

Fingal News

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NEW COUNCIL ELECTED



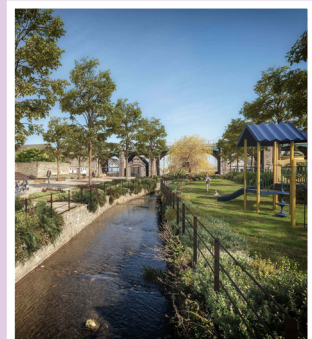
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25
BLIANA
YEARS

Comhairle Contae
Fhine Gall
Fingal County
Council



**Your Council,
working for you**

Mayor's Message



As the newly elected Mayor of Fingal I am delighted to welcome you to the latest edition of Fingal News which has become an important channel in how we as a Council communicate with our citizens.

There have been a few changes since our last edition with a new Council elected and I would like to take this opportunity to welcome our 14 new councillors to the Chamber while also remembering those who did not make it back having served on the previous Council.

I also want to thank former Chief Executive Paul Reid for his contribution to Fingal over the past five years and I wish him well in his new role as Director General of the Health Service Executive. AnnMarie Farrelly has taken over as Interim Chief Executive and I and my fellow councillors look forward to working with her and all the staff within Fingal County Council.

As somebody who has served on Fingal County Council since 2007 I was deeply honoured to be elected as Mayor earlier this month and I am looking forward to my year in office. One of the things that previous Mayors have remarked on at the end of their term is the opportunity that the role presents to meet communities from across Fingal and I am looking forward to visiting the other six local electoral areas as well my own Howth-Malahide area.

Myself and my colleagues on Council have an agreed policy platform which will provide a roadmap for the next five years. This will focus on key areas such as housing, climate change, fly-tipping, greenways, local community groups, small businesses and mental health with the aim of continuing to make Fingal the place of choice in Ireland to live, work, visit and do business in.

Finally, thank you to everybody who took the time to congratulate myself and my wife Lynn on the birth of our new baby, Oisín, who arrived four weeks early and just a few hours after I was elected Mayor. It made Friday, June 7, 2019, a day I will always treasure.

Cllr Eoghan O'Brien
Mayor of Fingal

Chief Executive's Message



The past few months in Fingal have been very eventful.

Following Chief Executive Paul Reid's appointment as Director General of the Health Service Executive in April, I was honoured to accept the role of interim Chief Executive. After taking up the post in May, the first order of business was to oversee the Council's work around the Local Elections. This was a coordinated effort, involving a large team, and we worked hard to ensure that this important democratic process was properly facilitated.

Representing the people of Fingal as a councillor is an honour and a responsibility, but this vital role cannot be fulfilled without candidates putting themselves forward and people going out to vote. I would like to thank everyone who participated in the process, as well as wishing our departing councillors the very best for the future.

Congratulations are in order for our newly elected Mayor of Fingal, Cllr Eoghan O'Brien, Deputy Mayor, Cllr Tom Kitt, and all the other elected councillors whether returning members or new faces. We have 14 new councillors and 11 of our 40 councillors are female. I look forward to working with our councillors in continuing to make Fingal the best possible place to live, work, visit and do business.

Throughout all this, work continues apace on a wide range of initiatives. Progress has been made on the Fingal Digital Strategy, local bike-sharing schemes, The Fingal Coastal Way, The Broadmeadow Way and The Shackleton Gardens. In addition a number of Local Area Plans and Masterplans for key housing and commercial sites were approved recently.

It was nice to win a gold medal for our Fingal Bee Positive Garden at this year's Bloom Festival, and to see Portmarnock's Velvet Strand beach retain its coveted Blue Flag status. We have also hosted another series of concerts in Malahide Castle and are at the advanced planning stage for this year's Flavours of Fingal festival at the end of June.

I hope you enjoy reading this latest edition of Fingal News and if you have any suggestions or feedback on the magazine then please email them to fingalnews@fingal.ie

AnnMarie Farrelly
Chief Executive

ALL SET FOR FLAVOURS

The Flavours of Fingal County Show returns to Newbridge House and Farm, Donabate for a two-day extravaganza which combines the sights and sounds of an agricultural show with an unforgettable food and family fun experience.

The festival, which takes place on Saturday 29th and Sunday 30th June, will once again host a mix of foodie, equestrian and farming attractions including: food stalls boasting locally produced delicacies, craft and cooking demonstrations, sheepdog and geese displays; livestock shows; live music and entertainment.

Entry into the event is free for those who use public transport and the full line up will be announced along with a photocall in early June. Flavours of Fingal is hosted by Fingal County Council and proudly supported by Tesco Ireland.

For more information and updates visit www.flavoursoffingal.ie or follow @flavoursoffingal on



Facebook, Instagram and @flavoursoffingal on Twitter.



HISTORIC DAY AS NEW COUNCIL MEETS FOR FIRST TIME

Interim Chief Executive, AnnMarie Farrelly, has extended her congratulations to those elected to Fingal County Council, saying she and her colleagues look forward to working with them to keep Fingal the place of choice to live, work, visit and do business in.

"I offer congratulations to all our new and returning councillors and particularly to our Mayor and Deputy Mayor who had to balance their obligations of office with campaigning over the last few months. Some outgoing councillors who stood for re-election will not be returning to the Council and I would like to thank them for the work they did on behalf of their local communities over the past five years.

"We will have 14 new councillors on the next Council and I and my colleagues look forward to working with them on continuing to implement our Capital and Operations Plans. One of the first functions of the new Council will be our Corporate Plan for the next five years and we also have many important infrastructure projects at the planning stage. I expect that improved local facilities for our residents, housing and economic development will be key priorities for the new Council.

"The new Council will represent the 300,000 citizens of Fingal and the 40 people elected come from a wide variety of backgrounds, communities and age-groups reflecting the county's diversity. As a woman, I am particularly pleased that there will be 11 women on the new Council. I am sure they will make a valuable contribution over the next five years.

"Over the past 25 years, successive Councils and Management Teams have worked in unison to build a strong foundation. I look forward to building on this with the new Council over the next five years."





IT'S GOLD FOR BLOOM ENTRY THAT HAD CROWD BUZZING



Fingal County Council together with The Technological University Dublin (TU Dublin) Horticulture Department have won gold at Bloom in the Park 2019.

The Fingal Bee Positive Garden has a pollinator friendly theme and is a reflection of our commitment as a Pollinator partner in the All Ireland Pollinator Plan and our recognition of the importance of Climate Action. The garden proved hugely popular with visitors and media alike at the Bloom Festival this year.

With the aim of emphasising the importance of pollinators within our rapidly urbanizing environments, the garden was particularly targeted at children to increase their understanding and awareness of the importance of pollinators and help to sustain a diverse range of pollinator insect species for the future. The garden was designed by Fingal County Council and TU Dublin with help from garden designer, Jane McCorkell, and demonstrated how to create and protect habitats for pollinators – including bees and many other insect species – within a usable, outdoor recreation space. It featured a pathway so visitors could walk through the garden and

learn more about pollinators. A large honeycomb wall was decked with fun facts, and offered a glimpse of the working beehive on the other side of the screen.

Kevin Halpenny, Senior Parks Superintendent Fingal County Council commented: “In the spirit of “Think Globally and Act Locally”; this year’s Fingal Bloom Garden – “Fingal Bee Positive”, demonstrated practical and imaginative features we can add to our gardens and parks to protect and provide a habitat for our much needed pollinating insects.”

AnnMarie Farrelly, Interim Chief Executive of Fingal County Council said: “This garden provided

a wonderful visitor experience particularly with the beehive and the honeycomb wall with the fun bee facts. This feature aimed at children and adults alike helped increase their understanding and awareness of the importance of pollinators. I would like to commend the excellent work of our Parks and Green Infrastructure staff, particularly Kevin Halpenny and Denis Flannery and the Bremore Castle team.”

Mayor of Fingal Councillor Anthony Lavin commented “I would like to congratulate Fingal on achieving Gold at Bloom for this innovative garden.



Popular bike-sharing scheme extended

Fingal County Council has extended its popular bike-sharing scheme, which allows cyclists use bikes that are publicly available, to Swords, Malahide and Howth.

and are available for use in seconds and can be activated from a mobile phone.

Mayor of Fingal, Cllr Anthony Lavin said: "I am delighted to launch the extension of this initiative following its pilot in Blanchardstown over the past year. I am thrilled to see this initiative rolled out in three more Fingal areas and I am sure that the local residents in Malahide, Howth and Swords, as well as visitors to the county, will ensure that the initiative is a big hit."

The scheme allows cyclists to use 'smart' bikes with inbuilt GPS technology. By downloading the BleeperBike App, users can register and find their nearest BleeperBike, scan the QR code on the bike to unlock it and it is ready for use. This removes the need to develop and construct expensive and often inconvenient docking stations associated with traditional bike share schemes. Once cyclists arrive at their destination, they can park at any cycle parking stand near their destination and lock it manually.

Cllr Eoghan O'Brien, chairperson of the Transportation Strategic Policy Committee, said: "The extension of the scheme is great news for the residents of Malahide, Howth and Swords and will undoubtedly prove popular. One of the aims of the SPC has been to develop and implement sustainable transportation initiatives and the bike-sharing scheme is an important part of that commitment."

The 'smart' bikes allow the tracking of bike trips around the location using the inbuilt GPS technology on each bike. These GPS enabled bikes are located at designated bike racks



Environmental issues are very topical at present and this garden, as well as being beautifully designed, shows the important Bee Positive steps we can all take in our gardens to protect our vital pollinators."

Fingal's County Council has adopted the All-Ireland Pollinator Plan and ensures that the management of the Council's open spaces and parks is pollinator-friendly and provides more opportunities for biodiversity. Fingal manages over 300 acres of species rich meadows within our parks, including four acres recently planted at Bremore Castle, to increase biodiversity and pollinators and has significantly reduced the use of pesticides. We are also prioritising the use of native plant species

within our planting plans, and using spring flowering bulb displays within grass margins as an early source of food for pollinators.

Fingal County Council and TU Dublin have developed a strong working relationship over the past number of years, showcasing aspects of County Fingal's rich natural and cultural landscape at Bloom. This experienced partnership combines the qualities of landscape design and landscape management to create visually exciting, yet multi-functional show gardens.

If you didn't visit Bloom parts of the garden will be showcased at the Flavours of Fingal Show in Newbridge House in Donabate June 29th and 30th.



The future of Balbriggan is set to be transformed thanks to a €20m-plus plan that has been shaped by the residents of Ireland's youngest town.

Main Street and its surrounding areas look set for a massive transformation following the results of the Our Balbriggan survey, which was

taken by over 4,000 local people.

25% of the local population aged over 11 took part in the survey to prioritise a list of suggested improvements for the Our Balbriggan 2019-2025 Rejuvenation Plan.

A Balbriggan Leadership Group, chaired by Professor Brian Mac-

Craith, President, Dublin City University, had prepared a menu of different initiatives for the €20million-plus rejuvenation plan – an ambitious new vision for the town.

From a menu of potential improvements, transforming the Main Street and connecting it to a reimagined Harbour area were the top choices across all age groups in the public realm and placemaking pillar of a survey which will become a model for towns around the country.

Within the next four years, the heart of Main Street will be redeveloped, repurposing existing derelict buildings and improving access to the Bracken River, landscaped green areas, water features, pathways and an event space.

Survey helped shape strategy

A total of 4,001 people took part in the consultation survey – 35% of the respondents were aged between 35-44, 14% were under 24 and 13% were over 55.

87% of respondents live in Balbriggan, with 22% of them working in the town.

34% have been living in the town for over 21 years, 31% between 11 and 20 years and 21% for 10 years or less.

Balbriggan's population of 24,611

has grown by 194% since 1991, compared to the national average of 35% and Fingal's growth of 94%.

At 30.8 years, Balbriggan is the youngest town in Ireland (average age nationally is 37, 34 in Fingal). Its population has grown by 194% since 1991 (national average 34%, Fingal average 94%). It is one of the most culturally diverse towns in the country – 28% of the population was born outside Ireland (national average 13%).





Balbriggan's Harbour area will be reimagined as a leisure destination which makes the most of its scenic location adjacent to the town beach, attracting visitors, walkers and diners.

It will connect with a rejuvenated Quay Street featuring a linear park along the bank of the river before joining up with Main Street and a quality civic and meeting space.

A Bremore Regional Amenity Park will feature walkways and world-class play facilities and will include a restoration of the Martello Tower, Boathouse and public bath area.

Within five years, a Balbriggan to Skerries Greenway will be developed, initially focused on connecting Ardgillan and Bremore Castles, but eventually extending from Gormanston to Skerries.

"When asked to name the thing that people most valued about Balbriggan, the five most popular words used were beach, community, people, sea and harbour.

"By connecting all of these, and creating a properly functioning town centre, we can build a bright future in a town with fabulous assets and a diverse and rapidly-growing talent base."



"We couldn't have dreamed of this level of response, with a huge section of the community getting involved to imagine the possibilities in a transformed Balbriggan," said Professor MacCraith.

"We now have a strong set of priorities which will transform the town, realising its full potential.

"Balbriggan as a community has come together with the group of stakeholders, led by Fingal County Council, to engage in a collaborative and unified way to prioritise the ideas which will best address the socio economic challenges of the town.

70% of locals chose the development of leisure experiences around the harbour, river, coastline, and local castles as the highest priority in developing the town economically.

In order to create a strong and inclusive community in Balbriggan, social spaces for young people to congregate, increased safety and policing, festivals and events to promote integration, and more sports facilities were seen as the four most important factors.



Restoration work on historic Casino building completed

Fingal County Council is delighted to announce that the repair and conservation of the Malahide Casino building is nearing completion.

Work began in April 2018 and has continued uninterrupted since on the building which will add to the portfolio of heritage properties that are owned by Fingal County Council.

The large thatch roof of the cottage orne was re-coated over the winter period with the help of a temporary structure that over sailed and wrapped the building allowing the thatcher to work underneath whatever the weather.

The beautifully restored thatched roof is now visible to the public again and is a distinctive feature at the entrance to Malahide village.

Internally, repairs and upgrading of services are also nearing completion as well as the construction of a new section of building to house the Fry Model railway, owned by Fingal County Council.

Mayor of Fingal, Cllr. Anthony Lavin unveiled a plaque to celebrate to the conclusion of the conservation and restoration of the much loved Casino Building.

The installation of the Cyril Fry Model Railway to its new permanent home in the Casino is underway as is the conservation of the model train collection. It is expected that the Casino Model Railway Museum will be open to the public in early autumn 2019.

County Architect Fionnuala May said: "The completion of this project will add to the portfolio of heritage properties that are owned by



Fingal and will allow public access to this highly individual building. The Casino is the only cottage of this type in Fingal and is an important part of the county's architectural heritage. The project is a good example of adaptation and reuse of an old building for a modern use whilst retaining its essential character."

Mayor of Fingal Cllr Anthony Lavin said: "I am delighted to see the refurbishment of this much-loved building "The Casino". Over the years the people of Malahide have watched anxiously as it fell into disrepair and it is thanks to Michael Gaffney for his generous donation and Fingal County Council that we were able to conserve this unique and magnificent landmark.

"I am very much looking forward to the commissioning of the model railway museum in early Autumn and I have no doubt it will be of benefit to the whole of Malahide village as it provides a natural flow for visitors from Malahide Castle and Demesne"



Key Stephenstown Link Road is opened

The Stephenstown Link Road, a key piece of infrastructure development to unlock employment potential in Balbriggan, has been officially opened.

The key road runs from the existing roundabout on the Stephenstown Road to a new roundabout on Clonard Street Road, linking to the back of Millfield and on to the Naul Road. The project included the construction of footpaths, cycleways, foul and surface water drainage, public lighting and utility services.

Fingal County Council's investment in the Stephenstown Link Road opens up almost 23 hectares of industrially zoned lands for development with the potential to bring approximately 900 new jobs to the area.

Balbriggan is only 20 minutes from Dublin Airport and 25 minutes from Dublin Port. The M1 motorway is two kilometres away from Stephenstown Industrial Park while the nearby M50 makes much of the rest of the country highly accessible and the park a highly attractive

environment to potential investors.

A number of thriving businesses have already made their home in Stephenstown Industrial Park including EEC Hardware, one of Ireland's top Builders Merchants; Tierney Kitchens specialising in fitted kitchens and bedrooms along with Rockabill Shellfish Ltd, a family run Irish company specialising in live, fresh and frozen seafood products.

More recently these companies have been joined by Techcrete, one of the market leaders in designing, manufacturing and supplying architectural precast cladding in the UK and Ireland. Grimme Ireland Equipment Limited supports Grimme customers with Sales, Service and Parts. With more than 150 various machine types for the potato, beet and vegetable technology, the Grimme group offers the widest and most extensive product range in this sector and S. Duffy Plant Hire Ltd which was originally founded in 1986 to service the construction industry now specialises in the needs of rail work.

Rogerstown Park opening ushers in a new era

Fingal is home to a wonderful new parkland amenity thanks to the formal opening of Rogerstown Park, located on the site of the former Balleally Landfill between Lusk and Rush.

Mayor of Fingal, Cllr Anthony Lavin, performed the opening ceremony and those present got the opportunity to visit the upper section of the new park which has spectacular views of the North Dublin coastline.

Rogerstown Park is being opened on a staged basis with the upper section being open to the public on Saturdays only from 9.30am to 5pm for the remainder of 2019. Subsequent sections will open from 2020 onwards as works progress to completion.

Plans to address accessibility from Rush and Lusk will also be addressed and Rogerstown Park will be included in an overall Estuary Plan with possible links across the Estuary to Donabate being considered.

Mayor of Fingal, Cllr Anthony Lavin, said: "Fingal is a county that likes to be a leader of innovation and environmental responsibility and we are delighted to



be one of the first counties to officially open one of their former landfills as a public park. Today's opening is the culmination of a 10-year programme of restoration of this former landfill site which has been in operation, in one form or another, since the late 1960s. Rogerstown Park has now shown the way in what can be achieved with older landfill sites by handing them back to the local communities to be enjoyed as amenities for the beneficial use of their local residents."

Cllr Brian Dennehy, Chair of the Balleally Landfill Liaison Committee, said: "Rogerstown Park will provide access to stunning views, allow families, walkers and joggers to come and relax and provide the local area with an asset which they can be proud of. Local people can take a high degree of confidence that the landfill is, and has been, managed well and the Balleally Landfill Liaison Committee has worked hard to ensure that this site has been finished to the highest possible standard. The work of the Balleally Landfill Liaison Committee over the past number of years has been a crucial part of the success story that is Rogerstown Park today."

David Devine, who is overseeing the transformation of the former landfill into a public park in his capacity as Landfill Manager at Balleally, said: "I take great pleasure in being able to hand something back to the local communities who have endured the landfill over the past years. It was always my belief that those views had to be made accessible to the local community and wider public as they are simply stunning.

"From a technical view, and as an engineer, it has been a fascinating





project to work on and one in which I have never been bored - although it has given me more than one sleepless night. The primary objective has always been the protection of human health and the environment and many of the projects we have carried out here over the past 10 years have led to considerable improvements in our environmental sustainability objectives.”

Balleally Landfill was the principal landfill for the greater Dublin region for over 50 years during which it collected more than 12 million tonnes of waste and grew to a height of almost 40 metres before its closure in May 2012.

Since then, Fingal County Council has been implementing a 10-year works programme and the opening of the upper section marks the end of the first phase of the restoration and aftercare plan.

The first phase included projects that have solved flooding at the site entrance; expanded the storage capacity of the leachate treatment plant; constructed a new leachate rising main removing the

need to tanker to waste water treatment plants; provided new and improved waste water and surface water collection systems; completion of the capping programme; design and construction of a new entrance area and car park and the completion of the perimeter barrier wall.

A €3.5 million capital investment is planned for other projects on the site over the next three years.

Parts of the Rogerstown Estuary are designated as a specified area of conservation because the mud flats are an ideal feeding and breeding ground for certain species of birds and Fingal County Council has worked to create an amenity for use by the public that is environmentally safe and is integrated with the surrounding landscape and estuary.

The opening of the Park marks not only the first phase of the development of this site for the use of the people of Fingal, but also signals an important milestone in the development of the Rogerstown Park site Masterplan which will allow local people to participate in a public consultation

process where they can be part of the design process for the further development stages of this site.

In addition to these developments, the sustainability and ecology of the site and its surrounding areas will continue to be of paramount importance to Fingal County Council with biodiversity and natural remediation being key considerations of any future development.

Another key sustainability indicator is the impact of the landfill on the ground and the distribution and movement of groundwater in the soil and rocks. At Balleally there is an underground barrier wall encapsulating the entire perimeter of the site as well as capping systems in place over the entire site while the much of the gas collection infrastructure has been recently renewed and buried. Fingal County Council has also invested substantially in recent improvements to both the foul and surface water systems.

A video of the park can be seen at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=k1ENgNYy-CF4&t=14s>

Knight's Playground is a hit with locals

THE new Knight's Playground and Multi Use Games Area at Glebe Park in Balrothery has already proved a huge hit with the local community.

The playground, constructed by Creative Play Solutions, has been designed as a destination facility for families with a strong emphasis on natural play opportunities. A key element of the project brief was that the design of playground reflected the rich local heritage of the area.

The striking, central knight themed sculpture draws on the tradition that Balrothery derives its name from Baile na Ridire 'Town of the Knight'. Meanwhile the multi-use games arena has been designed as a modern fit for purpose facility to cater for five-a-side football, basketball and general training activity.

Positive community engagement has been a hallmark of the project. Before tendering for the project, the Council's Parks & Green Infrastructure Division

undertook extensive consultation with stakeholders to determine their requirements.

Senior Parks Superintendent Kevin Halpenny said: "The facilities are a key element of the wider objective to develop Glebe Park, Balrothery as a recreational hub. The Recreational Hub concept has been developed to encourage multi-use and sustainable community sporting facilities to cater for growing demand within the county."

Kevin Tolan Chairperson of Balrothery Community Association stated "We were delighted to work with, and say a heartfelt thanks to Fingal County Council, Department of Rural & Community Development, our Local Councillors and Creative Play as well as our own members, for collectively delivering the Knights Playground and MUGA which will make a positive difference to the Balrothery Community for many years to come."



The country's only Football and Fitness Course for Transition Year students held its graduation ceremony in the company of FAI President, Donal Conway, and ex-international and current Ireland U18 Head Coach, Andy Reid, at the Fingal County Council Civic Offices in Blanchardstown, when 22 TY students received their certificates in front of an audience that included their parents and family members.

The ground-breaking course has been running for three years and is a partnership between Fingal County Council and the Football Association of Ireland with support from Empower, Blanchardstown. It provides the young students with the opportunity to meet their educational requirements while developing a whole range of football skills and also gaining a full ITEC Fitness Instructor's qualification from



FOOTBALLERS GRADUATE FROM T.Y. COURSE

Litton Lane Training.

This football centred education initiative was run in Corduff Sports Centre over the course of the 2018-19 academic year with all students getting permission from their respective schools to attend on a daily basis. It recorded an impressive average attendance rate of 93% throughout the school year

Margaret Geraghty, Director of Housing and Community, Fingal County Council, congratulated the 22 students who attended the course. "Within Fingal County Council we have a 'can do' attitude and this is another great initiative by our Sports Office. We are aware that young people within our community have sporting ambitions and this programme gave the students an

excellent opportunity to develop and enhance their sporting skills while staying within the education system and also giving something back to their local communities through the work experience module of the course. It ticks many boxes for us as an organisation which is focused on the development of communities within Fingal."

Also present at the event, Donal Conway, President of the FAI, who encouraged the students to continue to pursue their education, while playing football.

In his address, former Republic of Ireland senior international player, Andy Reid, spoke to the graduates about his footballing career and the unique opportunity that these young people had been given. He

encouraged them to follow their dreams and said that the skills they had gained would stand to them in all walks of life, including whatever sport or sporting role they may decide to pursue in the future.

Denis Hyland, an FAI-Fingal County Council Football Development Officer and Course Coordinator, stated: "The course allows TY Students to live in a proper sporting environment for a year while also meeting their educational needs. They are at an age when some young players head abroad to join professional clubs and this programme allows them to reap the same footballing benefits and a lot more while remaining at home within their families and putting something back into their local communities."



Portmarnock retains Blue Flag status

Fingal County Council has welcomed news that Portmarnock's famous Velvet Strand has retained the Blue Flag status, which recognises its high level of water quality.

And there was further good news for Portmarnock, along with the Burrow Beach in Sutton, as they were both awarded Green Coast awards at a ceremony which was held in Miltown Malbay, Co Clare.

The Blue Flag is an international award for beach excellence and is operated in Ireland by An Taisce with support from the Department of Housing, Planning and Local Government. It is presented to beaches and marinas which have excellent water quality and which achieve high standards across a wide range of other criteria including environmental education, management of the environment, safety and other services.

The Green Coast Award is given to sites which have excellent water quality but which may be less developed and less populated than Blue Flag beaches. An important aspect of the Green Coast Awards initiative is the involvement of Coastcare Volunteer Groups. Its aim is to acknowledge, promote and protect the environment of rural beaches.

Welcoming the news of the awards, Mayor of Fingal Cllr Anthony Lavin said: "This is great news for Fingal and hopefully it will be another warm summer which will allow thousands of local residents and visitors enjoy the many wonderful beaches across Fingal. As a local councillor in the area, I can safely say that the Velvet Strand is a wonderful amenity that provides great enjoyment throughout the year."

Director of Operations David Storey said: "Fingal County Council is delighted with the news that Portmarnock has retained its Blue Flag status. It is one of the most

renowned beaches in the country and it is great news that it has once again been awarded this honour.

"It is also great that Portmarnock, along with the Burrow beach in Sutton, have both been awarded the Green Coast Award."

Looking forward to the summer, Mr Storey said: "Crews from Fingal County Council's operations departments will, once again, continue to play a key role in maintaining all beaches across Fingal and ensuring they are kept clean and litter free during the busy summer months.

"While the council will continue to play its part, I would encourage all beach users to ensure that they remove all their waste and unwanted items as they depart our beaches. Litter bins are provided on all our beaches, so there is no excuse for leaving rubbish strewn on beaches."



FINGAL'S UP-AND-COMING ENTREPRENEURS HONOURED

Fingal's "Best Young Entrepreneurs" for 2019 and €50,000 investment fund winners were announced at an awards ceremony hosted by LEO Fingal.

As part of a nationwide search launched by Minister Heather Humphreys and Minister Pat Breen to find Ireland's Best Young Entrepreneurs (IBYE) for 2019, the six winners and runners-up were chosen from 16 local finalists.

IBYE, now in its fifth year, is a nationwide youth enterprise initiative to help 18-to-35 year olds with an innovative business idea, new start-up or established business. In 2019, 1,644 young entrepreneurs entered IBYE, which is an initiative of the Department of Business, Enterprise and Innovation and supported by Enterprise Ireland and local authorities.

The county final was hosted by



Noel Davidson of Entrepreneur's Academy. Among the special guests at the awards ceremony were Cllr. Anthony Lavin, Mayor of Fingal and AnnMarie Farrelly, Interim Chief Executive of Fingal County Council.

The 'Best New Idea' category, with a €7,000 investment fund, was won by Graham Brocklebank, founder of Peer in Castleknock. Peer is an ed tech company. They are creating a user driven reading and learning solution for people with dyslexia and other print-based disabilities. The runner-up award and €3,000 investment fund went to Mark Sweetman, of NAVchain in Blanchardstown.

The winner of the 'Best Start-Up Business' category and the €15,000 investment fund was Ciaran Brennan, founder of LiveCosts.com in Blanchardstown. LiveCosts.com helps construction companies increase their profits by managing and analysing their project costs in real time. The runner-up in this category, collecting a €5,000 investment fund, was Justin Perry, of Frequency in Portmarnock.

Meanwhile, the winner of 'Best Established Business', with an investment fund of €15,000, went to Seamus Tighe, founder of Everest Granola Ltd in Blanchardstown. Everest snacks provides convenient products made from tasty natural ingredients. The runner-up in this category, scooping a €5,000 investment fund, was Colm Cleary, of Fitness Equipment Ireland in Sutton.

Ciaran Brennan was also awarded the title of 'Best Young Entrepreneur' for Fingal.



Design work on 32km-long Fingal Coastal Way has commenced

Fingal County Council has commenced design work on the Fingal Coastal Way project, a 32km, high-quality recreational walking and cycling route connecting Donabate, Rush, Skerries, Ardgillan Castle, Balbriggan and Bremore Castle.

Multi-disciplinary consultancy Atkins has been appointed to work alongside the Fingal County Council project team to carry out the feasibility study, route options and environmental assessment and preliminary design work over a three-year programme.

The proposed greenway will be an iconic development representing a step-change in the tourism offering for Fingal, Dublin and the wider northeast region.

The route will start at Newbridge House & Demesne in Donabate and pass along the majestic coastline of north Fingal, linking the coastal villages and towns and providing stunning seascapes of the many beaches and

cliffs along the route as well as views to Howth, Lambay Island and the Cooley and Mourne mountains ranges to the north.

The greenway will link into the



proposed Broadmeadow Way, which will connect Donabate and Malahide and for which a planning application is due to be submitted to An Bord Pleanála in June. To the north there are plans to develop a greenway route in County Meath running northwards to Drogheda, the Boyne Valley Way and the prehistoric sites at Bru na Boinne/Newgrange.

The greenway will be a flagship tourist amenity for Fingal and will link into local attractions such as Newbridge House, Rogerstown Park, Bremore Castle, Ardgillan Castle, Drumanagh Fort and Skerries Mills.

Paul Carroll, Senior Engineer Strategic Infrastructure Fingal County Council, commented: "The benefits that greenways can deliver to communities are considerable in terms of climate change, economic development and leisure amenity. The greenway will form part of a developing network of greenways within Fingal, providing a link into the S2S Sutton to Sandycove scheme and encouraging sustainable transport for commuting and leisure."

Public stakeholder consultation will be an essential element of the design process including discussions with special interest groups, local residents, businesses and landowners.

Given the scale of the project and the sensitive nature of the receiving environment, it is envisaged that the route options selection will take place through 2019, with a public consultation exercise to take place in early 2020. Following on from the identification of the preferred route, preliminary design and environmental assessment work will continue through 2020 and early 2021, with a planning application target date of late 2021.



Fingal takes lead in providing age-friendly housing approach

Fingal County Council has unveiled two important additions to its work in enhancing their approach to the provision of life cycle adaptable and age appropriate housing across the county at construction stage.

Minister Damien English launched "The Provision of Accommodation for older people in Fingal – Engaging with the Private Sector" and its accompanying construction information leaflet "10 Ways to Construct a More Lifetime Adaptable and Age Friendly Home" as part of Fingal County Council's Age Friendly strategy in The Atrium at County Hall in Swords.

Fingal currently has the youngest population in the country however this population is ageing rapidly which brings both opportunities and challenges. One of the main challenges for policy makers is addressing the anticipated housing needs of this changing demographic. Constructing lifetime adaptable housing using some or all of the 10 steps featured in this report will assist in addressing this need across the county.

Minister Damien English stated: "I am delighted to be here today to

launch two important documents produced by Age Friendly Ireland and Fingal County Council:

"I welcome the 10 Ways to Construct a More Lifetime Adaptable and Age Friendly Home document as it provides guidance on the additional provisions that can be incorporated into the design of a new home or apartment and will assist in ensuring that people can Age in Place for as long as they choose to do so."

"The Engaging with the Private Sector – Phase one Report, also launched today, will be hugely beneficial in creating awareness of the opportunities offered in the provision of housing for older people."

This report provides a roadmap which marks additional direction for Fingal County Council's Housing and Planning Policy. It also seeks to enhance an understanding among developers in the Fingal Area of the need to embed consideration of the housing needs of an older population into their planning.

The documents can be viewed at www.fingal.ie



Swords chosen as flagship town for pilot initiative

Local company Nutritics Ltd. has announced Swords as the Flagship Town for new pilot initiative, supported by Fingal Local Enterprise Office and Fingal County Council.

Local Enterprise Office Fingal, in partnership with University College Dublin and Nutritics are delighted to announce the launch of a new Healthy Towns initiative in Swords, County Dublin.

The initiative, delivered under the framework of the Healthy Ireland Charter, will enable visitors of Swords to find meals that fit their personal nutrition and dietary preferences using the LIBRO smartphone app. Visitors can then track their nutritional intake and other lifestyle parameters in the app.

The initiative will be delivered via the Nutritics menu management platform and showcases Swords as a forward thinking, transparent and modern food destination, suitable for all types of consumers. As part of the initiative, each participating food business has been supported with complementary software access worth over €5,000.

Damian O'Kelly Nutritics CEO noted: "This is an incredibly exciting initiative that aligns perfectly with our mission to enable informed food choices through technology, and delivers huge value to local businesses, their customers and the wider community as a whole. Consumers want more information about the foods they are eating, and now food businesses have the tools needed to meet this demand. We are delighted to be working alongside Fingal to establish Swords as the first town in what we see as Global initiative".

New text service for accessible car parking space launched

Fingal County Council has introduced an innovative, new text service in Malahide to raise awareness in the county of the importance of respecting accessible car parking spaces.

The Operations Department of Fingal County Council launched the service supported by the Mayor of Fingal, Local Councillors, Malahide Retail Forum and Malahide Chamber of Commerce in attendance at The Green.

Disabled parking bays are provided for members of the public who require them due to restrictive disabilities and should never be misused. A valid disabled parking badge must be displayed clearly at all times when parking in a disabled bay.

The text service will be operated by Fingal Parking Services on behalf of Fingal County Council and allows citizens to report misuse of parking in disabled bays.

Each disabled bay will have signage containing a unique number eg: BAY 1 / BAY 2 etc. to identify the location of each bay and a contact number. Members of the public can text this number to report misuse of the car parking space and this will be sent straight to the enforcement team.

Further rollout of this text service will be completed in Malahide in the coming weeks and countywide on a phased basis.



Native Tree Trail blossoms

Balrothery is home to a new Native Tree Trail, the first of its kind across Fingal.

The trail is a collaboration between Fingal County Council, Balrothery Tidy Towns and the enthusiastic children from Balrothery National School.

Glebe Park is the first park in Fingal to participate in the Tree Council of Ireland initiative of Native Irish Tree Trails. The scheme comprises of the full 16 varieties of native Irish trees and one variety of naturalised tree, which is the beech tree chosen as they are the distinctive mature tree line already within the park.

Each species of tree carries with it a collection of insects, snails, lichens, birds, fungi and birds to name a few.

The Oak and Willow have 450



species of insects that feed only on them. Birch trees support 300, Alder and Hazel have over 100. They are the supporters of a wide variety of wildlife. In addition to the bio-diversity feature there is a strong environmental education aspect to this initiative aimed at the youth population with the involvement of Balrothery

National School. Together with their teacher Ms Whyte the 5th class pupils researched each of the 17 species and the result of their studies form the information on the signs on the Tree Trail.

David Storey, Director of Services Fingal County Council continued: "Fingal County Council were delighted to collaborate on this Native Tree Planting initiative when approached. The launch of this tree trail was just one of many events taking place across Fingal's parks to mark National Tree Week, and is evidence of our commitment to providing and maintaining high quality parks and open spaces for the Fingal Community as well as contributing to biodiversity and combating climate change."



Pilot Autism-Friendly project launched

Communities are central to everything we do at Fingal County Council, but this simple statement is far from the last word.

Literacy, learning, inclusion and communication are vital for communities to thrive. Fingal Libraries realise this and act accordingly. Our local libraries are more than bookshelves and checkout desks; they're vital centres of community life operating for all residents as a public good.

The recent launch of the Autism-Friendly Libraries project is a practical example of this.

Autism is a spectrum of developmental and neurological differences affecting interaction, communication and expression. It can make inclusion and participation in society difficult, which is where Blanchardstown Library's Linda Larrigan comes in.

Linda says: "I was already interested in autism-oriented services, and I learned more about it during my Masters in Library and Information Studies.

"I thought, 'could we not just try it, and see how we get on?' I contacted libraries in Cork, Leixlip and Lucan who were doing it successfully so I saw no reason why we couldn't. We decided to go with it."

The date was set for the first Friday of every month, running for a six-month pilot programme.

Linda's initiative was supported by Senior Executive Librarian Lillian Whelan. It turns out that she had been considering a similar project, and was happy to drive Linda's effort further.



Linda explains: "Staff have been very much on board. I mentioned that I was interested in doing it, and it took legs. It's more of a team effort than anything."

Linda's rationale for the pilot programme is that "families with children on the autism spectrum are isolated - the child themselves, and their siblings. "It can be hard for them to find activities and be involved. We want to ensure that anybody is welcome into the library, and we do our best to accommodate people with all sorts of disabilities or issues."

This emphasis on accommodation and inclusion is reflected in the involvement of autism advocacy group As I Am, who Linda discovered through a presentation on 'relaxed events' or 'sensory workshops' for children on the spectrum.

Linda relates: "One of their representatives came to view the library. My colleague Ciara Farrell had been creating a 'social story' using images and video to prepare children for the library and they were very impressed.

"As I Am's advice was 'go with it', and we've kept in touch since. They've offered online training and staff from all over Fingal are interested."

The initiative has benefited from the involvement of parents like Geraldine Kenny, who was instrumental in founding a social club for children with autism.

Geraldine understands the isolation and exclusion that can affect autistic children.

She recalls her son Mark "was diagnosed with autism aged four". "As he got older it became more obvious that making friends was difficult for him, so myself and another lady decided to set up the Little Seeds Arch Club nearly six years ago.

"It's volunteer-run, with 33 children attending every week. A friend passed my details to Linda Larrigan and she contacted me," Geraldine explains.

She provided advice before the events and booked the Arch Club in for the first night.

Fingal's Library Services

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

Fingal Libraries are on Social Media!



"They're well run, staffed by friendly and helpful people. We know our children are welcomed and safe in a non-judgmental environment. Most of all, the children really enjoy it. "In the future I'd love to see the event rolled out nationwide.

"Children are newly diagnosed every day, but there's very few places our children can go and enjoy an activity. "So these events are ideal for our kids to have fun – hopefully permanently".

The first night drew 30 people, including adults and children.

Staff volunteered to stay back for the event, and storyteller Clíodhna Noonan enthralled the crowd with a

sensory story time session. With lights dimmed and phones off the hook, a welcoming environment was created including a lecture room repurposed as a quiet space.

Linda explains: "There was no pressure. If kids didn't want to listen to the story they could wander around the library, borrow a book, go into the quiet room where we had sensory lights and toys.

"We didn't go overboard because we're definitely on a learning curve, but we're taking advice from the parents".

The second evening featured a Lego workshop for 8 to 12 year olds, but the whole family was welcome to attend and enjoy.



Linda said: "Including the whole family is important. Siblings can feel isolated, and it was a chance for parents to support each other because some children had only recently been diagnosed. People connected and passed on contact numbers and support groups."

Further efforts are planned. Children's Books Ireland is compiling a list of facilitators specialising in events

for autistic children, and Blanchardstown Library hopes to integrate 'relaxed events' into the library's regular programme.

Plans to schedule 'quiet time' evenings where lights are dimmed and phones turned down will allow people with sensory issues to enjoy the library regularly.

These developments show that Blanchardstown Library is building the lessons learned from Linda's initiative into the way it operates day-to-day.

Autism-Friendly Libraries is a new pilot project, but it has already shown the value in libraries daring to innovate, accommodate and strive to include everyone in the community.

GAEILGE IN ÁRAS AN CHONTAE & FLAVOURS OF FINGAL

Bhí Ceol Craic agus Gaeilge in Áras an Chontae Sord ag ceolchoirm bhliantúil Sheachtain na Gaeilge. Ba é Sean McElwain, Bernadette Nic Gabhann agus Eamonn Galldubh a chuir an ceol iontach ar fáil. I measc an lucht féachana díograiseach bhí Méara Fhine Gall An Clr. Anthony Lavin agus an Clr. Daire Ní Laoi, chomh maith le foireann Fhine Gall agus díograiseoirí Gaeilge ó phobal Fhine Gall.

I rith na bliana déanaimid ceiliúradh ar 100 bliain ó rugadh Séamus Ennis bhí sé cuí go raibh fuaim na bpíopaí a sheinn Eamonn mar chuid den táille cheoil tráthnóna.

Bhí go leor idirghníomhú leis an lucht féachana leis na ceoltóirí ag roinnt a gcuid scéalta féin chomh maith lena gcuid ceoil agus roinnt daoine den lucht féachana ag roinnt amhrán. Sheinn Eamonn Galldubh an fheadóg mhór chomh maith leis na píopaí agus labhair sé faoi inspioráid a fháil ón mhúinteoir Mick O'Brien chun glacadh leis an uirlis iontach. Rinne sé camchuart agus taifeadadh le healaíontóirí lena n-áirítear Clannad, Riverdance, Drúid Theatre agus Ceolfhoireann Choirme RTÉ. Lean Bernadette Nic Gabhann le traidisiún ceoil a hathair Antóin Mac Gabhann agus a pobal sa Mhí agus sheinn sí an fhidil le Lord of the Dance agus Gaelforce Dance. Rinne Sean McElwain, ó thraidisiún Mhuineacháin, staidéar fairsing



ar oidhreacht cheoil an réigiúin sin chomh maith le seinm leis an ngrúpa Téada.

Flavours of Fingal

Beidh Flavours of Fingal ar siúl i dTeach an Droichid Nua i nDomhnach Bat 29 & Meitheamh agus beidh Pop up Gaeltacht ann.

Bígí linn chun Gaeilge a labhairt agus bualadh le daoine eile le suim sa teanga. Deis iontach do pháistí Gaeilge a labhairt taobh amuigh den scoil freisin.

Beidh go leor eile le feiceáil ann freisin le Bia den scoth, Spraoi don teaghlach, ainmhithe agus ceol agus craic ar fud na háite.

ARTS OFFICE PRESENTS UNIQUE HEALTH PROJECT

Fingal Arts Office was delighted to present the culmination of a very unique arts in health project – Aphasia Theatre Ireland in Draiocht’s Studio Space, Blanchardstown.

Aphasia Theatre Ireland is the brainchild of local artist and theatre maker Grainne Hallahan who has been supported through Fingal’s Public Art Programme Infrastructure 2018-2021 emerging artist programme and additionally the Arts Council’s Artist in the Community Scheme to develop a theatre company format that aims to include people who have been affected with Aphasia.

Aphasia is a condition that can affect an individual at any stage of life and relates to a person’s ability to communicate verbally, it can occur following stroke, acquired brain injury or degenerative brain conditions associated with dementia and the aging process. The condition is managed through the healthcare system through occupational therapy, but there are other routes to successful living with the condition as demonstrated through



participation in the arts. Grainne Hallahan, would identify as an artist with a disability is committed to this vision that the lives of those affected with Aphasia can be greatly enhanced through theatre.

Grainne was supported to research an already established model, Theatre Aphasique in Montreal, Canada and returned with a greater focus to reach out to the local Aphasia community to engage with her and her team through a series of free and weekly workshops, located in Blanchardstown Library and Draiocht Studio Spaces and allowed all participants to find their voice through the different routes of song, movement and improvisation.

As Artistic Director Grainne’s collaborators included Robbie Blake actor and voice instructor dance and movement specialist Jessie Keenan and acting and improvisation coach Aine Ni Laoighaire. The participants, Dublin 15 locals Brian Quinlan,

Adele Hinze and Brian Brophy participated in the workshops and felt prepared enough following the weeks of workshops to present their own original theatre pieces as part of a very special evening to an audience comprised of family, and those involved in healthcare delivery.

The original pieces, were beautiful and honest expressions of the realities of living with the condition.

Brian Brophy’s Brian’s Beckett showed us a world where everything we take for granted was just out of his reach, Brian Quinlan’s All Together Now showed a man having a life of public communication until it was taken abruptly but for the memory of the enjoyment of music and Adele Hinze revealed her own love story through a self-written poem all met with a roaring response. The evening was wonderfully officiated by local councillor Ted Leddy, who referenced his own mother, who was present and living with the condition.

Business Desk

LEO marks five successful years supporting businesses

Over the last five years, the Local Enterprise Offices have supported the creation of over 18,600 jobs nationwide with 144,830 entrepreneurs and business people trained in a range of skills.

A celebration was held at Russborough House in Wicklow to commemorate the important work the LEOs carry out for local economies.

This was attended by Heather Humphreys T.D., Minister for Business, Enterprise and Innovation and Pat Breen T.D., Minister for Trade, Employment, Business, EU Digital Single Market and Data Protection

Oisín Geoghegan, Chair of the LEO Network and Head of Enterprise at LEO Fingal said: 'The figures really do speak for themselves when you look across the five years of the Local Enterprise Offices. Local Enterprise Office Fingal has played a key role in fostering entrepreneurship in the area and is very much at the fulcrum of the local business community. That positioning has come through trust, expertise and the ability to help businesses over the toughest of hurdles because we have the resources to do so. Looking to the future, we are at the forefront of microenterprise and we have an opportunity to help shape policy and supports that we believe will only increase these impressive figures in the next five years and give our entrepreneurs and small businesses an even greater advantage in the market.'



Ava scoops major enterprise honour

A student entrepreneur from Fingal has won an award at the national Student Enterprise Programme (SEP) finals in Croke Park today, organised by the Local Enterprise Offices (LEOs) for secondary schools.

Ava Gilmartin from Malahide Portmarnock Educate Together took the first prize in the Junior category with "SpecRest"; a device for conveniently storing eyewear.

The enterprise education initiative delivered by the 31 LEOs in local authorities is the most successful student enterprise programme of its kind in the country. Schools around Ireland begin their entrepreneurial journey every year with the help of their teachers, student enterprise co-ordinators and their local LEO.

Fingal accounted for 2,700 of these students, making the Fingal competition by far the biggest in the

country. This year's SEP attracted 22,000 student participants from 620 secondary schools around the country. The year-long programme helps each student to gain the skills and practical knowledge of running a real-life business.

Oisín Geoghegan, Chair of the LEO Network and Head of Enterprise at LEO Fingal said: "I am delighted that one of our Fingal young entrepreneurs has been recognised with a National award this year.

"We had three great entrants this year and they all did exceptionally well at the judging process at National level. Fingal continues to lead the way in the national Student Enterprise Programme with over 2,700 secondary students participating this year, from 29 schools."

Further information around the SEP is available from www.studententerprise.ie and by searching #studententerprise on social media.

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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)

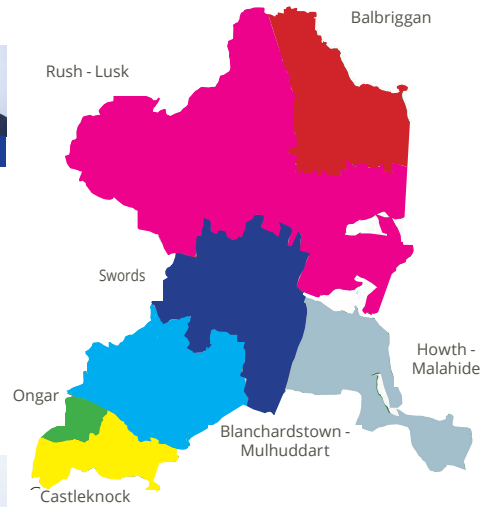
Estuary Recycling Centre
Swords, County Dublin
(Beside Swords Business Park)

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

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