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OCT/NOV 2022

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In this issue

- Council Grants To Enhance  
Local Businesses



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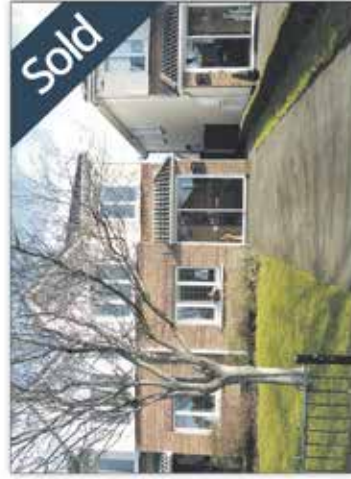
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## EDITORIAL

**W**elcome to our October / November issue.

Topical issues in this edition include the proposed DART + West. This is our cover story.

Other local topics include the introduction of parking charges for customers and staff at Liffey Valley Retail Centre, new community centre grants and Kildare Green Flag Awards. General topics include energy saving, internet safety, the proposed M4 bus priority plans and the history of Halloween.

Kind Regards

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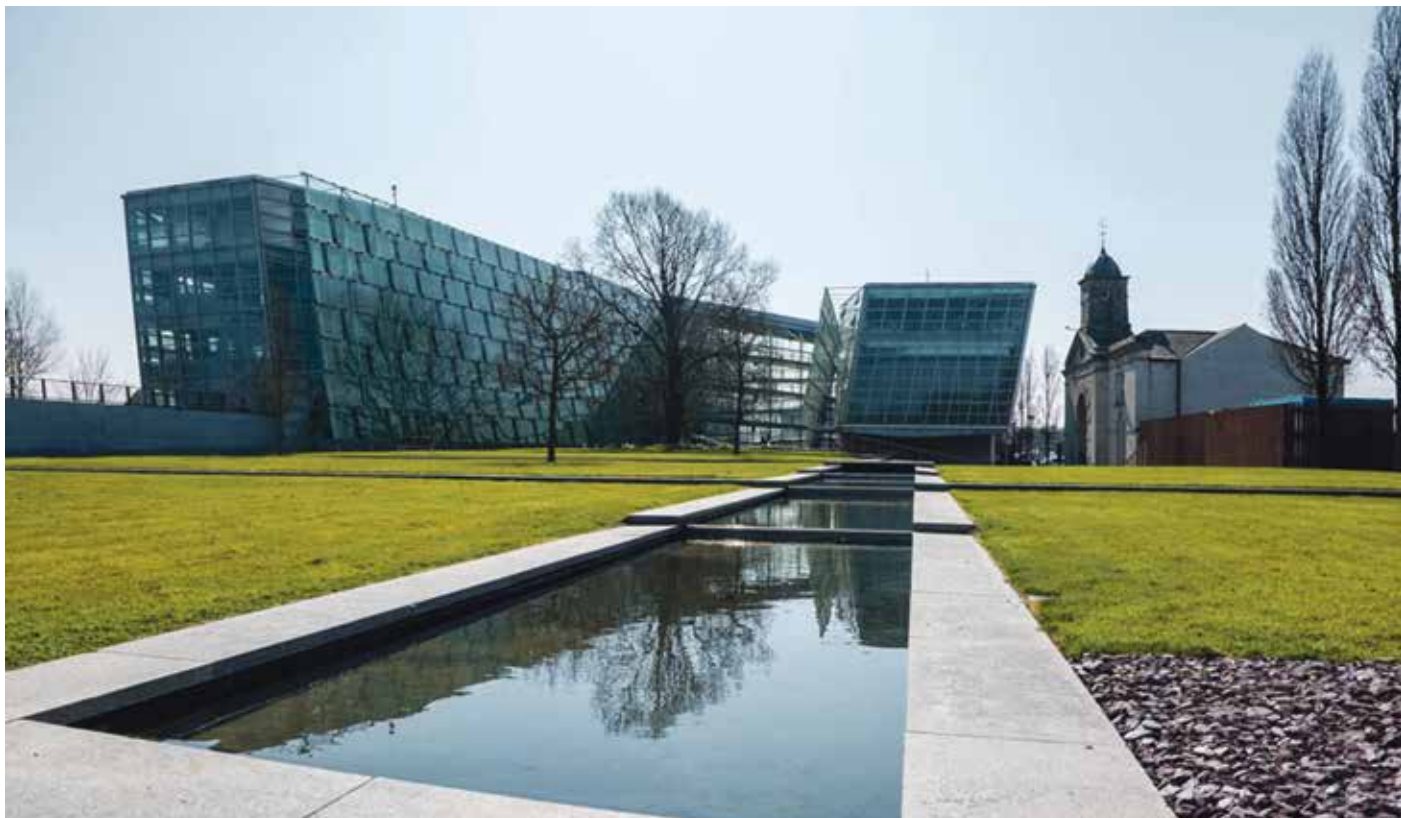
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# Kildare County Council welcomes funding for 16 Kildare Projects from Community Centre Investment Fund

Kildare County Council has welcomed the announcement today by Minister for Rural and Community Development, Heather Humphreys TD of over €300,000 in funding for 16 Community projects across Kildare.

**T**he new €400m First Home Scheme will help first time buyers purchase their own home by stepping in to bridge the gap between the finance a prospective purchaser has, and the finance they need, to buy a new home.

The Community Centre Investment Fund (CCIF) is a new scheme which will support groups to carry out refurbishments and improvements of their local community facility. Grants of up to €25,000 will be provided to groups in both rural and urban communities.

Today's announcement of Category 1 projects will provide grants for improvements to Community and Sport Centres, GAA clubs, resource centres, Tidy Towns groups and others across Kildare.

## The awards for Kildare are:

- Ardclough GAA Club Kildare €25,000.00
- Athy Recreational Community Hall Kildare €15,326.45
- Ballyteague GFC Kildare €25,000.00
- Bishopsland awareness Kildare €25,000.00
- Carbury Village Tidy Towns Kildare €25,000.00
- Castlefen Residents Association Community Group Kildare €17,540.95
- Kildare Town Community & Family Resource Centre Ltd. Kildare €15,000.00
- Kilteel Community Hall Company Limited by Guarantee Kildare €24,693.46
- Leixlip Youth Premises Group Company Limited By Guarantee Kildare €22,564.30
- Rathangan Community Association Company Limited By Guarantee Kildare €25,000.00
- Respond Kildare €9,584.00
- Scouting Ireland 16th Kildare – Kilcock Kildare €25,000.00
- St.Laurences GAA Complex Kildare €13,000.00
- Staplestown Cooleragh Parish Kildare €25,000.00
- Straffan Community Association Limited Kildare €25,000.00
- Two Mile House GAA Kildare €24,970.00

The full list of successful Kildare projects in the Community Centre Investment Fund, Category 1, announced today can be found here - <https://www.gov.ie/en/collection/3a8bd-community-centre-investment-fund-successful-projects/>



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# Inequalities in education for students with sight loss

**NCBI has launched a new report entitled *Equitable Education*, detailing the challenges faced by students who are blind or vision impaired, and their families, in the education system.**

**T**he report, based on the experiences of students and their families, contains a series of recommendations aimed at the Government and state agencies to ensure that all students, regardless of their level of vision, have access to an equitable and inclusive educational experience.

Lorna Fitzpatrick, NCBI Advocacy and Engagement Manager said "Sight loss is a spectrum and can impact everyone differently, so it is imperative that children and young people with sight loss have access to regular individualised assessments and timely interventions to ensure they have the skills to be independent and active agents in their own learning.

"The report clearly shows variations that exist in students' experiences in accessing supports as well as the severe lack of quality data on the number of students with vision impairment

in the education system or evidence to demonstrate that current supports are enabling these students to thrive. This data will be key to driving future decisions relating to supports for students with sight loss and must be a priority for the Government Departments and state agencies."

Eithne Walsh, Head of Communications and Advocacy with Féach said "This report marks a great starting point for improving supports for blind or vision impaired students in education. The issues highlighted in the report have been denying students with low vision equality of access to education, which ultimately affects every aspect of their lives. None of the issues are insurmountable, practical solutions can be put in place which will have a huge impact on their educational outcomes."

The *Equitable Education* Report describes many of the challenges faced for students who are blind or vision





impaired from primary education through to tertiary education. It focuses on solutions that are needed to support children and young people with sight loss to access learning and to develop the skills to support them as they transition through education.

A recent AHEAD report shows that only 282 blind or vision impaired students are registered with Disability Support Services in Higher Education in 2020/2021. Further to this, only 24% of people who are blind or vision impaired are employed in Ireland. The low representation of people living with sight loss in higher education and the workforce demonstrates the need to implement changes throughout the education and employment systems to ensure they are supported to take up and achieve success throughout their lives.

**Some recommendations, which are outlined in more detail from page 4 of the report, include:**

- Establish a database on the availability and delay of schoolbooks in accessible formats at beginning of each school year with the availability of learning materials as a KPI within the Department of Education on the timeline of delivery.
- Review of SUSI eligibility criteria to provide support for students who are blind or vision impaired studying on a part-time basis.
- Address the deficits in the provision of assistive technology and access skills to learning through the introduction of formalised procedures for individualised assessments and training to support optimum use of technology for learning.
- Develop school transitioning protocols determining and agreeing content and the delivery of

comprehensive transitional plans for children who are blind or vision impaired.

- Fund the introduction of dedicated resources nationwide, similar to those in the south of the country, to deliver orientation and mobility supports for children and young people.
- Agree to a formal process of engagement with students to ensure that their experiences influence positive change.

## Cllr. Shane Moynihan

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# Saving Energy this Winter

In the popular TV series 'Game of Thrones', the gloomy prediction was 'Winter is Coming'.

**T**his year that is a real fear for Irish households with massive increases in energy prices. No one needs telling to save on energy anymore and we are all keen to reduce consumption. Here are energy-saving tips that may help.

- Recognise the biggest users of energy. Tumble Dryers, Showers, cookers, dishwashers and kettles are all used to



heat things and use the most energy.

- Tumble Dryers are energy guzzlers so if you can wash on dry days and minimise tumble dryer use you will see a significant drop in electricity charges.
- If you like lingering in a hot shower, consider taking a shorter shower as this will make a real difference as well. Showers use only 20% of the energy to fill a bath so keep the bath

as a treat.

- Run the washing machine at lower temperatures, if appropriate, as heating the water is a major cost of electricity.

- If you don't use your freezer much consider switching it off until you need it. Don't leave fridge doors open when using contents. For every 10-20 seconds a fridge door is open it takes 45 minutes for the fridge to cool down again!

- Unplug the TV rather than leave it on standby. A TV on standby still uses 20% of the energy when it is on.

- Switch off computers when not in use and unplug chargers when 100% power is reached.

- Reducing thermostat temperature by 1% on your central heating can save 10% on the heating bill and will be barely noticeable at room temperature.

- When cooking always put lids on pots, microwave cooking is cheaper and only boil as much water as you need in kettles.

- Your mother was right! Close doors behind you and don't heat rooms you don't use.

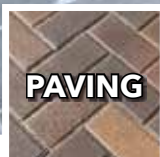
- Smart meters are coming but many who already have them don't have the data from them yet to monitor consumption. In the meantime, you can buy an energy monitor for as little as €20 that will tell you which appliances are using the most electricity.

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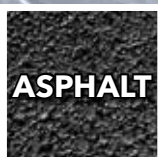
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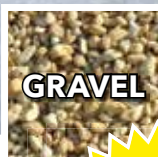
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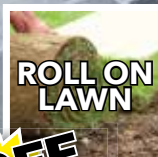
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# Kildare County Council Awarded Two Green Flag Awards

Kildare County Council have been awarded two Green Flags for Liffey Linear Park in Newbridge and Zero Waste Community Garden in Rathcoffey.

**T**he 2022 Green Flag Awards were announced today by An Taisce Environmental Education, acknowledging Ireland's best public parks and gardens.

This is the 6th year running that Newbridge Linear Park have been awarded a Green Flag and the 3rd year for Rathcoffey Community Garden.

The Green Flag awards are the international accreditation standard for parks and green spaces. It operates across Australia, Belgium, Finland, France, Germany, Mexico, The Netherlands, New Zealand, Portugal, Republic of Ireland, Spain, Sweden, Turkey, United Arab Emirates, United Kingdom, and the United States of America.

This signifies the level of work accomplished by Kildare County Council to provide recreational amenity facilities to a recognised international standard in Kildare. It also reflects



the huge voluntary work and commitment by Newbridge Tidy Towns and Rathcoffey Zero Waste Garden Committee on both Green Flag sites.

The Green Flag Awards are judged every year by a peer jury of green space experts, who volunteer their time to visit applicant sites and assess them against eight strict criteria, including horticultural standards, cleanliness, sustainability, and community involvement. It aims to encourage the provision of good quality public parks and green spaces that are managed in environmentally sustainable ways.



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Many health risks decrease when you drink plain water say the experts.

Giving your body enough fluids to carry out those tasks means that you're staying hydrated.

If you don't drink enough water each day, you risk becoming dehydrated. Warning signs of dehydration include weakness, low blood pressure, dizziness, confusion, or urine that's dark in colour.

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# Kildare County Council launches plans for M4 Bus Priority Measures Pilot



## M4 Eastbound pilot to be the first hard shoulder bus priority on a motorway in Ireland

**K**ildare County Council has launched a Public Consultation as part of the Part 8 Planning Application for the first Bus Priority pilot to be trialled in Ireland. The project will see the introduction of hard shoulder bus priority measures on the M4 Eastbound between Junction 7 Maynooth and Junction 5 Leixlip, representing a significant step towards sustainable transport in Ireland.

The project will run from Junction 7 Maynooth through Junction 6 Celbridge finishing at Junction 5 Leixlip and include emergency refuge areas and noise mitigation measures. The development is expected to reduce bus journey times and traffic, increase bus passenger numbers and the reliability of bus services as well as reduce the volume of cars on the road.

The Bus Priority Pilot project is a collaboration between

Kildare County Council, the Department of Transport, Transport Infrastructure Ireland, the National Transport Authority and South Dublin County Council as part of the delivery of the overarching National Development Plan 2021 – 2030. Delivery of the development will be managed by Kildare NRO and Engineering Consultants, ARUP.

A public consultation has been launched as part of the Part 8 planning application for the project, providing an opportunity for input and feedback on plans for the development.

Closing date for submissions is 25th November. You can access the consultation portal here -

<https://consult.kildarecoco.ie/en/consultation/part-8-proposed-m4-bus-priority-measures-planning-ref-p8202220>

For more information about the project, check out this video – <https://youtu.be/WxF0jn6rabs>



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# Communities oppose level crossing closures for planned Dart expansion

**Dart + West project plans to close six roads to be submitted to An Bord Pleanála shortly**

**A** coalition of community groups, representing thousands of households from Dublin to Kildare, have banded together to oppose the closure of level crossings for the planned €1 billion Dart + West line.

Residents' associations say the closure of six roads, that cross the railway line between Connolly station and Maynooth, will sever community links, result in large detours to access shops, schools and other services and

jeopardise the sensitive environment of the Royal Canal.

Plans to bring Dart train services to the west of Dublin through the upgrade and electrification of the rail line from the city centre to Maynooth and Dunboyne will be submitted by Irish Rail to An Bord Pleanála this summer.

The project, first announced 17 years ago, will mean the doubling of train services along the line from six to 12 per hour per direction, increasing hourly passenger capacity from 5,000 to more than 13,000 each way.





However, it will involve the closure of six level crossings from Ashtown in Dublin to Blakestown, west of Leixlip in Co Kildare.

The Dart West Community Coalition, an alliance of 10 residents groups, said they “fully support” the Dart project but the permanent closure of the roads is unnecessary and will leave some communities cut off from essential services.

“Dart +West is a great project that is much needed and will be wonderful for communities along the line. However, it does not take into account the journeys made throughout the day across the line,” said coalition member and Coolmine resident Christine Moore.

The coalition wants Irish Rail to consider closing the crossings at busy times only and allow the roads to be used at off-peak hours.

“What we want is meaningful consultation with Irish Rail, not just a box-ticking exercise,” she said.

Irish Rail spokesman Barry Kenny said there had been extensive consultation, which had already resulted in alterations to the project.

“Arising from the first public consultation, the project team has modified the preferred solution at Coolmine Level Crossing and at Ashtown following the second consultation.”

The original scheme for Ashtown involved the closure of horse-riding centre Ashtown Stables for an underpass beneath the rail track and canal. Public consultation has recently been completed on a proposal to move the vehicular underpass further to the west of the stables.

At Coolmine, a controversial traffic bridge over the line and the Royal Canal has been scrapped with a pedestrian and cycle bridge proposed instead. Similarly, pedestrian and cycle overpasses of the track and canal are proposed to replace the level crossing at Porterstown and Clonsilla.

However, Ms Moore said these pose problems for the

sensitive environment of the canal. “Porterstown and Clonsilla are both very historic areas, with old protected structures that will jar with the large pedestrian/cycle bridges being proposed.” Having three cycle and pedestrian bridges spanning this part of the canal would “completely detract” from the landscape, she said.

“It is essentially a limestone gorge, with the towpath 15ft above the water and a tree canopy meeting overhead. It’s known as the ‘Deep Sinking’ and is the only part of the canal that was constructed through quarries. It is a proposed natural heritage area with graceful 18th century canal bridges.”

The last two level crossings planned for closure, furthest west towards Kildare are not at stations but along country roads. At Barberstown, north of Westmanstown Golf Club, a traffic bridge will be built just south of the current crossing.

However, the last level crossing Blakestown, in Kilmacredock, will not have any replacement infrastructure, which will leave 120 homes cut off from their bus service, said local resident and coalition member Áine Di Mascio.

“We’re 3km from the centre of Leixlip and 5km from the centre of Maynooth. Where people would have walked a maximum of 15 to 20 minutes to reach the bus stop, they will now have to travel at least 2.5km.”

Residents on Kilmacredock Lane asked Irish Rail for a pedestrian route across the line, but it has not been included in the preferred option for Dart + West, she said.

Using the car

“What this does is force people who want to use public transport, who want to take the bus, to get into a car,” she said.

“This is not the case of a level crossing closure being more inconvenient because you have to take a detour when you’re driving, this is cutting people off from access to their bus route. And we think it’s unlikely we will have

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any opportunities to use public transport in the future because if they are not going to build a footbridge they're not going to build a station here."

The closure also blocks the community from access to the canal amenity, she said. "During the pandemic in particular a lot more people would have used the canal walk for exercise, and it would be well used by a lot of my elderly neighbours, that's not an option for them now."

Mr Kenny said the feedback has been assessed and would form part of a "consultation findings report" to be published as part of the Railway Order application to An Bord Pleanála.

"The final Railway Order submission will be open to the public to make observations on to An Bord Pleanála on any aspect of the proposals."

Mr Kenny said the closure of the level crossings was central to achieving the increased capacity.

"Level crossings restrict train frequency and dramatically reduce the number of services that can operate. For example, Coolmine level crossing is closed for approximately 40 minutes between 8am-9am each weekday for six trains per hour per direction. As the targeted capacity would effectively see level crossings permanently closed, it is not viable to retain the level crossings."

The closure of the crossing would also improve safety, he said, eliminating the risk of motorists striking closed and closing crossing gates.





# Kildare County Council welcome announcement to increase fines for ignoring school warden signals

Kildare County Council has welcomed plans by the Department of Transport to double fines for motorists who fail to stop for a school warden sign.

**T**his change, during the 100th anniversary year of the founding of An Garda Síochána, is only the third time that An Garda Síochána has undertaken a formal change of the Garda uniform.

Minister of State at the Department of Transport, Hildegard Naughton TD announced the increase from €80 to €160.

There are over 400 School Wardens employed by local authorities across Ireland who's role is to stop traffic in order to assist primary school children across a road safely.

LARSO, the Local Authority Road Safety Officers network has welcomed the announcement and hopes the increase in fines will deter drivers from engaging in inappropriate and dangerous driver behaviour at school warden crossings.

Kildare County Council's Road Safety Officer, Declan Keogh,



said "School Wardens play an important role in the community and provide a life-saving role for primary school students. Every effort needs to be made to assist our wardens in their role and to eliminate the risks posed by some drivers at school crossings. Drivers should realise they are required, by law, to stop for a school warden sign when directed to do so. Failing to stop for a school warden sign puts the warden, school children and other pedestrians in danger."

School Wardens, or as they are affectionately known to school children as the 'Lollipop Person'. Drivers are being reminded of the extra pedestrian, bicycle, and vehicle traffic on school routes in addition to other modes of transport such as scooters, Cycles and Buses. Drivers should observe and obey the instructions of a school warden and allow plenty of room at school crossings for pedestrians to cross the road.

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Back Row – Jill Lush (Wicklow WIB Co-ordinator), Doreen Heavey (LEO Kildare), Tara Lane, Nina Carberry, Kate Dempsey (Guest Speakers) and Louise Fleming (Wicklow LEO). Front Row – Jacqui McNabb (Head of Enterprise, Kildare), Susan Keogh (MC) and Vibeke Delahunt (Head of Enterprise, Wicklow)

## Irish Women Entrepreneur's Self Belief Continues to Grow Following Kildare and Wicklow National Women's Enterprise Day Event

**Nina Carberry, Tara Lane & Kate Dempsey among some of the guests who captured the attention of the audience at this year's event in Keadeen Hotel, Newbridge, Co. Kildare**

**R**esearch has shown that Irish women's belief in their ability to run a successful business is continuing to grow as this year's National Women's Enterprise Day (NWED) was launched in Kildare and Wicklow recently. The initiative of the Local Enterprise Offices, now in its 16th year, took place on the 13th October encouraging female entrepreneurship and supporting women in business across the country.





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The research, part of the Global Entrepreneurship Monitor (GEM) for 2021, showed that 49% of women surveyed believed they had the necessary skills and knowledge to start a business. This was up from 39% in 2018. The report also highlighted that Ireland has the third highest rate for early-stage women entrepreneurs across European countries, with over 1,400 women starting a new business in Ireland every month.

Early-stage women entrepreneurs in Ireland are mainly focused on the customer services sector with 64% of those surveyed working in that area. The report showed a significant growth in export customers for these businesses, with 26% of customers of these early-stage startups based abroad, up from 15% in 2019 highlighting how they have diversified their markets during Covid.

The theme of this year's National Women's Enterprise Day was "Our Future, Our Way" A joint event run by Local Enterprise Offices Kildare and Wicklow, Keadeen Hotel, Newbridge, supported by Enterprise Ireland and the Local Authorities. Panel discussion was hosted by MC Susan Keogh with Leading Lights from Kildare and Wicklow, Tara Lane (Centrepiece Rosettes) and Kate Dempsey (Aqualicense Ltd. - recent overall winner of the LEO National Enterprise Awards 2022), along with Guest Speaker Nina Carberry, Entrepreneur, retired Irish female National Hunt jockey and TV personality and was followed by an exhibition area showcasing several female-led local

businesses, music and networking.

In her address to the Audience Jacqui McNabb Head of Enterprise Kildare, said; "National Women's Enterprise Day has become a flagship event for women entrepreneurs and businesswomen every year. While the past two years saw successful online celebrations, it really is special to be back with sixteen in person events across the country, and some amazing speakers and inspirational businesswomen. If you have that itch to start a business, or maybe you are already running a business, reach out to your local Enterprise office It can help you grow your network, find out what supports are available and learn from those who have gone before.

Carol Gibbons, Divisional Manager, Regions and Local Enterprise with Enterprise Ireland said; "Enterprise Ireland is delighted to support National Women's Enterprise Day, particularly as we are seeing in person events return this year. As evidence by the recent GEM report confidence about entrepreneurship among women is growing with nearly half of all women surveyed saying they had the skills and knowledge to start a business. Events like National Women's Enterprise Day are important in supporting this positive improvement, providing women entrepreneurs and those considering starting a business with insights from leading business women and introducing them to a network of entrepreneurs who are blazing a trail in the Irish market and overseas."



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### Conor Martin Managing Director



The firm was founded by Conor Martin in 2014 to provide a personal, professional and financial advisory service helping clients and their families to achieve their financial objectives. Conor has over 23 years combined experience in Capital Markets, Banking, Investment and Wealth Management working for Bank of America, AIB, Davy and Smith & Williamson throughout his career. He has an extensive financial products knowledge and advises on all aspects of pensions, wealth management, succession /estate planning, protection and retirement planning. Conor has achieved the internationally recognized Certified Financial Planner (CFP) accreditation. He is also a keen sportsman having won 2 All-Ireland Senior football titles playing in goals for Meath in the 90's. Conor also enjoys coaching underage GAA teams and is a self-confessed fine-weather golfer.

### Lisa Coghlan BBS (Business & Management), QFA



Lisa is one of our advisors who has built up a comprehensive knowledge in the financial services industry through a variety of customer focused roles including business banking, conduct risk and mortgages working for AIB and the Central Bank of Ireland. Lisa is passionate about empowering and supporting clients to make clear & educated financial decisions for their immediate and future goals. Outside of work, Lisa enjoys staying active and spends her evenings in the gym, hiking or walking with friends. When she's not doing those things you can usually find her eating or travelling!



# A tale of two investors

I had two meetings over the course of the last fortnight with two clients both of which had very different outcomes from their investments. The major differences in the performance of their investments were caused by two factors – time & fear of losing money.



Let's have a look at Investor A who has been my client since I started Tara Financial Partners just over 7 years ago. This man is in his early 80's and one of his investments was made in 1981 long before I ever met him. He invested IR£10,000 in an investment bond 40 years ago and just left it alone since, never touched it. Today, it's worth just a little over ten times the amount he invested – over €127,400. Even better news though – he invested IR£10,000 in another one in joint names with his wife also so, he has two of them that he hasn't touched.

Now I'm guessing not a huge amount of people in Ireland had a spare IR£20,000 to invest with a 40-year investment horizon in the early Nineties but the lesson here is to invest your money that you do not need for the long-term and walk away. It's the tinkering with it that stops the compounding and paying tax on any gains every time you sell and jump into a new investment. There's no doubt that his investment had periods of volatility and underperformance too, but the key is to ignore all that and just keep it invested. Compounding takes care of the rest for you; it couldn't be simpler.

Let's look at Investor B who an existing client asked me to have a chat with to see if I could put some shape on his financial future. He had a few properties with some debt on them that there wasn't much I could advise him to do other than consider selling them now that prices have risen significantly in the last 18 months. However, he did manage to make decent pension contributions through the years and had €195,000 in his personal pension. The only problem was that he had no financial advisor in his corner

through the years other than one guy who he said 'sold' him the pension 10 years ago. That's the problem with our industry still where some financial advisors are quite happy to 'sell' a financial product, make their commission and then disappear. Clients need to review their financial policies & plans every year and require guidance from us if anything has changed for them.

Anyway, because he didn't have a financial advisor to consult with in March 2020 when the Covid-19 pandemic sent markets crashing for a few weeks, he switched from his growth/high-risk fund choice in his pension to a very low risk fund. Of course, we now know that Central Banks & governments around the world pumped money into the system to shore up confidence in markets and all the higher risk funds (fully exposed to equities) went the whole way back up again, and even higher. So, his pension went from roughly €220,000 to €195,000 in 2020 (a loss of c. 11%), when if he did nothing at all, his pension would have been worth around €290,000 (an increase of c. 32%) by now. That's a difference of over 43% by meddling with it because he got nervous and did not have a professional in his corner to guide him. The moral of the story here is to just invest (regularly if you can) and then simply leave it alone. Time will take care of the rest.

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# Cllr. Joe Neville

It has been a very busy period for Councillors over the last number of months as so many local community events and meetings have been taking place. A lot of projects locally are coming together and a number of large-scale projects are moving along to a place that we can really see them coming to fruition.

In Leixlip & Maynooth it was great to be able to announce that after a long process the contractor has started the prep work on the Greenway. This is a process I have worked & pushed for over quite a long-time and I look forward to its completion.

A construction period of 18 months is planned to give us an amenity we can use all year round. I think this will be hugely beneficial as it will make that area much more accessible and enable everyone to get much more use out of a lovely area.

In Celbridge we are working to the next phase of the delivery of the bridge in Celbridge as we work to the route selection phase. After that it will be the design and environmental evaluation of the preferred route identified in the option selection report. In Celbridge I am also working on the development of the youth facility for Celbridge. This is a project I have been involved in for 18 months and I see it as a key deliverable for the area. Building houses is one thing but we also need to have the social infrastructure to ensure the best possible result for our communities.

In Leixlip we also have the Wonderful Barn Public information day on Sunday the 13th of November. This is taking place to obtain feedback from all potential community user groups, activity groups and every person in the area. KCC will be hosting the event. I have been raising the significance of the Barn & the urgent need for local community facilities. A project team of the council & consultants have been working on the plan to develop a tourist attraction with community uses and this day is another step.

On St Catherine's Park Senator Emer Currie - Dublin West and I recently had an online zoom meeting to advise and give feedback on the latest St Catherine's Park road questions. It was very successful and we outlined our steadfast approach to keeping our wonderful amenity.

In my last article in the magazine I spoke to the importance of community facilities and indeed Community events and these past couple of months definitely reflected that. Over the last number of years Covid had cut down on a number of these events but many of come back with strongly and in a way that has really benefitted the community. As a Director of the Leixlip Youth & Community Centre I was delighted to celebrate 5 years of our "Confey Coffee" shop recently. The icing on the cake was the €23k announced for our centre along with €320k for 15 other Community Centres around Kildare.

In September I was delighted to unveil the statue of 1928 Kildare captain Bill "Squires" Gannon the first man to lift the Sam Maguire with GAA President Larry McCarthy & Katie Ray, Kildare GAA's recent U14 All-Ireland winning captain. A huge attendance was there with so many GAA greats from Kildare such as current manager Glen Ryan & former captains from around the country present. Also, over the last few months we have had some wonderful celebrations of 100 years of An Garda Síochána in Leixlip, Celbridge and Clane and Dublin Castle. As a nation but also within our communities we have been amazingly well served and it was lovely to be a part of the events especially considering my father was a Superintendent in the area.



Lastly, I am delighted to congratulate and thank Leixlip on another Gold for Leixlip in the Tidy Towns. Congratulations to everyone involved and thank you for all your work. Well done to Naas, Maynooth and Kill for the gold and Celbridge for the Silver. Amazing work by volunteers around the county. It is these volunteers that exemplify everything good about our communities. Working hard and giving up their time so we can all live in a better place. Who could ask for more?



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## INTERNET SAFETY

# Cyber Crime

This is the first in a series of articles about Internet Safety. This edition we look at cybercrime. Future editions will explore more aspects of online safety.

**C**ybercrime affects businesses large and small and consumers. In 2020 in Ireland over €22 million was defrauded from individuals through card scams and the latest figures for the year to March 2022 show an alarming increase.

Cybercrime takes many forms, and this article attempts to explain them and offer advice on how to prevent it.

### What is cybercrime?

Cybercrime is a criminal activity that either targets or uses a computer, a computer network, or a networked device. Most cybercrime is committed by cybercriminals or hackers who want to make money. However, occasionally cybercrime aims to damage computers or networks for reasons other than profit. These could be political or personal. Cybercrime also covers telephone scams and child pornography.

Cybercrime can be carried out by individuals or

organizations. Some cybercriminals are organized, use advanced techniques, and are highly technically skilled. Others are novice hackers.

### What are the types of cybercrime?

Here are the six most common Cybercrimes (frauds) as described by An Garda Síochána.

#### 1. PAYMENT CARD FRAUD:

This type of fraud involves the use of stolen or counterfeit payment cards to make direct purchases or cash withdrawals. It also includes the use of stolen card data to buy items over the phone or via the internet.

#### Crime Prevention Advice

- Keep your card in a safe place at all times. Do not leave it lying around. Report it to your bank immediately if it





is lost or stolen.

- Keep your PIN safe. Do Not write it down, Do Not keep it with your card and Do Not give it to anyone.
- If you are expecting a card or a PIN in the post and it does not arrive, notify your card issuer immediately.
- Sign any new cards as soon as they arrive from your bank or card issuer. Ensure that you cut up the old cards as soon as the new ones become valid.
- Cover your PIN when making in-store purchases or using an ATM.
- Keep your card in sight when paying for goods or services.

## 2. INVOICE REDIRECTION FRAUD:

This type of fraud involves criminals contacting businesses or sellers usually by email, but sometimes by phone or other means of communication. The criminal pretends to be a supplier of goods or services that you already do business with and requests that the bank account details recorded for the legitimate supplier are changed on your financial system. The next time an invoice arrives from the legitimate supplier the payment is sent to an account controlled by the criminal instead of the supplier. This results in significant financial loss which may not be identified until a reminder email is received from the legitimate supplier. In such cases not only does the business lose money but they still have an outstanding invoice to pay to the legitimate supplier.

### Crime Prevention Advice

- Ensure that all staff are aware of this type of fraud and that all requests to change bank account details are brought to the attention of a supervisor for consideration.
- Always make a phone call or direct contact with a known

contact at the suppliers that has requested the change of account details to verify whether the request is correct.

- Ensure the contact is made independently and never respond directly by using the contact details contained in the email or provided by the sender as you may be contacting the fraudster.

## 3. CEO FRAUD:

This type of fraud is similar to Invoice Redirection Fraud however in this case junior employees in the finance department of a company receive an email from a criminal purporting to be the Chief Executive Officer stating that an important deal or some other urgent matter is pending and that a substantial payment needs to be processed immediately. Overawed by the involvement of the CEO, and the tone of the email which generally insists on secrecy, the employee acts on the email instruction and transfers a substantial sum of money to the specified bank to close the deal. It subsequently transpires when the employee plucks up the courage to tell someone else, that the CEO is oblivious to the transaction and that the email provided was false. By the time the fraud is detected the money is often gone.

### Crime Prevention Advice

- Training is a key element to avoiding this type of fraud by educating both CEO's, senior executives and staff about emails or communications of this nature.
- Staff should be empowered to question requests of this nature.
- Companies should have very clear policies and procedures in place, known to all employees for verifying payment transfers or high level requests from senior management.



- The use of additional verification processes should be utilised by employees as a matter of course. A phone call to the CEO to assist in confirming the transaction or a visual communication should be mandatory.

#### 4. EMAIL FRAUD OTHERWISE KNOWN AS PHISHING:

This type of fraud involves criminals making contact by email and can take a number of forms. The email may appear to be from a reputable company however when one clicks on the email or attachment or link within the email, malicious software (malware) is downloaded onto the PC or other device allowing the criminal to track online activity and identify personal or financial information for fraudulent purposes. Both individuals and companies can be victims of this type of crime.

In other cases, the criminal uses temptation as a means to extract money from you by pretending that you have won or inherited a large sum of money to convince you to provide personal or banking details or to transfer money.

##### Crime Prevention Advice

- Don't open unsolicited emails.
- Don't respond to any unsolicited email seeking personal, financial or security advice.
- Never click on a link or attachment in an unsolicited email.
- If it sounds too good to be true it probably is.
- If you believe the email is from a genuine source, verify this independently. Independently means independent of the email sender
- Independently verify any requests for information and never use the contact details supplied to you by the caller or texter. Independent means independent of the caller or texter.

#### 5. PHONE FRAUD OTHERWISE KNOWN AS VISHING OR SMISHING:

This type of fraud involves criminals contacting you by phone (vishing) or by text (Smishing) pretending to be your bank, credit card issuer, utility company or often a computer

company. During the conversation they will try and trick you into giving personal, banking or security information. They may also convince you to make a money transfer to them or inform you that you have won a prize and need to send money to release it. Their intention is to use this information to commit fraud against you or other parties in your name.

##### Crime Prevention Advice

- Always say "NO" to unsolicited callers or texters seeking private information about you. Private information includes your name, address, date of birth, family details, bank account numbers, PIN, Passwords
- Independently verify any requests for information and never use the contact details supplied to you by the caller or texter. Independent means independent of the caller or texter.
- The caller may already have some information about you so don't trust them because they use your name or other personal information.
- An Garda Síochána or your bank will never look for your Banking PIN number or Password or ask you to transfer money, or come to your home to collect your payment card, cheque book or cash.

#### 6. ADVANCE FEE FRAUD:

This type of fraud involves criminals targeting victims to make advance or upfront payments for goods, services or financial gains that do not materialize. These can take many forms including:

1. Rental Fraud where would-be tenants are tricked into paying a fee to rent a property that doesn't exist.
2. Romance Fraud where a victim unknowingly forms an online relationship with a criminal who is using a fake online profile who then asks for money for sick relatives or to come and visit. They may also seek personal information with intent to commit fraud.
3. Inheritance Fraud where the criminal pretends that someone very rich has died and has left you a large sum of money and will organize the payment of the inheritance for a fee.



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4. Lottery Fraud where the victim is told that they have won a lottery or prize draw and need to pay money to release the funds.
5. Ticket fraud where tickets are bought online that do not materialize.
6. Ghost Broker /Car Insurance frauds where the insurance product does not exist or cover what it claims to do.
7. Investment fraud where investment opportunities are advertised online which do not exist.

### Crime Prevention Advice

- If it seems too good to be true it probably is.
- Beware of unsolicited offers of service or benefits.
- Ensure that you have independently verified the identity of the person or company you are dealing with and if that is not possible end contact immediately.
- Never give any personal financial or security information to any person or company unless you have satisfied yourself that they are genuine.
- Be wary if you are asked to transfer money to non-identifiable locations such as PO Boxes or through Money Transfer companies rather than bank accounts.

### Passwords

Always use strong passwords. We all want easy-to-remember passwords, but they are often easy to guess. Scammers use automated password software to test login passwords. If you want to know how long it would take a scammer to guess your password then check your password on this website. It might alarm you how easy your password is to crack:

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## Local Enterprise Office, Kildare Collaborate with Trinity College Dublin to Launch Postgraduate Programme in Innovation & Entrepreneurship for Small Businesses

**Local Enterprise Offices of Kildare, Meath and Wicklow partner to launch a Postgraduate Certificate in Innovation and Enterprise Development accredited by Trinity College Dublin and based in MERITS, the Mid-East Region's Innovation Think-Space.**

In securing this partnership, Jacqui McNabb, Head of Enterprise and Economic Development in Kildare County Council said; "For many companies there is a wide gap between their aspirations to innovate and their ability to execute. By supporting innovation at the core of each business, we can support and bridge that gap to ensure that our clients have a competitive edge and the ambition to be global leaders."

Ken Finnegan, CEO of Tangent, Trinity's Ideas Workspace, added; "Trinity is the number one university in Europe for producing entrepreneurs for the 7th consecutive year and over the last 10 years Trinity has invested €101.2m equity-free into its student's start-ups."

The part-time course, which runs over 18 weeks from January to June 2023, will be hosted in MERITS, Naas, Co. Kildare. The course is for those seeking to develop an

entrepreneurial mindset, a new career path or wishing to upskill and progress within their current organisation. The Trinity Postgraduate Certificate in Innovation and Enterprise Development will provide ambitious individuals in the region with the opportunity to gain a postgraduate qualification at level 9 on the National Framework of Qualifications.

The course is funded by the Higher Education Authority under the Springboard+ initiative, meaning it is free to eligible applicants with a fee of 10% (€300) being applicable for successful applicants currently in employment and available to those who may be unemployed at 1005 subsidy, therefore with no fees.

Places are limited and offered on a first-come bases.

Classes will be delivered online (70%) and in-person (30%) and the course is now open for applications HEA - Springboard+ ([springboardcourses.ie](https://springboardcourses.ie))





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# Councillors call on Liffey Valley to reverse staff car parking charges

Local councillors have called on the management and owners of Liffey Valley Shopping Centre to reverse the decision to charge staff for car parking

**D**eputy Emer Higgins was speaking following the extension of the universal subsidy under the National Childcare Scheme to all children under 15 using registered childcare, with up to 40,000 families estimated to benefit by receiving up to €1,170 per annum off the cost of childcare.

Workers had been informed in September that they would be forced to pay for car parking from October onwards. Initially staff were told that they would have to pay full price which was later changed to a €600 fee per year.

At the September meeting of the Lucan/Palmerstown/North Clondalkin Area Committee in South Dublin County Council elected representatives voted unanimously to write a letter to Liffey Valley asking them to reverse the decision. The motion, which was proposed by People Before Profit councillor Madeleine Johansson, expressed the disappointment of the local councillors with the decision by Liffey Valley.

People Before Profit TD's for the area Gino Kenny and Brid Smith also met with workers at the centre and have vowed to support them against the management.

Cllr Madeleine Johansson commented: "Retail workers are some of the lowest paid workers in the country and the proposed car parking charges amounts to a significant pay cut for workers. Councillors were shocked by the decision by the centre to charge staff for parking. The owners and management of Liffey Valley made all sorts of promises to support the local community when they wanted councillors to re-zone their land last year. It seems that their generosity has gone out the window."

Gino Kenny TD said: "I met with a number of workers from the centre recently, and I'm shocked that the centre is still going ahead with these charges for staff. Many staff members have no choice but to drive to the centre for work. Some work part-time and have to pick up children from school before or after work, while others live outside of Dublin with no public transport links. Workers are already struggling with the cost of living crisis and retail workers simply can't



afford to pay these charges. We will be supporting the workers in whatever way we can to defeat these unfair charges."

Parking until now has been free for customers at Liffey Valley. From October 2022 this will change with the following parking charges:

<b>0-3 hours:</b>	<b>€2.50</b>	<b>8am – 6pm</b>
<b>3-4 hours:</b>	<b>€5.00</b>	<b>8am – 6pm</b>
<b>4-5 hours:</b>	<b>€7.50</b>	<b>8am – 6pm</b>
<b>5-6 hours:</b>	<b>€10.00</b>	<b>8am – 6pm</b>
<b>6-7 hours:</b>	<b>€12.50</b>	<b>8am – 6pm Max Day Rate</b>
<b>Evening:</b>	<b>€2.50</b>	<b>Flat Rate 6pm - 8am</b>

The centre's management team said the decision to charge for parking was based on a shift towards more sustainable modes of transport. Their statement read "We are confident that the changes when implemented from Monday 17 October will result in a much-improved parking experience as we expect that due to the new management system, parkers who are not either visiting or working for retailers in the Centre will no longer avail of our parking facilities".



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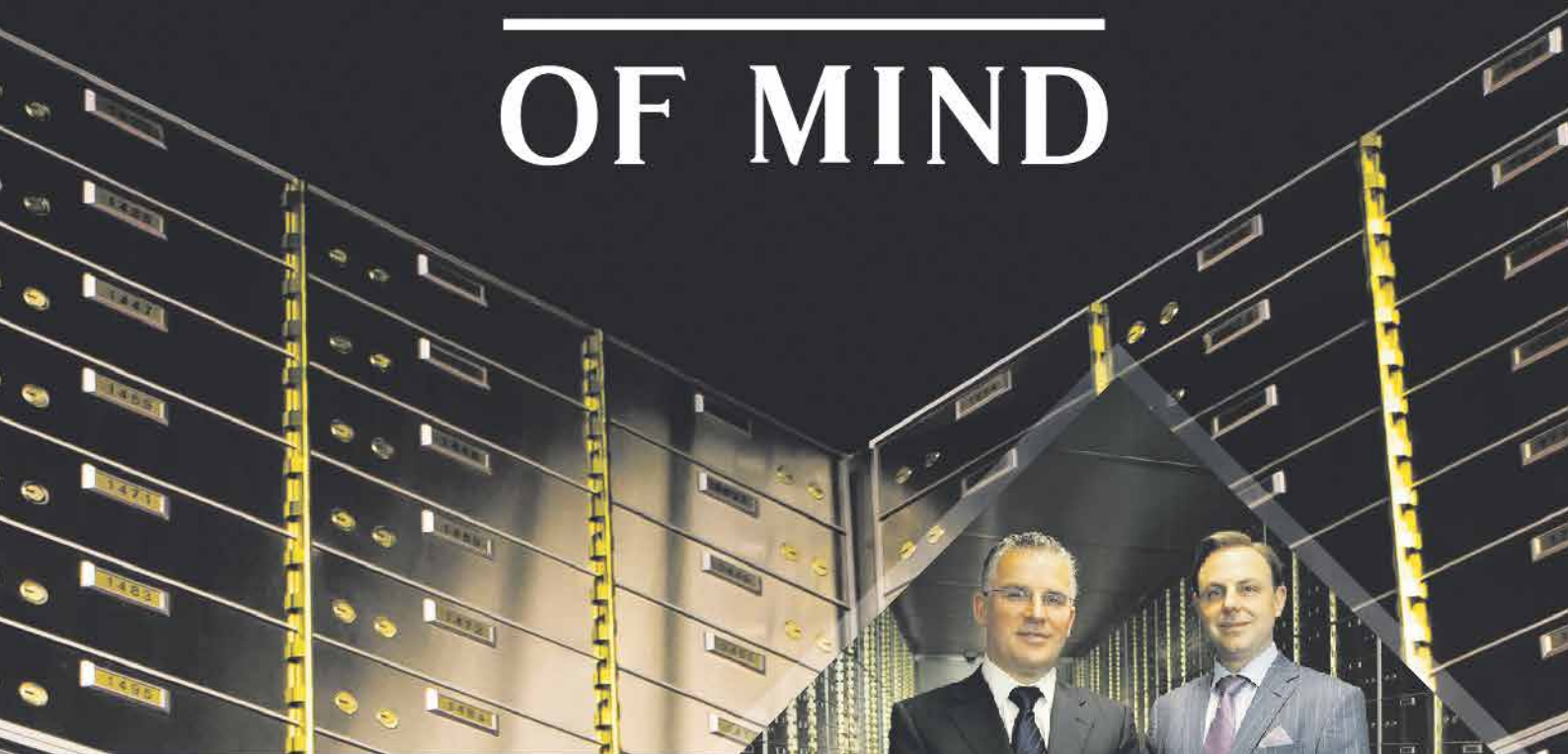




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# The origin of Halloween lies in Celtic Ireland

**“If there’s one thing the Irish know how to do really, really well, it’s scaring the living bejaysus out of you” Author Derek Landy.**

**T**o find the origin of Halloween, you have to look to the festival of Samhain in Ireland’s Celtic past.

Samhain had three distinct elements. Firstly, it was an important fire festival, celebrated over the evening of 31 October and throughout the following day. The flames of old fires had to be extinguished and ceremonially re-lit by druids.

It was also a festival not unlike the modern New Year’s Day in that it carried the notion of casting out the old and moving into the new.

To our pagan ancestors it marked the end of the pastoral cycle – a time when all the crops would have been gathered and placed in storage for the long winter ahead and when livestock would be brought in from the fields and selected for slaughter or breeding. It was also, as the last day of the year, the time when the souls of the departed would return to their former homes and when potentially malevolent spirits were released from the Otherworld and were visible to mankind.

## Samhain: its place in the Celtic calendar

The Celts celebrated four major festivals each year. None of them was connected in any way to the sun’s cycle.

The origin of Halloween lies in the Celt’s Autumn festival which was held on the first day of the 11th month - the month known as November in English but as Samhain in Irish. The festivals are known by other names in other Celtic countries.

The Celts believed that the passage of a day began with darkness and progressed into the light. The same notion explains why Winter – the season of long, dark nights – marked the beginning of the year and progressed into the lighter days of Spring, Summer and Autumn.

So, the 1st of November, Samhain, was the Celtic New Year, and the celebrations began at sunset of the day before - its ‘Eve’.

In the 7th-century Pope Boniface, attempting to lead his flock away from pagan celebrations and rituals, declared 1st November to be All Saints Day, also known as All Hallows Day. The evening before became known as Hallows’ Eve, and from there the origin of Halloween, as a word, is clear.

## The origin of Halloween’s spookiness

For Celts, Samhain was a spiritual time, but with a lot of confusion

thrown into the mix.

Being ‘between years’ or ‘in transition’, the usually stable boundaries between the Otherworld and the human world became less secure so that puka, banshees, fairies and other spirits could come and go quite freely. There were also ‘shape shifters’ at large. This is where the dark side of Halloween originated.

To ward off the evil let loose at Samhain, huge bonfires were lit, and people wore ugly masks and disguises to confuse the spirits and stop the dead identifying individuals who they had disliked during their own lifetime.

They also deliberately made a lot of noise to unsettle the spirits and drive them away from their homes. The timid, however, would leave out food in their homes, or at the nearest hawthorn or whitethorn bush (where fairies were known to live), hoping that their generosity would appease the spirits.

For some, the tradition of leaving food (and a spoon to eat it!) in the home – usually a plate of champ or Colcannon – was more about offering hospitality to their own ancestors.

Just as spells and incantations of witches were especially powerful at Samhain, so the night was believed to be full of portents of the future.

## Apples

Apples are associated with Halloween. Samhain marked the end of the final harvest of the summer, and all apples had to have been picked by the time the day’s feasting began. It was believed that on Samhain, the puca (Irish evil fairies), spat on any unharvested apples to make them inedible.

## The origin of Halloween games

The best-known of Halloween games is ducking, or bobbing, for apples. This is a game where the object is to retrieve an apple from a barrel or large bowl of water without using hands or feet. There was nothing particularly symbolic about the origin of Halloween games such as this. They are fun games in which all ages can participate, and apples were plentiful at this time.

In today’s world Halloween is a very popular time of year with children. They look forward to dressing up and going from door to door ‘Trick or Treating’.



# Delay in Services Fuelling Car Parking Problems

Dublin Mid-West Sinn Féin Councillor Derren Ó Brádaigh has expressed growing concern at the sheer number of residents in Adamstown and the surrounding areas experiencing car parking difficulties daily. The councillor was referring to a recent courtesy canvas of over 1,100 homes and the feedback received directly on the doors.

**T**he Councillor for Lucan-Palmerstown-North Clondalkin said;

“During the month of October Sinn Féin conducted door knocks on 5 separate dates, engaging with residents in the existing parts of Castlegate and Adamstown long taken in charge by the council. The homes we covered were constructed over a decade ago, with the continued Adamstown Strategic Development Zone (SDZ) construction, now giving rise to a rapidly increasing population and the demand for services such as GP’s, basic healthcare and childcare becoming acute. Lack of car parking space also featured prominently during conversations and in the context of infrastructural needs.

“This is an issue that is regularly raised with me by residents, and I have conveyed these concerns to the Council. In response, SDCC reference the National Transport Authority’s strategic plan for the greater Dublin area and parking provision guidelines of applying car parking space based upon the level of public transport accessibility.

“The County Development Plan (CDP) states that Adamstown has a layout which allows for sustainable forms of transport and therefore the provision of parking spaces is appropriate. An ‘objective’ of the SDZ is that Adamstown be designed to accommodate, but not be dominated by the car. This is a planning principle that I support and recognise, if we are serious about climate awareness and our environment.

“Whilst I accept and even support much of the content as guided by council policy, our own county development plan and recommendations by the NTA, car parking space shortages generally are becoming more acute in the Adamstown SDZ. This in my view, is because of the delay in essential services being realised in real time, such as nearby childcare, new road openings, absence of bus routes



**Cllr Derren Ó Brádaigh, Sinn Féin**

arriving alongside new development becoming occupied, overstretched train/carriages numbers at peak hours and the demand for planned new school places now, sending children further afield to surrounding schools. This is being compounded by the current housing crisis, that is resulting in larger tenancy numbers in many dwellings, all bringing with it more cars and car dependency.

“Lucan West has a large working population with many young families. We know that there are a lot of healthcare workers living locally, working shift hours, and often arriving home late and unable to get parking. In some instances, this has led to tensions and disputes between neighbours. If we are to ever achieve the modal shift from private car to public transport that we all aspire to, then we need to address the immediate service needs, changing dynamics and challenges of new communities as they emerge.”



# Kildare County Council Makes Naas and Athy 'Poor Law Union' Records Available Online

**Kildare County Council's County Archives service has made nearly 18,000 pages of some of its records relating to the Poor Law Unions of Athy and Naas available to view online. These include Naas Poor Law Union Minute books and Athy Poor Law Union Indoor Relief registers.**

**T**hese records are an invaluable source for historians and family history researchers and are available to view via Kildare County Council's Online Archives service at: <https://kildarecoco.ie/Library/LocalStudiesGenealogyandArchives/Archives/OnlineArchives>

The Poor Law Unions were set up by 'An Act for the more Effectual Relief of the Destitute Poor in Ireland, 1838', which extended the English poor law system to Ireland.

County Kildare was served by five Poor Law Unions (PLUs), with workhouses at Naas, Athy and Celbridge, in addition to workhouses in Edenderry, Co. Offaly, and Baltinglass, Co. Wicklow, which covered some parts of the county.

The Naas Poor Law Union Minute Books cover the pre-Famine, Famine, and post-Famine era, from April 1839 to June 1858. They provide an account of the minutes of the weekly meetings of the Naas Board of Guardians including details of how the workhouse was run, weekly statistical information on the state of the workhouse, how many men,

women and children were entered, left, or died, as well as details of food, medicines, and other supplies. During the years of the famine there are details of outdoor relief, fever hospitals and temporary workhouses.

Seventeen Athy Indoor Relief Registers and an index register covering the years September 1878 to July 1918 contain thousands of names. These Indoor Admission and Discharge registers include information recorded under headings such as Number, Name of Pauper, Sex, Age, Marital Status, Child of/Orphan/Deserted, Trade, Religious Denomination, Disabled and Nature of disability, Name of Spouse, Number of Children, Observations on condition of pauper upon admission, Electoral Division/Townland, Date admitted or when born in the workhouse, and Date of death or discharge. Each volume contains an alphabetical index.

It should be noted that there are pages missing from some of the volumes and some are in poor condition.

**Enquiries to [archives@kildarecoco.ie](mailto:archives@kildarecoco.ie)**





## South Dublin County Council Update

### Council Grants To Enhance Local Businesses

Several Lucan Businesses have received grants for improvements from South Dublin County Council over the past 3 years.

This funding relates to 2 schemes:

- the *Shop Front Grant Scheme*
- the *Outdoor Seating & Accessories for Tourism & Hospitality Business' scheme*

The Outdoor Seating and Accessories Grant that was introduced to support outdoor dining in 2021 is no longer available.

The **Shop Front Grant Scheme** is still available because it is an ongoing grant.

Shop Front Grants are available for a maximum of 50% of overall costs of works.

*For example:*

- €1,200 = overall approved costs
- €600 is paid by SDCC
- €600 is paid by trader



With 'Patrick Sarsfield' and 'Elisabeth Vesey', (AKA Paul and Helen of the Society for Old Lucan) during the Lucan Festival walk in the grounds of Lucan House

Businesses in Lucan that have received grants from the Council from 2020:

#### Outdoor Seating Grant

- Ryan's Village Café
- Taste Buds Café
- Courtney's Lounge Bar
- Vesey Inn
- Spa Hotel
- Ballalley
- Penny Hill
- Carrolls
- Attercin Liffey
- Orbit Wave

#### Shop Front Grant

- Aspen Counselling
- Griffeen Bathrooms
- River Café
- Green Mango
- Ryan's Village Café
- Deirdre Lawless Hair and Beauty

#### My day to day work as a councillor and Deputy Mayor

- attending council meetings
- pursuing queries and raising local issues
- meeting local groups
- attending functions
- Official duties when Mayor is unavailable
- making policy and plans for the area

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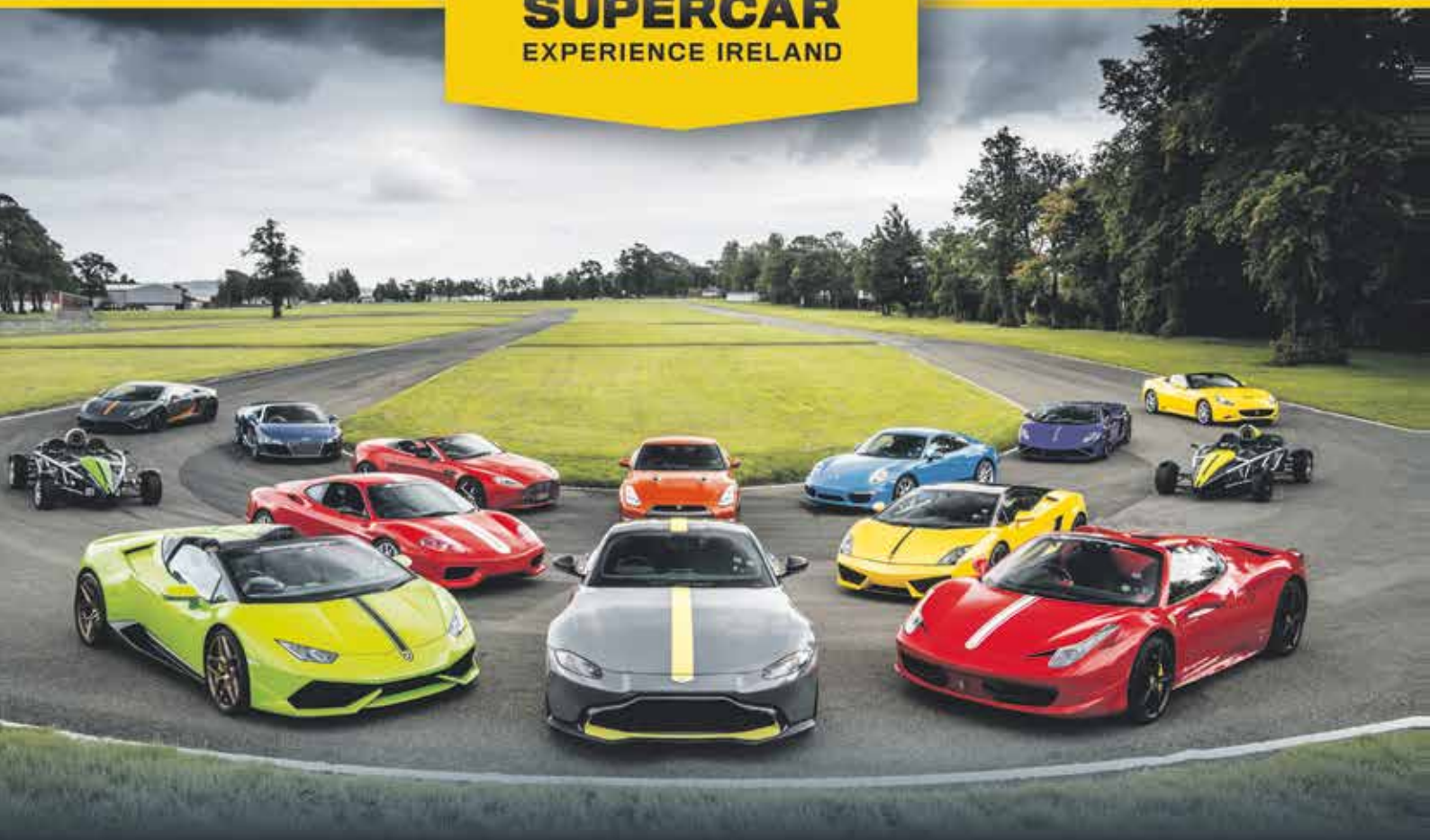
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