

# Fingal News

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## TRANSFORMING TIMES IN FINGAL



**INSIDE** House building returning to peak levels, Creative Ireland Strategy Launch, Our Balbriggan Strategy launch and much, much more...

Comhairle Contae  
Fhine Gall  
Fingal County  
Council



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## Mayor's Message



Another year comes to a close, and what a year it has been. I was honoured to be elected to serve as Mayor of Fingal in June. I have travelled the county in that role with pleasure since then – there is much to be proud of and much to be inspired by. Bremore Castle is developing as the jewel in the crown of northern Fingal and I was delighted to take part in launching the Castle's involvement in the Operation Transformation television programme. The Butterfly House and The Fairy Trail at Malahide Castle and Gardens began as a passion project and have become a unique visitor attractions and assets to the cultural and social life of the area.

The progress made in housing and development has been strong, with sites in Donabate, Balbriggan and elsewhere demonstrating our commitment to serving the needs of our community.

Dublin Airport continues to place Fingal at the centre of Ireland's links to the world. This year, I welcomed Pope Francis to Fingal upon his arrival, and also welcomed Prince Harry and Meghan Markle, the Duke and Duchess of Sussex. That's not something you do every day, but I was also honoured in my personal life as I walked my daughter down the aisle of St Sylvester's Church, Malahide, in October.

Looking ahead to Christmas and then to the New Year ahead, we will mark the 25th Anniversary of the founding of Fingal County Council. This will be an opportunity to take stock of where we began, the progress we've made, and the opportunities we can develop in the future. These include the completion of the Casino and the Fry Model Railway in Malahide, progress on the Broadmeadows Walkway from Malahide to Donabate together with progress on the Sutton to Malahide Cycleway and I also look forward to advancing a Floating Boardwalk at Caves Marsh, Malahide, to extend this cycleway to Swords. As part of the Centenary Commemorations I was honoured to lay a Wreath at the Old IRA Monument Commemorating the Battle of Ashbourne in September and also to attend the State Commemorations of WW1 in Glasnevin Cemetery on Armistice Day in November.

Elections for the Council in 2019 will once again see the community decide on its future. 2018 has been a year for Fingal to take pride in, and I have been honoured to serve as Mayor. I look forward to what 2019 will bring.

Cllr. Anthony Lavin  
Mayor Of Fingal

## Chief Executive's Message



The decision of RTE to base Operation Transformation in Balbriggan has tied in nicely with our own plans to transform the town through the Balbriggan Socio-Economic Strategy. More than €20million will be invested in a wide range of projects that will rejuvenate Balbriggan and make it a good place to live, to work, to visit and to do business in. The Leadership Group which is driving the Strategy, under the chairmanship of DCU President Brian MacCraith, has already done great work and the reaction of the local community has been extremely encouraging.

One of my favourite events of the year is annual Pride of Place Awards which recognise the great work being in communities across Ireland. It was a very special event this year as Corduff won the top award for Best Urban Neighbourhood. There is a lot of excellent work being done by the community in Corduff in conjunction with state agencies like Fingal County Council and it is great to see their efforts being recognised with a prestigious national award. This was the first year we entered the Islands and Coastal Communities category so Baldoyle finishing runner-up in this section was also great recognition of the work being done by their community

I was also pleased that the elected members overwhelmingly chose to support our 2019 Budget of €237m which will see an extra €10m being invested in our county. Their earlier decision to retain the Local Property Tax at 2018 levels means that there is €2m again ring-fenced for specific projects in relations to housing, homelessness and local services. We will also spend a further €558m on 212 individual projects across the county under the 2019-2021 Capital Programme as we continue to keep pace with the demands of our rapidly growing population.

I hope you enjoy reading this latest edition of Fingal News and don't forget if you have any suggestions or feedback on the magazine then please email them to [fingalnews@fingal.ie](mailto:fingalnews@fingal.ie)

Paul Reid  
Chief Executive

# GOING GREEN IN FINGAL!

Fingal County Council has rolled out a number of initiatives as part of its drive to be green.

Two public drinking water fountains have been installed in Howth and Malahide by Fingal County Council's Operations Department who have been working with Refill Ireland, an environmental project that aims to provide readily available water in public places.

The water fountain in Howth can be found at the junction of Harbour Road and Abbey Road while the second fountain has been installed in Malahide Demesne.

Director of Operations for Fingal County Council, David Storey said: "Single use plastic water bottles account for a large proportion of waste and the installation of drinking water fountains will help to prevent this.

"The fountains are easy to access and use and are an



environmentally friendly health and well-being initiative."

Chief Executive of Fingal County Council Paul Reid said: "Fingal County Council is committed to implementing solutions that reduce the amount of plastic waste in order to preserve our environment. This initiative is a simple and efficient way to provide high quality water while protecting our natural landscape and tackling the significant problems created by Climate Change."

In September, Fingal County Council became the first local

authority in Ireland to install integrated Electric Vehicle Charging in its public street light columns for members of the public to use.

And earlier this year, five fully electric Citroen Berlingo vans replaced diesel powered vans in its operational fleet. Each of the vehicles can cover 170 kilometres on a full charge, and take just 30 minutes to completely recharge the batteries at the fast charging points. The vehicles are currently in use in the Operations Department in various areas dealing with Roads, Street Cleaning and Parks.





# House building returning to 2008 peak



Fingal County Council Chief Executive Paul Reid has said that house building completions in Fingal are close to returning to peak levels last seen a decade ago with more than 2,000 homes expected to be built this year alone.

Speaking after a visit by Housing Minister Eoghan Murphy to the region, Mr Reid said completed house builds at their peak in 2008 reached 2,800. "By the end of this year, some 2,100 homes will be built," he explained.

Housing completions have been steadily rising since 2014, and in the past year alone there has been a 71% increase in the number of properties completed as

well as a 33% rise in the number of active sites across the region.

Mr Reid said: "It was great to welcome Minister Murphy, so we could demonstrate the progress on housing delivery, both social and private, all across Fingal. We now have 72 active sites in the region, which will accommodate 12,000 new homes."

During his visit, Minister Murphy saw the activity taking place under various pillars of the Rebuilding Ireland programme.

Included on his itinerary was a visit to Seatown in Swords, where Fingal County Council recently purchased 18 houses which underwent renovations before their allocation to people in need of social housing support.

He also visited the LIHAF-funded Donabate Distributor Road, before travelling to Balbriggan where he was given a tour of the council-built, rapid delivery scheme in Pinewood.

Speaking about the visit, Mr Reid said: "The first thing we were able to demonstrate was the range of projects underway in Fingal. We were able to show him the 18 houses that we purchased





in Seatown were being refurbished and allocated. Refurbishing older homes is a key part of our housing programme.

“It was great to bring him out to our own lands in Ballymastone, which will facilitate the construction of over 1,000 homes, comprising a mix of private, affordable and social. The Local Infrastructure Housing Activation Fund (LIHAF) has supported a €15m investment in a new distributor road, which has unlocked the land for development.”

Speaking about the council-built, rapid delivery scheme in Pinewood, Balbriggan, Mr Reid said that it was built in a timeframe of eight months, which was one of the quickest turnarounds for any type of housing development across the country.

He added that there was further land at nearby Castlelands, which would be developed with the Land Housing Agency. ‘We are currently developing a masterplan for those lands, so there is a lot of activity on-going and also in the pipeline for the next five years.

Concluding, Mr Reid said: “We were really proud to be able to demonstrate to the Minister, the progress that has been made, as well as the leadership and accountability the Council’s management team have shown.

“We have put housing as our top priority in Fingal. The construction activity we are doing ourselves and the activity we are facilitating for private development is really bearing fruit. The Minister was really pleased with what he saw.”



## Balbriggan set for ambitious €20m rejuvenation plan

The future of Balbriggan is set to be transformed through a €20million-plus rejuvenation plan - an ambitious new vision for the town, which will be shaped by the views of its population.

A Balbriggan leadership group, chaired by Professor Brian MacCraith, President, Dublin City University, was established earlier in the year to prepare ambitious plans for the area with actions that can be delivered upon.

“In a few years’ time the centre of the town will have been transformed with public amenities flowing from the River Bracken and the Millpond Park through Quay Street down to a completely reimagined Harbour which will be the envy of the country,” said Prof MacCraith.

A Balbriggan Socio-Economic Strategy, which will be published at the end of Q1 2019, will contain an implementation plan with a list of actions, activities and accompanying timeline, directly influenced by the results of the Our Balbriggan survey which has been carried out.

“A €10m capital fund allocated to support the Balbriggan Strategy over the next three years is a real and sustained commitment to the town and the people of the area have the opportunity to shape and influence the order of priorities,” said Fingal County Council Chief Executive Paul Reid. “In excess of €10million, has also been allocated for the completion of the Balbriggan to Skerries Greenway, development of Bremore Castle into a premier visitor destination, development of Bremore Regional Amenity Park, and upgrades to cycle ways and connectivity in the town.”





## Fingal adds to fleet to ensure it's winter ready

Fingal County Council showcased some of the many new additions to its vehicle and equipment fleet in advance of the 2018/2019 Winter Season in the beautiful setting of St. Catherine's Park.

The timing of the event coincided with the Government's launch of the 'Be Winter Ready' Information Campaign 2018-2019.

The vehicles on show included a DAF Econ Unibody gritting truck with salt spinner and snow plough, two JCB 3CX Backhoe Excavators and two TD105 New Holland Tractors, one with a hydraulically controlled snowplough. The vehicles will be deployed for use in the Operations Department in areas dealing with salting roads, snow clearance and parks as required during the winter season.

David Storey, Director of Operations at Fingal County Council, said: "We are delighted to unveil the new additions to the fleet at the wonderful St Catherine's Park amenity. Each year Fingal County Council builds on our knowledge from previous years and the previous winter season has been no exception. Fingal staff have carried out trojan work dealing with storms over the past 12 months such as Emma, Ophelia, Ali and more recently Storm Callum."

Fingal County Council Chief Executive Paul Reid said: "Building on the great response by our Operations crews in dealing with storms over the past 12 months, we are further enhancing our capacity to respond with the roll-out of this new fleet and equipment as part of our preparation to be winter-ready."

## Work begins on phase two of Swords Castle

Fingal County Council is happy to announce that a contract has now been awarded to Kelbuild Ltd in respect of the Swords Castle enabling and conservation works (Phase 2).

The contractor is on site, but the castle will remain open to the public throughout the period of renovations.

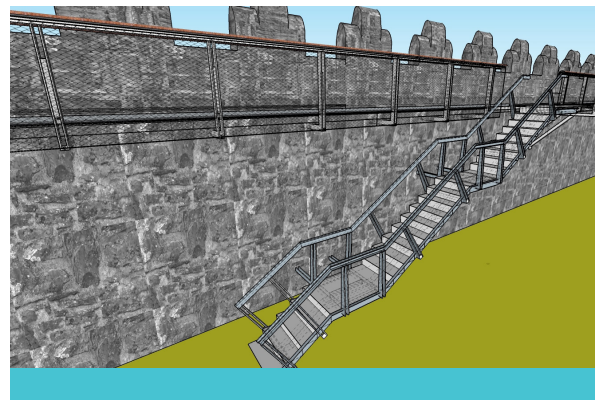
This exciting phase of the castle's regeneration will provide visitors to the castle even more opportunity to explore this wonderful historic site as the works will see a replacement of the perimeter ramparts with a bespoke modern walkway.

County Architect, Fionnuala May, said: 'The works will allow public access to part of the castle walls facilitating viewing of the castle itself and Swords. This phase will also see consolidation of the East Tower and repairs to the Chapel roof.'

It is expected that the work will be completed by the end of March 2019. The works to Swords Castle are partially funded under a grant issued under the European Regional Development Fund for Swords Cultural Quarter.

The Swords Cultural Quarter will be a new major central public and civic space outside Swords Castle featuring a new Library and Civic Centre building to sit alongside County Hall as well as new landscape interventions in the park and the town

The Castle is open all year round and tours, subject to demand, are provided by Fingal Tourism who can be contacted at [info@fingaltourism.ie](mailto:info@fingaltourism.ie) or by telephone at 01-8400891. Further information on Swords Castle and the Swords Cultural Quarter project are available from [www.fingal.ie](http://www.fingal.ie)





# Transforming Balbriggan!



Fingal County Council has welcomed the decision of Vision Independent Productions and RTE to base its successful Operation Transformation programme in Balbriggan for its 2019 season.

In a new departure for the popular programme, it will work alongside Fingal County Council community and sports officers to encourage people in Balbriggan to get active during the eight weeks of filming.

The Operation Transformation studio will be based inside Bremore Castle when the programme is broadcast next January and February and many of the various challenges, which are a feature of the show, will take place in and around the

Balbriggan area.

The programme's producers, Vision Independent Productions, hope that Balbriggan will show the nation what can be achieved with a little community spirit encouragement and the support of civic leaders and the Council.

Expressing delight at the news, Mayor of Fingal, Cllr Anthony Lavin, said: "I am delighted to welcome Operation Transformation to Balbriggan where the 2019 leaders will get a warm welcome and a lot of support from the local community.

"Balbriggan is a vibrant town and is an ideal host venue for

Operation Transformation with its wide range of facilities."

Chief Executive of Fingal County Council, Paul Reid, said: "The decision to select Balbriggan to host the 2019 programme is a positive endorsement for the town and its people.

"The Council is working closely with the Balbriggan Leadership Group to develop a socio-economic strategy for the area and over the past few months we have made a lot of progress in our efforts to realise our shared vision for Balbriggan and its community. For eight weeks next January and February, Balbriggan will be in the national spotlight and it will be an opportunity to showcase all that it has to offer."



# Fingal PPN organisation helps groups find a voice

Co-ordinator of the Fingal Public Participation Network, Jamie Moore speaks to Fingal News about the importance of providing a structured forum for community groups to engage with Fingal County Council across a number of different areas.

Local government should be 'of the community, by the community, and for the community'.

One way that Fingal County Council puts this into practice is the Fingal Public Participation Network. Launched in 2014 as part of the Community Department, the 'PPN' is a structured forum for community groups to engage with the Council in communication, planning and policy development.

Jamie Moore has served as Co-ordinator for the PPN for 18 months, and it's been a whirlwind ride as the PPN continues to grow. "We've dramatically increased participation.

"A few years ago we would have been around the 60 mark, at our last plenary meeting we had over 150 people, and now we have 700 members", explains Jamie. "About 350-400 of them are actively involved which is far beyond the national average."

The PPN has progressed in a wide range of areas.

Jamie notes the creation of a strategic plan which had input from over 300 member organisations as a "first-of-its-kind that no other PPN has done", and says "we've changed how we do our business in terms of communicating with the citizens in plain English as opposed to government terminology."

The participatory element that underpins the PPN approach has been strengthened. Jamie points to the "huge focus on the capacity building of community groups across the county, and facilitating ways of them being equipped to have their voices heard."

None of this happens without planning, organisation and communication, and that's where Jamie comes in. As Co-ordinator, he has a busy schedule where there's no such thing as a typical day.

The various groups in the PPN are organised into eight 'Thematic Networks' on topics like housing, planning, water, and arts. These networks meet on a quarterly basis and their deliberations are fed into Strategic Policy Committees.

"There's a lot of work around planning that, getting invitations out to groups, and communicating with them," says Jamie. "We gather the views of the community."

A similar process takes place for public consultations. "The PPN would generally make a submission on behalf of the community, and that would involve meeting community groups. We gather the views of the community and feed them back."

Jamie also has the task of faci-







tating, managing and organising the community representation on strategic policy committees in the Council such as Joint Policing and Local Community Development.

This involves organising elections, reporting and feedback, and daily support. This often takes the form of “trying to build their capacity so that they can engage, trying to help them have the confidence – because at the end of the day you have two volunteers going into a committee room of council officials and county councillors and experts, and they sometimes feel that they may not be able to engage at the same level,” Jamie explains.

This is one aspect of the focus on training programmes that the PPN delivers alongside the Community Department, the Environmental Department, and external stakeholders

like Empower. Jamie’s duties don’t end there.

The national PPN framework is another area of responsibility. His responsibilities here involve the development of a national reporting framework for PPNs, the National Conference, and the PPN User Guide.

For Jamie, “every day is different”, but there are constants that run through it all.

“When you communicate with people at a level they understand and at a level they feel they can engage with, and with respect, they’re more likely to buy into the process, and that’s what this has all been about.”

Jamie has had a varied career to date. With a strong interest in community affairs from secondary

school experiences in scouting and the Comhairle na nÓg, he embarked on the Washington Ireland Programme which saw him travel to Washington D.C to learn about and work in the political and governmental system of the U.S.

Jamie credits this programme with encouraging him to “develop an ethos of personal service and leadership”. Upon his return and resuming his education he went on to work with the South Dublin PPN before moving to Fingal in May 2017. Not one to stand still for long, he was appointed a Youth Delegate for Ireland to the UN General Assembly in New York, which is a post he will hold until mid-2019.

To find out more about the Fingal Public Participation Network, see [fingalppn.ie](http://fingalppn.ie).



# GETTING CREATIVE ACROSS FINGAL

THE development of a range of creative and cultural initiatives which will provide opportunities for citizens throughout the county to realise their full creative potential will be supported by the newly launched Fingal Culture and Creativity Strategy.

The four-year plan is part of the National Creative Ireland Programme and was launched by the Mayor of Fingal, Cllr Anthony Lavin in the Atrium in County Hall, Swords on Thursday, 1 November.

This Strategy provides a framework for ongoing engagement between the community, creative practitioners and Fingal

County Council.

Also unveiled on the night was the engaging Creative Conversations Project, a four-part interview series filmed by Institute of Technology Blanchardstown student, Tobi Ilori, from Tyrellstown.

The four-part film explored creativity through the thoughts of four artists and creative practitioners working in Fingal. It featured the award-winning garden designer, Jane McCorkrell, actor and playwright David Gilna, musician Arun Rao and artist Paul D'Arcy.

Mayor of Fingal, Cllr Anthony Lavin said:



“We are very fortunate to have a diverse and rich heritage of music, folklore and local history which inspires and influences Fingal residents. The Creative Ireland Programme provides an invaluable opportunity for Local Authorities to actively develop and support creative and cultural initiatives, ensuring that the creativity of each of our citizens in Fingal is given an opportunity to grow and flourish.

“By supporting and encouraging collaborative creativity we can bring our

communities together, strengthen our sense of identity and enhance general wellbeing in Fingal.”

The strategy will focus on engaging the community in culture and creativity through a variety of programmes including the arts, libraries, sports, heritage, STEAM and community programmes.

Chief Executive of Fingal County Council, Paul Reid said: “Culture and creativity are among the greatest assets of any society and as a local authority we have a responsibility



# Council adopts €237m Budget for next year

Fingal County Council has adopted a budget of €237m, the equivalent of €801 per head of population, to provide services and investment in 2019 to improve the county as a place in which to live, work and invest.

#### Services

- ☐ €45m - Recreation and Amenity
- ☐ €1m - Agriculture, Health, Welfare and Education
- ☐ €12m - Miscellaneous Services

Councillors agreed to a two per cent commercial rates increase which will see €2.5m ring-fenced for additional investment in street cleaning, parks maintenance and other operational activities as well as investment in tourism and events, community and arts.

Chief Executive Paul Reid said: "The Budget provides for an increased level of investment in the social, economic and cultural fabric of this county. The overall aim of the budget was to maintain and build on the enhanced investment undertaken in the 2018 Budget."

In September, councillors agreed to reduce the Local Property Tax by 10 per cent which has allowed €2m to be set aside for housing and homelessness and local services.

Under its three-year Capital Programme, the Council will spend a further €588m on 212 individual projects.

It represents an increased investment of €10m from last year and will enable the Council to manage the on-going demands of a county that has the fastest growing and youngest population in Ireland. The 2019 Budget will also have an impact of €572m on the local economy, an increase of €61m since 2017.

Three key core objectives have been set out in the 2019 Budget. The main priority is to continue investment in the Housing and Community areas as well as increasing service delivery and continuing to develop the economic and community plan for Fingal which supports job creation, tourism and sustainable communities.

The €237m budget can be broken down as follows:

- ☐ €64m - Housing and Building;
- ☐ €27m - Road Transport and Safety
- ☐ €20m - Water Services
- ☐ €23m - Development Management
- ☐ €45m - Environmental



to find ways to encourage, support and nurture the creativity of our citizens across the county. This is a welcome challenge as Fingal County Council already has a strong reputation in supporting creativity through our many cross departmental Initiatives; such as our Creative Hubs, book clubs and writing groups as well as inclusive sport programmes and heritage and conservation initiatives."

"The Creative Conversations project is a partnership between the Council and IT Blanchardstown and has given one of their Creative Media students an opportunity to capture on film the thoughts of four of Fingal's most creative people."

Fingal's Culture and Creative Strategy 2018-2022 can be accessed at: <http://fingal.ie/community-and-leisure/fingalcultureandcreativitystrategy>.





## Work on emergency erosion measures underway

Fingal County Council welcomed the announcement of €456,000 funding from the Office of Public Works which will fund interim emergency coastal erosion measures in Portrane, which have commenced.

The funding towards the installation of 380 'Seabee' reinforced concrete units along the beach above the Mean High Water Level was announced by Minister for the Office of Public Works (OPW) and Flood Relief, Kevin 'Boxer' Moran.

The "SeaBees" are designed to reduce the force of waves

impacting the coastline during stormy conditions. Three lines of "SeaBee" units will be placed along a 270-metre stretch, about 15 metres from the face of the sand dunes. The five-tonne reinforced concrete blocks, which are approximately 1.4 metres high and 1.7 metres wide, will be filled with stone to prevent movement and for public safety reasons.

Funding for the temporary interim emergency measures has been approved under the Office of Public Works (OPW) Minor Flood Mitigation Works and Coastal Protection Scheme.

Extensive engagement regarding the emergency measures was held between Fingal County Council, the Office of Public Works (OPW) and the National Parks & Wildlife Service (NPWS).

Fingal County Council's Director of Planning and Strategic Infrastructure AnnMarie Farrelly said: "We have been working very closely with the OPW, the Minister and the National Parks and Wildlife Service to come up with a solution that will prevent erosion. We are confident that these measures will have an impact and protect properties over the winter period."

## Atrium nominated for award

Fingal County Council was delighted to have been nominated in the Building and Architect of the Year awards for 2018.

The Council was nominated for the Building of the Year – Public award for the 'Rethinking the Atrium - Fingal County Council' project, which was the final phase of a newly re-imagined ground floor Atrium in Fingal County Hall, Swords. In 2017, the project was

also nominated for the Fit Out Awards.

As part of the ambitious project, The Atrium space was re-configured, and the main entrance relocated to improve the flow through the space providing a dedicated Customer Service Zone with a new productive waiting zone and supported by self-service areas with a high component of AV&IT equipment and touchscreens.

## Broadmeadow Way project application due shortly

It is hoped that Fingal County Council will be in a position to submit an application to build the Broadmeadow Way, a cycle and pathway across the estuary, early in 2019. In an updated briefing to councillors, it was stated that it is the intention to lodge the application to An Bord Pleanála in the first quarter of 2019. The cycle and pathway will link Malahide Demesne to Newbridge House in Donabate.

## €8m EIB loan to kick-start funding of vital capital projects

Fingal County Council has approved the drawdown of an €8m loan from the European Investment Bank (EIB) as it prepares to roll out its ambitious €588m Capital Programme over the next three years. Councillors gave their agreement to the Executive to draw down the initial tranche of funds from the EIB. Last December, Fingal County Council signed an historic agreement with the EIB to secure a €70m loan facility to support capital projects over a five-year period. The finance will be used to accelerate the Council's LED street lighting replacement programme and to invest significantly in heritage properties such as Swords Castle and Bremore Castle and industrial estates.

## NINE MEN'S SHED GROUPS RECEIVE FUNDING BOOST

Fingal's Local Community Development Committee (LCDC) has approved the allocation of €16,000 to local Men's Shed groups which will fund either the purchase of new equipment or small scale capital projects. Nine groups across the region will each receive €1,771.33 under the Community Enhancement Programme (CEP) which was announced by the Dept of Rural & Community Development. The groups are in Swords, Balbriggan, Rush, Mulhuddart, Donabate/Portrane, Skerries, Baldoyle and District, Fingal Vintage Society and Portmarnock.



## €600k awarded to seven urban renewal projects

Fingal County Council has welcomed the allocation of €600,000 towards seven ambitious projects under the 2018 Town and Village Renewal Scheme.

Minister for Rural and Community Development Michael Ring announced total funding of €21million under the 2018 Town and Village Renewal Scheme, a key part of the Government's Action Plan for Rural Development. The funding will allow the Council progress the projects which aim to enhance and rejuvenate each of the seven towns and villages.

The Fingal allocations are:

- €200,000 – Development of a tourism hub in Lusk on a strategic site within the village, which will include the delivery of a permanent exhibition space themed on the Life and Times of Thomas Ashe.
- €100,000 – Enhancement of historic, commercial and recreational core of Balrothery, including the creation of new pedestrian linkages and parking at the Balrothery Heritage Centre.
- €100,000 – Enhancement of

Rush Main Street, including a Paint and Shopfront Improvement Scheme, and Signage Provision.

- €36,800 – Interpretation of life of Seamus Ennis in Naul to commemorate the centenary of the birth of the master uilleann piper and music collector.
- €72,000 - Town Centre Enhancement of Floraville Park in Skerries to allow the park be used after sundown and provide comfortable seating.
- €57,160 – Restoration of heritage stone walls at southern entrance to Portmarnock village and the boundary wall of the former Jameson estate on the eastern side of Strand Road.
- - €32,000 – Portrane Village enhancements to rejuvenate the appearance of the village.

Fingal County Council's Chief Executive Paul Reid said: "Fingal County Council is delighted with the allocation which will help enhance rural towns and villages across the region, with a particular emphasis on stimulating economic development."





Isabelle Ryan at the Atrium.

## Bliain na Gaeilge á cheiliúradh 13 Samhain

Bhí oíche bhreá shóisialta in Halla an Chontae Sord mar chuid de Lá na Gaeilge chun Bhliain na Gaeilge a cheiliúradh. Ar an lá céanna bhí Blas Baile Bhlaínséir ar siúl i Leabharlann Bhaile Bhlaínséir agus bhí foireann na Comhairle ag baint úsáid as cibé Gaeilge a bhí acu i rith an lae freisin,

Chuir Méara Fhine Gall an Clr Anthony Lavin tús leis an oíche agus bhí ceol den scoth ann uaidh Antaine Ó Faracháin agus Nollaig MacCárthaigh. Bhí Nollaig ag seinm na píob uilleann agus Antaine an fidil agus ag canadh amhráin ar an sean nós. Bhí an lucht éisteachta sásta cúpla amhráin a chasadh iad féin. Bhí an Clr Daire Ní Laoi, Liam Ó Cúl báird agus Paula Melvin ann ón gCoiste Gaeilge agus thréaslaigh Bernie Kelly, an t-Oifigeach Gaeilge leo agus le gach duine ann as an sár-obair atá siad go léir ag déanamh ar son na Teanga i bhFine Gall.

Bhí an-oíche le spraoi agus craic ag gach duine ag an ócáid, an triú cheann i nGaeilge in Halla an Chontae i 2018.

Bhí 200 daltaí scoile i Leabharlann Bhaile Bhlaínséir ar maidin do Bhlas Baile Bhlaínséir ag éisteacht

le Niall de Búrca. Bhí lá iomlán d'imeachtaí ann le tráth na gceist, códáil, ceardlann íogart reoite, gan trácht ar an spraoi a bhí ag gach duine le Giggles an fear grinn. Chuir na Deartháireachta Fanzini críoch spleodrach leis an lá spleodrach!





## €165k invested in Lusk Sports Hub over the past 12 months



Fingal County Council has invested €165,000 in the development of the Lusk Sports Hub, which will provide a range of sporting and recreational facilities in the area, over the past 12 months.

The Operations Department has carried out a series of construction works and improvement measures within the Sports Hub, which is located on the ring road in Lusk.

The works included the development of a sprint and jogging track, the completion of phase one of the upgrading of the GAA pitches and an extension to the car park.

The installation of public lighting is due to commence in the coming weeks. The largest capital outlay of €50,000 was invested in the installation of a 1,000m x 3m athletics track over the course of the summer. A further €25,000 was spent on a 100-metre sprint track.

Phase 1 of the upgrading of the GAA pitch and two underage soccer pitches have been completed. This work consisted of a series of mechanical aeration system installations and three sand-top dressings to improve the playing surface. Goal posts are currently being erected. This work was valued at €20,000. A €30,000 extension to the car park has been completed, while the installation of public lighting, valued at €40,000. Meanwhile, the procurement and installation for the new playground will also be carried out by the local authority.







## New Community & Sports Office opens in Balbriggan

A brand new Community & Sports Office in Balbriggan, has been officially opened by Deputy Mayor Cllr Gráinne Maguire, with David Gillick, former Olympian and sports personality, speaking at the launch. David spoke passionately about the positive effects of community on people's lives and in particular their mental health.

He also commented on how he benefited from engaging in a physical activity programme in his local community, after he retired

from professional sports.

The Community and Sports Office is a joint initiative between the Sports & Community teams in Fingal County Council and will be of great benefit to the town of Balbriggan over the coming years.

The new office is located in Flemington Community Centre and houses a team consisting of Community Development Officer Mick Dunne and Community Sports Development Officer Ciaran

Russell.

Mick Dunne, the Community Development Officer, who traditionally covered all of north Fingal, will now focus solely on Balbriggan.

The work that is on-going in terms of support to community and voluntary groups, research, and development of projects and initiatives to benefit Balbriggan can now be deepened as a result of the dedicated presence here in Flemington Community Centre.

The Community Sports Development Officer is a new post for Balbriggan and speaking at the event Chief Executive of Fingal County Council Paul Reid said: "I would like to take this opportunity to welcome Ciaran Russell and wish him success working with groups and clubs throughout the town to promote access to sport and healthy lifestyles."







The position of 'Community Sports Development Officer' and the creation of a Balbriggan Community Sports Hub has been made possible with Dormant Accounts Funding through Sport Ireland.

Mr Reid also thanked the Fingal Sports Office Team who submitted the application to Sport Ireland and the Community Office Team who supported the process.

Deputy Mayor Cllr Gráinne Maguire said: "I want to thank Flemington Local Development Group, and on whose behalf the application to Sport Ireland was made. Balbriggan is a great place to live and work and we need to keep promoting the positive messages coming from the town such as this new office being launched here today."

Regarding the social and economic development of the town, Mr Reid added: "Fingal County Council is currently engaged in a substantial regeneration of Balbriggan across a range of areas including public realm, economy and enterprise and training and education."



## TY students kick into action

Fingal County Council and the Football Association of Ireland have launched the third year of the Transition Year Football Development Course which gives participants an opportunity to meet their educational requirements while developing football skills.

The 2018-19 programme was officially launched by former Republic of Ireland senior international Andy Reid, Deputy Mayor of Fingal Cllr Kieran Dennison and Fingal County Council's Chief Executive Paul Reid, at Corduff Community Centre.

Over the course of the 2018-19

school year, the 22 Transition Year students participating in the programme will mix academic subjects such as Maths and English with Kick Start 1 and 2 coaching courses and modules in Fitness Instruction, Media Skills and Personal Development as well football training and strength and conditioning work.

Also, 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.







The Write Time Festival was launched by Mayor Cllr Anthony Lavin at Baldoyle Library.

## Fingal Libraries secures IT funding

Fingal Libraries secured a major funding boost of €711,000 to upgrade and improve ICT and digital services throughout its network, which is a key strategic aim of its ambitious Development Plan to be rolled over the next five years.

Minister for Rural and Community Development, Michael Ring TD, approved an €8 million investment for libraries nationwide, with approximately €6 million funded by the Department and a further €2 million contribution from Local Authorities.

Fingal Libraries received €533,500 from the Department, which was the second highest grant awarded to a local authority by the Department. The remaining €177,500 will come from Fingal County

Council itself.

County Librarian Betty Boardman, said: "This funding has come at a very good time for Fingal Libraries as it will assist us in achieving two of the main objectives in our Development Plan published earlier this year – to continue to provide high quality, welcoming, accessible spaces which meet the needs of library users and to reinforce the position of libraries in the community as key points of access to information technology and digital services."

The Plan highlights the future of Fingal Libraries as a dynamic and inclusive space that supports and values culture, recreation, literacy, education and economic development. A million visits were made to libraries during 2017.



## Third Write Time Festival sparks creativity and the imagination

The third annual Write Time Festival Programme, launched by Mayor of Fingal Cllr Anthony Lavin at Baldoyle Library celebrated the written and spoken word in Fingal. Library branches hosted workshops and talks throughout the month of September to spark the imagination and inspire creativity.

This year's programme featured travel writer and documentary-maker Manchán Magan. Actor,

writer and director Diarmuid de Faoite spoke in Irish about writing dramatic stories for various media - books, stage, radio, television and the big screen. In recent years, digital self-publishing and e-books have changed the publishing landscape dramatically.

Author Catherine Ryan Howard shared her best practice tips for success in self-publishing, marketing and promotion.

## Libraries leading charge in fostering STEM interest

Ireland's future STEM pioneers were at the STEMcon conference at the Castleknock Hotel, as almost 300 people – including secondary students, home-schooling groups, and Fingal County Council Chief Executive Paul Reid – watched presentations by a range of STEM professionals at the Fingal Libraries-hosted event.

Introduced by Senior Executive Librarian Betty Boardman, the event was formally launched by Mayor of Fingal, Cllr

Anthony Lavin. Mayor Lavin said: "Fingal Libraries are leading the charge when it comes to fostering interest in STEM. Today, you can access new technology such as 3D printing at several Fingal Library Branches."

Speakers discussed the importance of STEM in their varied roles, from fire prevention, community archaeology and pathology, to aircraft engineering, languages and IT engineering. At the end of the event at least 75% of the audience



expressed an interest in pursuing a STEM career.

"Fingal Libraries were delighted to welcome so many young people to this STEM careers event," said Senior Executive Librarian, Lillian Whelan. "We heard some really varied and interesting

presentations about a variety of STEM careers, which were enjoyed by all.

"STEMcon is another example of the important role played by Fingal Libraries in encouraging young people to study STEM-based subjects and pursue STEM careers."

### Fingal's Library Services

Balbriggan	01 870 4401 / 01 870 4402	<a href="mailto:balbrigganlibrary@fingal.ie">balbrigganlibrary@fingal.ie</a>
Baldoyle	01 890 6793	<a href="mailto:baldoylelibrary@fingal.ie">baldoylelibrary@fingal.ie</a>
Blanchardstown	01 890 5563	<a href="mailto:blanchlib@fingal.ie">blanchlib@fingal.ie</a>
Donabate	01 890 5609	<a href="mailto:donabate.library@fingal.ie">donabate.library@fingal.ie</a>
Garristown	01 835 5020	<a href="mailto:garristownlibrary@fingal.ie">garristownlibrary@fingal.ie</a>
Howth	01 890 5026	<a href="mailto:howthlibrary.library@fingal.ie">howthlibrary.library@fingal.ie</a>
Malahide	01 870 4430 / 01 870 4431	<a href="mailto:malahidelibrary@fingal.ie">malahidelibrary@fingal.ie</a>
Rush	01 870 8414	<a href="mailto:rushlibrary@fingal.ie">rushlibrary@fingal.ie</a>
Skerries	01 890 5671	<a href="mailto:skerrieslibrary.library@fingal.ie">skerrieslibrary.library@fingal.ie</a>
Swords	01 890 5894 / 01 890 5582	<a href="mailto:swordslibrary@fingal.ie">swordslibrary@fingal.ie</a>
Mobile library service	01 822 1564	<a href="mailto:mobilelibraries@fingal.ie">mobilelibraries@fingal.ie</a>
Library Headquarters	01 890 5524	<a href="mailto:LibrariesHQ@fingalcoco.ie">LibrariesHQ@fingalcoco.ie</a>
Housebound library service	01 860 4290 / 1850 211466 (Freephone)	<a href="mailto:houseboundlibrary@fingal.ie">houseboundlibrary@fingal.ie</a>
Local Studies and Archives	01 870 4495 / 01 890 4486	<a href="mailto:Local.Studies@fingal.ie">Local.Studies@fingal.ie</a>

Fingal Libraries are on Social Media!





# Festival of Fire lights up the Fingal skies

Huge crowds turned out around Fingal for the three family-friendly Festival of Fire events that sparked into life on Halloween.

Residents, both young and old, were enthralled by the fireworks displays held in Millennium Park in Blanchardstown, Swords Town Park, and Balbriggan Harbour.

At Swords Castle, local band 'The Great Escape' entertained the crowd with their set before introducing Mayor Cllr Anthony Lavin onto stage to launch the spectacular fireworks display. Not even the rain could dampen the spirits of all those gathered in Swords Town Park and there were plenty of happy witches and wizards who witnessed the amazing spectacle.

Totally 80s entertained the crowd at Blanchardstown Millennium Park, while a large, enthusiastic crowd arrived in Balbriggan to see the fabulous fireworks display there despite the rain.







Cleaner Communities Awards night is a great success

The annual Cleaner Communities Awards were held in the Grand Hotel, Malahide and the popularity of Fingal's community based anti-litter competition continues to grow. This year there were 76 entries across 17 different categories, ranging from Best Front Garden to the Best Example of Special Climate Change Project.

The Overall Winner on the night was awarded to Blakestown Drive Community Group for all their initiatives; including tree planting events, turning dumping and graffiti hotspots into award winning showpiece nature strips, and their many educational projects, such as 'Making Good Use of Bad Rubbish'.

# Swords selected to host Leinster Fleadh

The 2020 Leinster Fleadh is to be held in Swords and, if successful, could lead to a bid being made by the Dublin County Board of Comhaltas Ceoltóirí Éireann and Fingal County Council to bring the All-Ireland Fleadh Cheoil to the town.

The week-long Leinster Fleadh will be hosted by the Dublin County Board in partnership with Fingal County Council from July 5 to 12, 2020 in Swords and there will be special celebrations to mark the 60th anniversary of the formation of Comhairle Laidhean and the hosting of the first Leinster Fleadh in 1960.

The event is expected to culminate in 4,500 winners from the province's 12 county fleadhanna arriving in Swords on July 10, 11 and 12 as individuals, duets, trios, bands and groups to battle it out for places in the All-Ireland Finals.

Cllr Anthony Lavin, Mayor of Fingal, explained: "The Fingal Fleadh which took place in Swords showed just how strong the interest in Irish music and culture is in Fingal. Hosting the Leinster Fleadh is the natural next step and we look forward to welcoming visitors from all over Leinster and beyond to Fingal in 2020."



Paul Reid, Chief Executive of Fingal County Council, said: "We have a lot of experience in staging major events and hosting the Leinster Fleadh in Swords will give us the perfect opportunity to show the town's potential as a possible host of the All-Ireland Fleadh. We are looking forward to working with the Dublin County Board, Comhairle Laidhean and Ceoltóirí Ceoltóirí Éireann to deliver a Fleadh that caters for participants and visitors alike and ensures that they all have an experience to remember."



### Siobhan is new President of Chambers Ireland

Fingal County Council congratulates former Director and President of Fingal Dublin Chamber Siobhan Kinsella on her appointment as President of Chambers Ireland.

Siobhan joined the board of Chambers Ireland in 2014 and served as Director of Fingal Dublin Chamber from 2007 to 2017 and as President from 2013 to 2015.

Previously, Siobhan has worked as a Commercial Executive, with a background in change management and project delivery. Siobhan currently holds the position of Operations Director of 'The Noel Group'. She has also worked as a Director for The Cpl Institute, the learning and development branch of Cpl Resources.

Mayor of Fingal, Cllr Anthony Lavin said: "Having served with Siobhan on the Fingal Economic Development & Enterprise SPC and the Drinam Enterprise Centre, I know she is a great ambassador for Fingal and Fingal County Council."

### Funding worth €700k awarded to 21 firms

Approximately €700,000 has been awarded to companies under Enterprise Ireland's Small Business Innovation Research (SBIR) initiative which will enable them explore innovative solutions to address challenges faced by Local Authorities. Twenty one companies have been awarded Phase One funding to progress the feasibility of their solutions. Phase One funding will allow each recipient to carry out a feasibility study/prototype of their project.



## New strategy to give food sector a significant boost

A new Fingal Agri-Food Strategy which sets out a series of actions designed to bolster food businesses and employment in the region in the coming three-year period has been unveiled.

Two years ago, Fingal County Council Chief Executive Paul Reid brought together some of the key food businesses and encouraged them to work together and to collaborate on a new plan for the food sector in Fingal.

A new committee was formed, the "Fingal Food Committee", chaired by Michael Hoey (founder of Fingal's Country Crest and Ballymaguire Foods) and made up of key business leaders from the Fingal food industry. Work on the formulation of the new Strategy was coordinated by the Fingal Local Enterprise Office which itself provides a series of successful and popular programmes designed to support small and

start-up food businesses.

The areas where food businesses will benefit from the new focus are summarised in six key areas: Fostering collaboration and clustering among stakeholders; Enhancing innovation; Improving business management performance; Supporting the attraction and retention of food talent into Fingal; Creating a Fingal food and drink Tourism destination; Examining the feasibility of developing an Agri-Food hub.

Mayor of Fingal Cllr. Anthony Lavin said: "The agriculture and agri-food sectors are very important to Fingal and the county holds a disproportionate share of the total national output." Paul Reid, Chief Executive of Fingal County Council said: "I am delighted that so many of our local food businesses in Fingal are working together to ensure the common goals and objectives of this industry are achieved."

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## Fingal County Council Parks

Ardgillan Castle Demesne and Regional Park

Malahide Castle Demesne and Regional Park

Newbridge House, Farm, Demesne and Regional Park

Swords Castle and Townpark

Santry Demesne Regional Park

Skerries Mills

St Catherines Park / Lucan Demesne

Talbot Botanic Gardens

Tolka Valley Regional Park

Ward River Valley Regional Park



For a full list of opening hours and more details,  
please go to:

<http://fingal.ie/community-and-leisure/>

## Fingal County Council Recycling Centres



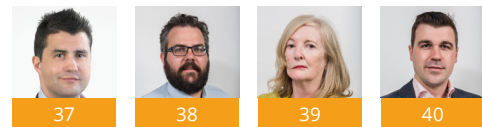
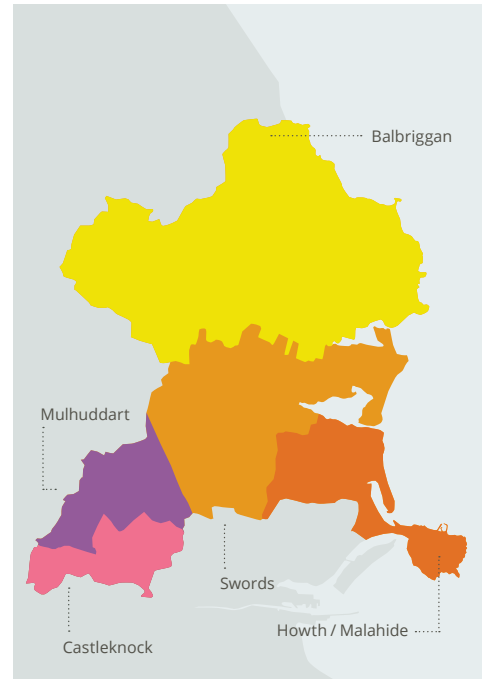
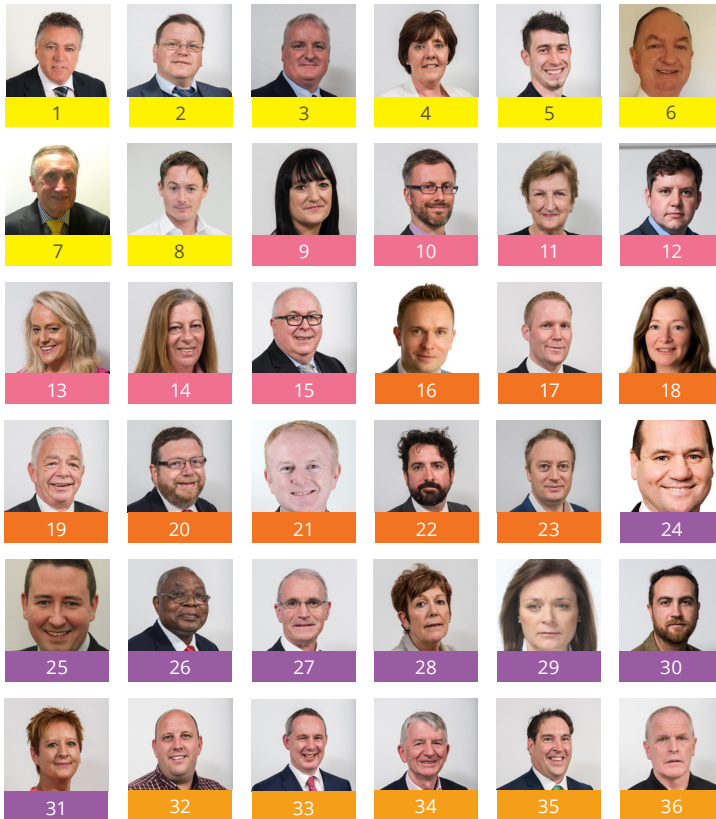
Coolmine Recycling Centre  
Coolmine Industrial Estate,  
Dublin 15.  
(Beside Coolmine Fire Station)

Estuary Recycling Centre  
Swords, County Dublin  
(Beside Swords Business Park)

For opening hours and more details see  
link <http://fingal.ie/environment/waste-and-recycling/recycling-centres/>



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