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DEC 2020/JAN 2021

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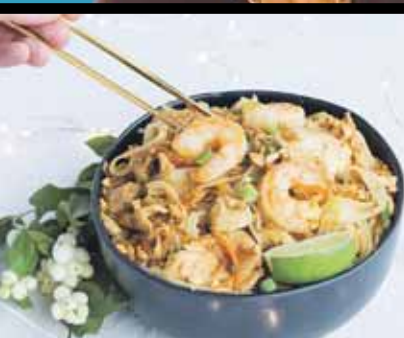
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EDITORIAL

Well, We are nearing the end of 2020, a year which has been both eventful and yet uneventful at the same time. Eventful on a national level for Government and front-line healthcare professionals, but for the most part uneventful on an individual, as most of us weren't allowed to do anything!!

Thankfully, the people of Dublin 15 and elsewhere have still managed to get things done. The Castleknock community did not let the Covid-19 Pandemic for fighting tooth and nail to stop a major co-living development at the site of Brady's pub. Yet while Housing Minister Darragh O'Brien (FF) has scrapped any future co-living developments, those already proposed prior to this decision. The responsibility for this lies with the tight-lipped An Bord Pleanála, who have been called upon to scrap the Brady's site proposal.

On the lighter side, we have some interesting

features including a continuation of a look at the life of our first Nobel Laureate, WB Yeats.

On a local level we pay tribute to Blanchardstown man, Sgt Hugh "Sonny" Gaynor on the anniversary of his death and those of his brothers in arms who were ambushed and killed by Baluba tribesmen in the Belgian Congo while on UN Peacekeeping duties. We also spoke with Marie Dignam, floor steward at Debenhams, Blanchardstown Shopping Centre about the struggle of the workers to reach a fair settlement with the company. They have been picketing the loading bay 24/7, braving the elements for months to prevent Debenhams from removing the stock until a deal is brokered.

As we reach our fifth Christmas, we at Little Village would like to thank all of the communities that make Dublin 15 what it is. We would not exist without you. Likewise, we would like to thank our advertising partners for helping Little Village to be what it is. Lastly, we would like to wish you all a very happy holiday season.

Here's to 2021.

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- De Bruns
- Castleknock Community Centre
- Laurel Lodge Community Centre
- 12th Lock
- Bradys Pub
- Wetherspoons
- Costa Coffee
- Blanchardstown Shopping Centre
- Draiocht
- Blanch Library
- Leisure Plex
- 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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Seasons Greeting to all my constituents.

I was asked recently to describe the year 2020 in one word. I started by saying 'unprecedented' but soon realised that 2020 was not only unprecedented but with a hint of irony we are now slowly getting accustomed to new ways of livelihood and new ways to do things.

And this also included how I have been working to represent you on issues and challenges in our community. I did meet with a lot of you although all virtually by mobile and zoom calls along with correspondences by email to discuss not only local issues but more so specific challenges that many were facing with the current pandemic.

The Covid-19 Pandemic has highlighted the need for Infrastructural development on a communal level. There is high demand for funding of community centres and parks due to the increased stress that levels four and five have placed on these facilities. This year has been an exceptionally good year for investment in the Dublin 15 area, investments that will prepare such facilities for a larger community presence. The following funding has been allocated in this respect:

- **Mulhuddart cemetery extension - €75,000**
- **Funding for Community and Voluntary Groups, Mulhuddart Community Centre - €7,500**
- **Lanesborough Park - €300,000**
- **Tyrellstown Park - €150,000**
- **Millennium Park - €200,000**

Parklet Partners Initiative

The Parklet Partners is a brand-new initiative created for the sustainability of community and local business during the Covid-19 Pandemic. The project involves the conversion of on-street parking spaces into Parklets, decked areas with canopies that provide public open-space for dining and outdoor social interaction. Businesses across Fingal were invited to apply to this new initiative in October after the success of the Parklet Pilot on the Main Street of Swords. The parklets will stay in place for one year before an evaluation from the council will decide their renewal for following years. So far two parklets have been assembled in the Tyrellstown and Hollystown areas, both providing a colourful outdoor space that will allow businesses to run between phases and allow residents to dine outdoors. 27 further eligible applications have since been made and hope to set up shop in the new year.

Local Economic Development

- BASE is a purpose designed enterprise centre in Mulhuddart which provides incubated units for start-up enterprises in their first three years, to help small enterprises grow.
- The future development of the BASE Enterprise Centre has been allocated a fund of €100,000 under the Fingal Capital Budget to continue its contribution to the economic development of Dublin 15 and to reach a broader community.
- BASE Enterprise received another further €81,920 from Enterprise Ireland on the 23rd of November to continue their provision of vital services by modernising to adhere to public health guidelines and to update the facilities of the centre for higher demands.

Business Supports

The pandemic has been a major blow to Irish enterprise this year with the closure of shops across the country. The past few months have been particularly difficult for small businesses without regular access to a consumer market. To bridge this gap, Fingal County Council have developed a series of initiatives to uplift small businesses and offer them access to a wider audience:

- As part of the 'In It Together for Christmas' Campaign, Fingal County Council has invited small businesses across the county to advertise their products, free of charge, on the Council's online Christmas Market. This campaign aims to promote Christmas shopping within Fingal to support struggling enterprise during the Christmas period. The Christmas Shop can be accessed through the Fingal County Council website.
- The Local Enterprise Office is supporting businesses by offering a second round of online trading vouchers with grants €2,500 and co-funding of 10%. Businesses that have already applied to an online trading voucher can

now apply for a second: <https://www.localenterprise.ie/Discover-Business-Supports/Trading-Online-Voucher-Scheme/>

Funding can be used towards adding payment facilities or booking systems to websites or developing new apps for customers. The voucher can also be used towards subscriptions to low cost online retail platform solutions, to help companies quickly establish a retailing presence online.

- The Microfinance Ireland Brexit Business Loan will finance up to €25,000 to any sole trader, partnership or limited company with less than 10 employees whose turnover is expected to fall below 15% or who require a short-term cashflow as a consequence of Brexit. The loan will be open from six months to three years with an interest rate of 4.5% if submitted through the Local Enterprise Office Network or other referral partners, and 5.5% APR if applied directly. Repayments are fixed with no penalty for early repayment. MFI recommends that businesses who remain uncertain of the impacts of Brexit to their trade should fill out the Brexit Readiness Checker before applying to avail of the Brexit Business Loan. This loan will assist small business in particular and provide them with financial assurance in the run up to Brexit.

Public Wifi4EU Scheme and the National Broadband Plan

The Wifi4EU voucher scheme is an initiative established by the European Union to roll out free public Wifi in towns and villages across Europe. In recent months, Fingal County Council, under the National Broadband Plan, has begun the next phase of this project to bring free public Wifi to the villages of Dublin 15 with the installation of access points. The access points have a range of 150 metres and do not interfere with the Wifi and signal of the surrounding premises. Access points will be mounted in high streets and community centres such as Blanchardstown village, Clonsilla and Castleknock, with an aim to be fully functional by the 20th of January.

Sports Capital

The Youth Sport Scheme has been supporting the engagement of youth sports clubs throughout the pandemic with their Youth Sports Grant. 96 eligible applicants, 13 of which are located in Dublin 15, were each awarded €1,200 for the purchase of necessary equipment to keep youth sport across Dublin 15 up and running during appropriate phases. This grant is a great support in keeping kids active during more restricted phases.

Solar Powered Compactor Bins

The latest environmental initiative to be introduced to the Dublin 15 area is a line of solar powered compactor bins that aim to make litter collection and storage as efficient as possible. After a pilot of the project with 35 bins in Howth, I expressed my interest in implementing this innovation in Dublin 15. This initiative was quickly rolled out with the implementation of four new bins in the Dublin 15 area in Mulhuddart village, Clonsilla village, Blanchardstown village and Mountview. This new bin design was designed by an Irish owned manufacturing company, that hopes to encourage the proper disposal of waste and environmental protection in the form of a compact, hands-free bin with sensors to alert maintenance when at full capacity. Phase 2 of this project is underway which will cover Waterville and Hollystown in Dublin 15.

In a year where we all got together (virtually) as a community and supported the government's public health actions,

Please stay safe, please work with the government public health guidelines and I leave you with two hashtags where possible #ShopLocal and #ShopVirtual

Wishing you all a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year

Cllr. Punam Rane

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BUSCONNECTS - CORE BUS CORRIDORS (BUS PRIORITY & CYCLE LANES/TRACKS)

On Wednesday 04th November 2020, the National Transport Authority (NTA) commenced the third round of public consultation, of Preferred Route Options for the 16 Core Bus Corridors of BusConnects Dublin.

The Core Bus Corridors aims to deliver 230km of bus priority and 200km of cycle lanes/tracks.

The consultation period will run from Wednesday 04th November until Wednesday 16th December 2020.

This is an additional third round of public consultation to provide opportunities for the public to review and submit feedback to the latest set of designs.

These proposals will be subject to design refinement and environmental impact assessment before a formal statutory application will be made by the NTA to An Bord Pleanála for approval during the first quarter of 2021.

Due to the ongoing Covid-19 restrictions, this public consultation will take place using virtual and online facilities. However, potentially impacted property owners will be contacted directly by BusConnects and offered one to one calls with our design team members.

For the general public there will be a range of public consultation facilities:

- **Virtual Public Information Rooms** – A virtual information room has been created for each of the 16 Core Bus Corridors. These can be

accessed through the website www.busconnects.ie from Wednesday 04th November and will remain open for a period of six weeks. Each virtual room provides details of the Preferred Route Option for each of the corridors including maps and supporting documentation. There will also be an Audio option available for the virtual information room.

- **Website** – Updated versions of the 16 Core Bus Corridor Brochures will be available to view and download on our website www.busconnects.ie and additional supporting documentation. The brochures will also be available in HTML, PDF and Audio versions on our website.
- **Community Forums** – BusConnects will carry out a series of Community Forums via online webinars and details of those dates and invitations will be issued to Forum members.
- **General queries and Submissions** – Submissions and general queries can be sent to cbc@busconnects.ie or to the NTA postal address. If there are queries that cannot be answered through the information on the website or at the Community Forums, there is a Freephone number 1800 303 653.

Councillor Punam Rane Online:

You can follow me on Twitter, Instagram and Facebook @PunamRaneFG

or visit www.PunamRane.com for more information.

FINE GAEL 

*Wishing you all a Merry Christmas
and a Happy New Year*

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DEBENHAMS WORKERS FIGHT ON

Debenhams workers in Blanchardstown, and indeed across the country have been protesting what they see as highly unfair treatment by the company which announced a cessation of trading in Ireland earlier this year.

Since April, 24 hour protests have been held in wind, rain and most recently bitter cold to prevent the stock from being removed until the company makes the workers a better offer.

The company has been struggling for the last ten years and redundancy packages which were safeguarded in 2010 have been slowly but surely negotiated downwards in the company's favour.

The company has also just announced liquidation in the UK with fire sales to move the stock, but unfortunately, Debenhams workers in Ireland will not see a penny of that revenue.

The majority of workers have been there for over ten years at least, with one man in Cork with 50+ years of service having taken the job immediately upon finishing school.

Little Village recently spoke with Floor Steward for Debenhams in Blanchardstown Shopping Centre, Marie Dignam (62), who feels very much let down by the treatment of her employers. We spoke with her just as she was preparing to leave to do an all night shift at the picket.

"In 2010 we had the spring agreement that was the first round of redundancies yeah that was negotiated downwards in the companies favour In 2016 the company went into examinership. Upon announcing a cessation of trading in Ireland workers were offered €1 million between approximately 1000 workers. It would have been based upon hours worked and the rate of pay you were earning. This worked out at about a 10th of what we were asking, which was the two weeks. That is two weeks statutory wages, plus another two weeks which we were promised during the examinership. That worked out

at two weeks for every year worked plus the statutory two weeks wages. The company has since reneged on the two weeks for every year worked. We received an email and the 9th of April telling us the company was going into liquidation, which was holy Thursday, so we couldn't do anything as it was a long bank holiday weekend and the lockdown had already started. So we didn't really get started until the following Tuesday, and it started from there, we organised the protests At the Dail. Then on the 15th of April Debenhams went into the High Court for the first liquidation hearing, so we organised a protest outside the court on that day And it just basically rolled on from there one thing led to another" said Marie.

"Then we began to picket. There was no point in picketing the front of the store as number one the shopping centre was closed and our main aim is to prevent the stock from being taken out. So we picketed the loading bays. In the beginning no one was able to give us a definite figure as the estimate for what the stock was worth. At first we were told it was €45m, and I think the 2nd estimate we were told was €25m, and then more recently we were told it's worth between €6m and €10m. We don't know what stock was in there so we don't know the definite value of it, and with there being 11 stores nationwide it was very difficult for us to get an estimate. We knew that the clothes would devalue a bit because they go out of season and that, but the valuable stuff doesn't, like the Cosmetics and electrical goods. Mediation is ongoing and will be wrapped up soon because there's no further really that we can go at this point," said Marie.

She went on to acknowledge the support of Sinn Fein with particular reference to Mary Lou McDonald who raised the issue a number of times in the Dail, along with Deputies Louise O'Reilly, Eoin O'Broin and Paul Donnelly.

"We have put a lot of work into that company when they came to



Ireland in 1996 they had one store in the Jervis centre. Then in 2006 they bought Roches Stores and we were all very happily working for Roches Stores they were a really nice company to work for. We all had our Roches Stores contracts and we were given comfort letters in 2006 to say that everything we had in our contracts would be honoured. I feel that we were badly let down, we are still being treated very badly. KPMG have not been nice people to deal with at all. At this stage now it has become personal. We will guard that stock until we reach a settlement that we are happy with. It's just very disappointing after 21 years to get an email telling you your job is gone without any warning," Marie concluded.

To lend your support to Debenhams workers nationwide visit [Facebook.com /Stand with Debenhams Workers](https://www.facebook.com/StandWithDebenhamsWorkers) | Facebook.

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31 MID CAREER ARTIST BURSARIES FROM LOCAL AUTHORITIES NATIONWIDE

Fingal County Council's Arts Office & the Association of Local Authority Arts Offices (LAAOs), in collaboration with the Arts Council, present PLATFORM 31 – a national opportunity for artists to develop their practice and test new ideas of collaboration, research, audience development, place-making and sharing their work.

The Mayor of Fingal, Cllr. David Healy said: "Fingal County Council has a long history of supporting artists across Fingal and this new support, working alongside the Arts Council, Platform 31, will offer artists financial and developmental assistance. It is wonderful to see the collaboration between Fingal County Council and the Arts Council in helping artists all around Ireland during this difficult period for the arts sector. Not only will this provide financial support but developmental and networking support with artists all over Ireland."

Designed to support and offer career development for 31 mid-career artists (one artist in each of the 31 local authorities around Ireland), there are two elements of support for participating artists in the scheme: financial and developmental. Participating artists will receive an €8,000 bursary to invest in themselves and their practice, combined with participation in an advisory and developmental framework and a peer network. The award is open to artists of any discipline and practice, based in Ireland, as well as multi-disciplinary practice and design of all kinds. It is designed to support mid-career artists who must have been in receipt of support/investment from a Local Authority Arts Office or the Arts Council within the last three years. For over 35 years, Local Authority Arts Offices have worked directly with artists to ensure the arts thrive in all communities. Working in a grass roots and foundational way has allowed Arts Officers to

identify and respond to the needs of artists, keeping the arts and cultural agenda focussed and relevant in changing environments.

"We are delighted to collaborate with the Arts Council to inform and lead new ways of working in partnership towards development in the arts in Fingal", said Rory O'Byrne, Fingal County Council Arts Officer. "At the heart of all of this are artists, the writers, musicians, actors, performers, dancers and filmmakers. We envision this pilot scheme as a platform for these creatives to value their time, to showcase their work and their collaborations, sharing their learnings locally and nationally as a legacy of the project."

"The bursary seeks to provide artists with the time and resources to think, test new ideas, research new approaches and to reflect and engage with their artistic practice", said Maureen Kennelly, Arts Council Director. "The Arts Council is delighted to partner with local authorities, who are responding thoughtfully and ambitiously to the challenging environment for artists. The carefully considered support network built into Platform 31 sets this bursary scheme apart."

The scheme will establish a peer networking framework for participating artists, introducing them to a pool of critical thinkers to share their work and learnings, and encouraging a national conversation about creating work in local contexts. The exact nature of this artist support framework will be informed by the proposals and interests of the 31 artists selected.

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COUNCIL URGES SHOPPERS TO SHOP IN FINGAL THIS CHRISTMAS

Fingal County Council has launched a major campaign to encourage residents of the county to do their Christmas shopping in Fingal in order to protect local businesses and local jobs.

The Fingal In It Together for Christmas campaign is the latest in a series of initiatives by the local authority to assist the business community in its recovery from the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic.

The campaign includes an online Christmas Shop for business to advertise their Christmas offerings and a marketing campaign to encourage residents to shop in Fingal.

The Mayor of Fingal, Cllr David Healy, said: "The Christmas trading period is an important time for many small businesses across Fingal and we are appealing to the citizens of the county to shop local this year whether that's in person or online. These retail outlets are an important part of the fabric of our community, they employ a lot of people and they need our support at this difficult time."

The Council is calling on small businesses across the county to sign up to its Christmas Shop which will allow them to advertise, free of charge, their Christmas offerings at www.fingal.ie/christmas. The page will be promoted through a digital and print media advertising campaign and the Council's own extensive network of social media channels. Businesses interested in having a presence in the Christmas Shop should email christmas@fingal.ie to indicate their interest.

Creating a Christmas atmosphere across Fingal is another of the Council's objectives. They will be erecting 35 Christmas trees in different locations across the county with 14 being lit by the Council and the rest by local community organisations. The Council is engaging with its community partners to improve Christmas lighting and decorations in towns and villages and will also be working to enhance the atmosphere on the main shopping streets in Balbriggan, Blanchardstown, Malahide and Swords.

Fingal County Council's Director of Economic, Enterprise, Tourism and Cultural Development, Emer O'Gorman, said: "If the current Level 5 restrictions are eased to allow non-essential retail shops reopen, we will be trying to drive footfall into the main shopping streets while ensuring that everybody is aware of the need to comply with Public Health guidelines in relations to COVID-19. We want to create a special atmosphere on those streets and will also be offering free car-parking in selected areas. Encouraging people to shop local is also an opportunity for us to promote active travel and promote walking, cycling or taking

public transport when they go to do their Christmas shopping."

Fingal County Council is also beginning the rollout of more parklets across the county following a pilot in Swords followed by an extensive promotional campaign inviting local businesses to register their interest in partnering with the Council on the initiative.

A total of 29 applications were received and work is underway to have the first tranche of parklets in place before December 2, when it is hoped the current Level 5 restrictions under the National Framework for Living with COVID-19 will be eased.

Parklets convert a few on-street parking spaces (excluding accessible, age friendly and loading bay) into public open space to accommodate dining and additional seating. They are a cost-effective way to create more vibrant streets, support local business, and provide an inviting space for residents and passers-by to dine and relax.

Cllr Tony Murphy, Chair of the Economic Enterprise and Tourism Development Strategic Policy Committee, said: "The parklet is aimed at encouraging people back into town centres while complying with public health guidance. It is now more important than ever that people recognise the importance of local businesses to their communities and support them this Christmas by shopping local."

Since the COVID-19 pandemic first struck back in March, Fingal County Council has been to the forefront in supporting businesses across the county. Local businesses have already received over €100million worth of support from Fingal County Council in rates waivers, Restart Grants and grants from the Local Enterprise Office while the Council also ran a major tourism campaign during the summer, when the initial travel restrictions were lifted, encouraging people from outside the county to visit Fingal.

AnnMarie Farrelly, Chief Executive of Fingal County Council, said: "We have over 6,000 rate-payers in Fingal and we have been supporting them in different ways at this difficult time as they battle to stay open and keep people employed. For many small businesses, the Christmas trading period is important in normal times so, as we prepare to, hopefully, come out of the Level 5 restrictions in the coming weeks, it will be vital that everybody in Fingal plays their part by doing their online and in-person shopping within the county."



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FINGAL COUNCILLORS EXPRESS SUPPORT FOR LORD MAYOR OF DUBLIN



The Mayor of Fingal, Cllr David Healy, has written, on behalf of the Council, to the Lord Mayor of Dublin, Hazel Chu, to express solidarity with her after she was the victim of racist attacks on social media.

“The members of Fingal County Council and I speak with one voice in expressing our outrage at the appalling treatment that Cllr Hazel Chu has received,” said the Mayor.

“There is no justification for the racism and insults which have been expressed, mostly behind the cover of anonymity.

“As fellow local elected representatives we wanted to write to express our solidarity with her and her family. No person should be subjected to any form of abuse based on their ethnicity.”

FINGAL COUNTY COUNCIL FUNDING FAMILY CARERS WRITING PROJECT WITH SHAUN DUNNE

Fingal County Council is delighted to fund a creative writing project for people who are over 50, living in Fingal.

This free initiative is designed to start a creative conversation on the subject of care in older age. The project is looking for people who are family carers, have been family carers, or who are themselves cared for by a family member.

The series of online creative writing workshops are facilitated by acclaimed playwright Shaun Dunne.

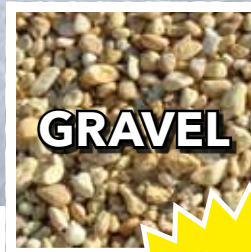
No previous experience in creative writing is required for this project. Participants will be facilitated to develop their own original writing, based on their personal experiences. This writing will form the basis of a new theatre production scheduled to take place in 2021 as part of the Bealtaine Festival.

Age & Opportunity is the national organisation that provides a range of opportunities for older people who want to get more involved in arts and culture, sport and physical activity, civic engagement, and personal development. Their aim is to inspire people aged 50+ to be more active, more visible, more creative, and more connected.

This project is funded by Fingal County Council through a Creative Ireland fund. The workshops will be delivered via Zoom on Tuesdays 17 & 24 of November and 1 & 8 December from 10 am to 12 pm. To book your free place, please contact Eva Griffin, Arts Programme Administrator, Age & Opportunity at 01 805 7713 or arts@ageandopportunity.ie with 'Fingal Creative Writing' in the subject line.

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FINGAL LCDC APPROVES FUNDING FOR COMMUNITY AND VOLUNTARY GROUPS ACROSS THE REGION

Fingal's Local Community Development Committee (LCDC) has approved the allocation of over €260,000 to community and voluntary groups across the region under the 2020 Community Enhancement Programme (CEP) and the Community Enhancement Programme Community Centres and Community Facilities Scheme.

Some €68,375.00 was allocated by the Department of Rural & Community Development to Fingal County Council for the Community Enhancement Programme 2020 and a further €192,805.00 in funding for the Community Enhancement Programme Community Centres and Community Facilities Scheme.

Many projects across Fingal are receiving funding through the Community Centres and Community Facilities Scheme including Loughshinny Community Centre (€10,000), Mulhuddart Community Centre (€7,500), Balbriggan Cricket Club (€8,000), Garristown Community Council (€8,500) and Round Towers GAA Club (€4,000) among others.

In the Community Enhancement Scheme, which funds smaller amounts, projects such as Swords Tidy Towns (€573), Rush Community Council (€1,500), Naul Community Centre (€2,000), Mulhuddart Mens Shed (€1,000) and Skerries Allotments Association (€1,000) will receive financial support.

Mayor of Fingal, Cllr. David Healy welcomed the grant approvals and said: "The Community Enhancement Programme supports a range of investment in all areas of communities, among them childcare groups, playgrounds, recreational groups, sports grounds, landscaping, and the elderly."

A total of 123 grants will be paid to groups across the region under the 2020 Schemes, which supports disadvantaged communities throughout the country by providing capital grants to community groups. As in previous years the CEP Scheme was heavily oversubscribed.

AnnMarie Farrelly, Chief Executive of Fingal County Council said: "The CEP Scheme is a great source of funding for Community and Voluntary Groups and compliments many of the funding and support initiatives available through Fingal County Council. A vibrant community and voluntary sector are vital to the Covid-19 recovery."

The CEP provides a flexible and targeted approach to funding those communities most in need and is aimed at addressing disadvantage as identified in the Fingal Local Economic and Community Plan.

Emer O'Gorman, Director of Economic, Enterprise, Tourism and Culture Department for Fingal County Council said: "I welcome the approval by the LCDC of this funding which will greatly assist community groups in delivering their projects."

The level of funding available recognises the important role played by community and voluntary groups in addressing disadvantage in our communities."

Declan Ryan, Chief Officer of the Fingal LCDC said "The CEP Schemes have proven very popular again this year and every effort was made by the LCDC to support as many projects and groups as possible. The LCDC looks forward with confidence to supporting local community and voluntary groups into the future."



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Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year
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HOUSING MINISTER VISITS FINGAL COUNTY COUNCIL

The Minister for Housing, Local Government and Heritage, Darragh O'Brien (FF), has paid a visit to Fingal County Council as part of a series of visits the Minister is planning with local authorities across the country to discuss housing delivery targets for 2021 and the response to the Covid-19 pandemic.

This comes at a very important time in terms of housing as Minister O'Brien has recently scrapped co-living developments, a move which has been almost universally applauded. That being said, many have been critical of the Government for "dragging their heels" on the issue. The Minister and the council discussed potential, sustainable and affordable housing options. The Minister met with the Chief Executive, AnnMarie Farrelly, and some members of the Fingal management team to discuss and update him on the work the Council has done in such an unprecedented year. Housing delivery and Covid-19 support were top of the list for discussion. The Minister praised the work carried out by all in the Council during the pandemic, particularly through the Community Call initiative which saw a co-ordinated, cross-agency approach to helping the vulnerable members of our communities. Following the Minister's visit to County Hall in Swords, AnnMarie Farrelly, said: "We were delighted to have Minister O'Brien with us to update him on the work of Fingal County Council this year. We were pleased to update him on our delivery of social housing and affordable housing targets this year and to discuss the ambitious plans we have for getting people into homes for 2021. We are looking

forward to working with him and his officials to get these projects over the line and to deliver and activate more sites where possible." Speaking during his visit Minister O'Brien said: "I am delighted to be back to Fingal, my own county, to meet with the Chief Executive and management team of Fingal County Council. This visit is to talk about our plans and targets in 2021 for housing delivery and what our targets need to be for next year to deliver social and affordable housing for our citizens. These are exciting but realistic targets and I am excited to see we're going to have the first affordable housing scheme here in Fingal in Lusk next year. "Another purpose of my visit was to thank Fingal County Council and all their staff for the incredible work that they have done this year in ensuring the continued delivery of key services to the public during the Covid-19 pandemic. This year has been very difficult for our citizens and businesses but Fingal, and all other local authorities, have stepped up and led from the front in the Government's response to this pandemic in supporting citizens and businesses." During his visit, Minister O'Brien also viewed the Sack of Balbriggan exhibition currently on display in Fingal County Council which commemorates the 100-year anniversary of the attack on the town during the War of Independence.



FREE WIFI FOR FINGAL

Fingal County Council staff, as well as representatives from Fingal Chamber and Magnet Networks, began visiting local businesses in Swords, Malahide, Rush, Lusk, Howth, Portmarnock and Blanchardstown Village and Town Centre last week with a view to identifying suitable access points in order to enable the public Wi-Fi service.

The access points need to be mounted on the outside of each premises and has a range of 150m outside but will not extend inside the business premises or interfere with the businesses own broadband.

The team will then move onto the remaining areas of Skerries, Donabate, Santry, Castleknock and Clonsilla.

The initiative is supported by the WiFi4EU voucher scheme which aims to provide high-quality internet access across the EU to citizens and visitors via free of charge WiFi hotspots in public spaces such as town and village centres, parks and civic spaces.

Magnet Networks has been awarded the contract to install the access points in Fingal. Mayor of Fingal Cllr David Healy said: "The introduction of this service will strengthen Fingal's reputation as a forward thinking and digitally inclusive urban and rural landscape, which strongly promotes access to on-line services and information across the County. I would encourage local businesses to support this initiative as free public wi-fi will have major benefits for our towns and villages."

Chief Executive AnnMarie Farrelly said: "Fingal County Council is committed to developing and improving the County's digital infrastructure and services. Access to free public Wi-Fi in our major town centres and villages will be a major asset to our residents, visitors, and businesses. The provision of free public Wi-Fi forms part of the Council's Digital Strategy and I am pleased to see that we are

moving onto the next phase of rolling out this service."

Digital Strategy Manager Aishling Hyland said: "Free public wi-fi has already been successfully trialled in Balbriggan and we are looking forward to moving forward with the 13 selected areas across Fingal. Fingal County Council was awarded funding under the recent WiFi4EU funding call and this was matched by the Department of Rural and Community Development. "Public Wi-Fi is becoming a critical part of the town centre offering for retail and tourism and our standalone networks are seen as the exemplar of how this is implemented around the country," said Magnet Networks' Sales Director Philip Clapperton.

"For example, over 250,000 people have logged into our Galway network alone since its installation. The network can also provide the local authority with vital information on pedestrian traffic through the use of positional heat maps."

Fingal Chamber Chief Executive, Anthony Cooney said: "In this era of digitalisation, the provision of free wi-fi in public spaces will be a benefit to the citizens, visitors and businesses across Fingal.

The Chamber supports this initiative as it will ensure more people in our towns can go online free-of-charge, where they might find products and services they can purchase nearby.

We are working with Fingal County Council to help identify the optimal locations for the hotspots and look forward to talking to businesses about how we can all maximise this great opportunity."



Councillor
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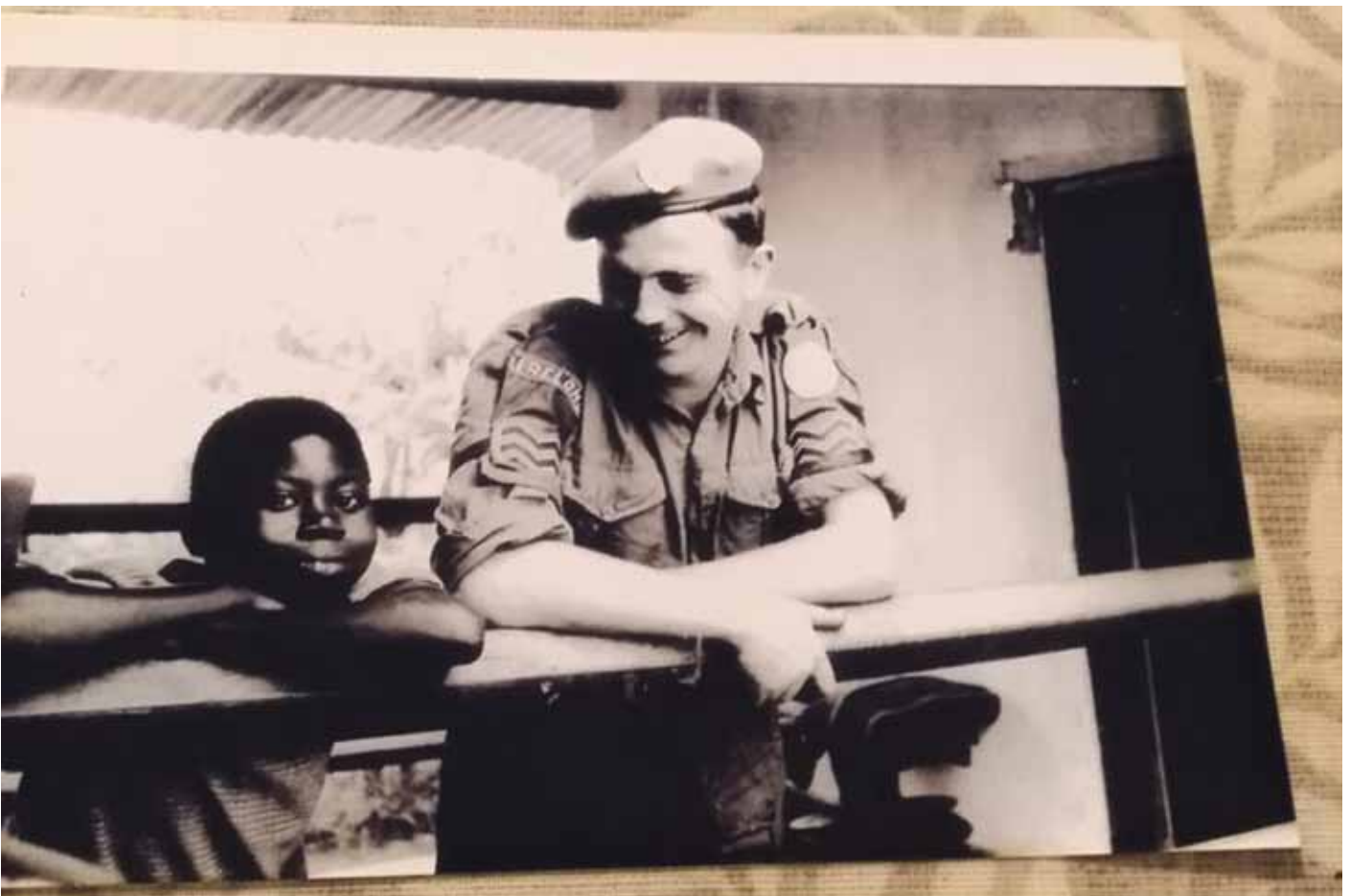
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REMEMBERING BLANCHARDSTOWN MAN - SGT “SONNY” GAYNOR WHO LOST HIS LIFE ON UNITED NATIONS SERVICE.



November 8 marked the 60th anniversary of the ambush and murder 9 Irish soldiers on UN Peacekeeping mission in the Belgian Congo. One such soldier was Blanchardstown native Sgt Hugh “Sonny” Gaynor.

Sonny enlisted in the Army in the early 1950s and later moved to Leixlip, Co Kildare, with his wife and family.

In a letter home sent on August 30, 1960 he described the gruelling journey in searing temperatures as he flew in darkness to North Africa and landed in Tripoli, Libya.

He wrote: “The heat was unbearable, especially in our bull’s wool uniforms. It’s a beautiful place but it’s not like home.”

On November 8, the platoon was patrolling in UN-marked vehicles and were ambushed as they inspected a bridge over the River Luweyeye, 13 miles from the village of Niemba.

Their bodies were brought home for burial in Glasnevin Cemetery in Dublin.

The mission, Operation Sarsfield, marked one of Ireland's first forays into peace keeping and the Niemba Ambush made international headlines along with the Siege of Jadotville.

Several years ago, a plaque honouring Sgt Gaynor and his brothers in arms was unveiled in Blanchardstown.

Only surviving daughter of Sgt Gaynor, Sara Tallon 61, who travelled all the way from Donegal says she is touched that her father is being honoured in the town where he was born and reared on the 60th anniversary of the first Irish UN peacekeeping mission.

She said: "When you go to Glasnevin you hear a lot about Michael Collins but there's nothing about the UN plot. I think their sacrifice has largely been forgotten about and this will help keep his memory alive. This is where he grew up, he went to school in the village.

"He was both a city boy and a country boy."

He didn't just keep the peace in Africa. Sara revealed: "My father and his colleagues came across an abandoned village. They found a little girl with polio who had been left behind.

"They brought her to a convent and paid the nuns to take care of her. Even though they were there to make a few bob for themselves and their families they handed over their money to save her life. It may not have been on a grand scale but that's the real meaning of humanitarianism."

Just three years old when Hugh died, Sara has memories of spending time with him.

She revealed: "I have great memories of being with my father in the shed. He was mad into motorbikes but he hadn't the money to buy a bike.

"With every pay packet he'd buy a part. I sat in the shed as he put the bike together. I remember sowing sweet pea at the fence with him – to this day I sow sweet pea in his memory."

Retired Air Corps pilot Frank Russell campaigned for a memorial. He said: "I was always aware that there was no formal recognition in Blanchardstown of Sgt Gaynor and his death while on UN peacekeeping duties. This belated recognition of a very brave man and his comrades will now be put right."

Local Cllr Tania Doyle (Ind) has a very close connection to this historic tragedy, as her father was on service there with the 2nd Field Engineers of Clancy Barracks.

"On November 8, 1960, the 11 man UN

Peacekeeping patrol led by Lt Kevin Gleeson was ambushed by Baluba tribesmen on a bridge over the Luweyeye River. It's been 60yrs since 9 Irish soldiers of A Company 33rd Infantry Battalion ONUC were killed on patrol near the town of Niemba in the Belgian Congo. At an unveiling of a commemorative plaque in Blanchardstown a number of years back, I had the genuine delight to meet with Pte Tommy Kelly who survived the ambush and crawled through forests while bleeding with numerous arrows embedded in his back and legs. Remembering also my dad 808982 Pte F. Dillon (2nd Field Engineers Clancy Barracks) this week who was with Number 2 Platoon A Company on that trip. He came back, 9 did not, #lestweforget. Solas Dé Orthú," said Cllr Doyle.

*Merry Christmas
and have a wonderful New Year*



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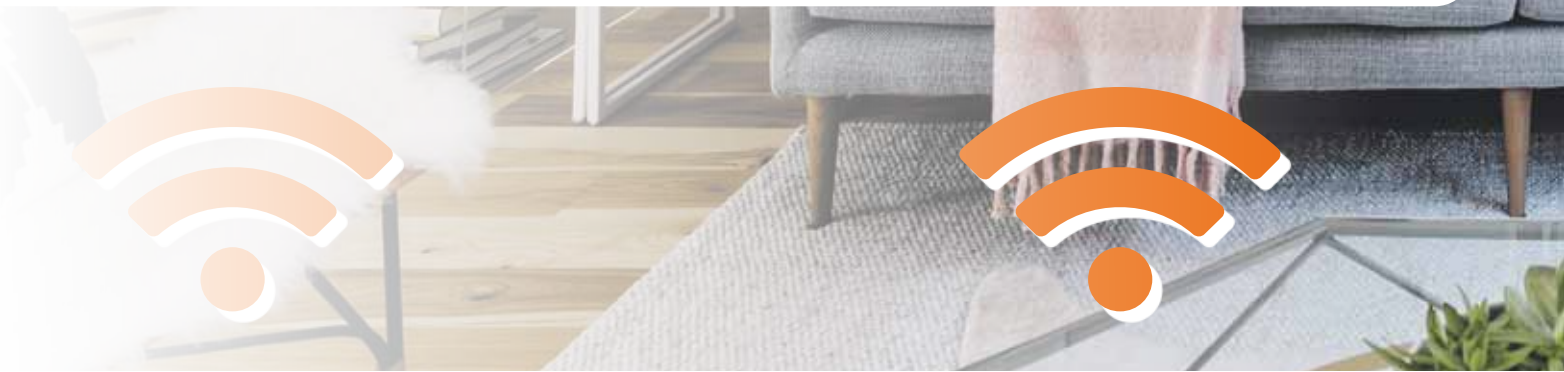


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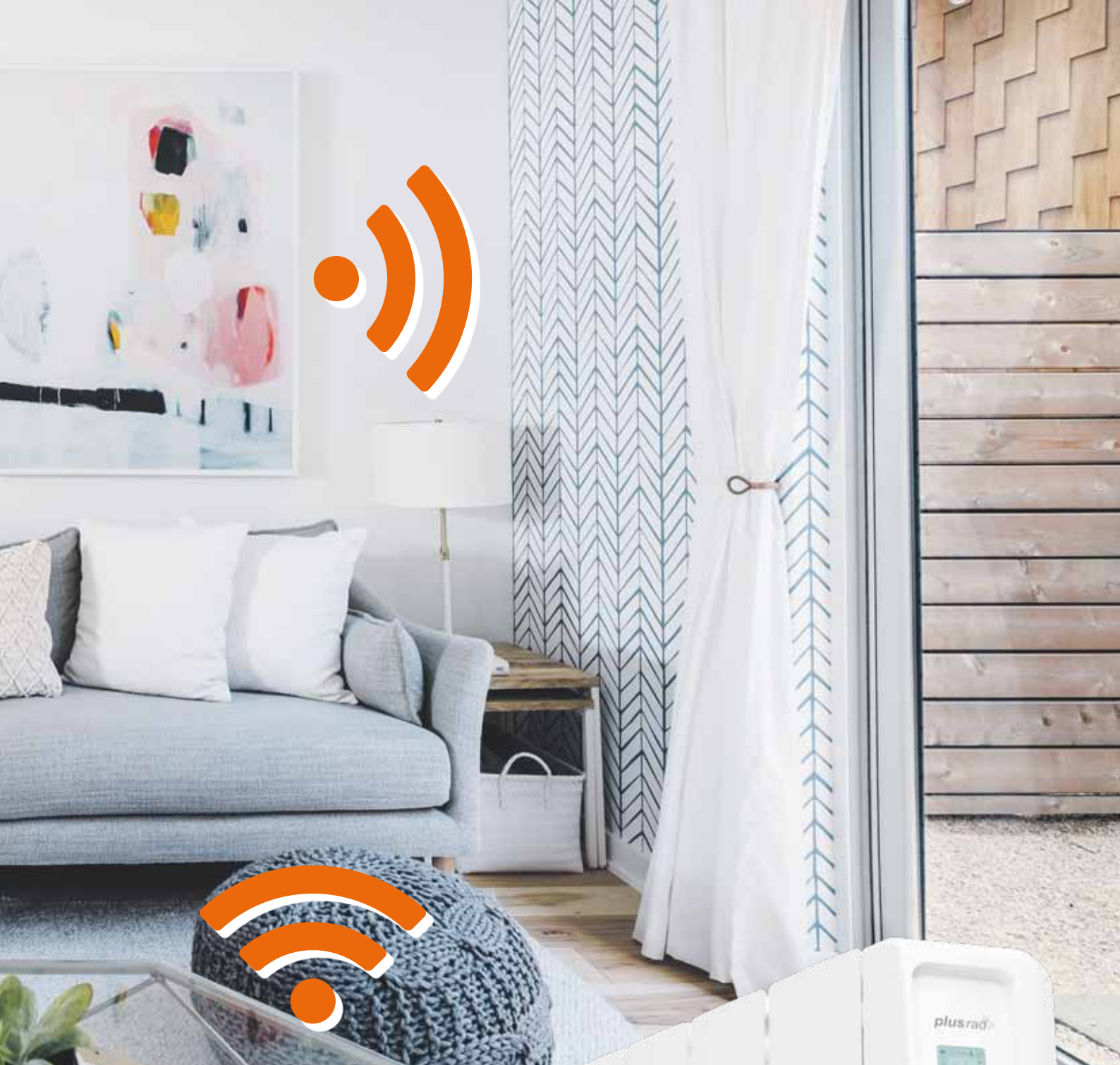


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COUNCIL UPDATES

Budget: The Fingal County Council budget for the forthcoming year was agreed on 24 November. This budget maintains existing levels of funding across the board despite the impact of COVID-19 and protects services, including Operations (street repairs, litter removal, leaf removal), public parks, libraries, arts and culture funding.

Events funding: Applications from community groups and organisations seeking financial assistance from Fingal Council's Events Section for Festivals and Events in 2021 will close on **Tuesday, 15 December 2020, at 3pm.**

Shackleton Gardens: The necessary work on the glasshouses at Shackleton Gardens was delayed due to Covid-19 and is now due to be completed in March 2021.

Kellystown: A new strategic housing proposal has been made by Castlethorn Construction on the Kellystown lands for a development of 360 units (128 houses and 232 apartments) and can be viewed at www.kellystownshd.com

BUS CONNECTS

The latest plan for the BusConnects Core Bus Corridors is open for consultation until 16 December 2020. This non statutory consultation is the final opportunity to have input on the proposals before planning is sought by the National Transport Authority.

Submissions and general queries can be sent to cbc@busconnects.ie or to the NTA postal address: Dún Scéine, Iveagh Court, Harcourt Lane, D2, D02 WT20. There is also a Freephone number 1800 303 653 for queries.

The first version of the plan involved large-scale removal of trees along the Navan Road and at the Old Navan Road and Castleknock Manor: destruction of trees should not be the price for improved bus corridors or cycleways. The NTA is making changes in the plan to reduce the impact on trees. If there is any impact on trees in your area or you would like to raise any other issues, please let me know and I will include these in my submission.

CO-LIVING

The Minister for Housing has decided following a five-month review to stop new Co-living developments. This decision is welcome but came too late to stop the latest Co-living application for 210 Co-living bedspaces at Brady's Pub, where a decision by An Bord Pleanála is expected in December. I have proposed two motions agreed by Councillors at the Area Committee calling on the Board to reject this development: Co-Living is not only an unsustainable and substandard form of development, but dangerous in the middle of a pandemic.

Cllr John Walsh

Dear Resident,

I hope you are well and staying safe. This is an exceptionally difficult time for everyone. I have been working with Council staff to maintain services and protect local amenities during Covid-19. Please don't hesitate to contact me if I can be of any assistance.



CRISIS IN SCHOOL PLACES

Yet again Dublin 15 faces a crisis in school places. It is baffling that the Department of Education has failed to plan properly, considering evidence available from census data and primary school enrolment figures that the period up to 2024 represents a peak in post-primary school enrolment. The only solution to the crisis is more school places in Dublin 15 to guarantee that every child has a place in a local second-level school without having to spend months on school waiting lists.

- The Department of Education should prioritise the permanent building for the Edmund Rice Trust School in Castleknock – the delay in providing the permanent building has intensified the crisis in school places.
- It's also crucial to identify a site and permanent building plan as early as possible for Eiriu Community College.

JUNCTION 6 APPEAL

The application by Propotron Ltd for a 28 storey hotel at Junction 6, River Road, would be the tallest building in the Republic of Ireland: it was rightly rejected by the Council planning department as intensive over-development, which would impact heavily on traffic and is unsustainable due to lack of cycle and pedestrian links. The applicant has made an appeal to An Bord Pleanála. I will be making a submission asking the Board to reject a development which is totally out of character with a settled suburban area. Submissions can be made to An Bord Pleanála on this application up to **Monday 21 December**.



I would like to wish you and your family a very happy Christmas.

John



Working with Cllr Mary McCamley

BALROY DEVELOPMENT REJECTED BY HIGH COURT

Labour Cllr welcomes rejection of “unsustainable and environmentally damaging development. But it should not be left to the courts to enforce responsible planning.



Cllr John Walsh (Lab) welcomed the decision by Mr Justice Humphreys on October, 29 to quash the decision by An Bord Pleanála to grant permission for a strategic housing development of 192 apartments at Balroy House, Carpenterstown:

‘The application by the developer was fundamentally flawed and a five-storey development of 192 units amounted to major over-development of this site. This application took no account of its impact on the local environment, involving destruction of mature trees, green space and wildlife and due to its excessive height impacted heavily on surrounding homes. The residents in Carpenterstown deserve great credit for challenging a bad planning decision and undemocratic strategic housing legislation.’

Councillors at the Local Area Committee had passed a motion proposed by Cllr Walsh in December 2019 calling for rejection of the development by An Bord Pleanála.

Walsh added: ‘This is another example of unsustainable strategic housing developments which have been waved through by Bord Pleanála and then overturned by the courts. It should not be left to the courts to ensure

responsible planning. The scale of the development would impose unsustainable pressure on schools and childcare places in Carpenterstown which are already heavily over-subscribed.

John Walsh said: ‘The government should now abandon the ‘strategic housing’ agenda. The problem with ‘strategic housing’ is that there is nothing strategic about it and it fails to provide housing. From start to finish Co-living and strategic housing were all about making money for wealthy developers. Build to Rent applications like the strategic housing application at Balroy may make money for developers and institutional investors but fail to provide housing at affordable rents.

The government should repeal the strategic housing legislation and ministerial guidelines which allow developers to bypass local councils and restore the ability of Council planners to decide on housing development in the first instance.

Walsh added: The time of ministers and officials would be better spent in supporting Councils to build affordable housing rather than engaging in damaging, badly thought out experiments which simply undermine quality of life.’

2021 Funding for conservation works and repairs to protected structures or structures within Architectural Conservation Areas

Fingal County Council is now inviting applications under a number of schemes for works to be done in 2021 for small, medium or large-scale repairs or conservation projects to Protected Structures and in certain circumstances to buildings that enhance Architectural Conservation Areas within the Fingal area.

In 2020 over €163,000 in funding was provided through Fingal County Council to 24 projects to assist owners in repairing and safeguarding the architectural heritage of Fingal in their ownership and care. For owners carrying out routine maintenance or small repairs to the historic fabric of their homes Fingal County Council's own Stitch in Time scheme offers grants between €100 to €2,500. For more substantial works funding is available through the Built Heritage Investment Scheme or the Historic Structures Fund.

The Historic Structures Fund has been expanded in 2021 to allow applications for a pilot scheme for the conservation of a vernacular structure that is not a Protected Structure and another pilot scheme for the refurbishment of a historic shopfront and traditional Irish Language shopfronts.

Funding is available through the following schemes:

- Architectural Heritage Fund's "Stitch in Time Grant" 2021
- Built Heritage Investment Scheme 2021
- Historic Structures Fund 2021
- Pilot Stream for Historic Shopfronts & Traditional Irish Language Shopfronts under Historic Structures Fund 2021
- Pilot Stream for Vernacular Structures under Historic Structures Fund 2021

The Architectural Conservation Officer Helena Bergin has seen the benefit of these schemes in helping owners maintain and in some cases restore back a building to its original beauty and charm and commented: "It has been so rewarding and heart-warming to see the genuine appreciation and pride of owners in the completion of conservation repairs to their historic homes or properties. These buildings add so much character to the towns, villages and countryside of Fingal. There is no such thing as a maintenance-free building. Whether modern or old all structures need care and attention to prevent decay or damage.

The conservation funding schemes exist to aid owners with the appropriate detailing and correct methods to repair the historic materials used in older buildings such as lime, stone, hand-made brick, thatch, natural slate, and historic joinery as the use of modern rigid and non-breathable materials such as concrete and plastics can do more harm than good."

The deadline for the submission of completed applications is 5PM FRIDAY 29 JANUARY 2021. Application forms are available on Fingal County Council website and completed applications should be sent to the Architectural Conservation Officer of Fingal County Council at helena.bergin@fingal.ie.

Please note that applicants cannot avail of funding under both the Historic Structures Fund and the Built Heritage Investment Scheme in the same year and so should only apply for one scheme.

Fingal County Council congratulates Matthew Weldon, Cricket Leinster's Fastest Bowler

Fingal County Council sends its congratulations to Matthew Weldon on his selection as the winner of the Cricket Leinster 'Find a Fast Bowler' award.

Matthew becomes the 15th winner of the award, joining previous winners such as current international stars Josh Little and David Delany in being selected as one of the leading fast bowlers in Ireland.

A student at Skerries Community College and a talented sportsman, Matthew is involved with The Hills Cricket Club and Skerries Harps.

At 14 years old Matthew has already represented Fingal, Leinster and Cricket Ireland squads and caught the eye of the Leinster coaches not just for his bowling speeds, but also his leadership qualities.

Mayor of Fingal Cllr David Healy said: "I would like to congratulate Matthew for his success in winning the 'Find a Fast Bowler' award.

"Sports are an important part of the health and development of individuals and communities, and it's inspiring to see our young people succeed despite the current Covid-19 situation."

Fingal County Council Director of Housing and Community Development Margaret Geraghty said: "On behalf of Fingal County Council I send our congratulations to Matthew on his award.

"In a year where sport, and junior sport in particular, has been so badly affected by COVID, we are so proud to see a Fingal cricketer achieving such a prestigious award which shows why our on-going investment in cricket is vital."

A very happy Matthew on winning the award added: "It is an honour to be selected as the winner.

"I would like to thank everyone at The Hills CC for their support, in particular to all my coaches and teammates and dedicate this award to my parents whose support has got me through such a challenging year."

For more information on Cricket in Fingal contact: Brian O'Rourke, Cricket Leinster/Fingal Development Officer, brian.orourke@cricketleinster.ie, 086 818 7944.



CO-LIVING DECISION OVERDUE?

Co-living developments have been scrapped by Housing Minister, Darragh O'Brien (FF), as not fit for purpose and an unsustainable housing model.

Cllr John Walsh (Lab) welcomed the decision by Mr Justice Humphreys on October, 29 to quash the decision by An Bord Pleanála to grant permission for a strategic housing development of 192 apartments at Balroy House, Carpenterstown:

However, many feel the decision was made far too late, with the Brady's site in Castleknock still very much on the minds of locals.

Deputy Paul Donnelly (SF) welcomed the decision, but criticised the Minister for not acting sooner.

"I want to welcome the Ministers decision to effectively ban co living developments, but why did he have to wait so long before such a decision? He claimed he was always opposed to co living? He and his party leader, Micheal Martin claimed that these were "tenements is the future", yet they wait for months to actually do it? Why my frustration? Well, because the community adjacent the former Brady's pub site in Blanchardstown/ Castleknock have had to endure another set of costly and stressful appeals to An Bord Pleanála after the first application was thrown out in court. This was totally unnecessary and was



totally avoidable. This government could have changed the laws straight away. They allowed for extra months for developers to submit their plans! It is now down to An Bord Pleanála to do the right thing and reject the Brady's application for a co living development," said Deputy Donnelly.

Cllr John Walsh (Lab) while welcoming the decision, called on An Bord Pleanála to reject the proposal at the Brady's site. However, he also expressed disappointment at the delay which facilitated another round of Co-living applications in Dublin.

John Walsh said: "A complete ban on Co Living development is long overdue and this is a belated but welcome decision by the Minister. Co-living is a damaging and unsustainable form of development which was promoted by the former Fine Gael Minister Eoghan Murphy as part of a wider dismantling of community orientated planning, which totally undermined the role of local councils in planning. There is no way that Co-living should have been permitted at all, but it is particularly disastrous during a pandemic, as social distancing and self isolation are just impossible to achieve in cramped, substandard accommodation."

Time to reject the Brady's development

Walsh also commented: "But it is deeply disappointing that it took so long to make this decision. The current three-party government was formed in June 2020, but no decision on Co-living was taken until late November. In the meantime, yet another application for a large-scale co-living development was submitted in August by Bartra Property at Brady's Pub, despite the decision of the High Court to quash the planning permission given by An Bord Pleanála."

He went on to say that if the Minister had moved more quickly, residents would not have had to go through the rigmarole of objecting yet again to a "badly flawed development which is totally inconsistent with a settled suburban area and is very destructive of visual amenity and quality of life."

"The Board should now recognise that Co-living has had its day and reject the application at Brady's, following the advice of professional planners and its own inspector on the last application," said Cllr Walsh.

An Bord Pleanála cannot comment on open applications, but a spokesperson for Minister O'Brien said:

"Co-living review

The Minister wanted to ensure that any decision on co-living was evidence-based, transparent, sufficiently robust to withstand potential challenge, and would avoid any unintended consequences.

Brady's site

The Minister is precluded from exercising any power or control in relation to a case with which a planning authority or An Bord Pleanála may be concerned, under Section 30 of the Planning and Development Act 2000 and is not therefore in a position to comment on a media request or political statement in respect of a particular site or 'live' planning application."



**Wishing
everyone
a Happy
Christmas.**



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O'Gorman
Dublin West T.D.**



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FINGAL ADOPTS BUDGET OF €286M FOR 2021

Fingal County Council has adopted a budget of €286m for 2021 which will ensure that services are maintained and enhanced into next year. It represents an increase of €16.3m from 2020 and is the equivalent of €966.78 per head of population.

The Budget provides for increased expenditure in a number of key areas and also makes a level of provision for possible adverse effects due to the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on the Council's finances.

Mayor of Fingal, David Healy (GP) said: "I am glad that we have been able to pass a strong budget that responds to the circumstances we find ourselves in. The Council's prudent approach to financial management over the last number of years has put us in a position to massively restructure the Council's operations in 2020 in response to the Covid-19 pandemic. As we prepare for the uncertainty of 2021, we have adopted a budget which will ensure our services are maintained and improved and which will enable us, responding to demand from our citizens, to provide new facilities and to carry out maintenance, particularly in active travel, in housing, and in parks and open spaces.

"I want to acknowledge the work done by the Chief Executive and the staff in the different sections of the Council in preparing the budget and the commitment of all of the Councillors including my colleagues on the Corporate Policy Group in bringing their expertise and analysis to the finalisation of the budget in the challenging circumstances of online meetings."

There is no increase in rates in the 2021 Budget. The Annual Rateable Valuation set in the 2020 Budget, following the periodic countrywide revaluation of rateable properties, resulted in a rates reduction for approximately 77% of ratepayers in Fingal and followed a period of zero nett commercial rates increases in the period 2010 to 2019.

Though Labour Cllr's proposed a 7.5% reduction in the Local Property Tax (LPT) to alleviate some of the strain on homeowners while generating extra revenue for essential services, in September, Councillors agreed, for the fourth successive year, to reduce the Local Property Tax by 10% rather than 15% and this has provided an extra €2m in each of the years to be allocated for services that directly improve the areas where citizens live. Labour were worried that given the current climate, some essential services would miss out on funding, but acquiesced once they had assurances that no essential services would be cut.

Got assurances

"It is a significant amount of money and will mean that by the end of 2021 we will have spent an additional €8m, that we would not have had otherwise on improving the fabric of communities throughout Fingal." said Fingal County Council Chief Executive AnnMarie Farrelly.

The €286m Budget can be broken down as follows:

- €80.22m - Housing and Building;
- €30.28m - Road Transport and Safety
- €18.92m - Water Services
- €22.21m - Development Management
- €47.53m - Environmental Protection

- €47.99m - Recreation and Amenity
- €1.34m - Agriculture, Education, Health and Welfare
- €37.87m - Miscellaneous Services

The Budget includes provision for a number of roles funded by the National Transport Authority to assist in the delivery of Active Travel infrastructure such as cycleways while there is also a strong commitment to further investment in the Climate Change Action Plan which was launched last year.

The Budget has allowed for increased expenditure on road maintenance, road safety and street cleaning as well as additional provision for the development of Skerries Library and further investment in digital libraries.

Increased funding has also been provided to support the Council's heritage properties and tourism offerings throughout the COVID-19 pandemic while a capital sum of €200,000 has been allocated to the Our Balbriggan project to start building a fund to meet the Council's match-funding requirement. It is anticipated that this project will be 75% funded by European Union's Regional Development Fund and the 25% by the Council.

Budgetary provision has also been made for other projects across the county such as the Swords Cultural Quarter and there is also provision for a continued subvention for Draiocht in Blanchardstown. Other sums have been allocated to ensure ongoing maintenance of the housing stock and support non-Council owned Community Centres.



Senator

Emer CURRIE

Wishing you all a very Happy and Healthy Christmas and New Year



Shop Local • Support Local • Click Local

Setting up a Youth Café for Carpenterstown / Luttrellstown – are you interested?

We have amazing sports clubs in Carpenterstown but we need more facilities for young people to socialise and engage in interests they are passionate about. I am happy to report that following discussions with Foróige, we are hoping to start a Youth Café in the area. It looks like we have a venue but we need to hear from young people in the area who are interested in getting

involved. As well as securing a dedicated community youth space, Foróige run various programmes like climate justice, health and wellbeing, youth entrepreneurship, digital skills, leadership and more that all can take part in.

Email myself or gavin.byrne@foroige.ie if you want to get involved or if you're an adult that wants to volunteer.

Calling all Sports Clubs!

A new round of Sports Capital and Equipment Programme (SCEP) is now open with a €40 million fund. Grants are available to voluntary, not-for-profit sports clubs, community groups and national governing bodies of sport and local authorities. Third level colleges, ETBs and schools may apply for funding jointly with sports clubs or organisations.

Get in touch with me with any questions. The deadline for registration is 5pm Mon 1 Feb 2021. The system will be open for applications 11 Dec - 12 Feb 2021.

Open from

FRIDAY
11
DECEMBER

Kellystown Graveyard

I am in regular contact with Fingal CoCo about the timings for Kellystown Graveyard. Here is the latest update:

- Works on new access road have been completed
- Design team are currently finalising the tender package for next stage including car park, site buildings, grave plots and all associated site services and landscaping. Contract is expected to be appointed before the end of year
- Siteworks expected to commence in Feb
- Project due to be completed in late 2021.

Dublin Bus

Route 39a is to operate on a 24 / 7 basis from 13 Dec 2020, operating every 30 mins from 11.30pm to 5am.



Phoenix Park at Christmas

A reminder from OPW to not feed the deer or approach them. They are wild animals and feeding them unsuitable food leads to malnourishment. The OPW has set up Santa Clause letter postboxes in the Papal Cross car park and Ashtown Visitor Centre for any little visitors hoping to spot Rudolph.

Planning Matters

Junction 6, country's tallest building, 28 - storey office and hotel complex – application was refused by Fingal CoCo but the decision is being appealed by the applicant. I objected to overdevelopment, impact on local community, lack of public transport links and traffic affecting access to Connolly Hospital and St Francis Hospice traffic. Development is to be welcomed but not this application in its current form.

Justin's, Blanchardstown Main Street – additional information submitted by the nursing home to Fingal CoCo based on concerns such as impact on adjacent properties, height, scale, design and integration with surroundings. Due date to make submissions 10 Dec 2020.

Kellystown – A Strategic Housing Development application has been submitted to An Bord Pleanála at Kellystown, in advance of the Local Area Plan or Kellystown Road being approved, to consist of 360 dwelling units, 1 childcare facility, 1 retail unit, the extension of the Kellystown Link Road and a public park. I feel this application is premature without the approved and adopted LAP, which is a framework for future development of the area and is currently being worked on including

social infrastructure, schools, open spaces and overall design, or the final proposal for Kellystown Link Road. Closing date for submissions is 21 Dec 2020 and can be made to An Bord Pleanála. See kellystownshd.com

Granard Bridge – Hump Back Bridge at Castleknock Train Station Pedestrian & Cycleway – as part of a planning application adjacent to the bridge I made a submission to request that lands should be secured for a segregated footpath and cycle lane over the bridge which has high footfall due to its proximity to the train station and is extremely dangerous.

Phoenix Park – In anticipation of the public consultation about the future of transport, connectivity and accessibility in the Phoenix Park which the Minister for the OPW has committed to, I asked the Minister for Housing, Local Government and Heritage in the Seanad to consider a review of online consultations during Covid 19 like **Busconnects, DART+ West upgrade and Kellystown** to ensure best practise is established as a matter of priority. No one wants a repeat of what happened as part of the lamrod Eireann's DART+ West consultation and the stress it put on the local community.

Contact Emer

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Councillor **SIOBHAN SHOVLIN**

☎ 087 398 4778 ✉ siobhanshovlinfg@gmail.com
📍 Siobhan Shovlin 📱 @siobhanshovlin

I hope you are keeping well. I would like to wish all the businesses well as you reopen your doors and prepare for Christmas. I look forward to getting out and supporting you and enjoying the Christmas spirit. As always, please do get in touch if I can be of any assistance to you or your family.

I would like to take this opportunity to wish you all a very Happy and Peaceful Christmas and every Best Wish for the New Year!

Sincerely, Siobhan

Cleaner Neighbourhood Group

I have received correspondence from local residents about small improvements which could be made to enhance our local area and a few of us got out with our litter pickers at Tír na nÓg Park recently. Now that we are spending so much more time in our community it would be great to have a group in the Carpenterstown Area to make small enhancements including planting and clean-up days. If this is something that you'd be interested in getting involved with it would be great to hear from you and do get in touch.

Amazing ongoing work is being carried out by Blanchardstown Tidy Towns, Castleknock Tidy Towns and Laurel Lodge Environmental Group.

Bus Connects Deadline for Submissions

Consultation on the core bus corridors runs until Wednesday, 16th of December.

Submissions can be emailed to cbc@busconnects.ie or posted to:

BusConnects Core Bus Corridor, National Transport Authority, Dún Scéine, Harcourt Lane, Dublin 2, D02 WT20

FINGAL IN IT TOGETHER FOR CHRISTMAS

My colleague Senator Emer Currie has been doing a lot of work promoting Shop Local and supporting local businesses and in particular turning Black Friday Green. Fingal are also promoting local businesses this Christmas and asking us to use #ShopFingal. If you are a local business you might consider signing up to Fingal in it Together Charter.



Working with An Tánaiste Leo Varadkar TD, Senator Emer Currie, Cllr. Ted Leddy and Frances Fitzgerald MEP.

THE WORLDS GREATEST POET? (Part 2)

In our last edition we covered the formative years of the great William Butler Yeats. We finished just as the love of his life Maud Gonne married John MacBride.

Yeats derided MacBride in letters and in poetry. He was horrified by Gonne's marriage, at losing his muse to another man; in addition, her conversion to Catholicism before marriage offended him; Yeats was Protestant/agnostic. He worried his muse would come under the influence of the priests and do their bidding.

Gonne's marriage to MacBride was a disaster. This pleased Yeats, as Gonne began to visit him in London. After the birth of her son, Seán MacBride, in 1904, Gonne and MacBride agreed to end the marriage, although they were unable to agree on the child's welfare. Despite the use of intermediaries, a divorce case ensued in Paris in 1905. Gonne made a series of allegations against her husband with Yeats as her main 'second', though he did not attend court or travel to France. A divorce was not granted, for the only accusation that held up in court was that MacBride had been drunk once during the marriage. A separation was granted, with Gonne having custody of the baby and MacBride having visiting rights.

Yeats's friendship with Gonne ended, yet, in Paris in 1908, they finally consummated their relationship. "The long years of fidelity rewarded at last" was how another of his lovers described the event. Yeats was less sentimental and later remarked that "the tragedy of sexual intercourse is the perpetual virginity of the soul." The relationship did not develop into a new phase after their night together, and soon afterwards Gonne wrote to the poet indicating that despite the physical consummation, they could not continue as they had been: "I have prayed so hard to have all earthly desire taken from my love for you and dearest, loving you as I do, I have prayed and I am praying still that the bodily desire for me may be taken from you too." By January 1909, Gonne was sending Yeats letters praising the advantage given to artists who abstain from sex. Nearly twenty years later, Yeats recalled the night with Gonne in his poem "A Man Young and Old"

***My arms are like the twisted thorn
And yet there beauty lay;
The first of all the tribe lay there
And did such pleasure take;
She who had brought great Hector down
And put all Troy to wreck.***

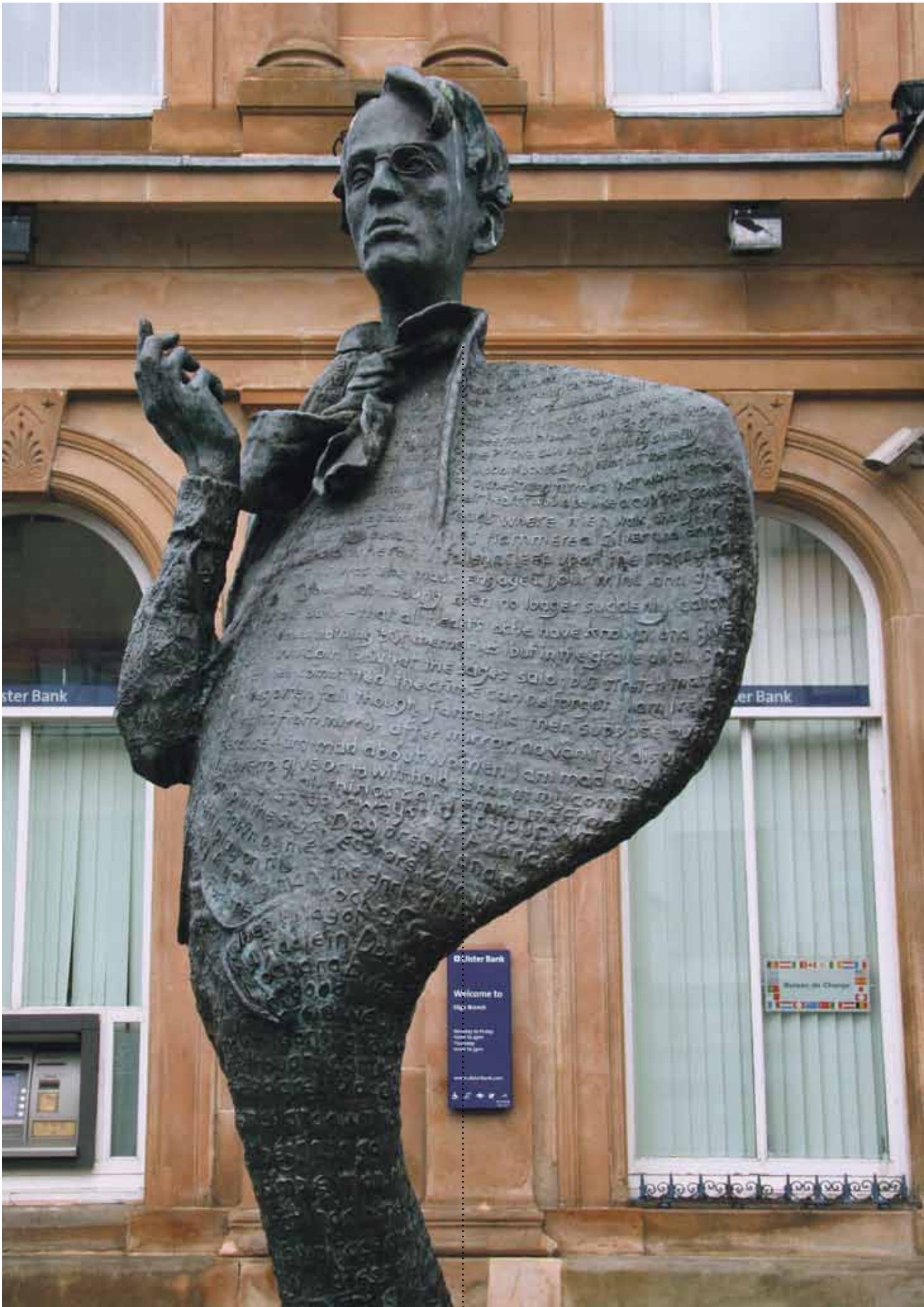
In 1896, Yeats was introduced to Lady Gregory by their mutual friend Edward Martyn. Gregory encouraged Yeats's nationalism

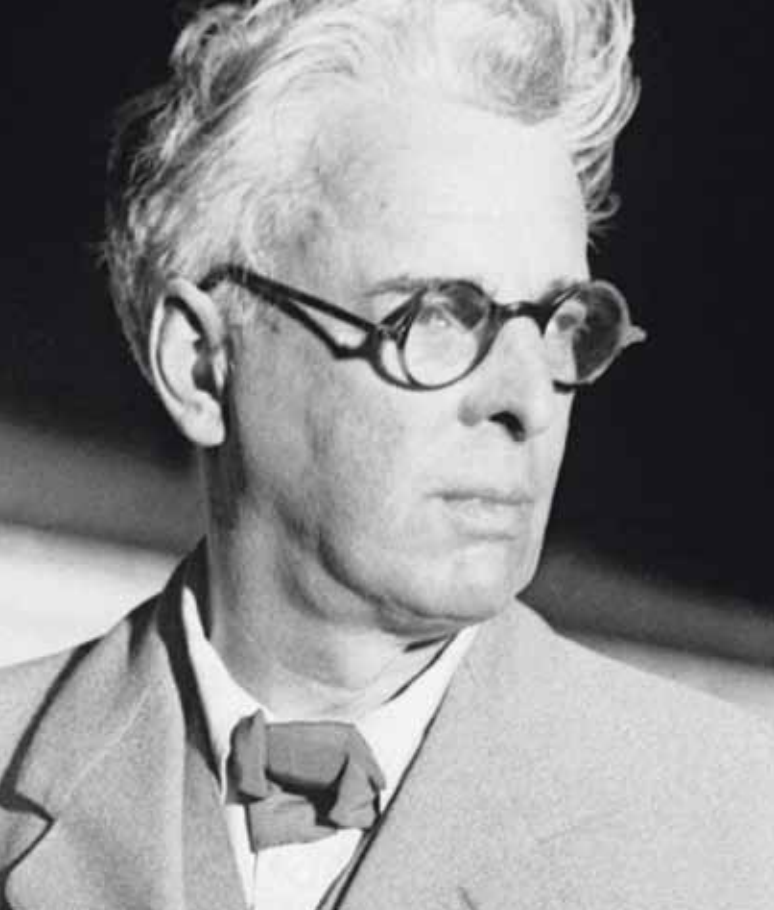
and convinced him to continue focusing on writing drama. Although he was influenced by French Symbolism, Yeats concentrated on an identifiably Irish content and this inclination was reinforced by his involvement with a new generation of younger and emerging Irish authors. Together with Lady Gregory, Martyn, and other writers including J. M. Synge, Seán O'Casey, and Padraic Colum, Yeats was one of those responsible for the establishment of the "Irish Literary Revival" movement. Apart from these creative writers, much of the impetus for the Revival came from the work of scholarly translators who were aiding in the discovery of both the ancient sagas and Ossianic poetry and the more recent folk song tradition in Irish. One of the most significant of these was Douglas Hyde, later the first President of Ireland, whose *Love Songs of Connacht* was widely admired.

In 1899, Yeats, Lady Gregory, Edward Martyn and George Moore began the Irish Literary Theatre to present Irish plays. The ideals of the Abbey were derived from the avant-garde French theatre, which sought to express the "ascendancy of the playwright rather than the actor-manager. The group's manifesto, which Yeats wrote, declared, "We hope to find in Ireland an uncorrupted & imaginative audience trained to listen by its passion for oratory... & that freedom to experiment which is not found in the theatres of England, & without which no new movement in art or literature can succeed."

The collective survived for about two years but was not successful. Working with two Irish brothers with theatrical experience, William and Frank Fay, Yeats's unpaid yet independently wealthy secretary Annie Horniman, and the leading West End actress Florence Farr, the group established the Irish National Theatre Society. Along with Synge, they acquired property in Dublin and on 27 December 1904 opened the Abbey Theatre. Yeats's play *Cathleen ni Houlihan* and Lady Gregory's *Spreading the News* were featured on the opening night. Yeats remained involved with the Abbey until his death, both as a member of the board and a prolific playwright. In 1902, he helped set up the Dun Emer Press to publish work by writers associated with the Revival. This became the Cuala Press in 1904, and inspired by the Arts and Crafts Movement, sought to "find work for Irish hands in the making of beautiful things." From then until its closure in 1946, the press—which was run by the poet's sisters—produced over 70 titles; 48 of them books by Yeats himself.

Yeats met the American poet Ezra Pound in 1909. Pound had travelled to London at least partly to meet the older man, whom he considered "the only poet worthy of serious study." [55] From that year until 1916, the two men wintered in the Stone Cottage at Ashdown Forest, with Pound nominally acting as Yeats's secretary. The relationship got off to a rocky start when Pound arranged for the publication in the magazine *Poetry* of some of Yeats's verse with Pound's own unauthorised alterations. These changes reflected Pound's distaste for Victorian prosody. A more indirect influence was the scholarship on Japanese Noh plays that Pound had obtained from Ernest Fenollosa's widow, which provided Yeats with a model for the aristocratic drama he intended to write. The first of his plays modelled on Noh was *At the Hawk's Well*, the first draft of which he dictated to Pound in January 1916.





political scene, Yeats distanced himself from the core political activism in the midst of the Easter Rising, even holding back his poetry inspired by the events until 1920.

In the 1930s Yeats was fascinated with the authoritarian, anti-democratic, nationalist movements of Europe, and he composed several marching songs for the Blueshirts, although they were never used. He was a fierce opponent of individualism and political liberalism and saw the fascist movements as a triumph of public order and the needs of the national collective over petty individualism. On the other hand, he was also an elitist who abhorred the idea of mob-rule, and saw democracy as a threat to good governance and public order. After the Blueshirt movement began to falter in Ireland, he distanced himself somewhat from his previous views, but maintained a preference for authoritarian and nationalist leadership. D. P. Moran called him a minor poet and “crypto-Protestant conman.”

By 1916, Yeats was 51 years old and determined to marry and produce an heir. His rival John MacBride had been executed for his role in the 1916 Easter Rising, so Yeats hoped that his widow might remarry.[65] His final proposal to Maud Gonne took place in mid-1916. Gonne’s history of revolutionary political activism, as well as a series of personal catastrophes in the previous few years of her life including chloroform addiction and her troubled marriage to MacBride—made her a potentially unsuitable wife; biographer R. F. Foster has observed that Yeats’s last offer was motivated more by a sense of duty than by a genuine desire to marry her.

Yeats proposed in an indifferent manner, with conditions attached, and he both expected and hoped she would turn him down. According to Foster, “when he duly asked Maud to marry him and was duly refused, his thoughts shifted with surprising speed to her daughter.” Iseult Gonne was Maud’s second child with Lucien Millevoeye, and at the time was twenty-one years old. She had lived a sad life to this point; conceived as an attempt to reincarnate her short-lived brother, for the first few years of her life she was presented as her mother’s adopted niece. When Maud told her that she was going to marry, Iseult cried and told her mother that she hated MacBride. When Gonne took action to divorce MacBride in 1905, the court heard allegations that he had sexually assaulted Iseult, then eleven. At fifteen, she proposed to Yeats. In 1917, he proposed to Iseult but was rejected.

That September, Yeats proposed to 25-year-old Georgie Hyde-Lees (1892–1968), known as George, whom he had met through Olivia Shakespear. Despite warnings from her friends—“George ... you can’t. He must be dead”—Hyde-Lees accepted, and the two were married on 20 October. Their marriage was a success, in spite of the age difference, and in spite of Yeats’s feelings of remorse and regret during their honeymoon. The couple went on to have two children, Anne and Michael. Although in later years he had romantic relationships with other women, Georgie herself wrote to her husband “When you are dead, people will talk about your love affairs, but I shall say nothing, for I will remember how proud you were.”

Rome wasn’t built in a day, or to put it in a more Yeats-like vein, Troy wasn’t sacked in a day. We will conclude our biography in the next edition.

The emergence of a nationalist revolutionary movement from the ranks of the mostly Roman Catholic lower-middle and working class made Yeats reassess some of his attitudes. In the refrain of “Easter, 1916” (“All changed, changed utterly / A terrible beauty is born”), Yeats faces his own failure to recognise the merits of the leaders of the Easter Rising, due to his attitude towards their ordinary backgrounds and lives.

Yeats was close to Lady Gregory and her home place of Coole Park, Co. Galway. He would often visit and stay there as it was a central meeting place for people who supported the resurgence of Irish literature and cultural traditions. His poem, “The Wild Swans at Coole” was written there, between 1916 and 1917.

He wrote prefaces for two books of Irish mythological tales, compiled by Augusta, Lady Gregory: *Cuchulain of Muirthemne* (1902), and *Gods and Fighting Men* (1904). In the preface of the latter, he wrote: “One must not expect in these stories the epic lineaments, the many incidents, woven into one great event of, let us say the War for the Brown Bull of Cuailgne or that of the last gathering at Muirthemne.”

Yeats was an Irish nationalist, who sought a kind of traditional lifestyle articulated through poems such as ‘The Fisherman’. However, as his life progressed, he sheltered much of his revolutionary spirit and distanced himself from the intense political landscape until 1922, when he was appointed Senator for the Irish Free State.

In the earlier part of his life, Yeats was a member of the Irish Republican Brotherhood. Due to the escalating tension of the



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FINGAL SPORTS OFFICE ANNOUNCES LIVE ONLINE WOMEN IN SPORT COACHING SERIES



Fingal Sports Office and the Tyrrelstown/Mulhuddart Community Sports Hub presented their Women in Sport Coaching Series online, with the first live online session on Thursday 26 November at 7 p.m.

The Women in Sport Coaching Series aims to encourage women to step forward with confidence and get involved in coaching primarily or in sport in general.

The first session will feature Suzanne Maguire, Irish international basketballer and coach in conversation with Cliona Foley, renowned freelance sportswriter and presenter of women's sport podcast "Off the Bench".

Suzanne Maguire, a Fordham University Hall of Famer currently playing D1 basketball with Liffey Celtics, has played on Irish International teams from u15 to u19 as well as on Senior Women's Teams for most of her career.

Suzanne has coached across all levels of the game, from beginner level in the Academy to elite International level with the Irish u18 team.

Cliona Foley's quality coverage across a variety of sports has seen her recognised among the best in Irish sports writing, having previously worked for over 25 years with the Irish Independent covering 3 Olympic Games, 20 World and European Championships and over 100 All Ireland finals.

She is an advocate of increasing the profile and coverage of Women's Sport and her brilliant "Off the Bench" podcast is essential listening for all sports fans.

We are partnering on this event with Dublin Sonics Basketball Club, the successful club based in Tyrrelstown in Dublin 15.

The club has a new and vibrant girls' section and is always looking for volunteers in both girls' and boys' teams.

Mayor of Fingal Cllr David Healy said: "Encouraging and

fostering confidence, participation and access to sport among women is crucial to building communities that are healthier, more inclusive and more successful.

"I commend the Fingal Sports Office for their work and thank all participants for their contributions."

Fingal County Council Chief Executive AnnMarie Farrelly said: "Fingal County Council has put emphasis on inclusion, visibility and access to sport for people of all genders, backgrounds and abilities.

"Moving to online delivery of the Women in Sport Coaching Series is a practical way of advancing these goals and continuing to deliver for our communities during the Covid-19 pandemic."

Fingal County Council Director of Services for Housing and Community Margaret Geraghty said: "The Women In Sport Coaching Series is an exciting initiative that brings together an impressive array of women in sport. "This is an important part of our drive to increase women's participation in coaching and sport in general, and its online presence means that access is possible no matter where you are in Fingal."

"This is a great opportunity for women to participate in sport and initiatives such as this also support the National #Keep Well Campaign.

"Keeping well is so important and now more than ever, as we live with Covid-19, local authorities and partners are reaching out to our communities in new ways."

Fingal Sports Development Officer Caitriona Geraghty said: "It's great to have Cliona and Suzanne on board for this first series.

"We plan to include other sports in this Women in Sport Coaching Series as part of our support of the Irish Federations of Sport's 20X20 Campaign, Sport Ireland's Women in Sport initiatives and Fingal Sports Office's goal in increasing female participation in coaching".

To register for the Women in Sport Series visit the Healthy Fingal Learning Portal <https://learning.fingal.ie/> and you will be sent an invitation link for the event.

For more information contact Caitriona Geraghty, Fingal Sports Office at caitriona.geraghty@fingal.ie



FINGAL TO HOST 2021 SPAR EUROPEAN CROSS COUNTRY CHAMPIONSHIPS

Fingal County Council has welcomed the news that the 2021 European Cross Country Championships will take place at the Sport Ireland Campus in Fingal.

The Sport Ireland Campus, located in Blanchardstown, was due to host next month's 2020 event on December 13 but the event was cancelled due to the Covid-19 pandemic.

This will be the second time that Fingal has hosted the event having previously staged the SPAR European Cross Country Championships in 2009 in Santry. Italy, who had been initially awarded the 2021 Championships will now host the 2022 event in La Mandria Park in Turin.

This revised schedule was facilitated by the successful cooperation of all parties including the respective Local Organising Committees.

Mayor of Fingal Cllr David Healy said: "Sport is an important way of promoting the health, achievement and progress of individuals and communities alike, and fosters a spirit of cooperation and resilience.

"The 2020 SPAR European Cross Country Championships were cancelled to preserve the health and safety of all involved – and it is in the spirit of cooperation and resilience that Fingal and Turin have come together to host the 2021 and 2022 Championships in their respective years.

"I would like to thank all those involved for their work and dedication in making this possible."

Chief Executive of Fingal County Council AnnMarie Farrelly said: "I welcome the announcement that Fingal will host the 2021 SPAR European Cross Country Championships following the necessary cancellation of this year's event on public health grounds.

"Sport brings people together and inspires us all to excel, and it is very positive for Fingal that the Sport Ireland Campus will be the venue which sees those qualities brought to the fore in 2021.

"I wish to commend all parties for their commitment to the event, and thank Turin for its understanding and solidarity."

Director of Services for Economic, Enterprise, Tourism and Cultural Development Emer O'Gorman said: "The opportunity to host the SPAR European Cross Country Championships for a second time brings many positives, from the promotion of health and fitness, to the economic and tourism benefits, and the forging of links between organisations and individuals from different countries and contexts.

"I look forward to working with all stakeholders to ensure that the Championships are a great success."

Chairman of the Fingal-Dublin 2021 Local Organising Committee Liam Hennessy said: "We are delighted to be hosting the SPAR European Cross Country Championships for 2021 and we would like to thank European Athletics and FIDAL for their support in facilitating the event returning to Ireland next year.

"Covid-19 had resulted in the championships which were set to take place in Fingal, Dublin next month being cancelled, but we can now look forward to working with Fingal County Council, Sport Ireland and RTÉ to ensure the 2021 SPAR European Cross Country Championships scheduled for 12 December is a memorable occasion for both athletes and spectators."

European Athletics Interim President Dobromir Karamarinov said: "Unfortunately, Dublin was unable to host this year's SPAR European Cross Country Championships this year but we would like to thank Torino-La Mandria for their cooperation to allow Dublin to stage next year's event.

"Ireland and Italy both have a rich tradition in staging not only continental but also global cross country events so we are naturally delighted to reallocate the next two editions of the championships to two proud and passionate cross country running nations."



COVID HAS CAUSED MANY BUSINESSES TO CHANGE THEIR BUSINESS MODELS IN 2020. EDUCOGYM HAVE EMBRACED THESE CHANGES AS CLIENT AND STAFF SAFETY ARE OUR PRIORITY.

We introduced strict COVID Protocols during 2020. This resulted in limiting the numbers that can train at any one time to 4. This in turn reduced our capacity but increased our safety and our attention to the client welfare.

This has been hugely successful and so well received that while we are welcoming a limited number of new clients in 2021 our loyal clients have committed to us for 2021. Many of our clients have been with us since we opened 13 years ago. We are very grateful for the response from everyone and it has been a very heartening experience for us

In addition we are running online training classes, supported locally by our trainers. This is a new direction for us and has proven to be very successful both here and even abroad! Check our Facebook page for more detail

During this COVID time people have become more aware of their health and the need to maintain where possible their immune systems. We have some great High quality food supplements to assist you in keeping healthy and strong during this time.

We have always sold Health Food Supplements which are only of the highest quality. (many of which are manufactured in Ireland) We generally sold this to our own gym clients but during this time, our sales to people far and wide who are not members of the gym have grown dramatically.

You don't have to be a member of our gym to buy supplements and once people realised this, sales increased. We also offer advice and support around taking Food Supplements. What are the best ones for you? Putting the correct ones that match your aim eg: Immunity, Energy, Bone Density, Joint issues, Skin and hair, mood, circulation, Weight Loss, Sugar cravings, Muscle gain etc

We can also offer a Consultation during which we can offer some assistance with Nutrition and the correct supplementation

Educogym are ideally set up now to help the Community of Dublin 15 going in to 2021 and we'd be delighted to help you too

TO SPEAK TO ONE OF THE TEAM. CALL US ON

01 821 4460

WE'D BE DELIGHTED TO HEAR FROM YOU.



Blanchardstown
& District
Credit Union

STAY LOCAL

BORROW LOCAL

SPEND LOCAL

Christmas - It's all about being together. Due to the coronavirus pandemic, however, things are going to be a little different this year. We continue to support our members throughout these difficult times through our campaign "Stay Local, Borrow Local, Spend Local". We will continue to provide you with a full service and our doors will stay open.

By Staying Local and restricting your movements you are helping to prevent the spread of the virus. As a community, we need to pull together so please heed public health guidance. The virus doesn't move, people move the virus.

By Borrowing Local you are not only supporting your credit union but also helping us to support the local community, schools and organisations. Credit Union is not for profit and all money has been re-invested in supporting members and local communities for generations.

By Spending Local this Christmas you are supporting local business, the backbone of our communities, every €10 she spends will generate €40 of benefit in terms of employment and that is keeping our family, friends and neighbours in jobs and keeping the local economy moving.

Blanchardstown and District Credit Union is regulated by the Central Bank of Ireland.

**TALK TO YOUR LOCAL
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