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ISSUE 18
MAY/JUNE 2019



THE HELLFIRE CLUB - SEE P30



Councillor Ted Leddy

REPRESENTING: Castleknock, Blanchardstown,
Carpenterstown, Clonsilla, Porterstown & Lucan North





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Cllr. Howard Mahony


Representing Castleknock, Blanchardstown and Clonsilla

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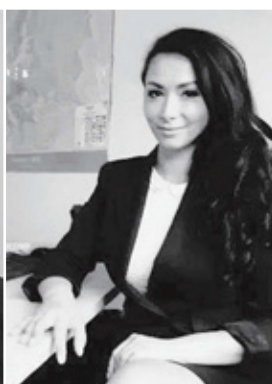
THIS MONTH'S FEATURE - SEE P30

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- Laurel Lodge Community Centre
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- Super Valu Blanch
- Tesco Roselawn
- Blakestown Community Centre
- Mountview Community Centre
- Huntstown Community Centre
- Eurospar Hartstown
- Dunnes Ongar
- Cu Chulainns Ongar
- Lidl Clonee
- Aldi Clonee
- Lidl Blakestown
- Lidl Tyrrelstown
- Tyrrelstown Community Centre
- Peregrines Gaa Club
- Corduff Sports Centre
- Spar Waterville
- Centra Corduff
- Castleknock Golf Club
- Castleknock Hotel
- Elmgreen Golf Club
- Hollystown Golf Club
- Westwood Gym
- Westwood Golf Club
- Phibblestown Community Centre
- Costcutter Clonsilla Road
- Credit Union Clonsilla Road
- The Greyhound Blanch Village
- The Grasshopper Clonee
- Clonsilla Inn
- The Carpenter Inn
- The Carlton Hotel Tyrrelstown



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Roundabout Will Not be Named after Hero

The Ashtown roundabout at the Halfway House on Navan Road will not be named after Republican hero of the War of Independence, Martin Savage, Fingal County Council has confirmed.

This confirmation was given as a result of a request made by Cllr Natalie Treacy (SF). Cllr Treacy asked the Chief Executive to consider renaming the roundabout at Ashtown to Martin Savage Roundabout, to honour the 100th anniversary of his death this year.

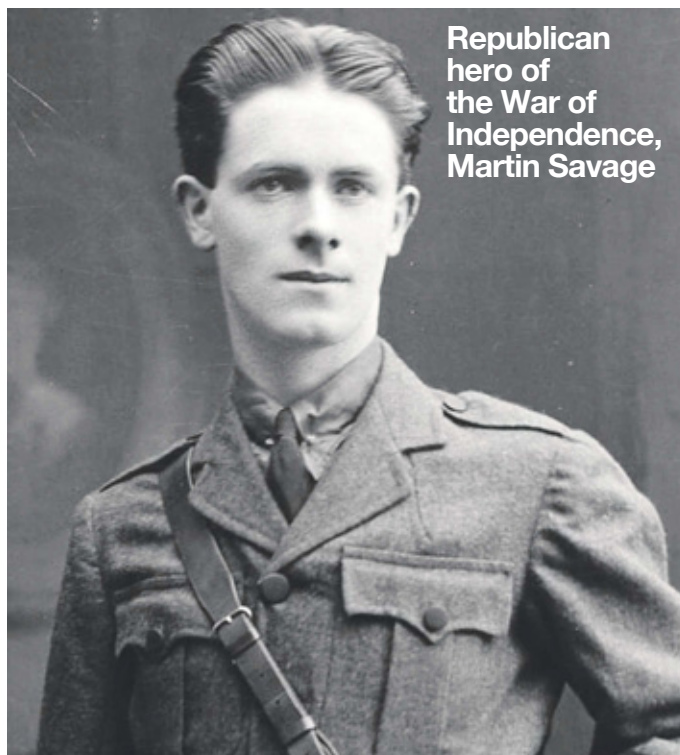
On December 19, 1919, in what was to become known as the Battle of Ashtown, a small detachment of IRA Volunteers attempted to ambush and kill then British Viceroy, Lord Lieutenant of Ireland and Supreme Commander of the British Army in Ireland, Lord John French, as he passed through the area on his return from Roscommon.

Apart from French, the most famous participant in the skirmish was 21-year-old Martin Savage. Savage who was a native of Ballinasloe, County Sligo and an Officer of the Dublin Brigade of the IRA was, even at his tender age, somewhat of a veteran of the cause.

It was not initially intended that Savage take part in the engagement, and it was only after his vehement protestations that his superiors relented and acquiesced. The intelligence they had received informed them that Lord French would be travelling in the second car of the armed convoy that comprised an outrider and three following cars. The group planned to ambush the convoy as it made its way from Ashtown Railway Station to the Vice-Regal Lodge at Phoenix Park (now Aras an Uachtaran).

The squad met at Flemings Pub in Drumcondra on the day of the ambush, whence they departed in small groups in order to avoid raising suspicion. They made their way on bicycles through Phibsboro and up the Cabra Road, and regrouped at Kelly's Public House (now the Halfway House). At around 11:40 a.m. they left the pub and took up positions along the crossroads at Ashtown., as the train carrying Lord French pulled into the station,

As was very common during the War of Independence and subsequent Civil War, the plan was for Martin Savage, Dan Breen



Republican hero of the War of Independence, Martin Savage

and Tom Kehoe and to push a hay-cart halfway across the road after the out-rider and the first car had passed, and then push it the rest of the way across, thus completely blocking the path of the remaining vehicles. According to their intelligence: Lord French was to be in the second car which they intended to attack with rifle fire and explosives.

However, the attack was ill-fated from the beginning as they were accosted by a member of the Royal Irish Constabulary (RIC) as they pushed the hay-cart across the road. One of the squad threw a grenade at him which failed to explode, but struck him on the head and rendered him unconscious. The stricken man was then dragged from the road and the squad proceeded with the attack.

The men attacked the second car as planned, forcing it to swerve from the road. Unfortunately for them, their intelligence was incorrect, as French was travelling in the first car, which managed to drive through the blockade. The remaining members of French's guard returned fire and got the better of the exchange as Breen was shot in the leg, and Savage received a fatal bullet in the neck. As the story goes, his last words were: "I'm done, but carry on" as he died in the arms of Breen. Kehoe and the wounded Breen managed to retreat with Savages body back to Kelly's Pub as the battle raged on. The crown forces began to withdraw towards Phoenix Park with two RIC men and a driver who were wounded in the exchange.

However, Fingal County Council responded to Cllr Treacy's request saying roundabouts are named in relation to their geographical location to provide directional information for road users and are not named after individuals or events.

"Roundabouts are not necessarily a permanent road feature and are often subject to alteration to meet traffic management requirements, and Roundabouts, from time to time may be removed or changed to signalised junctions, and with that in mind The Council do not name them in a commemorative manner," said the council.



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FINE GAEL 



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Yet another Supermarket Saga

Fingal County Council is taking on board the concerns of Clonsilla residents in relation to a Lidl development at Castlefield, Clonsilla.

This situation harkens back to the former flower shop site in Castleknock Village on which a development including a Lidl supermarket was built despite years of wrangling and objections from residents.

Amendments were proposed by Lidl Ireland, to an existing planning permission granted at the site, to facilitate a larger Lidl supermarket measuring 2,445 sqm over two storeys with ancillary off license sales, a cafe of 159 sqm and retail unit of 170 sqm.

The community of Clonsilla is concerned about the size and scale of the development including traffic, and the visual and environmental impact. Following submissions from the community, Fingal County Council has now responded to Lidl Ireland requesting more information.

Emer Currie, Fine Gael candidate for the Castleknock Ward which includes the majority of Clonsilla Village said that having consulted a large number of local residents about this issue, including at a community meeting which she hosted on the issue, the majority of people are not against development, but they do have specific concerns about traffic, the visual look of it and the loss of trees and hedgerows.

She went on to say that she raised these particular concerns in her submission, and hopes that Fingal County Council is now taking those concerns seriously.

"Traffic is the biggest issue - people do not want a repeat of what is happening in Castleknock because of the new Lidl where tailbacks and traffic jams are now a frequent daily occurrence. A full traffic report and count is required, on a school day, including all junctions in order to inform an appropriate traffic strategy for Clonsilla. The original Lidl application included out of date data from 2014 that any resident could tell you wasn't credible. There was no data for the Castlefield and Clonsilla Link Road junction where cars already park to access Clonsilla train station," she said.

She went on to say that she cautiously welcomes Fingal County Council's request for more information from Lidl Ireland in relation to this application including a traffic assessment, a revised finish and design that takes more account of its prominent location and that is hopefully more appropriate to Clonsilla's historical village location.

"The community want Lidl Ireland to get this right for Clonsilla and their neighbourhood - a place they are deeply invested in and want the best for. The community has done their part in scrutinising this application and



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Alcoholism is an obsession of the mind that condemns one to drink and an allergy of the body that condemns one to die. (Dr. Wm. D. Silkworth), this is underpinned by a Spiritual malady that changes our actions and personality for the worse. The spiritual programme of A.A. if lived as a way of life, can expel the obsession to drink and enable the sufferer to become happily and usefully whole.

it now over to Fingal County Council to theirs. There is no point having Development Plans and Traffic Strategies if Fingal County Council do not uphold them," she said.

Cllr Tania Doyle (Ind) who has campaigned to preserve Clonsilla Village's natural ecosystem in the past, particularly in the case of an ancient oak tree on Shelerin Rd which was felled a number of years ago, is also concerned about the current proposal.

Speaking to *Little Village*, Cllr Doyle said:

"I've been working with Local Residents within a number of Estates surrounding this development now for over 3 years. I am not opposed to development, I am concerned however with this development as it has been and currently is presented. Within this development a swath of the existing environment, flora and fauna will be removed so as to provide a clear visual to the development from the Clonsilla Road. Within the Save Clonsilla's Roots Campaign of which I was a founding member we called then and continue to call for the existing flora and fauna to be retained, maintained and incorporated in greater volumes into each and every Development. Clonsilla is at max capacity with reference to Traffic volumes. Clonsilla is a Village and this volume of development in addition to the existing projects underway is turning Clonsilla Village into a Town Centre, but doing so without adequate and considerate infrastructure being in place."

It is not the policy of Lidl or Fingal County Council to comment on active planning applications.

John Walsh

Local election candidate

Representing Blanchardstown, Castleknock & Clonsilla

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With thanks

Emer **FINE GAEL** 

Local Election Candidate

EMER CURRIE

VOTE No. 1

VOTE 2 Cllr TED LEDDY

085 816 1306 emercurriefg@gmail.com

Published by Henry Minogue, Director of Elections, 37a Main St. Onger, Dublin 15.

Castleknock Tidy Towns

Castleknock Tidy Towns is now very much back in existence. A Steering Committee has been put in place and the work is being scoped out over the coming weeks. As Auburn Avenue is such an important Approach Road for Castleknock it will be key in our efforts to improve the locality.

To that end, a Monster Spring Clean of Auburn Avenue was the newly resurged Castleknock Tidy Town's first clean up on Saturday, April 13 from 10am - 12 noon. The group met in Myo's Car Park at 10am. From whence they set out to work in teams to pick up litter, sweep the paths and tidy back the overgrown grass verges etc.

Fingal County Council provided equipment and bags and arranged to have all of the rubbish collected taken

away.

From April 27, the group will meet every Saturday morning 10am-12 noon starting from Myo's and do litter patrols and general clean ups in and around the village.

"We'd be delighted if you would join in and/or drum up some support. It'll be great fun! We have a Facebook page too - you can LIKE it and check in there regularly for updates," said volunteer Evelyn Pender.

For more information contact Evelyn at 087 987 2786.



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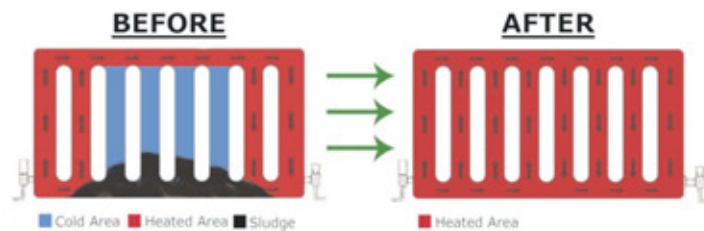
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Outgoing CEO says More Services needed

Fingal County Council Chief Executive Paul Reid has stated that the debate surrounding Local Government in Ireland needs to extend from just the focus on who runs the sector to a debate about what services could be further devolved from Central Government.

Addressing a conference organised by the Centre for Local and Regional Governance in University College Cork recently, Mr Reid said compared to other countries from around the world, Irish local authorities had fewer services devolved from Central Government.

In his presentation entitled “Who Runs Local Government”, Mr Reid said councils currently had responsibility for areas such as Housing, Planning, Roads and Transport, Waste Management and Water Services.

However, other nations such as Canada and Denmark also controlled sectors such Education, Healthcare/Hospitals and Social Services, he said.

Mr Reid said: “The question as to who runs Local Government is not the only one. We should also be asking what Central Government services should be devolved to Local Government.”

In terms of funding, Ireland is below the OECD average, ranked behind other European nations such as Sweden, Denmark, Finland and Iceland, Mr Reid pointed out.

Mr Reid added that despite the lower level of fiscal autonomy compared to other OECD countries, one of the core strengths of Irish Local Government was “implementation” at local level.

Outgoing Fingal County
Council Chief Executive
Paul Reid.



“The drivers and skills of our sector are very different to others,” he stated. “While the private sector has a relentless focus on cost and customer experience and the civil service prioritises policy development, Local Government in Ireland is focused on investing in local communities and enabling business.”

He added: “Another key strength in the Local Government sector was the collaborative approach on many issues between the management and the elected representatives in terms of economic development, community development, FDI attraction, tourism and libraries.”

Concluding his presentation, Mr Reid reiterated the key point that the debate needs to extend from who is in charge to also what further services should be devolved.

Cllr. Howard Mahony

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Local Scientists Praised

Local schools, Le Chéile Secondary School, and Coláiste Pobail Setanta were praised and recognised as Fingal celebrated the success of its students and schools in the 2019 BT Young Scientist competition, as Young Scientist of the Year Adam Kelly was recognised for his impressive achievement.

Tributes were paid at the event in County Hall, Swords to his family, his teacher Ms Lennon, and his school, Skerries Community College, for supporting and aiding Adam's winning efforts.

Students, teachers and family in attendance from Loreto Secondary School in Balbriggan, St. Joseph's in Rush, Portmarnock Community School.

Adam's win continues a tradition of victory for Fingal students in this competition. In 2016, Maria Louise Fufezan and Diana Bura claimed the prize for Loreto Secondary School in Balbriggan.

Adam's project, entitled "Optimizing The Simulation Of General Quantum Circuits", explores efficient ways to mathematically model quantum computers.

Quantum computing uses subatomic particles to drive computer calculations and processes.

It is a complex, emerging field with exciting technological and scientific applications, including the possibility of increased computing speed and power.

Following Adam's victory in the all-Ireland competition, he will go on to represent Ireland at the European Union Contest for Young Scientists which will be held in Bulgaria this September.

Speaking at the celebration, Mayor of Fingal Cllr. Anthony Lavin said: "It's highly encouraging to see so many Fingal students and schools getting involved and active in science.

"The discoveries made by Adam and the many other students who took part in the Young Scientist competition



are already doing things that impact us all. From national to local issues, from climate change to commerce, we need the ingenuity and curiosity that these Young Scientists have shown."

Fingal County Council Chief Executive Paul Reid congratulated all the students involved for their wonderful efforts in the 2018 BT Young Scientists and Technology competition. He said: "I would like to congratulate everybody who was involved in this year's competition. Fingal is in great hands.

"Fingal has the youngest population in Ireland. It looks like and sounds like, and the experience is, that we have the most highly intelligent population as well.

"It is particularly great to see young women studying STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics) subjects, and it is very important to bring that pipeline through in the years ahead."

Fingal County Council has been active in promoting STEM to students and children, with Fingal Libraries hosting STEM Saturdays events in 2018 featuring coding, robots and engineering through LEGO.



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JAGAN'S PRIORITIES

- Promoting the implementation of the Fingal Housing Strategy and the County Development Plan.
- Improved access to recreational facilities and playgrounds for the recently developed housing estates.
- Campaigning for additional investment for the Council's Road Transport and Safety Service division.
- Highlighting residential concerns in relation to the Bus Connects scheme.
- Ensuring that the Local Enterprise Offices (LEOs) are adequately resourced to provide support for businesses.
- Safeguarding our community by regularly liaising with the local Gardai.
- Ensuring that property tax revenues are spent locally and wisely.
- Encourage additional recycling centres and introduce more bottle bank sites.
- A greater focus on litter management within the Fingal County Annual Service Plan.

FINE GAEL 



VOTE
No. 1

JAGAN
MUTTUMULA

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YOUR FINE GAEL TEAM FOR IRELAND

Please Vote 1, 2 in order of your choice

Mark DURCAN and Frances FITZGERALD TD



Minister Condemns Shooting While Tech Giant Withdraws From Clean-Up

The Minister for Justice and Equality, Charlie Flanagan has “utterly condemned” the shooting incident that took place outside Riversdale Community College, in Corduff recently.

Armed Gardai have been patrolling the area, after an incident where shots were fired outside the school just before classes for the day ended and parents were waiting to collect their children.

The incident took place at approximately 3.40pm on Blanchardstown Road North in the Corduff area outside Riversdale Community College.

Security sources told TheJournal.ie that a number of shots were fired during the incident and that the intended target was “extremely lucky” not to have suffered any injuries.

A lone gunman appeared to target a man in his 20s who was waiting outside the school. The gunman ran in the direction of Corduff Grove.

Gardaí said a number of people were arrested at the scene, and released following searches.

A number of searches were carried out in the Corduff area with the assistance of the emergency response unit and armed support units. No further arrests have been made.

Gardaí believe a local gang feud in the area is the motive behind the shooting.

A spokesperson also confirmed that no persons were injured during the incident.

Superintendent William Carolan condemned the attack and has appealed for anyone with information to come forward.

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In particular, he is appealing for anyone in the area of the community college between 3pm and 3.40pm to contact gardaí.

Anyone who drove along Blanchardstown Road North or Corduff Grove who may have dashcam footage is urged to make contact.

Furthermore, gardaí are also keen to hear from anyone who observed any unusual activity in and around the school in recent days to come forward.

Those with information are urged to call Blanchardstown Garda Station on 01 666 9700, the Garda Confidential Line on 1800 666 111, or any garda station.

Fianna Fáil's Jack Chambers said the incident set a “very alarming precedent”.

“For such an incident to occur in a residential area within yards of a school in the middle of a weekday afternoon is not normal and should not be treated as a normal part of everyday life,” he said.

Sinn Féin Councillor Paul Donnelly said: “It beggars belief that a person would put the lives of school children



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in danger like this.” Deputy Joan Burton (Lab) has called on the Fine Gael Government to respond urgently to the “outrageous shooting incident” by increasing the resources for community policing, and clamping down on the spate of recent incidents locally.

Deputy Burton said:

“The outrageous incident, where a gunman fired shots at two men outside a school is absolutely shocking and requires an urgent response from the Government. That someone could act with such impunity where children are being taught is deeply troubling. I have spoken to parents and staff recently in local schools who are concerned about recent episodes of lawlessness in the area. Unfortunately a small number of people are putting the good name of the whole community at risk but this escalation of feuding and violence must be tackled,” she said.

She went on to say that more community policing is needed urgently, and called on the Fine Gael Minister for Justice, Charlie Flanagan to respond to this latest incident.

“I hope he will now act. This type of shooting cannot be allowed become the norm,” she said.

A spokesperson from the Department of Justice responded saying the Minister is advised by the Garda authorities that inroads are being made into tackling the violent incidents in Blanchardstown.

“A crime prevention and detection initiative, including high visibility patrols, has been put in place by senior Garda management targeting criminality associated with a dispute between crime gangs. In recent weeks, members of specialist Garda Units, including local detective units and the Garda Dog Unit, carried out a series of searches in the Corduff area with assistance from the Armed Support Unit. These searches resulted in the seizure of five sawn-off shotguns, as well as other weapons and a quantity of controlled drugs. This is a significant ongoing Garda operation and Gardaí are determined to bring all those engaged in criminality to justice as soon as possible,” they said.

They went on to say that the allocation of all Garda resources, and the manner in which Garda operations are conducted, is solely a matter for the Garda Commissioner and his management team, and the Minister has no role in such matters.

“However, the Minister is assured that Gardaí closely monitor all new and emerging crime trends in our communities so that Garda resources, including personnel, can be allocated to ensure the best possible policing service is provided to the public. The Government remains committed to ensuring Gardaí have the necessary resources to tackle all forms of criminality

John Walsh

Local election candidate

Representing Blanchardstown, Castleknock & Clonsilla

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in our communities, including the types of violence we have seen in Blanchardstown recently. Significant capital investment is also being made in An Garda Síochána, including an allocation of €10 million for the Garda fleet in 2019. This is in addition to a very substantial budget of €1.76 billion that has been allocated to An Garda Síochána in Budget '19 which also supports Garda activity to tackle these types of crimes," said the spokesperson.

In another blow for the community, global tech company Symantec pulled out of a community clean-up day as a direct result of the incident.

The clean-up took place on 20 April in Corduff, and would have seen 60 flowers and shrubs planted in the area courtesy of the company.

But Symantec staff who had volunteered to take did not attend, with the community group involved left rallying to source local volunteers who can help them.

Claire Reid, founder of the Clean Up Corduff group, said that the company claimed the participation of its staff in the event was "too risky" following the shooting.

"They've always been good to us and we've done loads with them over the years. But they just said because of the random acts of violence in the area the insurance wouldn't cover it, and they couldn't let staff come into the area. It was a massive disappointment because we have 60 plants on order that Symantec is still going to pay for, but the ground hasn't been dug before so the body of staff they were going to give would have enabled us to do it," she said.

The company had volunteered up to 15 staff members for litter picking events and planting events each year – and the group had expected a similar turn out this year.

The group also said the incident has put a cloud over the event, and is appealing for local residents to volunteer on Saturday 20 April.

"Everyone understands why [Symantec] can't do it anymore and a lot of people are worried so we moved it and we hope people will help us out now," Reid said.

But despite the withdrawal, she added that the group would be open to participating with the company in the future.

Reid said that Symantec had contacted the group to offer their assistance and to mark Earth Day this year, as well as agreeing to provide €150 worth of plants and flowers.

"When we know they're coming on board we try to do something big because they supply so many people," she added.

"They've been very good to us and we would love to work with them again."

Local Sinn Féin councillor Paul Donnelly described the decision as disappointing, saying that the community would come together to ensure that the volunteer day goes ahead.

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"I am deeply concerned and disappointed at the decision of Symantec to pull out of their annual planting event as part of World Planting Day in nearby Corduff," he said.

"I do, however, understand the decision from their perspective and how they would be concerned about the health and safety of their employees in light of a spate of recent shootings in the area."

He also called on the Corduff community to "stand strong" following the disappointment, and appealed to the wider Dublin 15 community to show solidarity with locals in Corduff.

Commenting on the company's withdrawal, a spokesman for Symantec told TheJournal.ie that it took its employees' safety "very seriously".

In a statement, the spokesman said that it had decided not to have its employees volunteer in the 'Clean up Corduff' event as a result.

He added: "Symantec is still supporting the initiative with funding, and we look forward to participating in future initiatives."

Cllr. Howard Mahony

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Should Ongar Take Notes from Iceland?

Aengus Ó Maoláin, Social Democrats candidate for the local election in the Ongar local electoral area has called for the Ongar area to be the location of a pilot scheme based on the very successful 'Youth in Iceland' project.

Iceland went from having one of the highest rate of teenage substance misuse in Europe to the lowest in the last 20 years. The strategy they used to reverse this is visible in the performance of their sports teams on the world stage," said Ó Maoláin.

"Dublin 15 is a perfect test-bed for this sort of project. With support from Fingal County Council and the government I am confident we could dramatically improve the lives of young people, public security and the sense of community in this rapidly growing and very diverse area."

"We all know the old adage, that it takes a village to raise a child, but we are in danger of forgetting that in the Ongar area. Let's use this cutting edge public policy as a model and take our children's growth and development seriously."

The Youth in Iceland project relied on strong data collection both before, during and after the project's initial trial phase, concerted governmental action including significant grants to parents and local clubs and youth clubs, and an intensive involvement of schools, parents and the wider community locally in the running of the scheme.

"The population profile, the location, and the positivity of the population is already here in Ongar, Hartstown, Huntstown, Littlepace and Clonsilla, all that's needed is a kick start from Fingal County Council and the government to make this a reality," said Ó Maoláin.

"Doing nothing should not be an option."



Councillor Ted Leddy

REPRESENTING: Castleknock, Blanchardstown,
Carpenterstown, Clonsilla, Porterstown & Lucan North

www.tedleddy.ie | Ted.Leddy@cllrs.fingal.ie



FINE GAEL ★

Local representative calls on the Government to reconsider site for National Children's Hospital

John Walsh, the Labour Party local representative for Castleknock, has called on the Government to reconsider the site for the National Children's Hospital and commission a feasibility study for a combined project, involving the construction of the National Children's Hospital and the transfer of maternity services from Rotunda, on a site adjacent to Connolly Hospital in Blanchardstown.

This confirmation was given as a result of a request made by Cllr Natalie Treacy (SF). Cllr Treacy asked the Chief Executive to consider renaming the roundabout at Ashtown to Martin Savage Roundabout, to honour the 100th anniversary of his death this year.

'The recent Price Waterhouse Cooper report disclosed a damning picture of mismanagement regarding the project for the National Children's Hospital. The report concluded that the cost of building the hospital at the St James site could well exceed €1.7 billion due to failures in planning and oversight and might go much higher. This has potentially devastating implications for the public capital programme and could delay other vital projects indefinitely.

But even more worrying is the mounting evidence that the Government has selected the wrong site for the hospital. Prof. Chris Fitzpatrick, former master of the Coombe Hospital, warned the Public Accounts Committee recently that the State risked 'a financial and medical catastrophe' if the new Children's Hospital went ahead without being co-located with a maternity hospital. So far no move has been made to build a maternity hospital on the same site, despite overwhelming medical opinion that co-location is required. There is a real risk that the project on its current site is turning into a policy disaster, with deeply worrying implications for patients and their families.

A plan to transfer the Rotunda to James Connolly Hospital in Blanchardstown was approved by the previous Government in 2015 and was originally meant to happen by 2020. There is now a final opportunity to achieve co-location between the new Children's Hospital and a maternity hospital on the same site in Blanchardstown, closely linked to Connolly Hospital.



Labour Party local representative
John Walsh.



The Government should commission a short-term feasibility study led by a medical practitioner to reconsider the case for a combined project involving the National Children's Hospital and the transfer of the Rotunda to an alternative site adjacent to Connolly Hospital. This study could be started immediately and a report made within 3-4 months, with a similar tight timeframe to the Price Waterhouse review, which unwisely excluded the St James site from its terms of reference.

This is the right time for the Government to reconsider its original decision to locate the Children's hospital on the highly constrained site at St James Hospital. A range of expert medical practitioners have pointed to the advantages of Connolly Hospital in Blanchardstown – most recently, Prof Fitzpatrick commented on its 'unrivalled advantages' as a site for the National Children's Hospital. These advantages include accessibility for patients travelling from all over the country to a hospital just off the M50; the availability of ample land and space for development and the greater likelihood of co-location with a maternity hospital.

The stakes are very high in terms of getting this decision wrong – not just in financial terms but much more important in terms of the consequence for the wellbeing of children. This is simply too important for the Government to ignore the growing problems with the current site and dismiss the compelling alternative offered by Connolly Hospital. Patients and their families will have to live with the consequences of this decision for a generation and it is crucial to get it right.'

John Walsh

Labour Party Local Representative

Blanchardstown, Castleknock and Clonsilla



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Timeline Remains Unclear for Rotunda Re-location

The government has re-affirmed its commitment to relocate the Rotunda maternity hospital to a development at Connolly Hospital, Blanchardstown, which was initially set to cost €300m. However, they have been vague about the timeline.

This comes as Green Party Ongar local election candidate, Daniel Whooley, raised concerns about the lack of a clear plan for the relocation of the Rotunda Maternity Hospital to the Connolly Hospital site. He was speaking following replies to Dail questions given by the Minister for Health to Green Party TDs.

“The move of the Rotunda to the Connolly site was announced in 2015 when Leo Varadkar was Minister for Health. However, there has been little information on this plan since. On the doors, people have been asking me if this move is still going ahead, so I asked to Green Party TD Catherine Martin to put a question to the Minister for Health”, said Whooley.

He went on to say that, from the reply the Minister for Health, Simon Harris gave, it is obvious that, four years after the announcement, there is still no clear timeframe on how

this move is going to proceed.

It was back in the summer of 2015 that the then minister for health and current Taoiseach Leo Varadkar announced that the Rotunda Hospital was to move to the campus of Connolly Hospital in Blanchardstown.

There had been earlier plans to link the Rotunda to the Mater hospital as part of the move to develop the new National Children’s Hospital on the site at Eccles Street.

However, after that initiative fell apart, the Rotunda – the oldest maternity hospital in the world, which has been in Dublin city centre since the 1750s – was to be re-located to a new €300 million development at Connolly.

Unlike the original plans for the Mater, there would be no space problems about a move to west Dublin where there had been a surge in population levels over recent years.

Funding for the project was earmarked in the Government’s capital plan. However, the Rotunda, while fully supportive of

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the move, said last year that it believes it could take up to 10 years to complete.

Apart from the usual lengthy planning processes, one of the main issues facing the re-location project is that Connolly is known technically as a level III hospital. It does not have the same level of services and facilities as the other larger acute teaching hospitals in Dublin which are known as level IV centres. To bring Connolly up to the level of the other acute teaching hospitals, the Rotunda believes there would need to be new developments in intensive care facilities, laboratories and operating theatre infrastructure.

The Rotunda also believes investment would be needed in vascular surgery, interventional radiology and advanced gynaecological surgery.

According to some informed sources, such upgrading could cost about €150 million, bringing the total bill for the planned re-location to close to €450 million overall.

In response to parliamentary questions from Green Party TD's the current Minister stated that the move would take place and be funded under the Government's Project Ireland 2040 plan, but did not provide any sort of timeframe on planning, tendering for the new building etc.

Whooley said that it is also clear from the reply that the Minister has no idea how much this move will cost.

"As the population of Dublin 15 grows, it is the right move to locate key health infrastructure in the area – Connolly already caters for large parts of south Meath and north Kildare as well as Dublin. But big investment in health care needs to be planned – not rushed like the Children's Hospital project.

It is vital that the Government brings forward a timescale and a funding plan for moving the Rotunda to the Connolly Hospital site. The country cannot afford another mess like that which was made of the planning and funding of the Children's Hospital", said Whooley.

A spokesperson from the Department of Health has responded to Whooley's comments saying government policy is to co-locate all remaining maternity hospitals with adult acute services in order to provide optimal clinical outcomes.

"Co-location of maternity services with Acute adult services is considered international best practice and will facilitate the provision of an appropriate environment within all our maternity hospitals and units to enable the delivery of a modern, safe, quality service where the woman's need for privacy and dignity is respected," said the spokesperson, adding that Project Ireland 2040 provides €10.9 billion for health capital developments across the country, including funding to support implementation of the National Maternity Strategy.

"The relocation of the Rotunda Hospital to the Connolly campus is one of the key infrastructure projects which will be funded under Project Ireland 2040. As is to be expected with such a plan, many proposals are at an early stage and will require to progress through appraisal, planning design and tender before a firm timeline or funding requirement can be established. In that context, it is not possible to provide a specific timeframe or cost projections for the Rotunda project at this stage," they said.

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Fahy Law launch initiative to return significant sums to Irish Home Mortgage Holders

Fahy Law has brought together a network of independent Irish Legal Firms who have launched a new initiative to collectively assist many residential mortgage holders in Ireland, who may be entitled to significant and substantial interest rate rebates from Banks, Building Societies and Vulture Funds.

There is a large group of residential mortgage holders in Ireland, who Fahy Law believes are entitled to significant refunds from their Bank or Building Society, once they meet certain very specific qualifying criteria. Based on the average mortgage amount at that time and some other variable factors, it is estimated that the average rebate could be between €20,000 and €30,000.

In order to process this large number of claims quickly and efficiently, the network of law firms operating throughout Ireland and appointed by Fahy Law, are advising qualifying candidates in respect of the process involved.

Claims will be processed in two phases, each with very specific qualifying criteria.

The first phase applies to mortgage holders in Ireland who:

- Obtained their Mortgage between the 1st January 2000 and the 31st December 2003
- Obtained their Mortgage and which was a new build at the time of the purchase as a family home
- Still have the same mortgage or a top-up of the same mortgage and did not switch their Bank or Building Society from their original provider
- Had a fixed or variable mortgage

The claim is not affected if the Mortgage Provider sold on the mortgage to another Bank or Vulture Fund and it doesn't matter if the mortgage holder is up to date or not with their mortgage payment or they have come to an arrangement with their financial institution.

The principal of the firm, Solicitor Siobhan Fahy, has over three decades of experience in managing and resolving multi-party significant arbitrations and legal claims in the Republic of Ireland.

Fahy Law will coordinate and process these large volume of cases in conjunction with the network of legal firms through the country, who will assist and advise qualifying candidates in these cases.

Commenting on this initiative, Siobhan Fahy stated: "We believe that many mortgage holders in Ireland could be due significant refunds, once they meet some specific criteria. There is a once-off fee of €399.00 including VAT, which covers a consultation with the nearest network solicitor and court fees. The network Solicitor will carry out the due diligence and Fahy Law will then proceed to process the candidate's claim.

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Fahy Law Solicitors, who have brought together a nationwide network of local independent legal firms and who have expertise in financial banking, believe that a number of people in Ireland may be entitled to significant interest rate rebates from Banks, Building Societies and Vulture Funds.

Should you have concerns that you could be entitled to Mortgage Interest Rebates visit **FAHYLAW.IE** to learn more.

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For technical reasons, there is a very narrow window for processing claims, which is why I set up this network to enable us to process a large volume of cases quickly and efficiently. People who meet the criteria, are now engaging with the network website fahylaw.ie

All Solicitors in the Fahy Law Network of Legal firms are now assisting eligible Mortgage holders and helping them with the process. Fahy Law has established its website fahylaw.ie where homeowners can find out whether or not they are eligible candidates.

Principal of Fahy Law firm, Siobhan Fahy



Council to Buy 2 Vacants for Social Housing

Fingal County Council has made a compulsory purchase order for two vacant properties in the north end of Dublin 15 in order to make them available for social housing.

The houses in question are at 1 Wellview Grove, and 10 Corduff Cottages and, if confirmed, the Order will authorise the housing authority to acquire compulsorily the properties for the purposes of the Housing Act, 1966. Owners, lessees and occupiers of the properties described in

the Schedule will receive individual written notice. If an objection is made in respect of the said acquisition by an owner, lessee or occupier of the properties, and is not withdrawn, the Board may at its absolute discretion hold an oral hearing in relation to the matter.

Cllr Roderic O’Gorman (GP) said it is good to see Fingal taking action to get homes that are currently abandoned back into use by compulsorily purchasing them.

“These two homes will now be put into the Council’s social housing stock and will house families who need somewhere to live,” he said.

Cllr Paul Donnelly (SF) said he is delighted that this measure has finally been taken as he has called for this for a number of years and in particular the house in Wellview.

“This house has been subject to a massive amount anti social behaviour and dumping of tons of household rubbish. I look forward to this being the beginning of a process that will see a speedy return to the housing stock of all empty and abandoned houses by those who own them but refuse to do anything to refurbish them and use them to deal with the housing crisis,” he said.

Local Social Democrat election candidate, Aengus O’Maolain said: “Fingal County Council buying and bringing vacant existing houses back into circulation is a positive step, and I’m glad it’s happening.”

Fingal Chief Exec Departs

The Chief Executive of Fingal County Council, Paul Reid, has been appointed as the new Director General of the Health Service Executive. He will leave his position on May 13 after the final monthly meeting of the current Council.

Announcing his departure to councillors and staff recently, Mr Reid said it was both an honour and a privilege to have been appointed to such an important role that impacts on the lives of everyone in the state.

“However, it will certainly be with a heavy heart that I will leave Fingal County Council. I can say for sure that being in the role as Chief Executive of Fingal, for the past five years, has been the best and most fulfilling job that I have had in my career to date. I have had the opportunity to make an impact on the quality of life of all of the people, business and communities of Fingal that we serve,” he said.

He said the council has achieved a lot over the last five years, and that he was delighted when he came in 2014 to find a body of councillors who were committed to the Council’s vision of making Fingal the place of choice in

Ireland to live, work, visit and do business.

“Over the past five years there was always a willingness to find the best solution for the people of Fingal. The quality, commitment and calibre of staff in Fingal made my job extremely rewarding. Fingal County Council is highly respected across a whole range of stakeholders for being a highly innovative and “can do” council. I have been truly honoured to hold this position and I hope that I too have played my part, along with the elected members and our excellent staff, in making this such a great county,” he said.

Mr Reid will lead the Executive into the Council meetings in April and May before a new Council is elected on May 24. An interim Chief Executive will be appointed shortly to lead the Council while the Public Appointments Service recruit Mr Reid’s successor.



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Before entering politics, I was a Member of An Garda Síochána based in Harcourt Square, Finglas Garda Station and the Garda Band. I was a Community Activist for over thirty years. During my time as a community activist I was a member of the following local organisations:

- *Chairman of my Local Residents Association;*
- *Chairman of Castleknock Community Centre;*
- *A Member of the Castleknock Schools Group;*
- *A Member of Dublin 15 Community Council;*
- *A Board Member of Phoenix FM Local Community Radio;*
- *Vice Chair of Fingal Community and Voluntary Forum;*
- *Founding Member of Fingal Public Participation Network.*

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maximum of 15%. This is called the **LOCAL ADJUSTMENT FACTOR (LAF)**. You are now only receiving a reduction of 10% because last year they voted for the lower reduction of 10% instead of the maximum of 15% thus increasing your property tax by 5%.

All other Council Areas in the Dublin Region have maintained the reduction of the full 15% Local Adjustment Factor (LAF)

Recent Update received from Fingal County Council on the Royal Canal Urban Greenway for your information

Further to the recent public engagement for the Royal Canal Urban Greenway the submissions are now viewable at the following address. <https://consult.fingal.ie/en/browse>

The recent Royal Canal Urban Greenway public engagement was a non-statutory exercise undertaken with the intention of publicising the Emerging Preferred Route to local residents and stakeholders and receiving information to inform the design, including from people with detailed local knowledge of the area,

in order to highlight potential issues and inform and support the ongoing decision-making process in arriving at the final Preferred Route.

Fingal County Council received a large number of informative and helpful submissions during the public engagement.

The Preferred Route will now be finalised over the next number of months. The design team will consider the submissions received and assess how to best address the various issues raised, and this process will include discussions with other stakeholders, including landowners, the National Transport Authority and Waterways Ireland. Discussion will also continue with Irish Rail. Once the Preferred Route is selected Fingal County Council will finalise and publish the various supporting documents, including the Route Options Report, with a view to progressing onwards to submission of a planning application.

Edmund Rice College

We were all delighted at the announcement that Edmund Rice College would be located on the Racecourse Site in Castleknock..

It is now time that we get firm commitments from the Department of Education and Skills on the delivery of the school building.

If you need any assistance please do not hesitate to contact me on the details below.

**I WOULD APPRECIATE YOUR
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The Hell Fire Club

Mount Pelier Hill (*Irish: Cnoc Mount Pelier*) is a 383 metre hill in County Dublin, Ireland. It is commonly referred to as the **Hell Fire Club** (*Irish: Club Thine Ifrinn*), the popular name given to the ruined building at the summit.

This building – a hunting lodge built in around 1725 by William Conolly – was originally called Mount Pelier and since its construction the hill has also gone by the same name. The building and hill were respectively known locally as ‘The Brass Castle’ and ‘Bevan’s Hill’ but the original Irish name of the hill is no longer known although the historian and archaeologist Patrick Healy has suggested that the hill is the place known as Suide Uí Ceallaig or Suidi Celi in the Crede Mihi, the twelfth century diocesan register book of the Archbishops of Dublin.

Mount Pelier is the closest to Dublin city of the group of mountains – along with Killakee, Featherbed Bog, Kippure, Seefingan, Corrig, Seahan, Ballymorefinn, Carrigeenoura and Slievenabawnogue – that form the ridge that bounds

the Glenasmole valley. On the slopes is a forestry plantation, known as Hell Fire Wood, which consists of Sitka spruce, larch and beech.

Originally there was a cairn with a prehistoric passage grave on the summit. Stones from the cairn were taken and used in the construction of Mount Pelier lodge. Shortly after completion, a storm blew the roof off. Local superstition attributed this incident to the work of the Devil, a punishment for interfering with the cairn. Mount Pelier Hill has since become associated with numerous paranormal events.

Members of the Irish Hell Fire Club, which was active in the years 1735 to 1741, used Mount Pelier lodge as a meeting place. Stories of wild behaviour and debauchery and occult practices and demonic manifestations have become part of the local lore over the years. The original name of the lodge has been displaced and the building is generally known as the Hell Fire Club. When the lodge was damaged by fire, the members of the Hell Fire Club relocated down the hill to the nearby Stewards House for a brief period. This building also has a reputation for being haunted, most notably by a massive black cat.

The Hell Fire Club on
Mount Pelier Hill, Dublin



Punam
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Adjacent to the Stewards House are the remains of Killakee Estate. A large Victorian house was built here in the early nineteenth century by Luke White. White's son, Samuel, oversaw the development of extensive formal gardens on the estate, including the construction of several glasshouses by Richard Turner. The estate passed to the Massy family through inheritance in 1880 and John Thomas Massy, the 6th Baron made extensive use of the house and ground to host shooting parties and society gatherings. The fortunes of the Massy family declined in the early twentieth century and Hamon Massy, the 8th Baron, was evicted from Killakee House in 1924. He became known as the "Penniless Peer". Following the eviction, Killakee House was demolished and the gardens fell into ruin.


Today Mount Pelier Hill and much of the surrounding lands, including Killakee Estate (now called Lord Massy's Estate) are owned by the State forestry company Coillte and are open to the public.

William Conolly's Hunting Lodge.

The building now known as the Hell Fire Club was built around 1725 as a hunting lodge by William Conolly, the Speaker of the Irish House of Commons. It was named Mount Pelier by Conolly but over the years has also been known as "The Haunted House", "The Shooting Lodge", "The Kennel", and "Conolly's Folly". It was one of several exclusive establishments using the name Hellfire Club that existed in Britain and Ireland in the 18th century.

While the building has a rough appearance today, the architecture is of a Palladian design. The upper floor consists of a hall and two reception rooms. On the eastern side, there was a third, timber-floored, level where the sleeping quarters were located. On the ground floor is a kitchen, servants' quarters and stairs to the upper floors. The entrance, which is on the upper floor, was reached by a long flight of stairs which is now missing. At each side of the building is a room with a lean-to roof which may have been used to stable horses. A stone mounting block to assist people onto their horses can be seen on the eastern side. To the front there was a semi-circular courtyard, enclosed by a low stone wall and entered by a gate. The house faces to the north, looking over Dublin and the plains of Meath and Kildare, including Conolly's primary residence at Castletown House in Celbridge. The grounds around the lodge consisted of a 1,000-acre (4.0 km²; 1.6 sq mi) deer park. The identity of the architect is unknown: the author Michael Fewer has suggested it may have been Edward Lovett Pearce (1699–1733) who was employed by Conolly to carry out works at Castletown in 1724.

There was a prehistoric burial site at the summit of Mount Pelier Hill and stones from it were used in the construction of the lodge. A nearby standing stone was also used for the lintel over the fireplace. Shortly after its completion, a great storm blew the original slate roof off. Local superstition held that this was the work of the Devil, an act of revenge for disturbing the ancient cairn. Conolly had the roof replaced with an arched



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- **IMPROVED INFRASTRUCTURE**
- **ANTI SOCIAL BEHAVIOUR**
- **JOBS & TRAINING FOR LOCALS**
- **AFFORDABLE HOUSING**

CONTACT DETAILS

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☎ **089 220 1422** 🐦 [raghunarayanam1](https://twitter.com/raghunarayanam1)

stone roof constructed in a similar fashion to that of a bridge. This roof has remained intact to the present day, even though the building has been abandoned for over two centuries and despite the roof being set alight with tar barrels during the visit of Queen Victoria to Ireland in 1849. There is little evidence that the lodge was put to much use. Conolly himself died in 1729.

The Irish Hell Fire Club was founded around 1737 by Richard Parsons, 1st Earl of Rosse, and James Worsdale. Lord Rosse was probably the president of the club. Evidence of the identities of other members comes from a painting by Worsdale entitled The Hell Fire Club, Dublin, now held by the National Gallery of Ireland, which shows five members of the club seated around a table. The five men are Henry, 4th Baron Barry of Santry (who was tried and convicted for murder in 1739); Simon Luttrell, Lord Irnham; Colonel Henry Ponsonby; Colonel Richard St George and Colonel Clements. Most of their meetings occurred in Dublin city centre at the Eagle Tavern on Cork Hill, near Dublin Castle. Accounts of the club's meetings claim that members drank "scaltheen", a mixture of whiskey and hot butter, and that they left a chair vacant at each gathering for the Devil. The club's mascot was a black cat.



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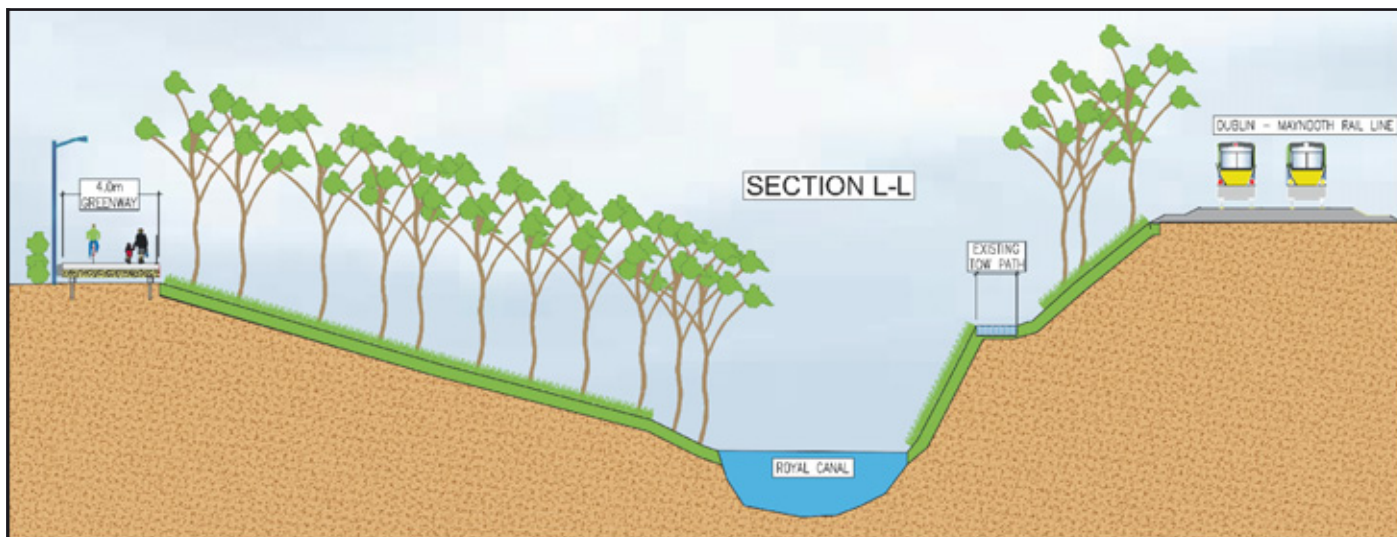
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Over €0.5m for D15 Transport Projects

Two projects in Dublin 15 have been granted over half a million euro in funding by the National Transport Authority (NTA) as part of the Sustainable Transport Measures Grants (STMG) 2019 programme.

Some €450,000 has been awarded to the Snugborough Road Interchange Upgrade. This project is already moving forward and it is expected that advanced works will take place this year, with full construction due to get underway next year.

The Royal Canal Urban Greenway, plans for which are currently undergoing an initial informal public consultation process, received a €200,000 allocation. It is hoped that a planning application could be submitted later this year.

The funding has been welcomed by Fingal County Council, which has received €3m altogether to support an ambitious programme of pedestrian and cycle improvement schemes around the county.

Some 11 projects, including four new schemes, have been awarded funding under the Sustainable Transport Measures Grants (STMG) 2019 programme in the largest round of funding the local authority has received since this funding programme was initiated by the NTA in 2011.

The funding boost under STMG, along with Fingal County Council's own three-year Capital Programme 2019-2021, will support the delivery of these much-anticipated sustainable infrastructural transport projects.

The largest tranche of funding, totalling €1.35m, was allocated towards the extension of the S2S Sandycove to Sutton cycle route further north into Fingal, which will form the southern section of the Fingal Coastal Way. Contractors are due on site this year to move forward with the Baldoyle-Portmarnock Coastal Route element, while a planning application to continue the route to Malahide is due later in the year.

Some €150,000 has been allocated to the Broadmeadow Way, which will see the extension of the Fingal Coastal Way by way

of a cycle and pedestrian bridge across the Malahide Estuary. A planning application is expected to be lodged in the coming weeks.

The planned Harry Reynolds Road Cycle Route in Balbriggan was awarded €370,000. A planning application is expected to be lodged this year also.

Other projects to receive funding are: €100,000 – Damastown to Clonsilla Cycle Route; and €30,000 – Rush-Lusk Cycle Route.

The four new projects to receive funding are: €110,000 – Ikea Bus Stop; €110,000 – Blanchardstown Bus Stops; €100,000 – DPTIM; and €50,000 – Swords Cycle Network.

Director of Planning and Strategic Infrastructure AnnMarie Farrelly said: "This is great news for Fingal as it seeks to develop sustainable transport initiatives across the county. High quality STMG-funded walking and cycling facilities, alongside other cycling and walking facilities being developed, will ensure that Fingal has attractive, sustainable and integrated walking and cycling facilities in place for current and future generations."

"Fingal County Council has allocated additional staffing resources in support of these important infrastructural programmes over the last couple of years, and this is reflected in this year's allocation from the NTA which will underpin our Capital Programme as well as the greenway elements of the Fingal Climate Change Action Plan 2019-2024."

Senior Engineer Paul Carroll said: "There are a range of projects at various stages of development, with some proceeding to construction this year, while others will continue to be brought through the planning and design stages. What this means is that at any one time, there will be a steady stream of projects being advanced through all stages of the project life-cycle, thereby maximising Fingal County Council's ability to deliver the network."

John Walsh

Local election candidate

Representing Blanchardstown, Castleknock & Clonsilla

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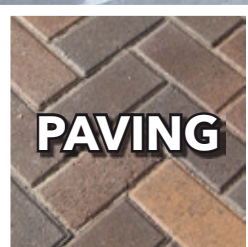


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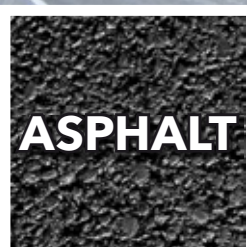
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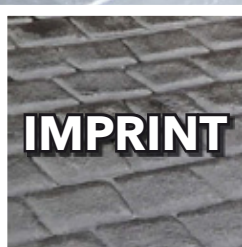
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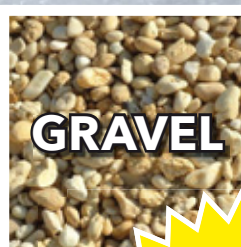
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Vote No. 1

LABOUR

I am asking for your support to be elected to Fingal Council for the first time to represent Blanchardstown, Castleknock and Clonsilla. I will be a strong voice for local residents and communities and will work constructively to ensure that the Council addresses local problems.

I have a strong track record as a local representative and volunteer, helping to re-establish Castleknock and Blanchardstown Tidy Towns and successfully co-ordinating funding applications for my local community centre in Laurel Lodge. I am passionate about education and its power to transform people's lives, serving as a board member for local schools, including Castleknock Community College and Scoil Choilm.

If elected I will work on a cross party basis to ensure that the Council delivers more affordable homes and plans effectively for essential amenities at the same time as new housing. I will also campaign for stronger policies to address underfunding of schools and the challenge of climate change. Fingal Council should be able to make a real difference to quality of life, sustainability and fairness in Dublin 15.

PUBLIC TRANSPORT & CYCLING

- Improve local bus services and secure changes in the BusConnects plan to protect local bus routes which give residents access to the city centre.
- Prioritise development of new cycle paths in Blanchardstown, Castleknock and Carpenterstown.
- Securing the DART extension on the Maynooth line and providing more carriages on trains at peak times to reduce overcrowding.

AFFORDABLE HOUSING AND PLANNING

- More affordable housing including a mix of family homes and apartments.
- Updated Local Area Plans for the villages of Clonsilla, Blanchardstown and Castleknock to offer a roadmap for sustainable development and ensure that new housing is served by schools, public transport links and essential amenities such as parks and playgrounds.

CLIMATE CHANGE

- Promote biodiversity by prioritising planting of wildflowers and pollinator plants.
- Include charging points for electric cars in every new development.
- Energy efficiency and sustainability should be central to new development.

SCHOOLS AND FURTHER EDUCATION

- An Autism specific special school is urgently needed in Dublin 15 to facilitate children with complex special educational needs. The Education and Training Board has agreed to act as patron of the school and it should be established as soon as possible.
- As chairperson of the Board of Castleknock Community College, I understand the increased demand for school places which puts great pressure on schools and parents. I will work with parents and teachers to secure a permanent building for the new Edmund Rice Trust school in Castleknock and a new building for Coolmine Community School.
- I lobbied successfully for more further education places which are being provided by Blakestown Community School from September 2019.

PROTECTING THE PHOENIX PARK

The 'Draft Phoenix Park Visitor Experience Strategic Review' set out 29 recommendations and changes to the Park – you can view the full report here: <http://phoenixpark.ie/visitor-experience-strategic-review/>

Some elements of this plan are welcome, such as the rehabilitation of the historic Magazine Fort and proposals to design a pedestrian/cycle link to the historic War Memorial Gardens at Islandbridge. The historic gates of the Park should also be reinstated as soon as possible.

But other proposals for extensive retail and catering outlets could lead to commercialisation of the Park. I am opposed to development of large scale retail and catering facilities, which would seriously undermine the character of the Park as a priceless public amenity.



Taoiseach Opens Connect at TU

TU Dublin were delighted to welcome An Taoiseach, Leo Varadkar T.D. and Minister of State for Higher Education, Mary Mitchell O'Connor T.D. recently for the official opening of **CONNECT**, the new Student Services Building at TU Dublin within the Blanchardstown Campus.

The **CONNECT** building brings together academic decision-makers with the key service providers in the one location. Prior to the opening of **CONNECT**, these functions were dispersed throughout the campus which at times could present a challenge for students. Now the message to students is singular - 'If you have a query, go to **CONNECT**. The people who can help you are all there.'

The decision to co-locate academic management with services is quite unique in a higher education setting and allows for a multi-disciplinary approach to addressing issues that students can present with. In part, the co-location reflects the integration of services more directly into the student's learning experience and is born of a need to meet the needs of an incredibly diverse and growing student population on the Blanchardstown Campus more effectively and efficiently.



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CONNECT recognises the need to eliminate false divides in the delivery of higher education and, importantly, attend to heart and head in an integrated way across all dimensions of the educational experience.

Speaking at the official opening ceremony, An Taoiseach, Leo Varadkar said, “TU Dublin is the only university in Ireland offering programmes from apprenticeships to doctorates. This is something that I hope other institutions will look to emulate. We want to give students more choice, and make it easier for them to access all levels of education and reskilling opportunities”.

“Education is the single best route to a better life and higher education should be available to everyone regardless of their gender, physical ability or background. This is precisely the aim of TU Dublin; to provide the widest possible access and progression pathways for students, old and young, those on-site or learning virtually, full-time or part-time”.

“I’d like to congratulate the team in TU Dublin for delivering this impressive CONNECT Building, which will enhance the student experience on the Blanchardstown campus.”

Dr. Diarmuid O’Callaghan, Principal at TU Dublin - Blanchardstown Campus said, “I consider the opportunity presented by designation as a Technological University to be the single biggest opportunity that any of us working in higher education will be afforded in our working career. It has the potential to truly transform educational opportunities for the people of Dublin. A critical aspect of our work is to meet the individual needs of our students and to offer an inclusive experience for all students. This building is just our next step in supporting an inclusive experience for all learners on this campus”.

The construction project saw an opportunity to incorporate elements of Universal Design with the assistance of The Centre for Excellence in Universal Design, which is part of the National Disability Authority. “Building for Everyone: A Universal Design Approach” provides comprehensive best practice guidance on how to design, build and manage



buildings and spaces so that they can be readily accessed and used by everyone, regardless of age, size ability or disability.

The SEAI’s Excellence in Energy Efficiency Design (EXEED) programme has also been utilised on this project which ensures a systematic approach to design, construction, and commissioning processes for new investments.



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FINE GAEL



Local Election Candidate

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Cllr. Ted LEDDY

FINE GAEL 



PHOENIX PARK STRATEGIC REVIEW - EXTENSION.

Following representations made to the Taoiseach's Office, which were communicated to the Office of Public Work the deadline for submissions by the public on the Phoenix Park Strategic Review has been extended until May 31st.

To view the draft report you can log on to:

www.phoenixpark.ie/visitor-experience-strategic-review

You can make a submission by email:

visitorpark@opw.ie .

For more information on this log on to:

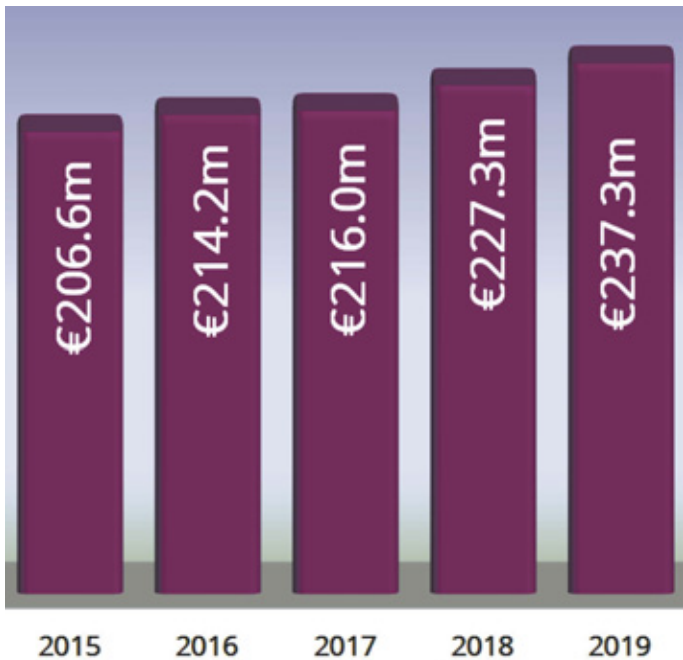
www.tedleddy.ie



I was elected to Fingal County Council in 2014 to represent the Castleknock ward of Fingal Co Council. This includes the areas of Carphenterstown, Blanchardstown, Porterstown, Clonsilla and Lucan North. During my time on the council I have submitted over 80 motions to council meetings, held public meetings on housing, crime, noise pollution and numerous local issues. If I am fortunate to be returned on May 24th I will continue to work diligently to keep people informed and focus on the following:

- Tackling congestion by working with local authorities and Government to provide Dublin 15 with more and better public transport.
- Ensuring that Dublin 15 has the appropriate mix of private, social and affordable housing.
- Working with Fingal management on relevant issues while also holding them to account.
- Working to increase funding to local addiction services.





REVENUE EXPENDITURE YEAR ON YEAR 2015 - 2019

During my time on the council I have always supported the prudent management of Fingal's finances. Unlike many other Councillors I have supported every budget which has seen revenue grow year on year. This has led to increased funding for services such as Housing, Operations, Road Transport and Safety.



With An Taoiseach Leo Varadkar and my running mate Emer Currie at the recent opening of the new Castelknock Post Office.

Your local Fine Gael team: An Taoiseach Leo Varadkar, Cllr Ted Leddy, Cllr Eithne Loftus and Local Election Candidate Emer Currie

CONTACT TED: Castleknock, Dublin
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087 327 6630
Councillor Ted Leddy

tedleddy2014@gmail.com

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FINE GAEL





Week Shines Light on Road Work Safety

Every year there are hundreds of incursions into road works which put road workers' lives at risk and lead to deaths and serious injury. This has spurred local authorities from around Ireland to join forces to take action.

An Orange Cone Safety Zone Week campaign, which has its focus on the lack of awareness of some drivers that road works are a place of work for thousands of people and that all of us have a right to expect a safe working environment, was recently launched by local authority road safety officers from around the country.



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New Commercial Rates for Local Businesses

Input proposed valuation from certificate	€
Indicative ARV	0.191
Indicative 2020 Rates	€ 0.00
Input Rates Bill for 2019	€
Difference	€ 0.00

Business owners in Dublin 15 may be interested to know that Fingal County Council’s Valuation Office is now in the process of issuing Proposed Valuation Certificates to all ratepayers in Fingal County Council’s Administrative Area as part of the Revaluation Process see sample Sample PVC and Explanatory Letter. If you have not received a Proposed Valuation Certificate yet you should contact the Valuation Office directly by email at reval2019@valoff.ie, by telephone at 01-8171033 or LoCall: 1890 531 431.

This new rateable valuation will be effective from 1st January 2020, and will be the basis for calculating your Annual Rates liability for 2020 and subsequent years.

The Annual Rates are determined by multiplying the Rateable Valuation by a multiplier called the Annual Rate on Valuation (ARV).

Current indications are that the ARV for 2020 could be 0.191 Therefore, in order to calculate your likely Annual

Rates for 2020 you should multiply your proposed Rateable Valuation by 0.191.

An estimate of your rates liability for 2020 can be computed using the calculator below and inputting the valuation set out in the Proposed Valuation Certificate to calculate next year’s indicative rates and also by inputting your rate bill for 2019 you will be able to calculate any difference in amounts payable.

It should be noted that the Annual Rate on Valuation is indicative only. It is based on the total value of proposed valuations for Fingal as calculated and advised by the Valuation Office and may be subject to change, at the conclusion of the revaluation process and at the Council’s budget 2020 meeting scheduled for early November this year.

There is further information on revaluation available on the Valuation Office website www.valoff.ie. You can also email specific queries to Reval2019@valoff.ie or by telephone on 01-817 1033 or LoCall: 1890 531 431



Councillor Ted Leddy

REPRESENTING: Castleknock, Blanchardstown, Carpenterstown, Clonsilla, Porterstown & Lucan North

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FINE GAEL

No New Lights for N3 J6 on M50

There will be no new traffic lights installed at Junction 6 off the M50 for the N3, to relieve the long tailbacks of up to 40 minutes most evenings.

Cllr Mary McCamley (Lab) asked the Fingal Chief Executive to liaise with the National Roads Authority (NRA) to request that new traffic lights be installed there.

However, unfortunately for commuters, a spokesperson for the council responded saying:

“As a result of the overall increase in traffic numbers in recent years, this junction has reached capacity and is at saturation levels during the am/pm peak times. This signalised junction operates under the Traffic Management System (SCATS). SCATS are an adaptive traffic management system responding to real time traffic demand and adjusting signals where appropriate using predefined plans. All movements/phases on each arm of the junction have to run during the cycle time which is divided

between all traffic movements in an efficient manner for the junction.

As the N3 Road forms part of a main artery route for into/out of Dublin city centre from Blanchardstown/ West Dublin. Extra green time for traffic travelling through the junction on the N3 Road is given to the N3 Road movements/phases to ensure maximum throughput of traffic through the junction into/out of Dublin city centre during the am/pm peak times. All the traffic light sensors and equipment at this signalised junction are currently operating correctly at the junction so the signals are working as required.

The junctions are monitored daily in Dublin City Council's Traffic Control Centre and the sequencing of these junctions is continuously re-evaluated to ensure that the junction is operating at its maximum efficiency.”

No Extra Consultation on Greenway

Residents living on the north bank of the Royal Canal will not be given a “walk around” by planning officials in order that their concerns about the construction of the Royal Canal Greenway be alleviated.

This was confirmed by the council on foot of a request from Cllr Natalie Treacy (SF) who asked the Chief Executive if officials from Fingal County Council Planning/ Environment etc. could do a walk around with Residents who are living on the North Bank of the canal, to see first hand what their concerns are about the plans for the Royal Canal Greenways taking place on the North Bank rather than the South Bank.

The Royal Canal Greenway currently extends from the Meath/ Westmeath boarder to Abbeyshrule in Co. Longford. This is flat easy route which showcases the Westmeath section of the Royal Canal. It is intended that this route will be further developed as a greenway between Dublin and the Meath boarder ultimately connecting Dublin to Mullingar. From Abbeyshrule the greenway will eventually be developed westwards to Clondra. West of Mullingar it is possible to deviate from

the Royal Canal Greenway and join the Mullingar to Athlone Greenway along a former railway route.

Declining to grant Cllr Treacy's request, a spokesperson for the council said: “There were over 500 submissions made during the recent public engagement on the emerging preferred route of the 8km long Royal Canal Urban Greenway. As such, the public engagement was a very useful exercise and we received a large number of informative and helpful submissions, many of which related to the area in question. The project engineers will now take some time to review these in more detail and assess how the many valid issues raised can best be addressed in the overall evolving scheme design.”

They went on to say that given the number of submissions, the time required to consider the issues and the possibility of design changes emerging as a result, it is not considered appropriate to undertake further on-site consultation at this time.

Cllr. Howard Mahony

Representing Castleknock, Blanchardstown and Clonsilla

087 050 6146 howardmahony@gmail.com

 **FIANNA FÁIL**
THE REPUBLICAN PARTY



Fingal Arts Office Presents Arts in Health Project Aphasia Theatre Ireland in Draíocht

Fingal arts office was delighted to present the culmination of a very unique arts in health project – Aphasia Theatre Ireland in Draíocht's Studio Space, Blanchardstown recently.

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 Draíocht 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



Councillor Ted Leddy

REPRESENTING: Castleknock, Blanchardstown,
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FINE GAEL 



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 (FG), who referenced his own mother, who was present and living with the condition. Members of the Arts in Health organisations, Waterford Healing Arts Trust and the Arts in Health Portal were in attendance and were keen to showcase the initiative through their public platforms and the occupational therapists were amazed at how beneficial and supportive the process could be to patients in rehabilitation.

PublicArt Co-ordinator with Fingal County Council, Caroline Cowley, explained the commitment to the developmental role of the arts service in supporting projects like Aphasia Theatre to test ground in Fingal, and continued "The impact of initiatives such as this can have a significant impact nationally and even internationally."

John Walsh

Local election candidate

Representing Blanchardstown, Castleknock & Clonsilla

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WARNING: THE COST OF YOUR MONTHLY REPAYMENTS MAY INCREASE.

BLANCHARDSTOWN & DISTRICT CREDIT UNION LIMITED IS REGULATED BY THE CENTRAL BANK OF IRELAND.

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