

ISSUE 47
MAY 2024

Little Village

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EDITORIAL

Welcome to the May Editon of Little Village.
Time flies and we are approaching summer months already this year.
Our May edition has interesting articles on subjects such as Artificial Intelligence in Medicine and the origins of May Day.

For anyone owning an e-scooter, or thinking of buying one, we explain the law on this matter.

As always, we welcome feedback on our magazine and contributions from local groups and societies

Kind Regards
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Ronan Bright
Director / Head of Sales
bightronan83@gmail.com
085 199 8321



Patrick Browne
Graphic Design
hello@patrickbrownedesign.com
086 831 9322

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Clonsilla Tidy Towns

Clonsilla Tidy Towns began 12 months ago, the brainchild of Sinead Reid, Siobhan Shovlin and Emma Black who had connected over their mutual desire to enhance Clonsilla Village and surrounds.

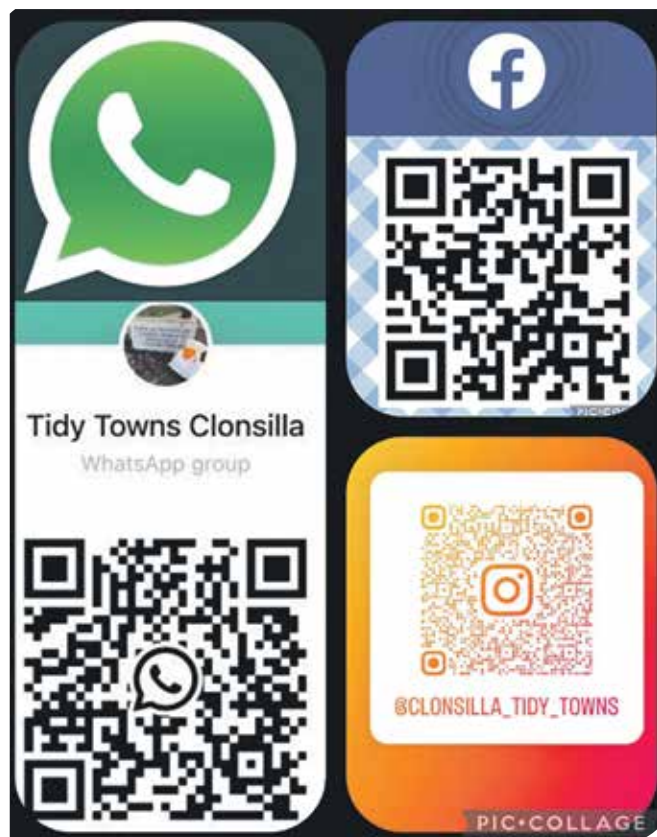


An online community meeting was held in March 2023, with people right across the community in attendance. The first clean-up was held in April 2023 as part of An Taisce National Spring Clean. By September, an AGM had been held and a formal committee nominated, including Michelle, Eoghan, Carol, Barry, Sinead, Siobhan and Emma.

Clonsilla Tidy Towns meets on the third Saturday of the every month from 10am - noon, beginning at the Clonsilla Inn. The work is co-ordinated each month, to include litter picks, tidying, planting, weeding, edging and mowing. At noon, everyone meets up for refreshments in the Clonsilla Inn, generously provided by the Clonsilla Inn and Lidl. We appreciate that the time and day does not suit everyone. Therefore, during the spring and summer months we try to ensure there is a smaller meet up on a week-day evening, usually one Wednesday per month. All details can be found on Facebook, Instagram and X; just search 'Clonsilla Tidy Towns'.

Other critical sponsorship has been direct funding and our hi-vis vests sponsored by Cunninghams Funeral Homes as well as equipment from Supermikes Hardware. We have significant support from Fingal County Council and work closely with local groups such as the Clonsilla & Porterstown Heritage Society and other local Tidy Towns.

Developing a Tidy Towns initiative has been a fantastic way to create a cleaner, greener Clonsilla, in addition to being a great social event and opportunity for exercise and fresh air! Fundamental to its success over the last year has been the wonderful volunteers who have turned up in the rain and sunshine. Meeting neighbours, making friends and having some fun, all for a common cause, has been one of the best parts of the whole venture. Do come and join us!



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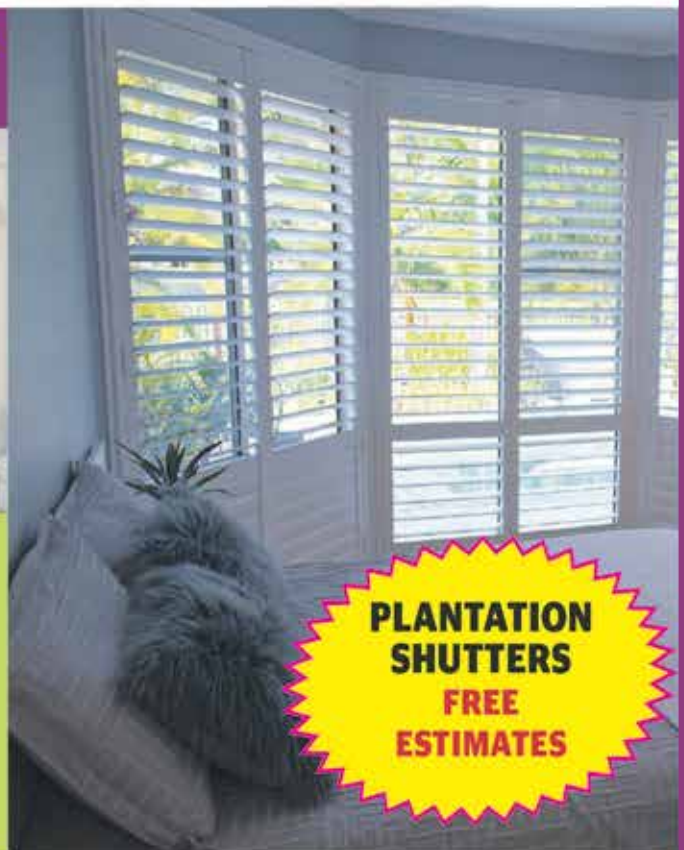
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What is going on with the weather this year?

Met Eireann and other leading forecasters have identified an extremely rare weather event brewing up to land in Ireland and northwest Europe in the coming days.

One prominent weather channel highlighted that the same “rare strong” El Niño conditions followed by a similarly strong La Niña have not been seen since 1998 in the region.

Experts have predicted that 2024 may have a short and mixed summer going off this rare combination and the strong correlation with 1998’s conditions.

London and Southeast, a leading atmospheric science group outlined the bad news: “Looking like duller April in 26 years in London. What ties us with 1998? The 97-98 winter also experienced a rare strong El Niño event, a very mild winter, and similarly there was cold weather in April.

“Also as in 1998, La Niña will develop over the summertime. 1998 is a strong analogue this year and for this upcoming summer. It’s why I’m not particularly convinced of a long hot/dry summer at the moment.”

Meanwhile on the continent, destructive unseasonal frosts have hit once again in France, Germany and Italy damaging crops and vineyards.

A cold blast like this that follows a warmer-than-average winter has meant that many plants and crops have begun to bud early. This is not good news for vineyards with a widespread air frost set to cause catastrophic conditions. Central Europe has been hit with snow and icy weather, many



weeks after the normal freezing window.

Nick Frost of NetWeather tweeted: “Not good news for vineyard & fruit orchard owners over large parts of mainland Europe - with a widespread air frost forecast next few nights. Plants had an early start with budding & flowering this year after mild winter & early April warmth but means vulnerable to late freezes.”

All in all prospects for a hot summer in Ireland in 2024 are not looking good.

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LOCAL UPDATES

PROTECTING OUR HERITAGE: THE OLD SCHOOL HOUSE CLONSILLA

The Old School House is a priceless historic building on lands which are rich in biodiversity. I am working with residents to ensure that the Old School House is conserved and brought into community use, providing local people with an opportunity to enjoy their local heritage.

Motion: Councillor J. Walsh

"That the Chief Executive continues to make every effort to acquire the Old School House, Clonsilla and to bring forward, as soon as possible, a Master Plan which protects the priceless heritage building and conserves biodiversity on the adjoining lands."

Report:

'Fingal County Council has engaged with the Vendors of the site to communicate its position in respect of a potential acquisition of the site and is open to further engagement with the Vendors through the Property Services Section...'

- The only way to protect the Old School House and preserve the biodiversity on its land is to take the building into public ownership. I recently received this commitment at the local Area Committee that the Property Services team of Fingal Council are willing to acquire the Old School House.
- The Planning department will open consultation on a Master Plan for the Old School House this summer, in line with a local objective which I had proposed for the Development Plan: *'Objective CSO11 - Master Plan for the Old School House, Clonsilla, to be completed within two years from the commencement of the Development Plan.'*



DISRUPTION TO WATER SUPPLY

Many estates in Castleknock, Carpenterstown and Clonsilla had a severe disruption to the water supply due to a major water mains burst on 5th April and weeks later some estates continue to experience low water pressure. I raised a complaint with Irish Water about the lack of information for residents and have put down a motion for the local Area Committee inviting Irish Water to appear at a meeting of the Committee to explain the recent interruption of water supply in Dublin 15 and address their failure to communicate adequately with residents.

DELAY IN CLONROSS DEVELOPMENT RESOLVED

I have received a lot of queries about the new apartments at Clonross opposite the Bell where the apartments are complete but tenants could not move in due to a legal dispute and have raised the delay repeatedly over the last year with Fingal Housing department. The Council has now confirmed that the legal issues are resolved: '....the conveyancing on this scheme completed yesterday Monday 30th April. Cluid Approved Housing Body will be working with the Allocations team in Fingal County Council to move tenants in as quickly as possible.'

Working with Cllr Mary McCamley



ACHIEVEMENTS

- **Building works for Community facilities:** secured a dedicated fund in the Fingal Council Budget of €400,000 annually to support essential building and capital works at non Council owned Community Centres, such as Castleknock Community Centre, Laurel Lodge and St Brigid's Community Centre, Blanchardstown.
- **Benches on green spaces:** secured park benches on green spaces in Castleknock for the first time in conjunction with Castleknock Tidy Towns and benches are now being provided across Dublin 15.
- **Support for local amenities:** increased funding for tree planting, traffic calming & public lighting.
- **Public transport:** sought commitment from NTA to a new bus service from Blanchardstown Centre to Dublin Airport, which will be introduced from 2025.
- **Climate action:** successfully proposed adoption by Fingal of Circular Cities Declaration promoting circular economy principles of re-use and recycling.
- **Biodiversity:** secured agreement from Fingal Operations to phase out the use of artificial herbicides in Dublin 15.
- **Special Needs Education Crisis:** consistently advocated for immediate action on the crisis in educational provision and health services for children and adults with additional needs in Dublin 15.
- **Amplifying local concerns:** supported local people with a variety of public meetings on everything from DART+West, the Royal Canal Greenway, the new Fingal Development Plan and the return to school, to local planning developments.

I am asking for your support to be re-elected on 7th June so that I can continue working for our local area. **These will be my key priorities:**

- **Community led planning:** new housing in conjunction with essential social and community infrastructure.
- **Affordable housing:** more affordable homes within sustainable communities.
- **Investing in schools and services for children with additional needs:** better forward planning of school buildings so that every child in our area secures a place in their local post primary school and deliver essential supports for children with additional educational needs.
- **Protect & promote biodiversity** in our local parks, within the Liffey Valley Special Amenity Area and along the Royal Canal.
- **Public Transport:** a more reliable and regular bus service and electrification of the Maynooth line while respecting the concerns of local communities.
- **Safer Communities:** more Community Gardai and more Gardai on the beat across Dublin 15.

I am asking for your No.1 vote so that I can continue to represent all communities in our area and ensure that fairness and equality are at the heart of decisions made by Fingal Council.

Thank you,

John

Disabled Drivers Association launches campaign for Text Alert Scheme countrywide



Fear of physical and verbal abuse and their own safety were among the top reasons for not approaching somebody parked illegally in accessible parking bays, according to a survey carried out by the Disabled Drivers Association of Ireland (DDAI) in April 2024.

Over 2,600 people from across the country responded to the survey, which was carried out to highlight the DDAI's campaign to call on city and county councils nationwide to introduce a Text Alert Scheme to combat the misuse of accessible parking bays in public places. 94% of respondents said they would welcome a mobile phone Text Alert Scheme to notify the local warden when someone was parked illegally.

It is an offence to park a vehicle in an accessible parking bay in a public place without a valid parking permit. Offenders receive a parking fine of €150 which increases to €225 if not paid within 28 days. Despite this, parking bay abuse is still going on, according to Richard Ryder of the Disabled Drivers Association.

Richard Ryder, marketing manager with the Disabled

Drivers Association said, "Our survey wasn't confined to our members, we received a huge response from across the community, with many people without disabilities commenting they are annoyed and frustrated with the misuse of accessible parking bays.

It's very clear that people want an opportunity to be able to do something about parking bay abuse but in a safe way. It's why we are calling on city and county councils to begin using a Text Alert Scheme in their areas. It's safe, it's easy and it's a significant deterrent," Ryder continued.

The survey results were highlighted at the DDAI's AGM and Strategy Launch in the Connacht Hotel, Galway on Sat 20th April 2024, at which the charity announced the details of its three-year strategic plan. The plan was launched by Sean Canney TD, a member of the Joint Oireachtas Committee on Disability Matters. The event was also attended by Mairead



Councillor **Natalie**
TREACY

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Farrell, TD and Noel Grealish TD with special guest Nikki Bradley, an adaptive adventurer and one of Ireland's leading female motivational speakers.

Chairman Seamus Reidy said, "Our mission is to present physical disability in the best possible light and strives to show that most physical disabilities can be overcome, and individuals can go on to achieve their full potential, with the benefit of support and training".

The Text Alert scheme is already in use in Lucan and Rathfarnham Villages in Dublin and Gorey in Wexford. Every publicly accessible parking bay has a sign displaying the bay number and a mobile phone number. If someone is parked in one of those bays without a permit or is misusing the permit, people can text the bay number to alert the traffic warden.

Councillor Vicki Casserly of South Dublin County Council was involved in the piloting of the Text Alert Scheme in Lucan Village and due to its success, it is now extended across South Dublin County Council. She is also a campaigner for inclusion and disability rights with her partner Paul and her son James.

Cllr Casserly said, "I first brought it to South Dublin County Council because I was very keen to tackle the misuse of accessible parking bays in our area and well as supporting An Garda Siochana's Operation Enable. It's been very successful and that's why I believe that the Text Alert scheme should be rolled out nationwide because it does enable proper use of the parking bays and acts as a strong deterrent against misuse. The scheme supports persons with disabilities to be able to navigate their communities for their day-to-day life. It's so important and I'd love to see this happening across Ireland to support and acknowledge the rights of a person with a disability."

Disability advocate Nikki Bradley is campaigning to have the Text Alert Scheme introduced into her native Donegal. Nikki said, "As someone living with a physical disability, I have experienced first-hand the negative knock-on effect that occurs when someone unlawfully parks in a disabled bay. I have often found myself left with no option but to park in a "normal" parking space which makes it extremely difficult to get out of my car.

The Text Alert Scheme is an excellent solution to this ongoing issue, and I welcome it wholeheartedly. It will give those living with reduced mobility that feeling of power and control that they have not had prior to now. Parking in an accessible parking bay is not a luxury. It is a necessity. "

The Disabled Drivers Association (DDAI) is Ireland's leading charity for disabled drivers and passengers on a national level. It promotes independence and equal opportunity through mobility, education and training. www.ddai.ie

SURVEY FINDINGS

2,662 people responded, 68% of the respondents were female and 32% male, 94% of respondents said would welcome a mobile phone Text Alert Scheme to notify the local warden when someone was parked illegally.

When the respondents were asked why they wouldn't approach anyone parked illegally, 88% came back with the responses along the following lines

- Fear of confrontation
- Fear of being physically or verbally abused
- Didn't want to cause a scene
- Too shy to do so
- Not worth the abuse

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- Too dangerous/fear for own safety
- No point/Waste of time
- Don't have the power to tell them to move or issue a fine

Sample of Verbatim Responses to this question

- "The type of people who do this are not only entitled and inconsiderate but also rude and sometimes aggressive"
- "Some people just don't care and can be aggressive if challenged"
- "Sometimes there is a few in the car and I could be attacked"
- "Because they know they are doing something wrong and will be on the defensive before you even speak to them."
- "Because it is a waste of time, nothing will be done about it."
- "Most just ignore you"
- "You cannot get through to stupid"
- "I'm afraid.... and living in a sheltered accommodation so it's not a public car park etc.... but sometimes I need that space and she is so aggressive that it feels pointless."
- "It takes a lot of (limited) emotional energy and there's a perceived risk of escalation to emotional or physical violence. One man that I'd confronted later spotted me sitting and waiting for food in a nearby takeaway. He came in and angrily ask me why I was parked in an accessible spot (my disability is dynamic and not visually obvious when I'm sitting down.) I felt very unsafe and was glad that I wasn't alone. It has put me off approaching others in future."
- Aggression, they won't move anyway. We shouldn't have to ask people to free up a space they're not entitled to park in.

They know the chances of them being caught/fined are low. We shouldn't have to police these parking spaces."

- "I felt intimidated when I was on my own as they hurled abuse at me and said I would have to sit in my car until they returned to move their car from the parking bay. The person was able bodied and was well known by me."

58% of respondents said they had confronted someone parking illegally in an accessible parking bay at one point and the main reactions and responses they received with were:

- I'll only be a minute
- None of your business
- f.... off (and mind your own business)
- Will move if someone needs it
- No other spaces available
- Didn't realise it was a disabled spot
- Have kids with me so must park here
- Delivering a pizza
- Said they paid road tax and could park where they liked
- Left permit at home
- Permit's in the glove compartment
- Thought disabled people didn't go out at night

Sample of verbatim responses to this question

- "They were only going to be there for a minute, or they were dashing into a shop. I could go on and on."
- "They did not reply to my pointing out that they were parking in a disabled bay. They just shrugged and walked away"
- "Said they were driving their granny.who wasn't there"
- "The lady parked her car in a walkway beside the

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disabled parking space and it prevented me gaining access to load my wheelchair into my car. She told me she was suffering from morning sickness.”

- “Just told to mind my own business even though I have a permit and clearly struggling on crutches”
- “Wanted the wider spot as they didn’t want their paintwork damaged.”
- “They didn’t bother to even have an excuse”
- “No excuse given. Was told to f### off”
- “They didn’t care. They had a couple of kids and a lot of shopping to do”
- “Anxious mum pulled across 3 bays so she could get her kids names down for summer camps”
- “I’ll only be a minute. It’s raining. You don’t REALLY need it.”
- “Questioned what disability I had because I didn’t look disabled!!”
- “Someone using a Blue Card belonging to a relative says: But I have the person’s permission to use it!!!!”

When asked the reasons why they would welcome such a scheme, 89% of respondents said

- It’s anonymous and safe, eliminates the fear of verbal abuse and harassment by the offenders
- It would make people think twice about parking there and risking a fine
- Makes it easier and quicker to report illegal parking
- A good deterrent that would free up the disabled parking spaces for people who really need them
- Helpful to the traffic wardens and a better chance of catching and fining those parking illegally

Sample of Verbatim Responses

- “Because I could report it without confrontation”
- “Because I could report them without being afraid”
- “Stops people getting verbally abused”
- “To free up the space and to let people know they won’t get away with it”
- “If warden was giving out tickets people would stop parking.”
- “Because of the frequency of my being denied a space by people who are not disabled”.
- “I would hope that the wardens might respond often promptly and impose a charge. That would be far more effective than a disabled person challenging on the spot. I would also hope that other citizens would report illegal parking”
- There are so few spaces we need them. They’re very important to us.
- “Because they deserve to be fined”
- “They keep getting away with their “one minute”. Most people without a card wouldn’t dream of doing it.”
- It would be safer and more convenient
- It would facilitate accurate data collection on abuse of accessible parking bays, and also eliminate risk of verbal/physical assault
- “People who park in disability parking places are usually habitual abusers and have no qualms about doing so regularly so if they are reported to a proper authority, they might actually get some kind of penalty or fine.”
- “To make people realise how important these parking spots are and how disrespectful they are being by using them
- “If I don’t get a disabled spot, I have to go home.”

Eimear Carbone-Mangan

Fianna Fáil candidate for the 2024 local elections for the Castleknock & Blanchardstown Local Electoral Area.

Originally from Dún Laoghaire, Eimear has lived in Dublin 15 for the past 20 years and resides with her family in Collegewood, Castleknock.

“I have always striven to contribute to the quality of life, social economic and environmental sustainability of the community I belong to”.

Eimear is actively involved in the local community through her voluntary work including her involvement in Scoil Mhuire, Mount Sackville where she chairs the Parents’ Association.

With a background in communications, she is energised by working on new initiatives that will help deliver wider benefits for all residents.

As a trained classical singer Eimear is passionate about the arts and developing more cultural spaces and facilities for our talented young people and artists.

Eimear’s key priorities include:

1. Ensuring that proper housing planning is in place, to include good infrastructure roads and traffic management, parks and playgrounds.
2. Focusing on our children’s safety online and on social media.
3. Engaging with An Garda Síochána to contribute to secure communities.
4. Working with the National Transport Authority to ensure that bus services are more frequent and reliable.
5. Establishing and maintaining a collaborative relationship with Fingal County Council and Management for better outcomes.

“I look forward to continuing meeting and engaging with you as I canvass the constituency in the coming weeks”.

VOTE No.1 Eimear Carbone-Mangan

Eimear Carbone-Mangan 087 666 2050

eimearcarbonemangan@gmail.com



The image is a campaign poster for Eimear Carbone-Mangan, a candidate for the 2024 local elections for the Castleknock & Blanchardstown Local Electoral Area. The poster features the Fianna Fáil logo at the top left, which includes a harp and the text "FIANNA FÁIL THE REPUBLICAN PARTY". Below the logo is a portrait of Eimear Carbone-Mangan, a woman with short dark hair, wearing a purple top. To the right of her portrait, the text "VOTE #1" is displayed in large, bold, green letters. At the bottom of the poster, the name "EIMEAR CARBONE-MANGAN" is written in large, bold, white letters, and below that, "CASTLEKNOCK & BLANCHARDSTOWN" is written in smaller, bold, white letters.



Clr Pamela Conroy

Delivering for our community!

Vote
1



My Priorities

I am delighted to be the Green Party Candidate for the Castleknock, Carpenterstown, Blanchardstown, Clonsilla, Liffey Valley and Blakestown area in the upcoming Local Elections. The following are the main priorities that I will work on over the next five years.

Properly Planned Housing Development

Much of our housing has been delivered without proper services. If elected I will:

- Work to ensure that new homes are properly planned to deliver services alongside housing
- Advocate for affordable, cost rental and social housing in Dunsink
- Ensure planning frameworks adopted by Fingal Councillors are properly implemented
- Ensure childcare facilities that have been committed to in planning permissions are delivered

Biodiversity and Climate Action

As a Councillor I have overseen the creation of the Fingal County Council Biodiversity and Climate Action Plans. If elected I will work to ensure that these are delivered by:

- Ensuring support for sustainable community activities, such as Clothes Swaps
- Protecting the Liffey Valley and Royal Canal
- Continuing to support community groups planting trees, pollinator friendly plants and increasing biodiversity locally

Transport

We need better public transport, cycleways and safe walking routes to give people more and cheaper travel options. If elected I will:

- Work to provide improved public transport, cycleways and safe walking routes
- Support the Safe Routes to schools scheme
- Make sure walking and cycling routes properly link our villages and schools
- Oversee proper implementation of projects such as DART+ and the Royal Canal Urban Greenway

Safe and inclusive Communities

Its important you feel safe & included in your community. If elected I will:

- Work to improve public lighting in underlit areas which feel unsafe
- Work to maintain and create public spaces that enhance safety, reduce anti-social behaviour and increase entertaining spaces for young people
- Continue to promote accessibility: making public spaces, facilities and information accessible to all.
- Advocate for more Community Gardai



Minister Roderic O'Gorman, TD

"I've worked closely with Pamela and I've seen her commitment and passion for improving our local community through securing a playground for Laurel Lodge, organising local clothes swaps and by getting a Disability Officer appointed for Fingal County Council for the first time".

KEY ACHIEVEMENTS

Here's a few of my key achievements over the last four years as your County Councillor. Please give me your No. 1 Vote to put me back to work for our community on Fingal County Council.



Making walking and cycling safer through the provision of raised crossings and the introduction of a community grit box scheme



Co-creator of the Laurel Lodge Environmental Group which aims to increase biodiversity and sustainability locally



Supported schools through boards of management membership, supporting local principals and working with students



Working with the Playground for Laurel Lodge Committee to secure a playground for the local area



Worked on improving accessibility and inclusion. Secured the first ever dedicated Disability Officer for Fingal County Council



Free period products were made available in Council owned buildings following my motion requesting them

ABOUT ME

I have lived in Laurel Lodge for 14 years with my husband and three children who go to school in the area. I am an active member of my local community. I am a founding member of the Playground for Laurel Lodge campaign and the Laurel Lodge Environmental Group, as well as being a member of the Scoil Thomáis PA.

For the last 4 years I have proudly served as your Green Party Councillor. As well as being on the Board of Management of Scoil Choilm NS, Castleknock Community College, and Danu Special School, I am a member of the Education Training Board. A former Archivist, I am the chair of the Fingal Heritage Forum, and sit on the Climate Action, Environment and Biodiversity Special Policy Committee as well as the Joint Policing Committee.

I am extremely grateful for the opportunity to serve our community and am asking for your No.1 vote on the 7th June so that I may continue this work.



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Perfect Irish scones



Plain scones

Serves: 8

Course: Dessert

Cooking Time: 0 hr 30 mins

Ingredients

- 350g strong white flour (or plain flour)
- 1tbs baking powder
- Generous pinch salt
- 60g cold butter, diced small
- 200ml milk
- 1 egg (plus an extra yolk for glazing)

1. Preheat oven to 220 degrees (fan). Line a baking sheet with parchment paper (or dust well with flour).
2. In a large mixing bowl, sieve together the dry ingredients (flour, baking powder and salt).
3. Rub the butter in by hand until the mixture resembles fine breadcrumbs (I prefer to use a food processor for this step).

4. Mix together the egg and milk.

5. Make a well in the centre of the dry mixture, then pour in three-quarters of the liquid, lightly stirring in both directions to combine. Add the remaining liquid, using it to draw in any excess flour from the sides of the bowl (avoid over-mixing).

6. Flour your hands and tip the soft, raggy dough on to a very well-floured work surface. Shape and gently pat the dough to an even 2cm

7. Use a 7cm round scone cutter to stamp out scones. Transfer them to the lined baking sheet and brush the tops with egg yolk to glaze.

8. Bake on the middle shelf of the preheated oven, first at 220 degrees for eight to 10 minutes (for large scones) until they rise upwards, without burning, then immediately reduce the heat to 160 degrees for another 10 minutes to bake fully.

9. Once baked, remove from the oven and transfer to a wire rack to cool.

Councillor
TED LEDDY



087 327 6630 tedleddy2014@gmail.com



**FINE
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NO.1**

Beyond the Pale – Kinsale

This edition we venture to Co Cork and picturesque Kinsale.



The picturesque yachting harbour of Kinsale (Cionn tSáile) is one of many colourful gems strung along the coastline of County Cork. Narrow, winding streets lined with galleries and gift shops, lively bars and superb restaurants, and a handsome natural harbour filled with yachts and guarded by a huge 17th-century fortress make it an engrossing place to spend a day or two.

Charles Fort

One of Europe's best-preserved star-shaped artillery forts, this vast 17th-century fortification would be worth a visit for its spectacular views alone. But there's much more here: the 18th- and 19th-century ruins inside the walls make for some fascinating wandering. It's 3km southeast of Kinsale along the minor road through Scilly; if you have time, hike there along the lovely coastal Scilly Walk.

Desmond Castle

Kinsale's roots in the wine trade are on display at this early-

16th-century fortified house that was occupied by the Spanish in 1601. Since then it has served as a customs house, a prison for French and American captives, and a workhouse during the Famine. There are lively exhibits detailing its history, and a small wine museum that tells the story of the Irish wine-trading families, including names such as Hennessy (of brandy fame), who fled to France because of British rule.

Old Head Signal Tower & Lusitania Museum

This 200-year-old signal tower houses a museum dedicated



Councillor **Natalie**
TREACY

 **Sinn Féin**

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to the RMS Lusitania, which was torpedoed by a German U-boat in 1915 with the loss of 1200 lives. You can walk to the nearby clifftops for impressive views south towards the Old Head, the nearest point of land to the disaster; a privately owned golf club prevents you from reaching the lighthouse at the tip of the headland. The tower is 13km south of town via the R604.

St Multose Church

This is one of the country's oldest Church of Ireland churches, built around 1190 by the Normans on the site of a 6th-century church. Not much of the interior is original, but the exterior is beautifully preserved. Inside, a flat stone carved with a round-handed figure was traditionally rubbed by fishermen's wives to bring their husbands home safe from the sea. Several victims of the Lusitania sinking are buried in the graveyard.

Courthouse & Regional Museum

Based in the 17th-century courthouse that was used for the inquest into the sinking of the Lusitania, this eclectic museum contains local curiosities as diverse as Michael Collins' hurley (hurling stick), and shoes belonging to the 8ft-tall Kinsale Giant, Patrick Cotter O'Brien (1760–1806).

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What is the Law on Electric Scooters?



In 2023, the Government approved legislation so electric scooters could be regulated and used publicly. Electric scooters are still technically illegal to use in public places as the regulations haven't been enacted.

In this article you'll find out why electric scooters are technically still illegal for use in public, what legislation has been approved and what's scooter regulations are incoming.

In 2023, the Government approved legislation so electric scooters could be regulated and used publicly. Electric scooters are still technically illegal to use in public places as the regulations haven't been enacted.

You might ask why it is technically illegal to drive these green, traffic-easing two-wheeled machines, which have similar speeds and serve a similar purpose as bicycles on public roads. The answer lies in The Road and Traffic Act 1961 and how an electric scooter falls under a mechanically propelled vehicle classification.

The Road Traffic Act 1961 outlines Ireland's legal definitions and requirements for mechanically propelled vehicles. The Act defines mechanically propelled vehicles as "vehicles which are able to sustain propulsion mechanically". Under the legislation, mechanically propelled vehicles must be taxed and insured, and their operator must have the requisite driver's license. These definitions were introduced decades before electric scooters existed. With the technological enhancement of push scooters into electric scooters using electrical and mechanical components such as batteries, motors and throttles, they fall under the definition of mechanically propelled vehicles.

As there are no regulations in place to provide for the use of electric scooters on public roads, insurers have not yet made available an insurance package specific to electric scooters. While the Revenue Commissioners do not currently allow for the registration of an e-scooter as a privately owned vehicle, obtaining tax for an electric scooter is impossible. As you have probably noticed, a vicious cycle exists in which e-scooters cannot be used in public because you need tax and insurance. You cannot obtain tax or insurance due to the failure of the Government to regulate them. The approved legislation created a new category of transport called Personal Powered Transporters so scooters can be legalised.

THE ROAD TRAFFIC AND ROADS ACT 2023

On the 27th of June 2023, President Michael D. Higgins signed the Road Traffic and Roads Act 2023 into law. This allowed the Government to propose regulations to the European Commission and get electric scooters onto our roads!

This new Act creates a brand-new vehicle category - Powered Personal Transporters (PPT), which will welcome e-scooters onto our public roads, given that they tick all the right boxes. The definition of PPT is broad, so outdated legislation won't block future

technological changes in PPTs like scooters did previously.

PPTs do not require vehicle registration, motor tax, insurance or a driving licence. Once your e-scooter meets the standards set out in the regulations, you're free to ride on our roads without the fear of having your scooter confiscated.

PPTs should adhere to these three main conditions:

- It can't exceed a maximum continuous rated power output of 400 Watts. In the context of a e-scooter, Watts measures the power a motor can generate.
- It has a maximum net weight (battery included) of 25 kg. The Government likely set this limit to minimise the harm caused in accidents due to a scooter's weight.
- It has a maximum design speed of up to 25 km/hr. That's plenty to get you where you need to go, all while keeping safety in mind. To compare, a cyclist may be travelling between 15-25 km/hr on a push bike.
- It's important to note that if an electric scooter does not meet these specifications, it is not deemed a PPT and will remain illegal on the roads. The Government has said there are no plans to legislate for scooters above these conditions.

With these definitions in hand, the Government proposed them to the European Council in 2023, who asked the Irish Government to use the RSA to regulate them. The Road Safety Authority is a state agency formed by the Irish Government to promote road safety within Ireland.

RSA REGULATIONS:

The latest news on the regulations from the Road Safety Authority is the following: Among other criteria, a maximum speed limit of 20km/h will apply, with a maximum power output of 400 Watts and a maximum weight - including batteries - of 25kg. Other technical requirements, including lighting and construction, will also be introduced. An age limit of 16 will apply, and e-scooters with seats will not be permitted. E-scooters will not be allowed to carry more than one person nor to be used for the carriage of goods. Although the use of helmets and other personal protective equipment, including hi-vis, on e-scooters will not be required by law, it is strongly recommended by the Road Safety Authority.

As of the time of writing, there have been no significant developments from the RSA on the regulations, and we are still waiting for a timeline to introduce them.

Councillor
TED LEDDY



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The History of May Day in Ireland

May Day, or Lá Bealtaine in Irish, has a rich history in Ireland, deeply rooted in ancient Celtic traditions and later influenced by Christian customs. Here's an overview of the history of May Day in Ireland:

Celtic Origins: In ancient times, the Celts celebrated the festival of Beltane, marking the beginning of summer. Beltane was a fire festival, during which bonfires were lit to honor the sun god Belenus and to ensure the fertility of the land and livestock. People would drive their cattle between the fires as a form of purification and protection.

Christianization: With the spread of Christianity, many pagan festivals were adapted or incorporated into Christian traditions. In Ireland, May Day became associated with the feast of Bealtaine, dedicated to St. Michael the Archangel. However, elements of the old Celtic rituals persisted, such as lighting fires and performing rituals for fertility and protection.

Maypole Dancing: Another tradition that became associated with May Day in Ireland is Maypole dancing. This custom, which likely originated in Germanic pagan rituals, involves dancing around a tall pole decorated with ribbons. In Ireland, Maypole dancing was popular in some areas as a way to celebrate the arrival of spring and the renewal of life.

Modern Celebrations: In more recent times, May Day celebrations in Ireland have evolved. While some rural communities may still observe traditional customs like lighting bonfires, May Day is now often celebrated as a public holiday marked by various festivities, including parades, music, dancing, and sporting events. It's a time for people to come together, enjoy the outdoors, and welcome the warmer months ahead.

Labor Day: In addition to its ancient and Christian roots, May Day has also become associated with the international labor movement. In the late 19th and early 20th centuries, workers in many countries, including Ireland, began organizing rallies and demonstrations on May 1st to demand better working conditions, fair wages, and other labor rights. Today, May Day is recognized as International Workers' Day and is celebrated by workers and labor unions around the world, including in Ireland.

Overall, May Day in Ireland is a blend of ancient Celtic traditions, Christian influences, and modern celebrations, reflecting the country's rich cultural heritage and its connections to both the natural world and the struggles of working people.

Councillor
TED LEDDY



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Stories from the Gardens:

the National Botanic Gardens invites visitors to share their memories and experiences for National Heritage Week 2024

The National Botanic Gardens is delighted to announce an exciting initiative for this year's National Heritage Week. Under the theme of 'Connections, Routes and Networks', we are calling on visitors to share their stories and memories of the gardens for an upcoming exhibition, 'Stories from the Gardens' to be held in August.

Maybe you visit the National Botanic Gardens for a walk every day or had your wedding photos taken here? Do you recall a happy memory of the gardens from your childhood? Have you a story about a famous person you met here or to a recent historical event? Maybe the connection is familial, maybe a relative worked here over the years or you are just a big fan of a particular tree or plant and come to see its progress through the growing season? Whatever the story, we want to hear it!

The exhibition will showcase the fascinating social history that has shaped the National Botanic Gardens over the years. By inviting people to submit their stories and memories, we hope to highlight the importance of the gardens locally, regionally, and nationally.

Chairman for the Office of Public Works, John Conlon said: "We are excited to hear the stories and experiences that visitors have had down through the years in the National Botanic Gardens. This historic site means different things to so many people, with over 600,000 people visiting the gardens each year. By documenting these stories, we can create a meaningful exhibition that celebrates the rich history of this iconic site."

Participants can submit their stories using a special questionnaire at the following link - [questionnaire](#) . Alternatively, you can email your story and images to Joseph Lynch at joseph.lynch@opw.ie . Entries must be received by 30 May 2024. Selected stories will be displayed in the exhibition, along with any photos that participants wish to submit.

Do not miss this opportunity to be a part of 'Stories from the Gardens' during National Heritage Week. Join us in celebrating the unique heritage and connections that the National Botanic Gardens hold.



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SECONDARY SCHOOLS UPDATE

Progress on my call to reform chaotic school application and enrolment system

This year my office has been inundated with stories of struggle from parents about securing secondary school places who hoped and expected to get their children into their local secondary school. Instead, they faced a disjointed, chaotic lottery of an application system and a reduction in local school places.

Further to the public meeting organised by parents in Kavanaghs Castleknock, I have been calling for secondary schools to be brought together to explore a common application process across Dublin West, similar to areas of North Dublin and Limerick where it has been tried and tested. It would involve a streamlined procedure with a common application form and singular deadline, allowing families to apply to multiple schools in their area, but also giving the opportunity to list their preference.

A common applications process would simplify post-primary school admissions, alleviating stress for parents, students and schools caused by prolonged uncertainty each year, and provide much needed clarity to the Department of Education on overall shortages of places.



Piece in the Irish Times, the Minister for Education has confirmed that she will now:

- Review the proposals and how they could strengthen the admissions process.
- For 2025 actions are being advanced including engagement with schools and education partners to better align timeframes and data-sharing arrangements.

I have again written to the Minister to ensure Dublin West is a priority.

If I can assist you with any specific queries in relation to secondary schools please get in touch.



The committee structure would give primary and secondary schools the opportunity to collaborate on special classes and places needed for students with additional needs in the transition to secondary school.

Since writing to the Minister in detail about how a common application process would work, raising the matter in the Seanad and securing some media including an Opinion



Artificial Intelligence

What can it do for healthcare



AI holds immense promise for revolutionizing medicine in numerous ways:

Diagnosis and Prognosis: AI algorithms can analyse medical images, such as X-rays, MRIs, and CT scans, to detect abnormalities and diseases more accurately and quickly than humans. They can also assist in predicting disease progression and patient outcomes based on various factors.

Drug Discovery and Development: AI can significantly expedite the drug discovery process by analysing vast amounts of biological data to identify potential drug candidates and predict their efficacy and safety. This can lead to the development of new treatments for diseases more rapidly.

Personalized Medicine: By analysing genetic, clinical, and lifestyle data, AI can help tailor medical treatments to individual patients, ensuring that therapies are more effective and have fewer side effects.

Remote Patient Monitoring: AI-powered wearable devices and sensors can continuously monitor patients' health metrics and detect anomalies in real-time, enabling early intervention and proactive management of chronic conditions.

Virtual Health Assistants: AI chatbots and virtual health assistants can provide patients with personalized medical advice, answer their healthcare-related questions, and assist healthcare providers in managing patient inquiries and appointments.

Healthcare Operations and Management: AI algorithms can optimize hospital and clinic operations, such as scheduling appointments, managing electronic health records, and predicting patient admissions, leading to improved efficiency and resource allocation.

Medical Research: AI can analyse vast amounts of medical literature and clinical trial data to identify patterns, trends, and potential areas for further research, accelerating scientific discovery and innovation in healthcare.

Precision Surgery: AI-powered surgical robots can assist surgeons in performing complex procedures with greater precision and accuracy, reducing the risk of human error and improving patient outcomes.

Healthcare Accessibility: AI-powered telemedicine platforms can expand access to healthcare services, particularly in underserved areas, by enabling remote consultations and diagnostic evaluations.

Overall, AI has the potential to transform virtually every aspect of medicine, from diagnosis and treatment to patient care and healthcare delivery, ultimately leading to improved health outcomes and a more efficient healthcare system.

Up to this point this article was written by Artificial Intelligence. The future is here!

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Dear Resident

My name is Luke Daly, your Social Democrats candidate for the Castleknock Ward. I have been involved in fighting for increased child-care, greener spaces, more accessible bus and train stops, student rights and making our community a nicer place to live for everyone.

I have a deep love for our community. I am running because I want to continue to fight for our community to make it a safer, nicer place to live for everyone. I would like to take the next step in bringing your voice to Fingal County Council.

If elected, I pledge to;

- > **Prioritise solutions to the housing crisis.**
- > **Increase resources for Libraries, Schools, Community Centres, Child-Care, Elderly Outreach and Disability Supports.**
- > **Developing amenities in our parks.**
- > **Improving bus and train stops with lighting, shelters, access and RTFI**
- > **Improving roads, cycle lanes, public transport and safe school routes**

With your support we can achieve this and more on June 7th, by voting Luke Daly #1. I want to prioritise your voice on Council. No changes about us, without us!

I look forward to meeting you during the campaign trail. In the meantime, please reach out!

Kindest Regards, Luke Daly

Social Democrats #LE2024 Candidate for the Castleknock Ward;
Castleknock, Clonsilla, Blanchardstown, Coolmine, Carpenterstown & North Lucan

✉ Luke.Daly@SocialDemocrats.ie
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For the Gardeners – May in the Garden (What to do)

Heads can start to spin in May in the garden as the weather and growth rates really start to pick up. One walk through the garden can throw up a whole host of things to do. But whatever happens, try and find the time to sit back and enjoy this month because May is a time of abundant bloom and warm weather. One thing for certain is that the May Bank Holiday is a day for the garden. See below for what you can do in the month ahead.

Things to Consider.

There is some confusion regarding when Summer officially begins. Both Calender & weather tend to agree that it is not the 1st of May, but the 1st of June.

May Day (1st of May) does however bring warmer weather with average temperatures for May reaching a dizzying height of 12 degrees

Each year the weather can vary significantly, and this will really determine what work is to be done in the garden. Rainfall levels are the biggest concern in the month, with too much rain putting a halt to our plans and too little rain leading to water drought in plants

Pest, weeds & water levels are the main focus of the month ahead

month, including, Tomatoes, Courgettes, Squash, Pumpkins.

- Keep carrot rows covered with protective fleece to guard against carrot fly
- Weed between rows every week to keep on top of weeds, make life easy & prevent weeds from developing seeds
- Continue to sow fast growing salads every two weeks such as
- Pak choi, lettuce, spinach & rocket
- You can also keep sowing all other vegetable seeds direct outdoors in May
- Thin out rows of seedlings to specific distance
- Earth up around potatoes once they reach a height of around 10cm
- By mid-May listen out for blight warnings & apply Bordeaux mix or proxanil prior to attack
- Start potassium feed on strawberries & tomatoes
- Keep an eye out for slugs attacking seedlings

Things to Do

In the Fruit & Veg Garden

- Harden off indoor grown seedlings before planting out this



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In the Greenhouse

- Water tomatoes daily
- Water seed trays & pots every second day
- Add liquid-based feed to water to boost plant growth
- Ensure seedlings are not out growing their pots & transplant as necessary
- Open greenhouse doors on sunny days to ventilate
- Wet the floor of the greenhouse on warm days to increase humidity
- Stay vigilant for pests especially green fly on tomatoes & slugs on seedlings

Plant Care

- Apply the 'Chelsea Chop' technique to low growing herbaceous plants for more compact growth & better flowering, apply to Lavender, Phlox, Sedums, Heleniums, Asters, Campanula, Rudbeckia
- Place plant supports around taller herbaceous plants early
- Continue to treat & prevent against blackspot on roses
- Continue to feed all shrubs & flowering plants
- Dead head roses & once foliage has faded on spring bulbs you can cut them down to ground level

Lawn Care

May is a quieter month for lawn care, however grass growth can peak this month.

- Cut grass every 10 days, extend that to every 2 weeks on family or 'busy' lawns
- Continue application of weed feed & moss killer for ideal manicured lawns
- If not doing above, you can still feed with nitrogen-based fertiliser
- It's not too late to do repairs & patch work on lawns
- Apply lawn weed killer to kill off dandelions
- Pick dandelions flower heads to prevent them from going to seed

In Garden Beds & Borders

- Strim & cut back borders for a neat garden
- Plant out summer bedding between larger plants
- Plant out greenhouse sown perennials for summer colour

- Dead head roses & once foliage has faded on spring bulbs you can cut them down to ground level
- Bring hanging baskets out from the greenhouse

General Maintenance

Stay on top of weeding - weed beds & borders with garden hoe every 2 weeks

Water hanging baskets every 2nd day in May. Increase in drier & windier weather

Get the patio furniture out, light up the chimineas, stick on the BBQs & enjoy the long warm evenings



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Councillor TED LEDDY

087 327 6630 tedleddy2014@gmail.com

The Castleknock Village Festival

I am pleased to confirm that the Castleknock Village Festival will be going ahead this year for the third time. It will take place on Sunday June 16th along side the Castleknock 5k Run. We intend on having our best festival yet this year. If anybody has any ideas and suggestions or knows any organisation or business that would like to be involved, please contact me on tedleddy2014@gmail.com



Secondary school places

While Dublin 15 has excellent secondary schools the selection process takes far too long and causes much stress and anxiety to parents and students. I support my colleague Senator Emer Currie's call for the Minister of Education to set up exploratory talks with our schools and patrons about a Common Application Process. I will continue to work with her and others to progress this in Dublin 15. See below an extract from Senator Currie's recent opinion piece on the subject in the Irish Times.

"Tried and tested in clusters of north Dublin and Limerick, schools have come together to create a common application process for post-primary schools - a streamlined procedure designed by the schools themselves, with a common application form and singular deadline, allowing families to apply to multiple schools in their area, but also giving parents the opportunity to list their preference."

Each school retains its own admissions policy while integrating the common applications approach, making sure the students who want places in particular schools are prioritised. The schools manage it together through a central committee and the entire process is accelerated.

A common application process can simplify post-primary school admissions, alleviating stress for parents, students and schools caused by prolonged uncertainty each year, and provide much-needed clarity to the Department of Education on overall shortages of places."



Gardai

During a recent meeting in Blanchardstown Garda station, Deputy Leo Varadkar, Senator Emer Currie and I met with senior Gardai and several new Garda recruits. We are very aware of a number of crime and safety issues within the community that are currently causing anxiety. Due to these concerns Gardai are increasing their visibility and frequency of patrols around the Castleknock Area.



Castleknock Wellbeing Group

I was very pleased to recently assist with the setting up and funding of the Castleknock Well-being Group. The Group do weekly yoga and other exercises for elderly residents every Monday starting at 9.45am in the Castleknock Church Parish Centre. It has proved hugely popular. If you want to know more about the program send queries to castleknockwb@gmail.com



Passports applications

Around this time of year I start to get many requests to expedite passport applications. In order to avoid disappointment you may wish to take the following precautions. Take out your passport and **check its expiry date!!**



If it is out of date or coming near the end of its life you need to apply for a new one- apply online otherwise you could be waiting a couple of months!
<https://passportonline.dfa.ie/Apply/Passport>

If it is out of date and you need an emergency passport contact
<https://www.dfa.ie/passports/urgentappointment/>

Electronic System for Travel Authorisation

If you are travelling to the USA you will need an "ESTA" (Electronic System for Travel Authorisation) - which is an approved travel authorisation.

Your ESTA authorization is generally valid for multiple trips over a period of two years (starting the date that you are approved) or until your passport expires, whichever comes first. This means that as long as you received an ESTA authorization to travel, you do not have to reapply during the validity period. Information regarding esta for travel to the USA <https://esta.cbp.dhs.gov/>

EHIC - European Health Insurance Card

The European Health Insurance Card (EHIC) lets you get healthcare when abroad for free, or at a reduced cost.

You can use the card in any European Union (EU) or European Economic Area (EEA) country, or Switzerland.

It covers you if you're on holiday, or on a short-term stay of no more than 3 months. If you're studying abroad, you'll be covered for the academic year.

Each family member needs their own EHIC. The card is free and there's no charge to apply.

There are different ways to apply depending on if you:

- 1 live in Ireland
- 2 are employed in Ireland but live in Northern Ireland
- 3 live in another EU/EEA member state, or Switzerland



You can also apply for a temporary card, if you need an EHIC urgently. Apply in person at your local health office, or online at <https://www2.hse.ie/services/schemes-allowances/ehic/apply/>



With my Fine Gael local election running mate Cllr Siobhan Shovlin in the new all weather pitches in Porterstown Park.

ARE YOU A FIRST TIME BUYER OR FRESH START BUYER?



There are hundreds of homes in Fingal available to buy under Affordable Housing Scheme. These homes will be available at a reduced price for buyers who are seeking to purchase a newly built home but need to bridge the gap between their mortgage and deposit to cover the full price of the home.

Church Fields in Mulhuddart, Dublin 15, boasts 180 affordable homes, comprising 59 two-bedroom and 121 three-bedroom properties.

- Fingal County Council has agreed with GEM Construction to deliver 180 homes in Church Fields, Mulhuddart, Dublin 15. The scheme will comprise of 59 no 2-Bed Homes starting from €263,500 and 121 no. 3-Bed Homes starting from €315,000. Registration for this scheme opened on the portal on Tuesday 9 April.

- Kilmartin Grove in Dublin 15 offers 36 affordable homes, comprising 22 two-bedroom mid-terrace units and three-bedroom mid-terrace. 2-bed mid-terrace units starting from €315k and 14 3-bed mid-terrace units starting from €345k.

- Two more schemes, one in Wilsons Brook, Hollystown Dublin 15 will open in the next 4 weeks.

- Further homes will also be made available soon with almost 500 planned in total. If you are unsure if you qualify for Affordable Housing, or just want to learn more about the process, be sure to visit <https://www.fingal.ie/AffordableHousingforalltheinformation>.

- When a new Affordable Housing portal opens, all Applicants need to complete the registration process and register for that particular scheme, regardless of whether they have applied on a previous scheme as all of the application portals have different links and are separate to each other. You can also request to be added to our mailing list where we alert you when homes become available.

For information on the Affordable Housing scheme and to see full details of each scheme as it becomes available visit: <https://www.fingal.ie/AffordableHousing>



It was a pleasure to have Taoiseach Simon Harris visit the constituency with former Taoiseach Leo Varadkar. I look forward to working with them both.

Councillor Ted Leddy

Castleknock, Dublin ☎ 087 327 6630 📧 tedleddy2014@gmail.com

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Blanchardstown Gardening Group creates environmental synergies with our young people.

In an ongoing exploration of who gardeners are, what they are growing in Fingal and why that matters to all of us, Blanchardstown Gardening Group (BGG) headed to St. Francis Xavier Senior School.

Member of BGG and born educator, Karen Williams, started off the day sharing her knowledge of planting practices with the students and helping them to plant a well thought out design for the years ahead, before getting to work planting up their little patch of the world.

In part two of the project which was funded by Fingal County Council, the group went even further in imagining and planting a mini orchard for Roselawn Park, with the help of the students and some of the local residents. We can't forget the man power of Fingal representatives who also assisted with the apple tree planting event.

Graham Fallon of Teagasc, a key contributor to BGG and a believer in the ability for intentional design, also came along to share his knowledge and his skills, helping us to plant for our communities as we grow into the future.

The Green Schools committee at Francis Xavier actively champion for biodiversity and nature and Minister Roderic O' Gorman attended the cross community event to support and discuss the environment with the students. He commented, "Most young people care deeply about these issues, and wish to make a positive change to the nature living around us. The Green-Schools Programme provides an ideal way to foster



environmental awareness in the entire school in a way that links to many curriculum subjects."

Founding member and Cllr Michelle Griffin said "BGG is full of diverse plant thinking and we can all create beautiful abundant and thoughtful places in our communities, for our communities. I would like to thank all involved for their work and commitment to sustainability, especially the young people of St. Frances Xavier."

Michelle and BGG asks us to think like healthy habitats as we look to our future, by planting landscapes that echo our native meadows and woodlands, while producing resources and improving our lives.

Dear Voter

So many of us think it doesn't matter what we do. It doesn't if it's just you. But it's not just you. Making ethical choices, even if they seem small, cumulatively, are making a difference.

That's why I love working with individuals, with communities and with organisations - to effect positive change. I was co-opted as a member of Fingal County Council in January of this year, and I have hugely enjoyed representing my local area on the Council in this short time. If you need something, please get in touch.

✉ michelle.griffin@cllr.fingal.ie
☎ 087 1993446

Michelle

📍 CllrMichelleGriffin
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**Cllr Michelle
GRIFFIN**

Ongar, Hansfield,
Littlepace, Huntstown,
Hartstown & Clonsilla.

Dear Resident

I'm Ellen Murphy, your Social Democrats candidate for the Ongar Ward. I am from Clonsilla and have lived here most of my life. I am standing in the upcoming local elections, and I hope I can call on you for support in this election.

I am deeply passionate about representing the people of our area and love the communities I hope to represent. I am part of a generation of people locked out of buying or renting a home in Dublin 15. I want to work hard to make our communities more affordable for everyone.

My priorities if elected are:

- > **Delivery of affordable housing in the area**
- > **Investment in green spaces for everyone, such as more playgrounds and parks which are accessible to all**
- > **Putting biodiversity and nature protection at the heart of local development plans**
- > **Improvement in road and public transport networks from bus shelters to footpaths to cycle lanes**
- > **Expansion of community services such as mobile health and library units across the county.**

When we invest in affordable local housing, healthcare, transport, and the arts, I believe we are laying the foundation for communities to flourish. To do that, we need voices from a variety of experiences at our council meetings. I am part of the generation with little hope of home ownership. I want to work to change that in our area of Dublin 15.

Please email, call, or reach out over social media.

Kindest regards, Ellen Murphy.



VOTE #1

Social Democrats

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- Pharmacy Assistant

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- Social Studies/Social Care
- Youth and Community Work
- Applied Psychology with Criminology
- Criminology, Psychology with Law
- Security Studies and Criminology *NEW*

Education and Childcare

- Early Learning and Care (Childcare)
- Pre-University Arts/Teaching
- Pre-University PE Teaching and Coaching
- Special Needs and Classroom Assistant
Primary and Post Primary

Science

- Pre-University Science
- Pre-University Agricultural Science
- Pre-University Biomedical and Pharmaceutical Science
- Pre-University Forensic Science
- Pre-University Environmental Science
- Pre-University Sports Science
- Pre-University Food Science, Nutrition, Health and Wellbeing
- Pre-University Animal Science
- Pre-University Physiotherapy
- Advanced Animal Science

Law and Politics

- Pre-University Law
- Pre-University Law with Politics
- Pre-University Business Law
- Pre-University Politics, Economics and Social Science

Arts

- Pre-University Arts
- Pre-University Liberal Arts
- Theatre Studies and Performance *NEW*

Animal & Equine

- Animal Care Assistant
- Equine Studies
- Advanced Equine Breeding (with Greencert)
- Advanced Pre-University Animal Science

Engineering

- Pre-University Engineering *NEW*

Business & Accountancy

- Pre-University Business
- Advanced Pre-University Business
- Human Resource Management
- Pre-University Business, Finance and Accounting
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- Higher National Diploma in Sound Engineering

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- Higher National Diploma in Film Production
- Journalism, Digital Media and Public Relations

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Cllr. Kieran DENNISON



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Councillor Kieran Dennison Local Transport Update

Active Travel is about using sustainable transport like cycling and walking and trying to replace a small number of our car journeys. To achieve this, Fingal County Council are expanding and improving our cycling and pedestrian infrastructure across the County.

Greater Dublin Area Transport Strategy

2022
▶▶ 2042



Active Travel considers the needs of those who use prams, pushchairs, scooters and wheelchairs. Along fast or busy roads, new cycling infrastructure will be physically separated from traffic.

The 3-year Capital Programme 2024 to 2026 includes an overall provision for expenditure of €72.97m;

Local schemes include:

- Ongar to National Aquatic Centre route €14.37m
- Hartstown/Huntstown/Mountview €1.1m for connecting to Ongar Road and Shelerin Road
- Clonsilla to Damastown Cycle route €1.3m
- Clonee to Blanchardstown Shopping Centre route €5.5m
- Blanchardstown to Phoenix Park route €550k
- Royal Canal to Dunsink Lane route €2.4m.

The Safe Routes to Schools Programme makes it safer for children to walk and cycle to school, taking cars off the road and reducing traffic and pollution. I was pleased we had Castaheany ETNS and St. Benedict's N.S. completed in the first phase and work is now underway on Scoil Ghraíne CNS costing €140,000. I hope all our schools can be completed over the next few years.

Millennium Park Cycle Track - A cycle track is being added to Millennium Park. The track will be permanently accessible to the public and will also be used by Fingal County Council as a training area for adult cycle lessons and during events such as Bike Week.

Bicycle parking is being rolled out across the county with a budget of €900,000. If there are locations we should consider please get in touch.

Roads

Work on the **Snugborough Interchange on the N3** between Blanchardstown village and the Blanchardstown Centre is almost complete at a cost of €22 million.

This complex project involved the construction of a second bridge over the N3 as well as new bus lanes, footpaths, protected cycle tracks and traffic lanes giving improved accessibility to Blanchardstown Shopping Centre and the Dublin Enterprise Zone in Mulhuddart. It has also been designed to seamlessly integrate with the new Blanchardstown BusConnects bus corridor.

Ongar Barnhill Link Road

Construction has begun on the new Ongar Barnhill Link Road. The project consists of 1.8km of road, footpath and cycling facilities including a new bridge crossing over the Dunboyne railway line. The scheme will tie into the Royal Canal Greenway and Dart+ West.

This new high quality transportation corridor will significantly improve accessibility in this fast-growing area and facilitate the construction of over 1,100 new homes on the surrounding residential zoned lands.

The €14m project is expected to take two years to complete. This road will eventually connect to the proposed Kellystown road to run south of the railway from Carpenterstown and Porterstown, providing better connectivity for the Dublin 15 area.

Church Fields Link Road and Cycle Network. Construction is underway on phase 2 of this €6m project to improve local connectivity and provide access to the 1,200 unit Church Fields social and affordable housing project at Mulhuddart.

The Royal Canal Urban Greenway has been completed from the city to



Castleknock. A planning application is expected soon for the remaining section to the Kildare border from where it runs across to Athlone.

This €7.5million project will provide walking and cycling access to the city and to local amenities such as St. Catherine's Park. It will eventually form part of the western section of EuroVelo EV2, and the Dublin-Galway Greenway.

Royal Canal to Grand Canal Loop. Fingal are working with South Dublin County Council to provide a loop between the two canal greenways via St. Catherine's Park and Griffeen Valley Park at Lucan.

BusConnects

A planning decision is expected soon on the new Blanchardstown to City Centre BusConnects route. This is the first phase of the bus network redesign in Dublin 15, cutting journey times to the city as well as improving walking and cycling infrastructure. Next year will see the roll out of the N8 route connecting Blanchardstown to the Airport as well as many other local and orbital routes.

The W4 route will serve The Square in Tallaght, Grange Castle Business Park, Liffey Valley Shopping Centre and Blanchardstown Shopping Centre. The new routes will run, on average, every 15-30 minutes on weekdays and every 30-60 minutes on both Saturday and Sunday.

Dart + West

A planning decision is expected soon to allow the DART+ West project to proceed. The project involves the electrification of approximately 40 km of



railway line from Dublin City centre to west of Maynooth and to M3 Parkway Station at Dunboyne. and passenger capacity will be increased by 160%. Increase train capacity from the current 6 trains per hour per direction up to 12 trains per hour per direction. In preparation for this up to 750 new electric / battery-electric carriages have been ordered, 37 of which are due to come into service next year.

Climate Action

Fingal's new Climate Action Plan 2024-2029 (CAP). Approved in February, the new Plan contains an exciting list of climate actions which the Council intends to take.

Four key targets have been identified for the Plan:

- 50% improvement in the Council's energy efficiency by 2030
- 51% reduction in the Council's greenhouse gas emissions by 2030
- To make Dublin a climate resilient region, by reducing the impacts of future climate change-related events
- To actively engage and inform our communities on climate action.

In addition, over the next 3 years €5.8m has been set aside for General Biodiversity Work in Fingal.



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DUBLIN WOMAN RE ELECTED TO HIGH PROFILE POLITICAL POSITION

A Dublin woman has been re-elected to the Governing body of Aontú, for the fifth year in a row.

Biochemist, Ellen Troy ,who will stand for the party in the Castleknock LEA in the upcoming local elections on the 7th June, was selected once again to serve on the party's Ard Comhairle, its officer board.

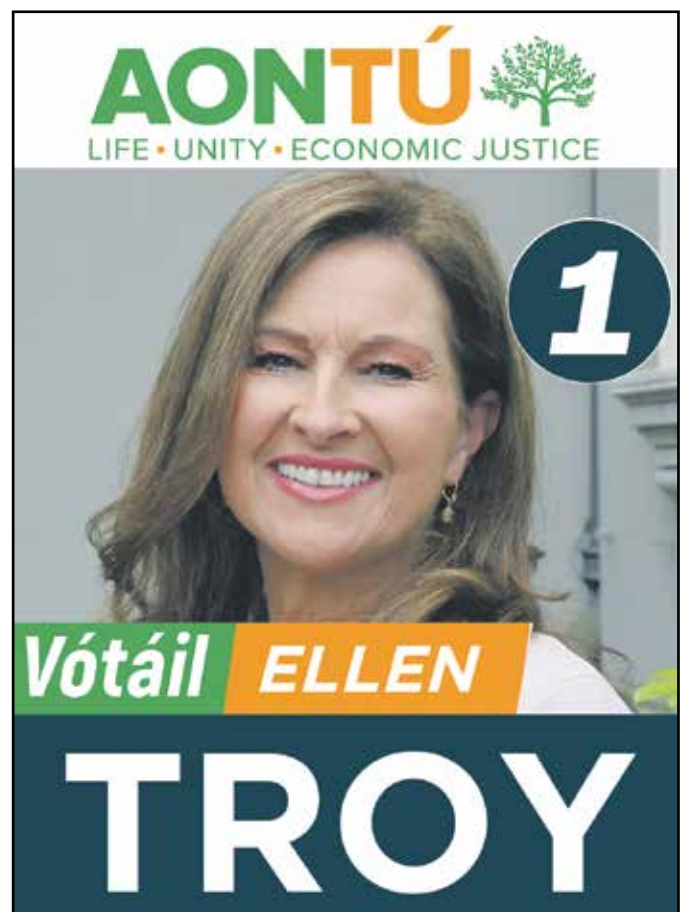
She won the resounding confidence of her fellow members at the party's recent Ard Fheis which saw over four hundred delegates from throughout the country in attendance.

The party is particularly strong in Dublin with eleven Cumann. It is fielding fifteen candidates in Dublin with Aisling Considine selected as its European Candidate.

Speaking following her re-election Ms Troy said "I am proud and honoured to have been re-elected to Aontú's Ard Comhairle. Our party is arguably the only coherent and well organised opposition in the country. We stand up for what we believe in and are a constant and unwavering support for the people of this country who are living through real difficulties at a time when we are told the country is awash with money. People feel abandoned by the big political parties and more worryingly by the majority of the opposition. This is not good for the electorate and it is not good for



democracy. I am out canvassing my LEA every single day and night and the response from the public is incredibly positive. People want politicians of integrity and real backbone and they are more attuned now to cynical populist proclamations from those who will change their minds the minute they're elected. Since the referendum on family and care, hundreds of people have joined Aontú, our memberships now stands at some 2,000 people and this is due to the hard work we do, the principles we stand for and our desire for a fair and just society for all".





Hellfire Clubword

Montpelier Hill, better known as The Hellfire Club to Dubliners, is a lovely place for a walk. It has a variety of short forest trails and provides wonderful views of the city from the southwest.

On the weekends, you'll find it busy with urbanites escaping the city and dogs running free. At the top sits a large hunting lodge where, if the stories are to be believed, some very ominous events have taken place.

From ancient burial site to satanic meeting place

Originally, at the top of Montpelier Hill, there was an ancient passage grave with a cairn of stones stacked on top. Then William 'Speaker' Conolly, one of the wealthiest men in Ireland, came along and built a hunting lodge on the same site in 1725. Conolly is said to have destroyed the cairn while building the lodge, using one of the grave's standing stones as the lintel for his fireplace.

Sometime later the roof of the secluded lodge was blown off during a storm. The locals reckoned that aggrieved spirits seeking vengeance for the cairn's destruction were responsible. And so, the tales began.

Over time, fact and fiction have become so intertwined that it's impossible to separate them. But why let that ruin a good story?

What happened in The Hellfire Club?

After Conolly's death, the lodge was sold, and it is said to have become a meeting place for the Irish Hellfire Club. A club that was founded in 1735 by Richard Parsons – a man known for dabbling in black magic.

William Conolly, the Speaker of the Irish House of Commons in 1715

Its members met at locations across Dublin and were known for their amoral behaviour and debauchery involving alcohol and sex.

The secrecy surrounding the club led to speculation that its members were Satanists and Devil-worshippers. The president was named 'The King of Hell' and dressed like Satan, with horns, wings and hooves. The members were also said to set a place at each meeting for the Devil, in the hope that he'd attend.

The members were also said to hold black masses in the lodge during which cats – and even servants – were sacrificed. Some say the lodge was deliberately set on fire in order to enhance the building's hellish atmosphere.

The coming of the Devil and other sinister stories However, the best-known Hellfire Club story is the one in which the Devil himself appears. According to legend, a stranger joined the club members at a game of cards. Then, when one of the players dropped a card on the floor, he bent down to retrieve it and saw that the stranger had cloven hooves instead of feet.

Another popular tale concerns a young farmer who was curious to find out what went on at the club's secretive meetings. Climbing up Montpelier Hill, he was invited in by the members and allowed to witness the night's activities. The young man was found the next morning trembling and terrified. Tradition says he spent the rest of his life unable to speak; unable to even remember his name.

A black cat features in one of the most famous tales. In this story, another young man visiting a local farmhouse goes to uncover the activities of the club. The next morning, he is found dead. His host and the local priest, believing him to have been murdered, go up to The Hellfire Club to investigate.

Upon their arrival at the lodge, they see a banquet laid out and a black cat prowling the room. However, this is no normal cat. It's huge! The priest also notices that it has ears shaped like horns. Happening to have a small bottle of holy water in his pocket, the priest decides to attempt an exorcism. The result tears the beast apart. Outside, the host is found lying on the ground, his face and neck deeply scratched by claws.

Where is The Hellfire Club?

Today, The Hellfire Club remains burnt-out and abandoned on Montpelier Hill. You'll find it located in the Dublin mountains about a 30-minute drive south of the city centre.

Montpelier Hill isn't easily accessible by public transport, but a nearby car park opens at 7am each morning and remains open until 5pm in the winter and 9pm from April until October.

The Dublin Mountains Partnership recommends two walking trails in the area – the 5.5km Hellfire Forest loop and the less strenuous 4km Montpelier loop.

You can also climb up to the 300-year-old Hellfire Club at the top of Montpelier hill. Here, the view looking out over Dublin city is glorious on a sunny day. However, at night-time, people have reported unusual smells and a strange atmosphere. The traces of satanic rituals have also been discovered. Or so they say...



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T H E N L A W I S C O N S I N
V A M E A A M E C R G O A I C
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G B V N S O A I M A O E Z B W
I E L S R K M N D A Y V O A J
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I H D S Y G R S R O I A A V R
A O E W I O I D C F I R O M S
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Solution on Next page



Councillor **Natalie**
TREACY



Tel: 0851285493
Email: Natalie.treacy@cllr.fingal.ie

Making the Most of Your Summer:

Tips for Landing a Job :

By Gerard Luby Assoc CIPD



1. Start Early:

Don't wait until the last minute to begin your job search. Many employers hire for summer positions months in advance, so the earlier you start looking, the better your chances of finding a job. Begin researching potential opportunities, updating your CV, and contacting employers as soon as possible.

2. Polish Your CV:

Your CV is usually the first impression you'll make on a potential employer, so it's essential to make it stand out. Tailor your CV to highlight relevant skills and experiences, such as part-time jobs, volunteer work, or extracurricular activities. Be sure to include any certifications or specialised training that may be relevant to the positions you're applying for.

3. Network:

Utilise your existing network to uncover job opportunities. Let friends, family members, teachers, and mentors know you're seeking summer employment. Attend career fairs, industry events, and networking mixers to connect with professionals in your desired field. You never know who might have a lead on a job opening.

4. Utilise Online Job Boards:

Websites like Indeed, LinkedIn, and Glassdoor are valuable resources for finding job listings in your area. Create profiles on these platforms, upload your CV, and set up job alerts to receive notifications about new openings that match your criteria. Don't forget to check local classifieds and community bulletin boards as well.

5. Be Proactive:

Don't be afraid to contact employers directly to inquire about job opportunities. Research companies you're interested in working for and send tailored cover letters and CVs expressing your interest in any available positions. Follow up via phone or email to show your enthusiasm and commitment.

6. Prepare for Interviews:

Once you start landing interviews, it's essential to be prepared. Practice answering common interview questions and be ready to articulate why

you're the best candidate for the job. Dress professionally, arrive on time, and bring copies of your CV and any relevant documents. Don't forget to send a thank-you email or note after the interview to express your gratitude and reiterate your interest in the position.

7. Consider Temporary or Seasonal Work:

Many industries experience an increase in demand during the summer months, creating temporary or seasonal employment opportunities. Consider industries like retail, hospitality, tourism, landscaping, or event planning, which often hire extra staff to meet the summer rush.

8. Showcase Your Soft Skills:

Besides technical skills, employers value soft skills such as communication, teamwork, problem-solving, and adaptability. Highlight these skills on your CV and during interviews to demonstrate your ability to excel in a professional environment.

9. Be Flexible:

While it's essential to have preferences regarding the type of job you're looking for, being flexible can open up more opportunities. Consider parttime, full-time, or remote work options, internships, or volunteer positions that align with your interests and career goals.

10. Stay Positive and Persistent:

Finding a job can be challenging, but don't get discouraged. Stay positive, stay focused, and keep putting yourself out there. Remember that every rejection brings you closer to finding the right opportunity. Securing a job for the summer period requires initiative, persistence, and a proactive approach. By following these actionable tips and staying committed to your job search, you can increase your chances of landing a fulfilling summer job that provides valuable experience and extra income. So, roll up your sleeves, polish that CV, and get ready to make the most of your summer! Gerard Luby Assoc CIPD is a Dublin-based CV Writer and Job Search Consultant. He has led recruitment campaigns for over 20 years, most notably for the Guinness Storehouse, where he specialised in recruiting early career candidates. As the founder of Iarracht Consulting, he helps job seekers tell their unique stories by crafting compelling CVs, Cover Letters and LinkedIn profiles.

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