fingal Enterprising Women's Network at the Clayton Hotel, Dublin Airport. The Fingal Enterprising Women Network (FEWN) welcomed guest speaker, Broadcaster and Businesswoman Lorraine Keane, who discussed a range of topics including new beginnings and "Dare to Change." Deputy Mayor of Fingal Daniel Whooley also joined over 150 women entrepreneurs who participated in a networking lunch, the first in-person event the women's network had hosted in two years!

Local Enterprise Week concluded with "Show Me the Money" The hybrid event, hosted by Newstalk presenter Shane Coleman and was livestreamed on the Local Enterprise Office Youtube channel. A diverse panel of financing experts and business owners covered an array of topics relevant to anyone seeking to source and secure finance for their business including securing finance, identifying the right lender for your business and the loan application process.

Other events run during Local Enterprise Week included a Business Briefing with Fingal Chamber on focusing on key topics including: staff retention and recruitment, the lack of skills and talent, the availability of housing and transport issues. An online event to help Ethnic entrepreneurs was also held with a panel of successful ethnic entrepreneurs who shared their journey and detailed how they accessed financial supports. Cyber Security was highlighted at a "Protecting Your Business Online" webinar with The LINC at TU Dublin, while over 120 businesses attended an online webinar featuring the Trading Online Voucher (TOV) Scheme on the last day of Fingal's Local Enterprise Week.



**Show me the Money Panellist**

# Legacies of Conflict Project aims to capture the Fingal stories of the era 1914-1945

Fingal County Council Heritage Office in partnership with Archaeology and Built Heritage are working on an important Legacies of Conflict project and would love your help. There are many stories relating to the era of conflict in Fingal between 1914 and 1945. While some are widely known and commemorated, other stories may just be known within families or communities. Legacies of Conflict Fingal 1914-1945 is a project that endeavours to capture and share those stories.

Fingal Heritage Office has been working with members of the Fingal Heritage Network to identify themes, places, events, artefacts and memorials from World War I, the 1916 Rising, the War of Independence, the Civil War and World War II or the Emergency in Fingal. Those members of the Network which include historical societies and heritage groups across the County have been investigating their archives for documents, photos and memorabilia relating to events in their areas.

The project will focus on recording conflict remains in the landscape, from the concrete defences installed near the airport during World War II, to the ambush sites during the revolutionary period. Many of these sites leave little trace so it is important for them to be mapped for future generations. Another important focus is the production of a memory map where stories, films, photos and knowledge of the conflicts in Fingal can be shared.



“There has been amazing work undertaken by Fingal’s historical societies and heritage groups to date, but there are many more stories out there. I am particularly interested in capturing the social effects of these conflicts’ said Fingal Heritage Officer, Christine Baker ‘What were the experiences of those who stayed behind? What are the women’s stories? It is important to give a voice to those often overlooked when we record these events”.

Franz Myles, project director for Archaeology and Built Heritage adds “The principal outcome of the Legacies of Conflict project will be an innovative memory map which will visually represent this crucial period in the history of the state and enable researchers and interested members of the public to appreciate and locate what survives in the historical environment around them.”

Anyone with photos, stories, artefacts or memories relating to the 1914-1945 or know of sites or remains that should be recorded please contact us at [legaciesofconflict@abh.ie](mailto:legaciesofconflict@abh.ie)

For more information contact [Christine.baker@fingal.ie](mailto:Christine.baker@fingal.ie) / 086 7784669

# R123 connectivity improvements granted full planning permission

**Fingal County Council is delighted to announce that full planning permission has been granted to the R132 Connectivity Project by An Bord Pleanála.**

The Council is working in conjunction with the National Transport Authority to improve connectivity for the town of Swords and this includes a renewed focus on safe facilities for pedestrians and cyclists on the R132. The R132 Connectivity Project will improve the connectivity and safety of pedestrians and cyclists moving along, and across, the R132 and enhance facilities for all road users with particular benefits for those choosing sustainable modes of transportation such as bus users, cyclists and pedestrians.

Works will focus on the section of the R132 which runs east of Swords Town Centre, from Pinnock Hill to the Estuary Roundabout.

A public consultation was launched in November 2020 and, following submissions from the public, detailed designs were submitted for planning permission to An Bord Pleanála in May 2021.

In January 20 of this year An Bord Pleanála announced their decision to grant permission for this very important project, which will enhance road safety and connectivity for all those living, working in and visiting the area.

Mayor of Fingal Cllr Seána Ó Rodaigh says the project is key for Swords. 'This connectivity project will make getting to work, school and the shops by walking and wheeling an easy choice for people in Swords. The changes being made are designed to improve safety but also to promote a healthy environment by reducing the number of short journeys taken by car. We will be publishing our Sustainable Swords strategy later this year and this R132 project will feed into that by supporting the growth of a healthy and connected community in line with the plans for Sustainable Swords.'

Director of Planning and Strategic Infrastructure for Fingal County Council, Matthew McAleese, shared his excitement to progress the project into the design stage in the coming months. 'With the return to office now a prospect for many, it is clearer than ever that safe and convenient connectivity is an issue in the Swords area, and we are looking forward to tackling this. The design for this project will also offer improved connectivity to public transport for those looking to travel further afield and will form a key component when integrating with the delivery of MetroLink and BusConnects in the future.'

The project is comprised of:

- Carriageway changes from north of Pinnock Hill Roundabout to north of Estuary Roundabout including the establishment of designated bus lanes, cycle lanes and pedestrian walkways along each side of the carriageway, with a new reduced speed limit of 50km/h;



- Conversion of three existing roundabouts along the R132 (Estuary, Seatown and Malahide Road roundabouts) to signalised intersections with pedestrian and cyclist crossing points;
- Reconfiguration of the Drynam Road arm of the Malahide Road Roundabout to link directly to Malahide Road as a one-way road.
- Three new signalised crossing points at:
  - North of Pinnock Hill Roundabout
  - Adjacent to existing Chapel Lane/Ashley Avenue overbridge
  - North of Estuary Roundabout
- Installation of turning areas at two separate points along the R132;

With the Sustainable Swords strategy due to be published later this year, the multi-disciplinary project team will continue to prepare more detailed designs to enable this project to proceed to implementation. This will include liaising with the NTA and TII (Transport Infrastructure Ireland) in relation to providing a seamless integration with the proposed MetroLink and BusConnects project.

Anne Graham, CEO of the NTA, welcomed the announcement of the planning permission. 'The NTA are delighted to work with Fingal County Council on providing significant improvements to the walking and cycling infrastructure in the Swords area. This project will improve the safety for all road users and reduce the severance effect of the R132 and its surrounding areas. This infrastructure will enable the residents of Swords to walk or cycle for local trips and to access public transport services for longer trips.'

Those who wish to view plans for the scheme can find them on the Consult Portal at <https://consult.fingal.ie/en/consultation/application-bord-pleanala-fingal-county-council-r132-connectivity-project>

# Public Consultation on Aircraft Noise at Dublin Airport has concluded

Taoiseach Micheál On 18th December 2020, the airport authority for Dublin Airport (daa) submitted a planning application to Fingal County Council Planning Authority seeking to amend prior planning conditions associated with night-time aircraft activity at the airport. The application relates to night time use of the new north parallel runway and changes to permitted night-time aircraft movements across the entire airport. The application was referred to the Aircraft Noise Competent Authority (ANCA) for an assessment of the aircraft noise impact of the application as presented.

Following their assessment, in November 2021 ANCA published draft proposals for the management of aircraft noise at Dublin Airport. The public and all stakeholders were invited to read and respond to these proposals over a period of several months. During this period several information webinars were held online, allowing the public to ask questions of the team, and the ANCA team facilitated one to one meetings with residents and interested parties at County Hall, Swords.

The public consultation has now closed, with over 1,300 submissions received via post, email and the online consultation portal. These submissions are currently under review by the Aircraft Noise Competent Authority and will be available



on the public consultation Portal, [consult.fingal.ie](https://consult.fingal.ie).

Director of the Aircraft Noise Competent Authority, Ethna Felten, says she is encouraged by the high level of public engagement with the consultation. 'The last four months have been a busy period for our team as we have engaged with residents, businesses, community groups and organisations who care about how aircraft noise is managed at and around Dublin Airport. "We are very pleased to have received such a high volume of submissions on our proposals and are now working through the detail of each submission. We do this so that we can understand the concerns of the public and explore how to balance these with the sustainable development of Dublin Airport. We strive to always take a balanced approach and the input of the public is something we consider of great importance in this process."

Now that the consultation phase has concluded, ANCA will consider all submissions / observations received prior to making a regulatory decision. A copy of the regulatory decision will be sent to everyone that made a submission and will also be published at [www.fingal.ie/aircraftnoiseca](https://www.fingal.ie/aircraftnoiseca)



Created by Fahmihorizon



# Latest progress report published on efforts to tackle climate change

**The second Annual Progress Report on Fingal County Council's Climate Change Action Plan (CCAP) has been published, setting out how it will cut half of the County's emissions by 2030 and in doing so help Ireland to reach net zero no later than 2050.**

One of the key platforms in the plan is the overall improvement of energy efficiency around the Council, with a 50% reduction by 2030. This is in addition to a 50% absolute reduction in energy-related greenhouse gases in the same timeframe.

Welcoming the progress made, Mayor of Fingal, Cllr Seána Ó Rodaigh said: "While climate change is a global problem, it impacts every one of us at a local level. As we can see in the latest action plan, the Council takes its climate action responsibilities very seriously and is committed to delivering local level leadership in the climate emergency. While many challenges remain, we are making great inroads towards a climate-neutral future."

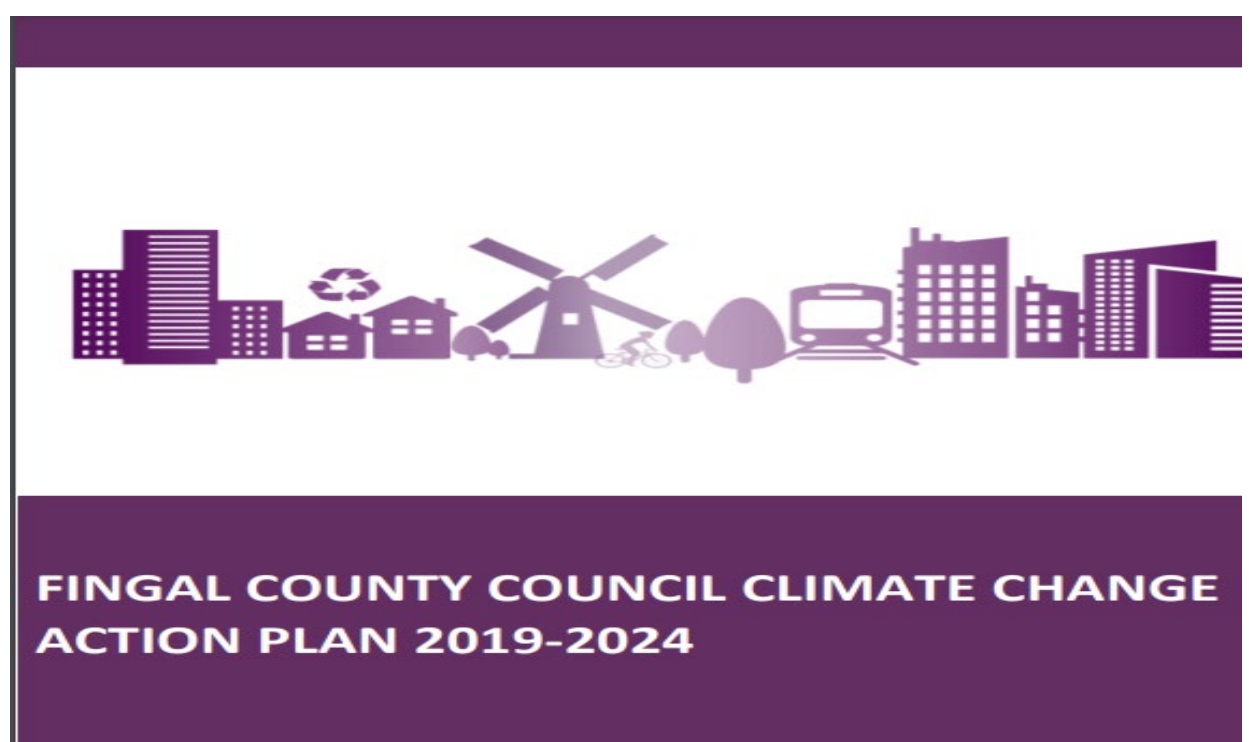
Another substantial gain recognised in the latest CCAP related to the conversion of 86% of public lighting in the county to LEDs; the council believes the remainder of these will be completed in 2022. The transitioning of the Council's vehicle fleet to an electric one was also mentioned, with 50 fully electric road vehicles (or 20% of the current fleet) are now in operation.

AnnMarie Farrelly, Chief Executive of Fingal County Council, said: "While we have made great progress, there is still much to do if Fingal is to be at the forefront of energy efficiency changes taking place in the County. In doing so we can help lower our long-term costs by managing climate-related impacts on key assets such as roads, drainage, water, sewer and community facilities."

Dave Storey, Director of Environment, Climate Action and Active Travel said: "It's important that we continue to take the lead in combating climate change and that we are able to increase our capacity to develop the most appropriate climate actions locally."

The Council also recently launched a consultation for a new draft Fingal Biodiversity Action Plan, which looks to halt biodiversity loss by 2030. Under the CCAP, this will see the delivery of a climate change resilient ecological network throughout the county, making urban areas and farmland more biodiversity friendly while also improving water quality.

The latest progress report can be viewed at: <https://www.fingal.ie/climate-change-action-plan>



## Fingal By Numbers

917

The number of motions Fingal Cllrs presented in respect of the Draft Fingal Development Plan 2023 - 2029 following meetings

69

The number of units under construction at Cappagh, Dublin 11

780

The number of bike journeys started within the Bleeper Bike Fingal operating zone in January - an increase from 662 in December

100,000+

The number of people enjoyed the festivities over the St. Patrick's Day Festival with 6 parades and the Remembrance and Recognition events taken place.

66

The three Enterprise Centres currently support 66 businesses and over 322 direct jobs. Occupancy rates at the Council's three enterprise centres at the end of February were Drinan 86%, BASE 94% and Beat 92%.

1,138

The number of Annual Dog Licences purchased in January and February this year

93

There have been 93 planning applications received to the end of January 2022, 10 of these applications were invalid leaving a total of 83 valid applications.

105

The number of hires which were put in place from 1st February 2022 - 28th February 2022, engaging 23 suppliers.

The volume of applications received by Local Electoral Area (LEA) is detailed in the table below.

Up to end of January 2022, 0 decisions were made by An Bord Pleanála. There are a total of 5 SHD's (2,623 units) currently in the formal application process.



# Your Councillors



## Local Electoral Areas



### Balbriggan

1. Cllr. Tony Murphy  
Independent  
[tony.murphy@cllrs.fingal.ie](mailto:tony.murphy@cllrs.fingal.ie)  
086 277 2030
2. Cllr. Grainne Maguire  
Independent  
[grainne.maguire@cllrs.fingal.ie](mailto:grainne.maguire@cllrs.fingal.ie)  
087 943 6650
3. Cllr. Seána Ó Rodaigh  
Labour Party  
[seana.rodaigh@cllrs.fingal.ie](mailto:seana.rodaigh@cllrs.fingal.ie)  
085 831 3801
4. Cllr. Tom O'Leary  
Fine Gael  
[tom.oleary@cllrs.fingal.ie](mailto:tom.oleary@cllrs.fingal.ie)  
087 245 9897
5. Cllr. Karen Power  
Green Party  
[karen.power@cllrs.fingal.ie](mailto:karen.power@cllrs.fingal.ie)  
089 965 4529
6. Cllr. Robert O'Donoghue  
Labour Party  
[robert.odonoghue@cllrs.fingal.ie](mailto:robert.odonoghue@cllrs.fingal.ie)  
083 0545554
7. Cllr. Adrian Henchy  
Fianna Fáil  
[adrian.henchy@cllrs.fingal.ie](mailto:adrian.henchy@cllrs.fingal.ie)  
087 681 4485
8. Cllr. Brian Dennehy  
Fianna Fáil  
[brian.dennehy@cllrs.fingal.ie](mailto:brian.dennehy@cllrs.fingal.ie)  
085 229 8201

### Rush-Lusk

9. Cllr. Cathal Boland  
Independent  
[cathal.boland@cllrs.fingal.ie](mailto:cathal.boland@cllrs.fingal.ie)  
086 257 7672
10. Cllr. Paul Mulville  
Social Democrats  
[paul.mulville@cllrs.fingal.ie](mailto:paul.mulville@cllrs.fingal.ie)  
086 378 7395
11. Cllr. Darragh Butler  
Fianna Fáil  
[darragh.butler@cllrs.fingal.ie](mailto:darragh.butler@cllrs.fingal.ie)  
087 959 5378
12. Cllr. Ian Carey  
Green Party  
[ian.carey@cllrs.fingal.ie](mailto:ian.carey@cllrs.fingal.ie)  
086 307 4004
13. Cllr. Dean Mulligan  
Independents4Change  
[dean.mulligan@cllrs.fingal.ie](mailto:dean.mulligan@cllrs.fingal.ie)  
087 966 6260
14. Cllr. Joe Newman  
Independent  
[joe.newman@cllrs.fingal.ie](mailto:joe.newman@cllrs.fingal.ie)  
087 245 7729
15. Cllr. Brigid Manton  
Fianna Fáil  
[brigid.manton@cllrs.fingal.ie](mailto:brigid.manton@cllrs.fingal.ie)  
086 247 6596
16. Cllr. Ann Graves  
Sinn Féin  
[ann.graves@cllrs.fingal.ie](mailto:ann.graves@cllrs.fingal.ie)  
087 272 4359
17. Cllr. James Humphreys  
Labour Party  
[james.humphreys@cllrs.fingal.ie](mailto:james.humphreys@cllrs.fingal.ie)  
083 8560832

### Swords

18. Cllr. Eoghan O'Brien  
Fianna Fáil  
[eoghan.obrien@cllrs.fingal.ie](mailto:eoghan.obrien@cllrs.fingal.ie)  
086 858 0562
19. Cllr. David Healy  
Green Party  
[david.healy@cllrs.fingal.ie](mailto:david.healy@cllrs.fingal.ie)  
087 617 8852
20. Cllr. Brian Mc Donagh  
Labour Party  
[brian.mcdonagh@cllrs.fingal.ie](mailto:brian.mcdonagh@cllrs.fingal.ie)  
086 385 8979
21. Cllr. Jimmy Guerin  
Independent  
[jimmy.guerin@cllrs.fingal.ie](mailto:jimmy.guerin@cllrs.fingal.ie)  
086 014 3346
22. Cllr. Aoihbhinn Tormey  
Fine Gael  
[aoibhinn.tormey@cllrs.fingal.ie](mailto:aoibhinn.tormey@cllrs.fingal.ie)  
087 754 6258
23. Cllr. Anthony Lavin  
Fine Gael  
[anthony.lavin@cllrs.fingal.ie](mailto:anthony.lavin@cllrs.fingal.ie)  
087 993 1329
24. Cllr. Joan Hopkins  
Social Democrats  
[joan.hopkins@cllrs.fingal.ie](mailto:joan.hopkins@cllrs.fingal.ie)  
083 1031541

### Howth - Malahide

25. Cllr. Ted Leddy  
Fine Gael  
[ted.leddy@cllrs.fingal.ie](mailto:ted.leddy@cllrs.fingal.ie)  
087 327 6630
26. Cllr. John Walsh  
Labour Party  
[john.walsh@cllrs.fingal.ie](mailto:john.walsh@cllrs.fingal.ie)  
087 648 6228
27. Cllr. Howard Mahony  
Fianna Fáil  
[howard.mahony@cllrs.fingal.ie](mailto:howard.mahony@cllrs.fingal.ie)  
087 0506146
28. Cllr. Natalie Treacy  
Sinn Féin  
[natalie.treacy@cllrs.fingal.ie](mailto:natalie.treacy@cllrs.fingal.ie)  
085 128 5493
29. Cllr. Angela Donnelly  
Sinn Féin  
[angela.donnelly@cllrs.fingal.ie](mailto:angela.donnelly@cllrs.fingal.ie)  
087 6730137
30. Cllr. Siobhan Shovlin  
Fine Gael  
[siobhan.shovlin@cllrs.fingal.ie](mailto:siobhan.shovlin@cllrs.fingal.ie)  
087 3984778
31. Cllr. Tania Doyle  
Independent  
[tania.doyle@cllrs.fingal.ie](mailto:tania.doyle@cllrs.fingal.ie)  
085 780 9292
32. Cllr. Tom Kitt  
Fianna Fáil  
[tom.kitt@cllrs.fingal.ie](mailto:tom.kitt@cllrs.fingal.ie)  
086 199 5801

### Castleknock

33. Cllr. Daniel Whooley  
Green Party  
[daniel.whooley@cllrs.fingal.ie](mailto:daniel.whooley@cllrs.fingal.ie)  
087 397 8024
34. Cllr. Kieran Dennison  
Fine Gael  
[kieran.dennison@cllrs.fingal.ie](mailto:kieran.dennison@cllrs.fingal.ie)  
087 259 5949
35. Cllr. Angela Donnelly  
Sinn Féin  
[angela.donnelly@cllrs.fingal.ie](mailto:angela.donnelly@cllrs.fingal.ie)  
087 6730137
36. Cllr. Mary McCamley  
Labour Party  
[mary.mccamley@cllrs.fingal.ie](mailto:mary.mccamley@cllrs.fingal.ie)  
087 650 1441
37. Cllr. Breda Hanaphy  
Sinn Féin  
[breda.hanaphy@cllrs.fingal.ie](mailto:breda.hanaphy@cllrs.fingal.ie)  
087 162 0917
38. Cllr. John Burtachaeil  
Solidarity  
[john.burtachaeil@cllrs.fingal.ie](mailto:john.burtachaeil@cllrs.fingal.ie)  
087 102 9372
39. Cllr. Punam Rane  
Fine Gael  
[punam.rane@cllrs.fingal.ie](mailto:punam.rane@cllrs.fingal.ie)  
089 254 4372
40. Cllr. John-Kingsley Onnumereh  
Fianna Fáil  
[jk.onnumereh@cllrs.fingal.ie](mailto:jk.onnumereh@cllrs.fingal.ie)  
089 9642783

### Ongar

39. Cllr. Punam Rane  
Fine Gael  
[punam.rane@cllrs.fingal.ie](mailto:punam.rane@cllrs.fingal.ie)  
089 254 4372
40. Cllr. John-Kingsley Onnumereh  
Fianna Fáil  
[jk.onnumereh@cllrs.fingal.ie](mailto:jk.onnumereh@cllrs.fingal.ie)  
089 9642783