

ISSUE 57  
AUGUST 2025

# Little Village

FREE MAGAZINE

BLANCHARDSTOWN  
CASTLEKNOCK  
CLONSILLA  
HARTSTOWN  
HUNTSTOWN  
ASHTOWN  
MULHUDDART  
CLONEE & ONGAR

DUBLIN 15's FREE COMPREHENSIVE NEWS HUB  
FOR ALL LOCAL & BUSINESS MATTERS



CASTLEKNOCK ON THE CHARGE - SEE P8

Ned's Mobile Valeting Company



Top quality low prices

089 4676096

Find us on Facebook



Councillor **JK ONWUMEREH**

Your **Fianna Fáil** Councillor for Mulhuddart, Corduff, Waterville,  
Tyrrelstown, Hollystown, Meakstown, Lanesborough Communities.  
(Blanchardstown - Mulhuddart LEA)

Phone : 089 9642783

Email: [jk.onwumereh@clrs.fingal.ie](mailto:jk.onwumereh@clrs.fingal.ie)

**FIANNA FÁIL**  
THE REPUBLICAN PARTY



Cllr. Ted **LEDDY**

087 327 6630 | [tedleddy2014@gmail.com](mailto:tedleddy2014@gmail.com) | [www.tedleddy.ie](http://www.tedleddy.ie)

**FINE  
GAEL**

Working with Emer Currie TD, Siobhan Shovlin and Regina Doherty MEP

Councillor

**John Walsh**

Phone: 087 6486228 Email: [john.walsh@clrs.fingal.ie](mailto:john.walsh@clrs.fingal.ie) | [@JohnWalshDWest](https://www.facebook.com/JohnWalshDWest)

**Labour**



# Get Ready for **SUMMER**



BOOK A CONSULTATION TODAY!

SIGN UP NOW TO OUR

## 42 DAY CHALLENGE



SCAN ME

In just 20 minutes per session and only three sessions per week we will transform you into the best shape of your life.

### What's included?

- Goal Setting Session
- Personalised Training Programme
- Personalised Nutrition Plan
- My Accountability app
- Expert support every step of the way
- Results Guaranteed
- Longer programmes available to suit your goals.



**Jamie Myerscough**  
Age 42  
Results after 10 weeks

**Talk to one of our expert trainers about how we can help!**

educogym.com • castleknock@educogym.com  
• 11A Ashleigh Retail Centre, Castleknock Village, D15

# TEL: 01 821 4460



**SERVING: BLANCHARDSTOWN, CASTLEKNOCK, CLONSILLA,  
HARTSTOWN, HUNTSTOWN, ASHTOWN, MULHUDDART, CLONEE & ONGAR**

## EDITORIAL

**W**elcome to our latest edition of Little Village.  
For those of you still interested in travel within Ireland before the summer is out, have a look at our article on "Beyond the Pale" and maybe consider West Cork for a short trip.

61% of GP practices cannot accept new patients according to an independent survey cited by Newstalk last January. Read our article and see for yourselves the reasons why.

As the long summer evenings gradually come to an end enjoy the remaining few weeks.....

Until next time.

The Little Village Team

### AVAILABLE FROM

- Educo Gym
- Myos
- De Bruns
- Castleknock Community Centre
- Laurel Lodge Community Centre
- 12th Lock
- Bradys Pub
- Wetherspoons
- Costa Coffee
- Blanchardstown Shopping Centre
- Draiocht
- Blanch Library
- Leisure Plex
- Super Valu Blanch
- Tesco Roselawn
- Blakestown Community Centre
- Mountview Community Centre
- Huntstown Community Centre
- Eurospar Hartstown
- Dunnes Ongar
- Cu Chulainns Ongar
- Lidl Clonee
- Aldi Clonee
- Lidl Blakestown
- Lidl Tyrrelstown
- Tyrrelstown Community Centre
- Peregrines Gaa Club
- Corduff Sports Centre
- Spar Waterville
- Centra Corduff
- Castleknock Golf Club
- Castleknock Hotel
- Elmgreen Golf Club
- Hollystown Golf Club
- Westwood Gym
- Westwood Golf Club
- Phibblestown Community Centre
- Costcutter Clonsilla Road
- Credit Union Clonsilla Road
- The Greyhound Blanch Village
- The Grasshopper Clonee
- Clonsilla Inn
- The Carpenter Inn
- The Carlton Hotel Tyrrelstown



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



**Patrick Browne**  
Graphic Design  
hello@patrickbrowndesign.com  
086 831 9322

### LITTLE VILLAGE MAGAZINE

All correspondence should be addressed to:  
Little Village Magazine, 11 Cherryhill Avenue, Kells, Co. Meath.  
Creative Top Publishing Ltd. publishes Little Village Magazine.

**Company registration No. 534480**

No part of Little Village Magazine may be reproduced without the prior consent of the publisher.

#### Disclaimer

Views expressed by contributors are not necessarily those of the publisher.

**GOT A STORY? GET IN TOUCH WITH JOYCE**

**EMAIL: [littlevillagenewsdesk@gmail.com](mailto:littlevillagenewsdesk@gmail.com)**

*Grow your business with Little Village Magazine.*

**REACH 40,000 DOORS IN THE D15 AREA**

**ADVERTISE WITH US!!! CALL RONAN TODAY ON 085 199 8321**  
**email: [bightronan83@gmail.com](mailto:bightronan83@gmail.com)**

# Trees, Chargers & Community Hubs

What Fingal's new 202529 Corporate Plan means for Dublin 15 residents

**F**ingal County Council's ambitious Delivery for All strategy, launched this February, outlines a transformative €1.57 billion investment plan for 2025-2027. This 16% budget increase will fund 40 strategic objectives across housing, infrastructure and digital services, with three flagship initiatives set to reshape daily life across Dublin 15: an urban greening revolution, electric vehicle infrastructure expansion, and a wave of community facility upgrades.

## The Green Transformation

The council's tree-planting initiative has already distributed 10,000 saplings to residents, with annual "Free Tree" weekends planned through 2029. Building on the 2022 Forest of Fingal strategy, targeted planting in Millennium Park, Porterstown and local estates like Laurel Lodge is addressing the area's 14% canopy cover - well below the county average. Parks staff report a quarter of last winter's plantings filled gaps along the Tolka and Royal Canal Greenways left by ash dieback, promising cooler streets and improved drainage for older neighborhoods.

## Powering the Electric Future

Fingal is dramatically expanding EV infrastructure through a partnership with ePower, planning 50 fast-charge bays by 2026. The rollout begins this year with 14 locations, including Huntstown Park & Ride and Castaheany Leisure Centre, while designs progress for Blanchardstown Civic Offices and TU Dublin sites. These hubs are particularly crucial for apartment residents, as current regulations prohibit home kerbside charging on public footpaths.

## Community at the Core

The recently opened €8 million Meakstown Community Centre exemplifies Fingal's commitment, with its sports hall, meeting spaces and sensory garden already operating at 80% evening capacity. This anchors a broader refurbishment program seeing Hartstown upgraded now, with Corduff and Huntstown to follow in 2026. With 37 centers currently supported countywide and at least one major project promised annually, these facilities are becoming vital hubs for Dublin 15's growing population - now 15,000 stronger since the last census.

## Transparency and Engagement

The council has committed to quarterly progress reports and open-data dashboards tracking everything from tree planting to charger usage. Dublin 15 will receive 23% of the capital investment, proportionate to

its population share among 331 planned projects. Residents can stay informed through local library notices for tree giveaways, the e-planning portal for EV hub updates, and streamed Area Committee meetings featuring monthly project updates.

Looking ahead to 2029, Fingal's vision promises neighborhoods where shaded cycling routes connect to convenient charging stations and vibrant community hubs. The coming years will test whether this blueprint delivers tangible change - transforming policy commitments into living, growing improvements across Dublin 15's streets and communities.



## URBAN CLEANING CO.

Discover Top Window Cleaning Solution in Kildare.  
**Reliable | Trustworthy | Efficient**



- \* Drain Cleaning
- \* Power Washing
- \* Roof Cleaning
- \* Gutter Cleaning
- \* Window Cleaning

Make your home shine again with the best Window and Gutter Cleaning service in Kildare.  
[www.urbancleaningco.ie](http://www.urbancleaningco.ie) | [info@urbancleaningco.ie](mailto:info@urbancleaningco.ie)

# 087 400 1949

Request a Free Quote



Posturepedic®

NEW!



# LEADING BED SPECIALISTS

FREE DELIVERY & ASSEMBLY

Respa.

ODEAREST



LIR

 Emerald  
BED COMPANY

MLILY



Westend | Walkinstown | Sandyford | Tallaght  
Coolock | Glasnevin | Swords | Navan | Sallins

[www.deskelly.ie](http://www.deskelly.ie)

des kelly  
INTERIORS

CARPETS, BEDS, FLOORS & MORE



## Blanchardstown's health megacampus: is the Rotunda finally on the move?

The idea of transplanting Ireland's oldest maternity hospital to the edge of Dublin 15 has been on the table since 2015.

**T**en years after first being proposed, plans to relocate Dublin's historic Rotunda Hospital to Connolly Hospital in Blanchardstown remain stuck in the "pre-business case" phase. Yet recent funding announcements and preparatory works suggest the long-delayed project may finally be gaining momentum.

### Government Stance: Committed But Cautious

In June 2025 parliamentary responses, the Minister for Health reaffirmed that moving the Rotunda to Connolly remains official policy, though he stressed the project must follow strict public spending rules. The relocation currently sits in the early appraisal phase, with a preliminary business case undergoing review by multiple government departments. Until this clears bureaucratic hurdles, the project can't progress to design or procurement stages.

### The Rotunda's Dilemma

The 18th-century Parnell Square facility faces severe space constraints, yet hospital leadership warns any move remains "at least 20 years away." As a stopgap, the hospital seeks planning permission for a controversial €150 million critical-care extension - described by conservationists as resembling "a brick-clad cruise liner" beside Georgian architecture. Medical reports suggest the Connolly relocation faces an "extended timeframe" due to the complex preparatory work needed at both sites.

### Connolly's Quiet Transformation

While the maternity hospital plans inch forward, Connolly Hospital has been evolving into a major healthcare hub. Recent developments include a new elective hospital (approved 2025), a children's emergency department (opened 2024), and expanded cancer services. Combined with existing acute care capabilities, the campus is increasingly positioned to become a comprehensive women's and children's "megacampus" serving Dublin's growing western suburbs.

### Obstacles Ahead

Several major hurdles remain before relocation becomes reality. Connolly must first achieve Level 4 hospital status - requiring €150-200 million in upgrades to support 24/7 critical care services. The project must also secure approval through multiple appraisal frameworks and guaranteed funding in the next National Development Plan. Even under optimistic projections, construction wouldn't begin before 2030, with the new facility unlikely to open until the mid-2030s.

### Potential Local Impact

For Dublin 15 residents, the relocated Rotunda would bring:

- Immediate access to maternity and neonatal care
- Over 2,000 construction jobs and hundreds of permanent

clinical positions

- Necessary transport upgrades to handle increased demand
- Potential economic benefits similar to Intel's impact on Leixlip

While 2025 brought some concrete developments - including funding for Connolly upgrades and cabinet approval for related projects - the Rotunda's move remains a marathon undertaking. For now, Ireland's oldest maternity hospital continues its vital work within its historic city center walls, while Blanchardstown prepares for what could become the country's first integrated women's and children's healthcare campus in the coming decade.

We are experts in wet rooms and level access showers. We are approved council suppliers and have been serving the community for over 26 years.

Thru- Floor Lifts another option for your home making life easier. Complete access to your home, simple solutions made easy by Irish stairlifts & bathrooms call us for a free quote.



### CONTACT US

If you're looking for a reliable and experienced company to enhance the accessibility and independence of your home, look no further than Irish Stairlift and Bathrooms. Contact us today to learn more about our solutions and services.

Phone 01 6167079 045892696  
Email [showroom@irishstairlifts.ie](mailto:showroom@irishstairlifts.ie)  
Website [irishstairlifts.ie](http://irishstairlifts.ie)  
unit 6 Clane Business Park,  
College Road,  
Clane, Co. Kildare.  
Eircode: W91NF86



SALE  
AGREED



PORTERSGATE HEIGHTS

SALE  
AGREED



CASTLEFIELD PARK

SOLD



LAMBOURN DRIVE

SOLD



MEADOW DOWNS

SALE  
AGREED



WINDERMERE

*The Market  
is Moving -  
Are You?*

**FLYNN** = Proven  
Results

## Thinking of Selling Your Property this Year?

For a free sales valuation please contact us on 01 8211311 today.

We look forward to sharing our recent market experiences and record prices with you.



**Andrew Rafter** MIPAV CV TRV MMCEPI  
Director  
m: 086 8199398  
t: 01 8211311  
e: arafter@flynnassociates.ie



**Elaine Swift** MIPAV  
Senior Negotiator  
m: 086 648 8524  
t: 01 8211311  
e: eswift@flynnassociates.ie



PSR No: 002558

📍 Castleknock 📍 Raheny 📍 Swords 📍 Leeson St.

[www.flynnassociates.ie](http://www.flynnassociates.ie)



# CASTLEKNOCK ON THE CHARGE

## How a 27 year old club is eyeing a double breakthrough in 2025

**W**hat began in 1998 as a small club with a single juvenile team has blossomed into one of Dublin's most formidable GAA forces. Castleknock Hurling & Football Club now boasts over 1,500 members from 650 local families, fielding an impressive 120 teams across all age groups. Their footballers announced themselves as serious contenders by reaching the Dublin SFC final in 2016, while this season marks a historic milestone—both hurling and football squads are simultaneously challenging for senior-grade honors for the first time.

### Hurling's Breakthrough Season

The hurlers have already secured promotion to Division 1 next spring, but their ambitions don't stop there. A commanding victory over Thomas Davis in the SHC2 opener—fueled by Cian Boyle's 1-13 haul and Darragh O'Connell's midfield mastery—signaled their championship intent. O'Connell's post-match comments captured the squad's mindset, declaring Division 1 status as "just the starting point" for this rising force.

### Football's Redemption Bid

After consecutive quarterfinal exits, the footballers face a pivotal group stage against Ballymun Kickhams, Templeogue Synge Street, and Whitehall Colmcille. New manager Dara Brady, promoted from the U20 setup, has enlisted Dublin stars Ciarán Kilkenny, Tom Quinn, and Shane Boland to mentor emerging talents from the club's successful 2021 minor team. Kilkenny, fresh from recommitting to Dublin duty, sees this campaign as the spark needed to "match the hurlers' buzz."

The group stage presents a clear path—topping the table secures direct quarterfinal qualification, while second place means navigating a playoff. Key dates include the August 9 opener against Templeogue at Parnell Park and a potentially decisive August 23 clash with Ballymun at home.

### Grassroots Fueling Success

Castleknock's remarkable growth stems from unparalleled community engagement. Over 8,000 youngsters have passed through their Saturday morning "Tír na nÓg" program since inception, while this year's Mini-Leagues attracted 720 children to the club's expanded sand-based pitches. The adult structure now features eight football and six hurling teams—a testament to the club's thriving pipeline.

### Infrastructure for the Future

Off-field developments mirror on-field progress. May's installation of a new 4G pitch has enabled intensified three-night-a-week training sessions, while September's planning application for four additional

dressing rooms and a gym extension could further boost facilities.

### The Road to History

The hurlers need just two wins from their remaining three championship ties to secure a semifinal berth, with the title bringing automatic promotion to Senior 1 in 2026. The footballers aim to top their group and avoid the playoff roulette.

As Castleknock celebrates 25 years of growth, 2025 could deliver their most significant achievements yet. With promotion already secured in hurling and the footballers poised for a breakthrough, the club stands on the brink of something special. While a historic senior double remains challenging, the blue-and-yellow army is dreaming big—and may yet bring Dublin 15 its most electrifying GAA autumn in memory.

# WSB

## WELDING

### Marco Gonçalves

Welder

085 273 5745

### Services

MIG TIG REPAIRS

**WELDER**

goncalves8rembisz@gmail.com

# OLD BAWN BLINDS & INTERIORS

**NO.1 FOR BEDS IN IRELAND**

**CRUSH VELVET - CRUSH VELVET**



**€30 PER WEEK**

**DOUBLE BED SET  
€399**

**KING SIZE BED SET  
€399  
(€200 SAVING)**

- Orthopaedic Mattress ● Split Base
- Head board ● All Colours

**TRIPLE BUNKS**



**€30 PER WEEK**

**WHITE OR GREY WITH  
MATTRESS €599**

**3FT SINGLE BED SET  
HEAD BOARD €69**



**RING FOR DELIVERY**

**IRISH MADE SINGLE MATTRESS  
& BASE €189**

**4'6" DOUBLE BED  
HEAD BOARD €89**



**€25 PER WEEK**

**4'6" DOUBLE BED €289**

**MATTRESSES**

**SINGLE €89 - DOUBLE €129  
- KING €249**



**RING FOR DELIVERY**

**SELECTION OF MATTRESSES  
ON SHOW**

**STANDARD BUNKS**



**€30 PER WEEK**

**WHITE OR GREY WITH  
MATTRESS €499**

**SOFA OFFERS NOT TO BE MISSED**



**STAR BARGAIN**

**FABRIC  
CORNER  
2 RECLINER  
SUITE  
WITH 2 COFFEE  
HOLDERS**

**HOT TO BE SEEN!**

**WAS  
€1999  
NOW  
€1399**

**AT €30 WK**

**DELTA  
3+1+1  
WITH FOUR  
RECLINERS**

**STAR BARGAIN**



**WAS  
€1900  
NOW  
€1099**

**AT €30 WK**

Showrooms open at - St. Dominic's Shopping Centre, (Off the Old Bawn Road) Tallaght, D24 HK49

Showrooms open at - Unit 3 Kylemore Park North (Beside Rocca Tiles) D10 FA30

**085 - 2147137**

**Open 7 Days**

Supplying & Fitting  
for the Last 35 years



Councillor

# John Walsh

Phone: 087 6486228 Email: [john.walsh@cllr.fingal.ie](mailto:john.walsh@cllr.fingal.ie) [@JohnWalshDWest](https://twitter.com/JohnWalshDWest)

## Dear Resident

I would like to give some updates on local issues and campaigns which I have been working on.

Please don't hesitate to contact me if I can be of any assistance.

*John*

## DRAFT MASTER PLAN FOR THE OLD SCHOOL HOUSE, CLONSILLA

Fingal Council is holding a public consultation on the draft Masterplan for the Old School House, until the extended closing date of **11 August 2025**.

Submissions may be made to Fingal Council as follows:

Online at: <https://consult.fingal.ie/en/browse> or

In writing to: **Senior Executive Officer, Planning and Strategic Infrastructure Department, Fingal County Council, County Hall, Main Street, Swords, Co. Dublin, K67 X8Y2.**

The draft Masterplan documents are available to view at Fingal Council offices at Grove Road, Blanchardstown, Dublin 15 and on the County Council's online portal: <https://consult.fingal.ie/en/browse>

I am making a submission to advocate that:

- The Old School House should be restored as a community centre with a range of community uses – Clonsilla currently has no community centre.
- The existing hedgerows and trees, including the tree line bordering the Village Porterstown must be preserved, while protecting biodiversity within this highly sensitive landscape beside the Royal Canal.
- Any housing development on the lands should be consistent with low rise development in the Village Porterstown and Lambourn.

## CONSULTATION ON PUBLIC PLAY SPACES

Fingal Council is proposing new public play spaces in Hazelbury Park and Hartstown Park and holding a public consultation under Part 8 of the Planning and Development regulations 2001 before these are brought to the Council for approval. Submissions for each of these consultations may be made either by post (same address as above for Master Plan) or online via the Council's Consultation portal:

<https://consult.fingal.ie/en/browse> up to **Wednesday 27th August**.

## HARTSTOWN PARK

The proposal is for a Neighbourhood Equipped Area for Play (NEAP) totalling approximately 3,000m<sup>2</sup>, constructed in line with the principles of universal design.

Further details can be found on the Fingal website: <https://consult.fingal.ie/en/browse>





## HAZELBURY PARK

Fingal Council is proposing to provide a Local Equipped Area for Play (LEAP) in Hazelbury Park, totalling approximately 1,000m<sup>2</sup>, constructed in line with the principles of universal design.

Details of the proposed play space can be found on the Fingal website: <https://consult.fingal.ie/en/browse>

## PETITION TO REGULATE DRONES

**There is no effective regulation of noise by drones, frequency of flights or environmental impact of drones, as Government ministers have repeatedly delayed bringing forward a national planning framework for drone technology, which has been stalled within the Department of Transport since 2022.** Government action is long overdue to regulate drone deliveries and restrict the noise and frequency of drone flights.

To this end - and to highlight local concerns about this issue - Cllr Mary McCamley and I have launched a community petition in Dublin 15 calling on the Minister for Transport to regulate drones and drone delivery services, so as to restrict the impact of drones on quality of life. We are calling on the Government to regulate this sector properly, and make sure our communities are heard.

**Over 1,100 residents in Dublin 15 have signed the 'Our Skies Our Say' petition so far.**

<https://chnng.it/nvmWmGrYtr>

**You are very welcome to sign the petition and to share with family, neighbours or friends who may be interested.**



*John with Cllr. Mary McCamley*



*Working with  
Cllr Mary  
McCamley*

**Labour** 



# Pat McDonnell Paints

IRELAND'S BRIGHTEST PAINT STORES

## Paint Like a Pro: How to Paint a Room

By Mick Gilbride | Dublin Area Manager, Pat McDonnell Paints

### Step 1: Plan

Do your future self a favour by taking time at the outset to plan your project and gather all necessary materials. This will save you from repeat store visits for something you could have sworn was in the shed. Measuring the room ensures you get the right amount of interior emulsion from the get-go.

Once you're ready to select your paint, be sure to opt for premium quality paint. High-quality paint is an investment that offers superior durability and coverage – ultimately saving you time and money.

If you're unsure which colour to choose for your room, why not book a one-to-one consultation with one of our experts? They'll offer personalised advice on colour schemes that suit your taste and the style of your home. To arrange your consultation, simply call your local Pat McDonnell Paints branch today!

### Step 2: Prep

Protect surfaces you don't want to paint. Move furniture, lay dust sheets, and mask off any fittings, doors, window frames and skirting.

Cleaning is an essential step to ensuring a blemish-free finish. Use sugar soap solution to spot-clean any dirt, grime, and dust. Make sure to leave the wall dry fully before painting.

### Step 3: Fix

Scrape away any loose paint, then sand this area lightly in a circular motion with fine-grade sandpaper.

Apply a good quality filler to fix any imperfections (e.g., holes, cracks, scratches, dents). Smooth the filler out with a filler knife, allow it to dry, sand it back, and wipe away any dust.



### TOOLS FOR THE JOB:

- Measuring Tape
- Sugar Soap
- Microfibre Cloth
- Dust Sheets
- Deltec Gold Masking Tape
- Fine-Grade Sandpaper
- Prestonett Ready-Mix Interior/Exterior Filler & Filling Knife
- Wooster Silver Tip 2" Angle Sash Brush
- 9" ALLPRO Roller Set (Includes Sleeve, Frame & Tray)
- Quality Emulsion paint from either the Ralston, Dulux Heritage, Farrow & Ball, or Colourtrend ranges



### Step 4: Paint

Cutting-in with a 2" brush covers any tight corners and edges that your roller can't reach.

Tip: To ensure there is no overlap when the cutting-in areas dry (aka "picture framing"), paint one wall at a time and roll before your cutting-in has had the chance to dry.

When loading your brush with paint, dip the first inch of the brush and gently tap against the rim of the paint tin to remove excess paint. Check for drips as you go as these are easier to remove when still wet.

Roll the remaining areas. For a smooth application, dampen the roller before you start and don't overload it. Roll in a 'W' pattern at a moderate pace using light pressure. To fix drips or pressure lines as you go, lightly roll over the area while the paint is still wet.

Check the manufacturer's instructions to see how much drying time is needed before painting a second coat.

Remove masking tape. To prevent peeling, do this before the paint is fully dry.

### Step 5: Clean-up

Seal and store any unused paint so you can use it again for touch-ups. Wash your tools with warm, soapy water. If cared for properly, good-quality tools can be used again and again.

Get colour inspiration & expert advice from  
Pat McDonnell Paints  
**ONLINE | IN STORE | OVER THE PHONE**  
FAST & FREE DELIVERY on all orders



Pat McDonnell Paints

IRELAND'S BRIGHTEST PAINT STORES

# Need Paint?

## We're Here to Help!

### Find Everything for Your Next Painting Project at Pat McDonnell Paints.

#### Top Paint Brands

Including Dulux, Colourtrend, Farrow & Ball, Ralston and more

#### Tools for Every Task

Find painting accessories for any project – big or small

#### Fast & Free Delivery

On all orders plus Click & Collect from our Dublin stores

#### Expert Colour Advice

Get personalised advice in a one-to-one colour consultation

#### Online Shopping

Fast, easy & secure ordering from the comfort of home

### Local Colour, Just Around the Corner.



#### Blanchardstown

Westend Shopping Park

D15 FY75

01 268 9701



#### Rathfarnham

Old Nutgrove Retail Park

D14 Y3Y8

01 216 5055



## Intel's Leixlip Layoffs: What a 195 job cut means for Dublin 15 commuters and businesses

### The headline numbers

On 30 June 2025 Intel confirmed it will seek up to 195 compulsory redundancies at its Leixlip campus as part of a global restructuring drive led by new chief executive LipBu Tan. The plant employs about 4,900 people, so the local cut is just under 5 %—but it lands at a time when Intel is also shedding thousands of roles worldwide.

### Why the Californian giant is trimming in Kildare

Intel's worldwide cost-saving plan aims to rebuild an "engineering-driven culture" after several tough years in which rivals sprinted ahead on AI chips. The company has paused some megafab projects in the US and Germany, narrowed management layers and told staff that tougher onsite attendance rules are coming. Leixlip remains central to Intel's future—Fab 34, opened in 2023, is its first EUV production line in Europe—but even flagship sites must share the pain.

### Why Dublin 15 is watching nervously

Although the campus sits across the county border in Kildare, West Dublin is Intel country:

- Short commute: Blanchardstown is barely 11 km from the factory gate; the C3 Dublin Bus service or a drive down the M3/M4 takes about 25 minutes.
- Hourly Route 139 link: JJ Kavanagh's orbital

bus runs Naas – Leixlip – Blanchardstown, feeding estates from Castleknock to Ongar with shift workers.

- Housing patterns: Agents estimate that hundreds of Intel engineers rent or own in Dublin 15 estates where prices undercut Kildare's newer commuter belts (figures echoed in recent mortgage drawdown data, though not broken out in public statistics).

A HR manager at a Blanchardstown software firm put it bluntly: "When Intel sneezes, west Dublin's rental market gets a cold."

**Early ripple effects**—catering jobs and local spend  
The first collateral damage is already visible:

- Compass Ireland, which runs Intel's inhouse catering, says it will drop 37 of its 99 roles—one-third of its onsite staff—after the chipmaker asked for a "reduced food offering".

- Contractors based in Dublin 15 industrial estates, from cleanroom fitout firms to logistics outfits on Damastown Rise, report that project work on Fab 34 has slowed since April; several told this magazine they are holding off on hiring apprentices until Intel clarifies 2026 capital budgets.

Retailers in Blanchardstown Centre say weekday lunch trade has dipped "noticeably" since rumours of cuts began in the spring. (No hard figures yet, but Centre management is tracking footfall.)



[www.kctreeservices.ie](http://www.kctreeservices.ie)

**CROWN REDUCTIONS**  
**HEDGE REDUCTION**  
**HEDGE MAINTENANCE**  
**SITE CLEARANCE**  
**STUMP GRINDING**  
**EMERGENCY TREE SERVICES**

**CALL: 085 226 9643**



**Beauty Salons, Crèches,  
Offices, Gyms, Schools  
& Private Homes**

**From deep cleaning to regular weekly,  
biweekly, or monthly rotations,**

**Specialise in move-in/move-out,  
end of tenancy, before-sale,  
and event cleaning.**

**089 943 9360**  
[www.maidinireland.com](http://www.maidinireland.com)



### Political and union reaction

Local Fine Gael TD Joe Neville called the layoffs “a blow that must be cushioned by every support the State can muster”, while opposition TD Réada Cronin demanded an emergency task force for affected families. Intel’s own workforce is lightly unionised, but craftworker union Connect warned that the decision proves even flagship FDI sites are “not immune” to global downturns.

### What help is on the table?

The Department of Enterprise says its Rapid Response Team—first used after the 2019 Bord na Móna closures—will offer:

1. Onsite information days in September covering redundancy terms and upskilling grants.
2. Fasttrack Springboard+ places in AI processcontrol and EV powerelectronics at TU Dublin Blanchardstown.
3. Fáilte Ireland employment exchanges for displaced catering staff ahead of the 2026 Ryder Cup hospitality rampup.

### Could more cuts follow?

Industry analysts note that the 195 figure is “worstcase” and may shrink if enough staff take voluntary packages, but Intel’s global restructuring

target remains a 20 % headcount reduction. The Irish plant escaped the deepest axe swings because Fab 34 is integral to Intel’s turnaround, yet further trimming can’t be ruled out if PC demand falters again.

### The longterm view

Intel has invested €30 billion in Leixlip since 1989, and last year sold a 49 % stake in Fab 34 to Apollo Global for \$11 billion—cash it still plans to spend ramping EUV capacity. That deal, plus a new EU Chips Act subsidy window, suggests the site’s future is secure once the current turbulence passes. For Dublin 15, the challenge is to weather the next 6–12 months without losing the skilled commuter base that has helped the suburb thrive.

A layoff of 195 may look modest next to Intel’s 5,000plus global cuts, but its shock waves reach well beyond the Leixlip fence. Fewer Intel paypackets mean fewer lunchtime customers, fewer EVs in the Park P&R, and fewer highspec mortgages in new Castleknock estates. Whether those ripples fade or widen will depend on how quickly Intel’s big turnaround starts to deliver—and how fast government supports can redirect talent into the next wave of West Dublin industry.



# University in the Balance

Why the Price Tag on an Irish Degree Keeps Climbing

## From “Free Fees” to Four-Figure Bills

When then-Education Minister Niamh Bhreathnach abolished tuition in 1996, Ireland became a poster child for widening access to higher education. But universities soon filled the funding vacuum with a “registration fee” that climbed from €150 in 1997 to €1,500 by 2009, before being rebranded in 2011 as the student contribution charge—set at €3,000 a year, where it stayed for more than a decade.

## The Cost-of-Living Reprieve—Already on the Chopping Block

In Budgets 2023 and 2024, the Government shaved €1,000 off the €3,000 charge for all students and introduced an extra €500 grant for middle-income families, pushing the bill down to €2,000—or €1,500 for households earning €62,000–€100,000. Universities have implemented the reduced rate for the current academic year (e.g., UCD lists €2,000 for 2024/25).

That relief is temporary. In early July, the new Minister for Further & Higher Education, James Lawless, warned that—barring another cost-of-living package—fees will “snap back” to €3,000 in September 2025. The prospect has already sparked rallies outside Leinster House and a Sinn Féin motion demanding not just retention of the cut but a further €500 reduction.

## What Students Really Pay

The headline fee is only a slice of the university price tag. TU Dublin’s cost-of-living study puts average monthly rent at €792; in Dublin city, the figure now tops €1,200, triple the Berlin equivalent. Even before tuition is added back in, a typical student living away from home must find roughly €14,000 a year to stay in college.

## Grants Rising—but Not Fast Enough

Successive budgets have lifted SUSI maintenance rates by up to €615 and raised income thresholds so that families earning under €55,924 now pay no student contribution at all. Yet the grant’s maximum still covers barely half of average off-campus living costs, let alone fees.

## Universities Say They’re Broke Too

Institutions argue that cutting student fees without new State money is unsustainable. The Irish Universities Association warns of a €92 million funding hole this year, rising to €171 million in 2025, just to meet public-sector pay awards. Staff-student ratios already trail the EU average, and capital budgets for labs, libraries, and housing are stretched to breaking point.

## Housing: The Hidden Tuition

Accommodation is now the biggest single driver of college

costs. A February Irish Times analysis found three applications for every bed on campus, with rents in new private complexes pushing beyond €300 a week. The Minister has floated exemptions from new rent-reset rules for student house-shares, tacitly acknowledging the pressure.

## Where Next?

Budget 2026 (October 2025) will decide whether the €1,000 subsidy survives. The Coalition parties are divided: Fine Gael backs permanent cuts, while Fianna Fáil stresses “budgetary realism.” Opposition parties want the contribution abolished within two years; universities want the State to plug the €307 million core-funding gap identified in the Funding the Future roadmap.

Until that political tug-of-war is resolved, Irish students face an uncomfortable paradox: a country that nominally offers “free fees” but where the all-in cost of a degree is climbing faster than inflation—and may soon rise by another €1,000 overnight.

**SAVE THIS NUMBER**

SCAN NOW  
USE IT WHEN  
YOU NEED IT !

**SAVE YOUR NO CLAIMS BONUS NOW !**

TAKES 2 SECONDS SAVES YOU €€€€

**087 290 8661**



Unit 3 & 4, St. Brigid's Shopping Centre  
Blanchardstown, Ireland, D15XH92

**01 823 5466**

info@leddyuniforms.ie  
www.leddyuniforms.ie



Fully insured &  
vat registered

FREE QUOTES

**ROOFING DUBLIN**

*Roofing Problems?*

CALL OUR EMERGENCY ROOF CARE LINE ON **087 394 8346**

- New Roofing ● Lead valleys ● Emergency Repairs
- Attic Insulations ● Flat Roofs ● Fascia & Soffits
- Guttering/Downpipes ● Chimney Repair
- Ridge Pointing ● Roof Cleaning



**Southside: 01 908 1455 Northside: 01 699 1499**  
**www.roofing-dublin.com**

# O’Gorman Pushes for Revival of HPV Vaccine Catch-Up Programme

**G**reen Party Leader Roderic O’Gorman has been leading a determined campaign to ensure the Government follows through on its promise to reintroduce the Laura Brennan HPV vaccine catch-up programme. In recent months, he has pressed the Department of Health and the HSE for clarity on when the initiative - promised under the Programme for Government - will be delivered, but until recently has received no definitive answers.

Writing to the Minister for Health, O’Gorman stressed the urgency of the matter, highlighting current take-up rates of the HPV vaccine and the need to provide access to the vaccine for those who may have missed out in school. “We know that each year, thousands of school children, for whatever reason, have not taken up the vaccine when offered. There should be a mechanism that they can make up for this, later on, and the Laura Brennan programme offers such a mechanism,” he said.

O’Gorman has raised the issue multiple times in the Dáil, including directly with the Taoiseach and Tánaiste. In a speech before the Dáil summer recess, he recounted speaking with Lucy, a 20-year-old student who now faces a bill of up to €600 to get vaccinated. “As a third-level student, she doesn’t have that disposable income,” he told the chamber. “Why does she have to fork out 600 quid for a potentially life-saving shot, when only



six months ago the Government promised to re-run the catch-up vaccine scheme?”

Thanks in part to this continued pressure, the Government has now committed to a schools-based HPV vaccine catch-up programme. However, campaigners and advocates - including the Irish Cancer Society - stress that more will be needed going forward to ensure full access for all who missed the vaccine, regardless of age or financial means.



## Daniel Whelan

# TILING & BATHROOM SHOWROOM

• **FULL BATHROOM RENOVATIONS** • **KITCHENS**

• **CONSERVATORIES** • **COMMERCIAL & DOMESTIC WORK**



Grouting,  
Tile Adhesives,  
Tools and  
All you need  
for DIY





**FULL  
BATHROOM  
SPECIAL  
NOW ON  
from €8,000**

INCLUDES: Wall Tiles up to 20m<sup>2</sup> & Floor Tiles up to 5m<sup>2</sup> - 900mm x 900mm Shower Tray & Doors - Toilet - Chrome Towel Rail - Vanity Unit & Mixer Tap (550 Moderne) - Triton T90 Shower - Supplied & Fitted including Plumbing and Tiling Labour

**FREE QUOTES - COMPETITIVE PRICING - TOP CLASS WORK**

Slaney Road, Glasnevin Industrial Estate (across from Woodies). Tel: 086 150 7617 - 01 834 4955  
 Email: dannywhelantiling@gmail.com - Open Mon-Fri 11am - 4pm - Sat 10am-3pm - Closed Sundays



# Roderic O'GORMAN<sup>TD</sup>

## A Chairde,

Below I share some of the latest updates on issues I have been working on in the constituency.

Further info and updates are shared on my website and on my social media.

### Palestine and the Occupied Territories Bill



Enacting the Occupied Territories Bill is one card that Ireland has in its hands that can support the people of Palestine and set an important example of solidarity on the global stage. I have continuously advocated for the inclusion of goods and services within this Bill and look forward to seeing it progressed and fully enacted soon.



With students and staff at a recent visit to the National Learning Network in Mulhuddart

### Oireachtas Committee Hearing on Drones

As a member of the Joint Oireachtas Committee on Transport, I requested a hearing take place on the topic of drones. The Committee heard from the Irish Aviation Authority, Dublin City Council, various academics and from Manna drones directly.

Following the hearing, I will continue to push the Government to urgently publish its [Policy Framework on Drones](#) and that this needs to comprehensively cover key issues like safety, noise, privacy and the planning system.



### Transport Improvements



Recent positive announcements around DART+ West and BusConnects mean these large projects will now progress to tendering and construction, transforming the way we move around Dublin. While we wait for these to be delivered, I think there are many small fixes that we can address in the shorter term, and recently I asked people to share their rail requests (timetables, station infrastructure, train facilities) with me on social media. I am now working to get these addressed by Irish Rail.

### Student Fees

The Government's u-turn on its election promises of keeping student fees stable is an unwelcome stress for families. I support calls for the government to scrap the €1,000 hike in fees without delay, so that students can prepare and budget for the academic term ahead.



Please don't hesitate to get in touch on any issue

✉ [roderic.ogorman@oir.ie](mailto:roderic.ogorman@oir.ie)  
☎ 01 618 3222  
🌐 [www.rodericogorman.com](http://www.rodericogorman.com)





## Cooking with the Seasons - How (and Why) to Let Ireland's Calendar Guide Your Kitchen

Seasonal eating isn't just a culinary hashtag; it is a centuries-old rhythm that ties what's on your plate to Ireland's climate, soil and farming cycle

**A**ligning your meals with Ireland's harvest calendar unlocks better flavor, lower costs, and a smaller environmental footprint while supporting local producers. Here's how to make the most of each season's bounty:

### Spring (March–May)

As the land awakens, embrace tender asparagus, purple-sprouting broccoli, early rhubarb, and the year's first lamb. Celebrate the season with an asparagus and leek tart, layering puff pastry with Ballymaloe relish, blanched spears, and Irish goat cheese. Rhubarb takes center stage in a ginger-spiked compote, stewed in apple juice and local honey—perfect with porridge or ice cream. For a fresh twist on tradition, pair spring lamb with a wild garlic salsa verde, swapping half the mint for this foraged green.

### Summer (June–August)

Bask in the abundance of sun-ripened strawberries, tomatoes, courgettes, and new-season honey. A quick panzanella salad combines day-old soda bread with juicy tomatoes, fresh basil, and creamy Burren Smokehouse mozzarella. For a light summer dish, shave courgettes into ribbons and dress them with lemon and rapeseed oil, finishing with toasted hazelnuts. When berries peak, fold crushed meringues and whipped cream into Wexford strawberries for a classic Eton mess.

### Autumn (September–November)

As days shorten, earthy flavors take over—pumpkins, leeks, beetroot, and wild mushrooms shine. A roasted root vegetable tray bake caramelizes beetroot, parsnips, and carrots with rosemary and maple syrup. Foraged chanterelles elevate a simple risotto, finished with Carrigaline cheese. Windfall apples and blackberries make a comforting crumble, with an oat topping adding extra crunch.

### Winter (December–February)

Heartier fare keeps the cold at bay—Brussels sprouts, kale, celeriac, and stored apples and pears star in warming dishes. Blend roasted celeriac into a velvety soup topped with crispy bacon lardons. Transform sprouts with a honey glaze and a sprinkle of Dubliner cheese. For dessert, poach pears in spiced cider and serve with vanilla skyr.

### Why It Matters

Bord Bia's research highlights the climate cost of out-of-

season eating—imported January tomatoes generate over 2kg of CO<sub>2</sub> per kilo, while Irish summer tomatoes produce less than 300g. Choosing local, seasonal ingredients is one of the easiest ways to cut your food's carbon footprint.

### Make It Stick

Keep a seasonal calendar on your fridge, chat with growers at the market, and let fresh availability guide your meals. Eating with the seasons means richer flavors, smarter spending, and a lighter impact on the planet—a win for your plate, your wallet, and the environment.



**Ned's Mobile Valeting Company**

Top Quality Low Prices

**089 4676096**

 **find us on facebook**

**VALETING ON YOUR DOOR STEP**

RECOMMENDED

# M50 BLINDS & INTERIORS

## CARPET - VINYL - WOOD FLOORING

Serving  
a 50 Mile  
radius of  
Dublin

Shop from the Comfort of Your Home

### STAIRS & LANDING CARPET DEALS

Stairs & Landing Supplied  
and Fitted **€499**



Stairs & Landing up to  
8ft from **€399**



Carpet on Stairs & Landing  
from **€849** Supplied and  
Fitted (Border Extra)



Sitting Room & Hall Wood Floor  
8mm up to 30 YRDS **€899**  
12mm up to 30 YRDS **€1099**  
SUPPLIED & FITTED



Stairs and Landing in Vinyl  
From **€999** Supplied &  
Fitted, Non - Slip Nosing



STAIRS AND LANDING IN WOOD FROM  
**€999** SUPPLIED & FITTED  
NON SLIP NOSING



Showrooms open at - St. Dominic's Shopping Centre, (Off the Old Bawn Road) Tallaght, D24 HK49

Showrooms open at - Unit 3 Kylemore Park North (Beside Rocca Tiles) D10 FA30

085-214 7137 | 01 623 7432

Supplying & Fitting  
for the Last 35 years





**MERRION  
VAULTS**

# Safe Deposit Box Rental

☎ (01) 254 7900    🌐 [MerrionVaults.ie](http://MerrionVaults.ie)

from

**€4**

per week



**MERRION  
GOLD**

# Invest in Gold & Silver Bullion

☎ (01) 254 7901    🌐 [MerrionGold.ie](http://MerrionGold.ie)





# Junction6

HEALTH & FITNESS VILLAGE  
CASTLEKNOCK

[www.junction6.ie](http://www.junction6.ie)





# Have you **VOTER.IE**'d?

[www.voter.ie](http://www.voter.ie) is Dublin's  
portal for registering to vote

Voting legislation has changed

Register and update your details

Make sure you still have your vote



Comhairle Cathrach  
Bhaile Átha Cliath  
Dublin City Council



Comhairle Contae County Council



Comhairle Contae  
Fhine Gall  
Fingal County  
Council



# Cllr John-Kingley ONWUMEREH

YOUR FIANNA Fáil COUNCILLOR FOR MULHUDDART, CORDUFF,  
WATERVILLE, TYRRELSTOWN, HOLLYSTOWN, MEAKSTOWN,  
LANESBOROUGH COMMUNITY

✉ [jk.onwumereh@cllrs.fingal.ie](mailto:jk.onwumereh@cllrs.fingal.ie)

☎ 0899642783

Blanchardstown–Mulhuddart LEA



## The GAA's Trophy Hoggers vs. Title Teetotallers

A lighthearted census of who's bursting the  
shelves and who's still stuck with dust covers



### Serial Collectors

Fun fact: add those two tallies together (74) and they're still short of the number of times Kerry people have politely reminded Dublin that "thirty-one is lovely, but..."

### Honourable Mention for Hurling's Hungry Three

Kilkenny may be kings, but Cork (30) and freshly crowned Tipperary (now 29 after that 2025 shellacking of Cork) keep the cat honest.

### Counties Still Waiting for the Call From Silverware HQ

(Full lists would run longer than a Galway–Mayo penalty shootout; if your county is missing above, assume the drought continues.)

### How to Spin It at the Bar

Supporter from Kerry or Kilkenny? Simply clear your throat and let the medals jangle audibly.

Supporter from anywhere on the "never-won" list? Claim moral victory: "Sure winning's grand, but have you ever felt the pure hope of an unbeaten streak that's older than electricity?"

Dual-code optimist? Point out that in 1904, the ball burst during a Cork–Kerry game and everyone went for sandwiches—proof that anything can happen.

### Crystal Ball Bonus

At the time of going to print, Football 2025 still has the Sam final to play (Donegal v Kerry). If Kerry win, they hit the biblical 39, and Donegal stay on two; if Donegal upset the Kingdom, expect celebrations audible from Malin Head to Mizen.

Hurling 2026 offers 19 long-suffering counties one more swing at Liam. The bookmakers' collective shrug says: "don't remortgage the farm just yet."

Whether you're counting cups or chalking up gallant defeats, the GAA's roll of honour is really Ireland's longest-running soap opera: same families, same grudges, fresh cliffhangers every summer. One warning though—if you meet a Kerry or Kilkenny fan heading for the trophy cabinet, step aside quickly; those doors swing open an awful lot.



# Cllr Gerard Sheehan Demands Emergency Action on Cost-of-Living Crisis as Supermarkets and the FFG Government *“Feed on the Hardship”*

In a sharply worded statement today, Aontú Councillor Gerard Sheehan has accused the Irish Government and major supermarket chains of profiting from the suffering of ordinary families, declaring the cost-of-living crisis a “cost-of-survival emergency” and a symptom of a broken social contract.

***“As I see it, the social contract in Ireland is shattered — if it ever truly existed,”*** said Cllr Sheehan.

***“People pay their taxes, follow the rules, work every hour they can — and they still can’t afford rent, food, or electricity. For far too many it’s a question of fuel or food. Meanwhile, the government posts record tax revenues and corporate profits soar. This isn’t a functioning republic. It’s exploitation on a national scale.”***

Supermarkets: ***“Rip-Off Loyalty Pricing Must Be Investigated”***

Cllr Sheehan directly criticised large supermarket chains for what he described as “manipulative loyalty pricing tactics”, calling for urgent investigation by the CCPC and consumer regulators.

***“Loyalty cards are being used as camouflage for price gouging. Essentials like milk, bread, butter — they’re advertised at ‘discounted’ prices, but only after inflation and only if you sign up and scan your data,”*** said Sheehan. ***“It’s cynical, predatory, and it’s hurting the people who can least afford it. This is corporate profiteering dressed up as value.”***

A Greedy Government That’s Lost Its Moral Compass

Cllr Sheehan didn’t hold back in his criticism of the coalition parties.

***“We now have a government that thrives off of family and individual hardship. They boast about tax surpluses while families sit in the cold or have to choose between petrol in the car or food in their cupboards. All while carers sleep in their cars. They’re not just out of touch — they’re out of control.”***

***“This is a greedy government. And like the supermarkets, they’re feeding off the backs of the struggling majority.”***

Cllr Sheehan outlined five urgent measures the Government must take now:

1. Cap prices on essential food items during the crisis.
2. Abolish VAT and carbon taxes on domestic electricity and gas — permanently.

3. Suspend fuel duties on home heating oil, petrol, and diesel for six months.

4. Double the renter’s tax credit.

5. Implement a windfall tax on supermarkets, energy companies, and vulture funds making record profits and reinvest this into the communities that are struggling the most.

6. “Stop allowing unverified asylum seekers to access housing and food support when we are already facing a homelessness crisis,” said Sheehan. “All they need to do is present their documents upon entry. If they had them when boarding their Ryanair flights into the country, then they shouldn’t be able to disembark without showing them.” He added, ***“Implementing this straightforward system could save taxpayers millions.”***

“The Government says it can’t afford to help. But it has billions in surplus — it’s just choosing not to use it for you,” said Sheehan.

***“What we need isn’t another spin campaign — it’s political courage and moral leadership.”***

Sheehan said the time has come for a renewed understanding between the citizen and the State — and that Aontú is ready to lead that change.

***“A social contract means that when you do your part, your country protects you. You work — and you can afford to live. You get sick — and care is there. Your kids are born — and you don’t fear their future,”*** said Sheehan. ***“That’s what Aontú stands for. That’s our promise.”***

Aontú’s Commitment: Real Policies. Real Delivery. Real Republic.

Aontú is calling for a republic grounded in fairness, sovereignty, and respect — not headlines and handouts. “We want an Ireland where your work is respected, where your home is secure,

and where our children can stay and thrive — not emigrate,” said Sheehan. ***“The old parties have broken faith with the people. Aontú is here to rebuild it — with truth, dignity, and action.”***



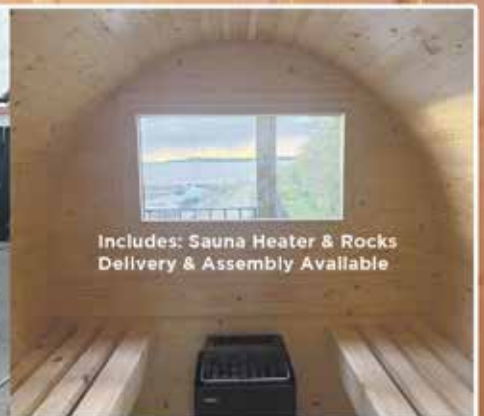
# CLONSILLA HERITAGE FESTIVAL - BACK FOR A 3RD YEAR.



## SAVE THE DATE ! Sept 13th & 14th

**J**oin us in Clonsilla, on September 13th & 14th, for walks, talks, music and fun. With music and activities in Shackleton's Gardens, tours of St Mary's and St Mochta's churches, Luttrellstown estate and the Royal Canal there's plenty to do. Take to the water on a barge trip, or try Stand Up Paddleboarding. There's something for everyone at the Clonsilla Heritage Festival!

## BARREL SAUNAS LOCALLY CRAFTED



Includes: Sauna Heater & Rocks  
Delivery & Assembly Available

**MICRO SAUNA - £1,799**  
Length: 1.2m  
Diameter: 1.8m

2  
PERSON

**MINI SAUNA - £1,999**  
Length: 1.6m  
Diameter: 1.8m

4  
PERSON

**MIDI SAUNA - £2,199**  
Length: 2m  
Diameter: 1.8m

6  
PERSON

**MAXI SAUNA - £2,499**  
Length: 2.4m  
Diameter: 2.4m

8  
PERSON

HAND CRAFTED IN IRELAND

Whatsapp Us +44 774 775 94 59



THERE IS A SOLUTION GROUP

## Alcoholics Anonymous Corduff D15

Our Group meets every Saturday morning at 11am in the Corduff Community Resource Centre on Blackcourt Road and simultaneously online on:

Zoom Meeting ID: 898 5548 6555  
Passcode: recovery

- Our meeting is OPEN to anyone interested in learning about AA and how we help others affected by alcoholism.
- Alcoholics Anonymous is an international Fellowship of men and women who have had a drinking problem.
- It is Non-Professional, Self-Supporting, Multiracial, Apolitical and available almost everywhere.
- There are no Age or Educational requirements, membership is to ANYONE who wants to do something about their drinking problem.



WE CAN BE CONTACTED HERE:  
085 814 1164 [tiasgcorduff@gmail.com](mailto:tiasgcorduff@gmail.com)  
[www.thereisasolution.group](http://www.thereisasolution.group)

All enquiries will be treated in the STRICTEST CONFIDENCE



## S&R Services

- Painting interior and exterior
- Renovations and extensions.
- Kitchen fitting
- Maintenance & handyman jobs
- Flatpack assembly etc
- Bathrooms & Floors Lay Down

**Call: 087-4896429**

## TaxAssist Accountants Here to help you thrive

Switching accountants is simple.  
Get the support and advice you deserve.

Call: 01 906 0400  
Email: [siobhanstowe@taxassist.ie](mailto:siobhanstowe@taxassist.ie)  
Visit: [taxassist.ie/blanchardstown](http://taxassist.ie/blanchardstown)

**TaxAssist**  
Accountants

Book a free, no  
obligation  
consultation today:



Visit us in-store



Meet us online



Chat on the phone



# OLD BAWN BLINDS & INTERIORS

Serving  
a 50 Mile  
radius of  
Dublin

Office: 085 - 2147137 - 7 days

*Your local Blinds Manufacturer & Repair Centre for 35 years!*

Shop In The  
Comfort of Your  
Own Home  
**WE COME TO YOU**  
**Free Estimates**

## SHOW ROOMS

St. Dominic's Shopping Centre,  
Tallaght, D24 HK49

Unit 3 Kylemore Park North,  
(Beside Rocca Tiles)  
Ballyfermot, D10 FA30

*All Blinds For All Occassions!*

Find us on  
Facebook /  
Instagram



**NEW DAY & NIGHT  
BLINDS**  
**ALL COLOUR WAYS**  
**FREE ESTIMATES**

**ROMAN BLINDS/VELUX ROOF BLINDS/WOOD  
VENETIAN BLINDS/BLACKOUT BLINDS**



## TRANSFORM YOUR OLD BLINDS TO NEW

Bring your old Roller Blinds and have  
New Cloth Fitted at **DISCOUNT PRICES!**

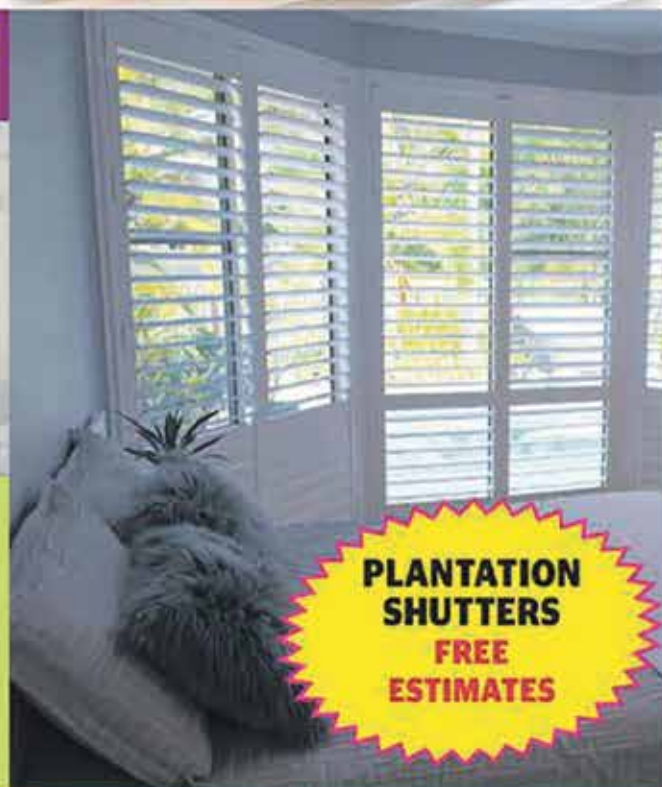
**NEW SPECIALS • DAY & NIGHT BLINDS  
• ANY FINISH YOU WANT**

Full House Roller Blinds **€399** up to 25ft.

**€499** up to 30ft. White/Cream Straight Finish

Patio Blinds **€139** Cream or White up to 25 Slats. New Head Rail **€80**

3 x 35mm Wooden Blinds **€399** up to 13ft.



**PLANTATION  
SHUTTERS**  
**FREE  
ESTIMATES**

## ALL STYLES

## DOORS & CARPENTRY

## BANISTERS

**SPECIAL  
5 WHITE  
REGENCY  
DOORS WITH  
FULL LOCK SET**

**Supplied &  
Fitted Only  
€999**



**Solid Doors €399  
Supplied & Fitted**

Comes in  
Light Grey,  
Dark Grey,  
Oak, White



GRAY DOORS €100 EXTRA

Finance  
Arranged  
Weekly  
Collections



4 Clear  
Glass 4 Panel  
Comes in  
Light Grey,  
Dark Grey,  
Oak, White

Set of Pine  
Banisters  
€999  
to  
€1399



**01 623 7432**

**Open 7 Days**

Supplying & Fitting for  
the Last 35 years





## Coolmine Woods murder

Eight years after the Coolmine Woods murder, Gardaí renew their appeal — and Dublin 15 asks how safe its woods really are.

**E**ight years after her remains were discovered in Coolmine Woods, the murder of Linda Evans Christian remains an open wound for Dublin 15. On July 17, 2025, Gardaí stood once more at the now-familiar crime scene, renewing their appeal for information about the 29-year-old who vanished after leaving Connolly Hospital's Ash Ward on June 24, 2017. Her partially buried body was found three weeks later in these suburban woodlands bordering the Royal Canal, yet despite an extensive investigation spanning over 250 leads, her killer remains at large.

### A Case Frozen in Time

The investigation has followed a twisting path since 2017. The prime suspect, who left Ireland days before the grim discovery, has been interviewed multiple times—including recently in Eastern Europe—but maintains his innocence. Compounding the challenge, the original autopsy failed to establish a definitive cause of death. Now, investigators are pinning hopes on advanced DNA techniques being applied to preserved clothing evidence, while stressing they maintain active contact with potential witnesses abroad.

### A Community Transformed by Fear

The tragedy has cast a long shadow over Coolmine Woods, amplifying existing safety concerns about the unlit, densely wooded area between the train station and canal path. Residents continue reporting incidents of anti-social behavior, with some at nearby Windmill apartments admitting they've abandoned using the route altogether. Calls for CCTV installation—first formally proposed by Fingal councillors in 2024—remain mired in bureaucratic hurdles between local authorities and Gardaí over funding and data protection. For now, safety relies on increased police patrols and volunteer wardens, measures praised in official reports but leaving many locals still feeling vulnerable.

### A Family's Unanswered Questions

Linda's grieving relatives remember her as a kind, trusting soul, while questioning the mental health protocols that allowed her to leave hospital unsupervised. They join investigators in urging anyone who might have seen Linda in Castleknock, Blanchardstown village, or Coolmine Woods on June 24-25, 2017 to come forward—no matter how insignificant their information might seem.

### The Path to Justice

Gardaí emphasize that even after eight years, breakthrough details often emerge when witnesses feel safer about coming forward. They encourage information through Blanchardstown Garda Station, the confidential tip line, or any police station, with absolute discretion guaranteed.

As Dublin 15 marks this grim anniversary, Linda's case represents more than an unsolved crime—it's a story of how tragedy reshapes communities, tests systems, and leaves families in agonizing limbo. Whether 2025 finally delivers answers depends equally on forensic science and the conscience of someone, somewhere, who holds the missing piece to this enduring mystery.



\*\*\* IRELAND'S NUMBER ONE MATTRESS SUPERSTORE \*\*\*

**DREAM BIG.  
SLEEP BETTER.  
SAVE MORE!**

Drop by and visit me in Coolock for unbeatable value on Irish-made mattresses and bedroom furniture!

**Mattress Mick's**  
The Mattress Price Fighter

**UNIT 3, MALAHIDE ROAD IND PARK, COOLOCK**  
COOLOCK NAAS RD DROGHEDA WATERFORD CARLOW ROSCREA DUNDALK

**www.mattressmick.ie**



*Royal Windows*  
Dublin

RESIDENTIAL | COMMERCIAL

01-840 4481

info@royalwindows.ie  
www.royalwindows.ie

# Windows Doors Sliders Commercial



## Making Your Home Warmer, Quieter & Secure

### Adding Value To Your Home

Energy Saving PVC  
Solid Timber Frames  
Roof Lights  
Strong Front Doors  
Secure Patio Doors  
Sturdy Composite Doors  
Office Windows  
Shop Fronts  
Commercial



**Save on your  
electricity bills**

We are a company providing a wide range of  
Energy Efficient A Rated Windows in Dublin



**25+ Years of  
Professional Experience**

We work to ensure people's comfort in their  
homes, providing the best and the fastest work.



**Irish made  
Windows and Doors Dublin**

Locally made with the best quality  
available in the market

# 10% OFF! USE PROMO CODE : LV1

# ACCESS TO GP CARE IN IRELAND, 2025

The pressure points, policy fixes and the road ahead



**A**s the cornerstone of Ireland's healthcare system, general practice now handles approximately 88,000 daily consultations for the nation's 5.3 million people. Yet this vital service faces unprecedented pressures, with demand dramatically outpacing supply and creating worrying gaps in care across the country.

## A Growing Imbalance

The system is buckling under combined pressures of population growth, expanded free care schemes, and the Sláintecare policy shift moving complex care from hospitals to community practices. Recent ESRI projections paint a stark picture: annual GP visits will surge from 19.4 million in 2023 to nearly 24 million by 2040, requiring up to 1,200 additional GPs and nearly 900 more practice nurses to maintain current service levels.

## Patients Feeling the Pinch

The reality for many Irish patients is increasingly difficult. Over 60% of practices report being unable to accept new patients, while routine appointment waits stretch to two weeks or longer - particularly in rural areas where some residents resort to emergency departments for primary care. Certain counties like Monaghan and Meath have become "medical deserts," with acute GP shortages compounded by urban deprived areas also struggling for access.

## Policy Progress with Unintended Consequences

While expanded GP visit cards have removed financial barriers for 2.3 million people (including all children under 8), the policy has strained an already overburdened system. Take-up among newly eligible adults remains low at just 17%, partly because many practices simply can't accommodate more patients.

## Structural Challenges

Three critical pressure points threaten the system's sustainability:

1. An aging workforce with one-third of GPs nearing retirement
2. A training pipeline that's expanded 80% since 2019

**RICHARD'S TYRES**

**MOBILE TYRE FITTING  
WE COME TO YOU!**

Professional tyre fitting at your home/work

**Supply Budget, Mid-range & Premium New Tyres**

**Mobile Tyre fitting car, van, SUV**

**Premium New tyres Budget New tyres**

**Puncture Repairs Wheel balancing**

**089 466 2018**  
**mobiletyreunit.com**

but may still fall short

3. Rural coverage gaps prompting innovative solutions like new locum support schemes

#### Potential Solutions on the Horizon

The ICGP advocates for a comprehensive national workforce strategy, warning that without coordinated action, universal access will remain aspirational. Health economists propose four key approaches: further training expansion, incentives to repatriate emigrant doctors, greater task-sharing with nurses and pharmacists, and targeted rural practice incentives.

**While government investment in primary care has grown** 70% since 2019, the system remains at a crossroads. The success of 2025 reforms - from locum supports to digital modernization - will depend on whether policymakers can translate evidence into sustainable funding and attractive career conditions. Until then, for many Irish patients, accessing timely GP care will remain a daily challenge of early morning phone calls and crossed fingers.

The stakes couldn't be higher: as Ireland's population grows and ages, the resilience of its primary care system will increasingly determine the health of the nation. Addressing this crisis requires urgent, coordinated action before current strains become permanent failures in care delivery.

**TITAN**  
DRIVEWAYS  
[www.titandriveways.ie](http://www.titandriveways.ie)

20 YEARS EXPERIENCE

**RELIABLE & LOCAL  
DRIVEWAY CONTRACTORS**

- > BLOCK PAVING
- > PATIO SERVICE
- > TARMAC
- > WALLING
- > GARDENS

**15% OFF**  
with this Advert

01 685 2480 | 087 357 8777

**PDS ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES**

**TAKE CONTROL OF YOUR PEST PROBLEMS TODAY!**

Contact PDS Environmental Services for expert, reliable solutions.  
Call us now for a 24/7 emergency response

**50% DISCOUNT RAT & MICE TREATMENTS**

✓ Rats	✓ Mice	✓ Ants	✓ Spiders
✓ Silverfish	✓ Bedbugs	✓ Cluster Flies	✓ House Flies
✓ Bluebottles	✓ Cockroaches	✓ Woodworm	✓ Wasp Nests

**DON'T LET PESTS TAKE OVER YOUR SPACE!**

**085 1380121 | [info@pdse.ie](mailto:info@pdse.ie) | Trim, Meath.**



## When the Emerald Isle crossed the Irish Sea : a short history of Ireland's "invasions" of England

Ireland has rarely tried to plant its own flag on English soil, but over the last 1,600 years there have been a handful of moments when armed men from Ireland—or Irishmen fighting for other crowns—came ashore to raid, conquer or make political mischief in England (and, once, Wales). Each episode was shaped by very different politics and technology, yet all of them tell us something about how the two islands have viewed one another.

### The "Great Conspiracy" of AD 367

Late Roman Britain was already wobbling under Saxon and Pictish raids when a three-way assault hit its frontiers: Saxons from the east, Picts from the north and "Scotti" raiders from Ireland in the west. The coordinated onslaught overran Hadrian's Wall and drove deep into western Britain before the general Theodosius restored order the following year. It was the first recorded Irish incursion on English territory—and it left enough fear for the word Scotti to stick as a ghost in "Scotland".

### Dublin's Viking–Irish kings capture York (AD 918)

By the 10th century the most powerful warlords in Ireland were Norse Gaels based in Dublin. In 918 Ragnall ua Ímair sailed from Dublin, fought the Battle of Corbridge and seized York, briefly ruling Northumbria. He and his kinsmen launched further raids into Mercia and Wessex before the English kings pushed them back. It is the only time a force raised in Ireland actually took and held an English capital city.

### The coalition that met its match at Brunanburh (AD 937)

Two decades later Ragnall's nephew Óláfr Guthfrithson, king of Dublin, returned with an Irish-Scots-Strathclyde alliance to dethrone the English king Æthelstan. The invaders landed in the Humber, swept through Northumbria—and were smashed at the epic Battle of Brunanburh, a clash later celebrated in the Anglo-Saxon Chronicle as the moment a united "English" kingdom was truly born.

### Bonnie Prince Charlie's Irish Brigade (1745)

When Charles Edward Stuart marched from Scotland into England in 1745, he was flanked by the Irish Piquets—600 veterans of France's famed Irish Brigade. They wore French coats, but the men were Irish Catholics exiled after earlier defeats. The army advanced as far south as Derby before turning back and meeting disaster at Culloden the following spring. It remains the last time an Irish fighting unit entered England as part of a bid for the throne.

### Colonel Tate's Fishguard folly (1797)

Ireland's most eccentric "invasion" of England didn't come from Dublin at all, but from Revolutionary France. An expeditionary force of 1,400 men—including many Irish soldiers and led by the Irish-American Colonel William Tate—landed near Fishguard, Wales, in February 1797. The troops looted local wine cellars, sobered up to find themselves surrounded by militia, and surrendered within 48 hours. The episode is still nicknamed "the last invasion of Britain".

### What ties these episodes together?

- **Scale:** None of the expeditions after the Viking age mustered more than a few thousand men—too small to topple the English state.

- **Alliances:** Irish forces seldom came alone; they arrived as Viking coalitions, Jacobite allies or French auxiliaries.

- **Myth vs. reality:** Each "invasion" looms larger in folklore than in military history, yet the fear they sparked helped to shape English defensive policy—from Saxon burhs to 19th-century coastal forts and modern counterterrorism policing.

In other words, Ireland has never mounted a full-blown conquest of England—but the handful of times Irish warriors or revolutionaries crossed the water left marks on English politics, placenames and collective memory that you can still trace today, from York's Viking festivals to the Fishguard tapestry in Pembrokeshire and memorial stones on Culloden Moor.

## Area D15 Airport Taxis

### AREAS WE COVER

Castleknock, Blanchardstown, Cloness,  
Mulhuddart, Navan Road, Ashtown

Contact James to get an estimated fixed fare

01 822 4402 / 086 255 9194

jamesairporttaxiservice@gmail.com

www.aread15airporttaxi.ie

GOOGLE our 5 star rating



# EUROPEAN DELUX RANGE

SHOWROOMS OPEN 7 DAYS A WEEK 12AM-5PM

## 5 REGENCY DOORS FITTED WITH LOCK SETS



5 DOORS with  
LOCK SETS

**€999**

Supplied  
& Fitted

Bostonian° woodgrain



**€399**

Fitted

Classique glazed woodgrain  
clear glass



**€299**

Fitted

Classique° woodgrain



**€299**

Fitted

With Lock Sets

## ALL DOORS FITTED WITH FULL LOCK SETS



## ADVANCED DOORS DESIGN

UNIT 3 KYLEMORE PARK NORTH  
**D10FA30**  
(Beside Rocha Tiles)

OFFICE  
**01 623 743**  
MOBILE  
**085 781 2869**

**FREE ESTIMATE IN THE COMFORT OF YOUR HOME**

**9**



## Bikes, Bollards & Backlash - where the Auburn-to-12th Lock Greenway now stands

Fingal County Council's ambitious Auburn Avenue–12th Lock Walking & Cycling Route has cleared a major funding hurdle, securing €4.8 million in National Transport Authority backing for 2025-27.

**W**ith the preferred route now published and safety audits completed, this long-awaited project moves into its detailed design phase ahead of a crucial planning application later this year.

### A Community Game-Changer

The scheme promises to transform mobility for 8,000 local residents within a ten-minute walk radius, offering safer alternatives to car journeys for school runs, GAA training, and shopping trips to Blanchardstown Centre. Drawing lessons from successful similar projects in Lusk and Baldoyle—where school cycling rates jumped 71%—council engineers aim to make active travel the obvious choice for daily trips.

### Project Timeline

The initiative has already passed several

key milestones since its non-statutory consultation opened in August 2024, which attracted 520 public submissions before closing in September. Following April 2025's NTA approval and funding release, the project now eyes a Q4 2025 planning application, with potential construction starting in early 2026 if approved. The 12-15 month build would maintain traffic flow by keeping one lane open at all times during works.

### Community Support and Concerns

While Mayor Brian McDonagh hails the investment as transformative, and cycling advocates celebrate Castleknock finally connecting to west Dublin's cycling network, some residents voice practical concerns. Safety issues top the list—locals report existing problems with speeding and rat-running that simple bollards may not solve. The loss of

parking spaces near key community facilities like St Brigid's parish hall has also drawn criticism, though revised plans now preserve six of nine contested bays.

Particular design challenges remain around the N3 junction and truck access to Auburn Drive businesses, with consultants currently modelling alternative loading solutions. These pinch-points represent the delicate balance planners must strike between creating safe cycling infrastructure and maintaining vital local services.

### Funding and Wider Context

The €4.8 million budget—90% NTA-funded—forms part of Fingal's broader €82 million active travel investment, which includes the Clonee-Blanchardstown corridor and Snugborough Road upgrades. The allocation covers everything from design work to land adjustments and construction.

### Next Steps

Final designs should emerge by September 2025, triggering a five-week statutory consultation period where formal objections can be lodged. Environmental considerations will determine the fate of two mature plane trees at Auburn Park, with any removals offset by double replanting. A detailed construction plan—including temporary transport arrangements—will come before local councillors in January 2026.

This project represents more than just new bike lanes—it's a test case for whether Castleknock can successfully transition from car-dominated streets to shared, sustainable mobility. As the designs evolve through 2025, the council faces the complex task of reconciling safety improvements with practical local needs. The coming months will reveal whether this vision can move smoothly from drawing board to reality, or whether challenges at the 12th Lock will keep progress at bay.



**SHINE**  
Window & Solar Panel Cleaning

**Do you need your windows cleaned?**

We provide a reliable, professional service ensuring that your home will sparkle!

High reach window cleaning with purified water achieve spotless, streak free windows with Shine's high reach window cleaning services.

We ensure your windows and solar panels are impeccably clean, even in the hardest to reach places!

We can also offer a Gutter Cleaning & Moss Removal service at a competitive price!

*No Job too big or too small!*



**SHINE**  
Property Maintenance & Garden Services

We provide a friendly, reliable service:

- Grass Cutting
- Strimming
- Hedge Trimming
- Power Washing
- General Clean Ups

We offer our services at competitive prices!

   
Shinewindows48@gmail.com

**Call us today!**  
**085 276 1419**  
[www.shinewindowandsolarcleaning.com](http://www.shinewindowandsolarcleaning.com)



## We Lived in the Sky

92.5 Phoenix FM is a radio station that delivers a voice not only for Dublin 15., but around the world via our online stream, morning, noon and night.

Programmes reflect a broad range of views and interests within the community through talk programmes on a variety of topics such as arts, sports, news, current affairs, local history, religious topics, and many more. Specialist themes, rising local bands, and theatre and lyrical organisations are also plugged regularly.

In the past for over five years, listeners tuned in every Sunday for the one-hour show called Motivational Journeys.

Presented by George Fitzgerald, Motivational Journeys is a show with stories from darkness to light and craft to creation. The empowerment of personalities and life-changing tales.

The Radiostation is located within the Blanchardstown Centre. The station is operated by the Dublin 15 Community Broadcasting Cooperative Society and has been on the air since January 2000.

Fitzgerald former resident of Tyrrelstown, Dublin 15, was not only the presenter but also the producer. However, there is more to him than that, in fact, he was, along with his late twin brother and future wife Sandra founding member of the hit band in the 90s, the D11 Runners.

The D11 Runners, a dance band from Finglas, with hints of UB40, and funk with a voice compared to George Michael or Boy George, from the lead singer, Joseph. They scored three hit singles played in the largest lark in the park in front of 70.000 people.

They are regarded to be the inspiration behind the novel The Commitments. The novel's fictional band, The Commitments, is a soul revival outfit from Dublin's improvised northside; they are known for their 50s sound. The D11 Runners, on the other hand, played modern dance-pop/funk.

The D11 Runners were formed in 1986 by brothers George and Joe Fitzgerald, with their younger brother Pat and George's future wife Sandra also in the band. Sandra was sought after by other bands and

modelling agents at the time. The brothers were in their 70s, champion boxers.

Fitzgerald is the author of not only the Ashley Brown series but also the eighth book series of audiobooks documenting his life and times, starting with We Lived in the Sky, which details his life growing up in the infamous Dublin Ballymun flats, until the family moves in 1972 to South Finglas. So far, there are eight audiobooks in the series, which can be listened to on YouTube or Facebook. On Facebook, the series has been viewed close to 55 thousand times so far.



**RNC**  
CAR DETAILING

VALETING

WAX AND POLISH

CERAMIC COATING

HEAD LIGHT RESTORATION

BOOK NOW

085 223 8768

[www.rncardetailing.com](http://www.rncardetailing.com)



# Cllr. Ted LEDDY

☎ 087 327 6630 📧 tedleddy2014@gmail.com 📱 📺 🌐 www.tedleddy.ie



*Working with Emer Currie TD, Siobhan Shovlin and Regina Doherty MEP*



## LAUREL LODGE PLAYGROUND

The final design of the new Laurel Lodge playground is nearing completion. Following this construction will begin and the playground will be in use by early 2026.

## BOARDS AND COMMITTEES I SERVE ON

- Housing Strategic Policy Committee
- Blanchardstown Drugs and Alcohol Task Force
- Homestart Community Creche Blakestown
- President Castleknock Lions Club
- Chair Castleknock Village Festival Committee

## Affordable Housing



The Portal for Phase Two of the Affordable Housing scheme in Churchfields will open in July 2025. The scheme will consist of 110 x 2 and 3 bed houses and apartments. The Affordable Purchase Scheme is designed to help you bridge the gap between what you can afford and the price of your new home. Fingal County Council's Affordable Housing team offer newly built homes at prices lower than the market value, calculated based on your income and mortgage capacity. Fingal County Council contributes to the difference, retaining an equity share in your home. To see if you are eligible visit: [www.fingal.ie/affordablehousing](http://www.fingal.ie/affordablehousing)

## KELLYSTOWN New graveyard

I am very pleased that after multiple delays the new graveyard in Kellystown is now under construction. The Graveyard, located between Porterstown Road and the Maynooth rail line will contain 3000 burial plots and 500 columbarium wall plots. The graveyard will be completed and open for use early next year.



## MY RECENT MOTIONS

See below the recent motions that I have submitted to Fingal Co Council meetings.

- That the Chief Executive support, through funding and resources, the provision of a play area in Phoenix Castleknock, in memory of Cian Walsh who tragically passed away in 2020.
- That the Chief Executive initiate a site meeting in Russell Park with the executive of St Brigid's GAA Club and relevant council officials, to find a permanent and acceptable solution to the unstable boundary wall between the club and the Phoenix estate.
- That the Chief Executive gives consideration to including autism as a ground for medical priority on the housing list.
- That the Chief Executive conduct a survey of the trees on Whites Road and surrounding the Farmleigh Estate in Castleknock as, following the recent storm, a number of large trees appear weakened and may cause significant property damage in the event that they fall.
- That the Chief Executive upgrade Castleknock Green, similar to the Church Green off Auburn Avenue, to include a circular tarmac footpath, additional trees, shrubbery and benches.
- That the Chief Executive investigate the possibility of the Council working with external bodies, such as Irish Rail, to purchase the Navan Road Parkway car park in order to run the Park and Ride system.
- That the Chief Executive identify a suitable site for a public playground in Castleknock (east of the M50) with the view to delivering it in 2025.
- That the Chief Executive work with Castleknock Scouts to identify a suitable site for a new den.
- That the Chief Executive conducts a safety review on the Porterstown Road following a recent accident in which a child from Diswellstown Manor was injured.
- That the Chief Executive apply to the Department of Local Government for a Site Service Fund, or similar mechanism, to activate the Fingal owned zoned land for the purpose of housing so that it becomes suitable for development in a timely manner.
- That the Chief Executive install a pedestrian crossing at the entrance of Castleknock Hotel toward the Beeches estate in Carpenterstown.



## Beyond the Pale goes to West Cork this month

Wild, flavourpacked & quietly radical

Stretching from the pastel-painted lanes of Kinsale to the rugged cliffs of the Beara Peninsula, West Cork is Ireland's wild-at-heart playground along the Atlantic. Here, sea kayakers paddle alongside fishing boats in hidden coves, Michelin-star chefs give the spotlight to local dairy, and walkers swap city clamor for the crash and boom of ocean swells. It's a place where creativity and nature thrive hand in hand.

And there's no better time to visit than 2025. After a €1.6 million refurbishment, the legendary Dursey Island cable car is gliding once more—restoring Ireland's only overseas gondola ride and linking visitors to the very edge of the Wild Atlantic Way. A new wave of regenerative tourism is also blooming: Native, an off-grid eco-guesthouse tucked just outside Ballydehob, is rewilding the idea of hospitality with a focus on sustainability and community. Meanwhile, a freshly funded greenway project is set to connect Bantry and Skibbereen by bike, making it easier than ever to pedal through some of Ireland's most dramatic coastal scenery.

The region is alive with experiences that capture its soul. In summer, music spills into the streets and across harbours. The West Cork Chamber Music Festival celebrates its 30th anniversary with premieres and magical late-night concerts at Bantry

House, while the Fastnet Film Festival transforms every pub and shopfront in Schull into intimate cinemas—perfect for an early season escape.

The food scene here is a delicious expression of land and sea. Whether it's tasting Durrus or Gubbeen cheese where it's made, licking sea-salt ice cream in Clonakilty, or snagging a coveted seat at Chestnut's 14-seat chef's counter in Ballydehob, every bite tells a local story. And when it's time for a pint, head to Levis' Corner House, also in Ballydehob, where traditional music sessions turn this tiny venue into a live-music gem.

Getting around is easy too. With the M8/N22 now a smooth dual carriageway, it's just over an hour from Cork City to Clonakilty and two to Bantry. If you're going car-free, Bus Éireann and West Cork Connect offer reliable routes across the region, including summer runs all the way to Mizen Head. As always, dress in layers—the Atlantic mood can shift quickly—and be mindful on the narrow coastal roads: stick to designated laybys and respect farmland gates.

Whether you're standing among ancient stone rows as the sun dips below the horizon, slurping oysters fresh from the boat, or watching chamber musicians play with seabirds wheeling outside the window, West Cork in 2025 is pure, poetic Ireland—untamed, unforgettable, and more vibrant than ever.

# AUTUMN 4-DAY LUXURY COACH HOLIDAYS



## 4-day Coach Holiday to Monaghan

Departing from Dublin City Centre

8th – 11th September

Enjoy a cultural countryside break this September with a four-day coach holiday to the heart of County Monaghan. From literary legends to lacework and local history, this relaxing getaway is full of rich stories, scenic moments, and friendly hospitality.

### Coach Holiday Includes:

- Luxury coach with professional driver/ guide.
- Three nights dinner, bed & breakfast, in the beautiful 4-star The Hillgrove Hotel, Monaghan.
- Tea, coffee & scones served en-route.
- A visit to the Patrick Kavanagh Centre, celebrating his life and poetry.
- Time at the Carrickmacross Workhouse, where local history comes to life.
- Travel to the historic town of Clones, visit the Cassandra Hand Lace Centre and the Ulster Canal Stores Visitor Centre – showcasing the town's heritage, waterways, and renowned lace traditions.
- Two evenings of entertainment at the hotel, perfect for relaxing after a day of exploring.
- Leisure time to enjoy the hotel's facilities or pop into Monaghan town at your own pace.

€460 per person  
€575 single

## 4-day Coach Holiday to Tralee

Departing from Dublin City Centre

7th – 10th October 2025

Escape to Kerry this October for a four-day coach holiday to the Kingdom. With stunning coastal views, charming towns, and warm hospitality, this trip promises a perfect blend of sightseeing and relaxation.

### Coach Holiday Includes:

- Luxury coach with professional driver/ guide.
- Three nights dinner, bed & breakfast, in the beautiful 4-star Meadowlands Hotel Tralee.
- Tea, coffee & scones en-route.
- A visit to the Blennerville Windmill, a beautifully restored working windmill.
- A scenic day trip to Dingle Peninsula, with visits to the fascinating Blasket Islands Centre.
- A panoramic drive around Sleat Head, one of Ireland's most breathtaking coastal routes.
- An afternoon in Killarney, where you can enjoy some shopping and leisure time.
- Two nights of entertainment at the hotel – a great way to round off each day.
- Leisure time to explore Tralee or unwind in the comfort of the hotel.

€460 per person  
€550 single



ROOF REPAIRS FROM €49  
CALL NIAL: 087 342 9393

ROOFING  
INSULATION  
ROOF REPAIRS  
CHIMNEYS

NORTHSIDE  
01 898 9074

WWW.CABINTEELYROOFING.IE  
CABINTEELYROOFING@GMAIL.COM

SOUTHSIDE  
01 268 8628

Rest assured. Have your own say.

A LIMITED NUMBER OF BURIAL PLOTS AND ASH INTERMENT OPTIONS ARE  
AVAILABLE TO PRE-PURCHASE IN ADVANCE OF NEED

SELECTED PLOTS ARE AVAILABLE TO PRE-PURCHASE

**TRADITIONAL  
BURIAL PLOTS**

(capacity 3 coffin burials  
and 4 urn burials)

**NOW AVAILABLE  
FROM €5,000\***

\*at time of making imminent  
funeral arrangements

**ASH BURIAL  
PLOTS**

(capacity 4 urn burials)  
inclusive of headstone

**NOW AVAILABLE  
FROM €5,500**

**COLUMBARIUM  
MEMORIAL WALL**

(2 urn capacity) includes urn,  
memorial plaque & first inscription

**NOW AVAILABLE  
FROM €3,950**



**ESKER LAWN**  
C E M E T E R Y

LUCAN/NEWLANDS ROAD, LUCAN VILLAGE, CO. DUBLIN.

[www. EskerLawnCemetery.com](http://www.EskerLawnCemetery.com)

**Cemetery Office hours:** Monday to Friday 8:30am to 4pm, Saturday 10am to 1pm

**For further information or to arrange an appointment please contact: 083 165 8604** or email all enquiries to: [info@EskerLawnCemetery.com](mailto:info@EskerLawnCemetery.com)

# From Church Fields to Clonsilla Road - Fingal's New-Homes Pipeline in D15

In Dublin 15, rents have soared to record highs while the queue for social housing continues to grow.



**F**ingal County Council receives around 2,000 new social housing applications every year, but allocations inch forward at a glacial pace, hamstrung by a chronic supply-demand imbalance that's persisted for over a decade. Now, change is finally visible on the skyline. Fingal has launched the most ambitious local authority housing drive in west Dublin since the 1970s, and the momentum is building.

At the heart of this transformation is Church Fields in Mulhuddart—the council's flagship housing site and officially the largest local-authority-led construction project currently underway in Ireland. The first two phases alone are delivering 517 A-rated homes, a scale that sets it apart nationally. Innovation has played a key role in accelerating progress. By using prefabricated frames and applying “Last-Planner” scheduling techniques, the council managed to complete Phase 2B—from breaking ground to handing over keys—in just 29 months. These homes aren't just quick to build, they're priced to meet local needs. Two-bed starter houses, for example, are on offer under the Affordable Purchase Scheme from €263,500—roughly €120,000 below the average new-build price in Dublin 15. And the masterplan isn't just about housing: it integrates a new linear park, a creche, and retail units to stitch the development into the fabric of Mulhuddart village.

Alongside Church Fields, Fingal is also making smart use of smaller, infill sites—particularly along Clonsilla Road. Here, new apartment blocks and cost-rental units are bringing 228 homes within walking distance of Clonsilla Station, a key move in line with the emerging Clonsilla Village Framework Plan, now out for public consultation. These builds take advantage of existing infrastructure while supporting the council's strategy to densify where transit is already strong.

Other recent completions in Dublin 15 may be smaller in scale, but they carry weight in the effort to chip away at the waiting list. In Mulhuddart's Wellview area, 20 new family homes (ranging from two to four bedrooms) were completed in late 2024. A single special-needs bungalow was delivered at the Sheepmoor site in Blanchardstown. Meanwhile, 30 apartments are at the tendering stage for the junction of Blakestown Road and Huntstown Way. Though modest in number, these projects repurpose underused land within established estates, often representing the fastest wins when it comes to tackling urgent demand.

But will this building spree bring immediate relief to renters

and those in emergency accommodation? In the short term, the answer is cautious. Of the 88 homes delivered across 2024 and 2025, only 67 are designated as social housing units. That means some progress, but not the kind of transformative change that families on the brink need. The medium-term outlook, however, is far more promising. If Fingal and its development partners stay on schedule, Church Fields Phases 3A and 3B, along with the Clonsilla Inn redevelopment, will add around 900 more homes by the end of 2027. These projects, combined with over 1,000 additional cost-rental and affordable homes across the county already approved for delivery under the Affordable Housing Fund, could reduce Fingal's housing waiting list by as much as 15%. According to housing economists, this could begin to cool the overheated local rental market—provided private sector supply doesn't stall in parallel.

Still, challenges remain. Rising construction costs are a looming threat: tender prices jumped 18% in 2024 alone, and further increases may force difficult choices, including design revisions or cost-cutting measures. Planning objections are already surfacing, especially around building height and traffic congestion at sites like Clonsilla Inn, raising the spectre of judicial reviews and potential delays. Internally, Fingal has allocated an additional €18.5 million to its housing budget for 2025, but councillors warn that the project-management team is operating near full capacity, creating possible bottlenecks.

Despite the hurdles, the pipeline is finally beginning to convert policy into action. From sweeping greenfield projects like Church Fields to tightly placed apartment schemes on Clonsilla Road, bricks are turning into keys at a pace this part of Dublin hasn't seen in decades. Still, this isn't a silver bullet. If everything proceeds on time, the area will gain roughly 1,200 new public, cost-rental, and affordable homes over five years—enough to meaningfully dent local need, but not to solve it entirely.

All eyes are now on two critical milestones. The first will arrive in late 2025, when cost-rental tenants are expected to move into Phase 2 apartments at Church Fields. The second will come in early 2026, when construction is scheduled to begin on the 170-unit Clonsilla Inn scheme. If these projects meet their targets, Fingal's housing drive will shift from hopeful promise to lived reality—real homes for real people in a community long overdue for meaningful investment.

# Ireland's Nursing Homes

## Who Runs Them, Who Watches Them and What's Going Wrong

Ireland's nursing home sector is under sharper scrutiny than ever. With 548 registered facilities providing 32,370 beds, the system remains a vital pillar of elder care—but it's already showing signs of strain.



In 2024 alone, there were five net closures, suggesting that capacity is not just stagnating but starting to contract. The structure of the sector itself adds complexity: around three-quarters of nursing homes—and 80 percent of all available beds—are operated for profit. The rest fall under the management of the Health Service Executive (HSE) or not-for-profit and voluntary organisations.

At present, private and voluntary providers are caring for the vast majority of residents—some 27,500 people across 420 homes, according to figures from Nursing Homes Ireland, the industry body. That leaves the HSE managing the remainder, often in older public units that have not seen significant reinvestment in decades.

Oversight and funding fall under a patchwork of authorities and mechanisms. The Health Information and Quality Authority (HIQA) serves as the regulator, with its Chief Inspector responsible for registering each home, conducting at least annual inspections, and exercising enforcement powers under the Health Act 2007. These powers include setting conditions, freezing admissions, or in serious cases, cancelling a licence altogether. On the financial side, most residents are supported through the Nursing Home Support Scheme—better known as “Fair Deal”—which pays a government-negotiated weekly rate for care. These rates are brokered by the National Treatment Purchase Fund, while overall policy direction lies with the Department of Health and the Minister of State for Older People. When a private licence is revoked, the HSE steps in as operator of last resort.

The past year has been punctuated by a series of high-profile failings, leaving public confidence visibly shaken. Even HIQA itself acknowledged to TDs that trust had been “dented,” while Taoiseach Micheál Martin floated proposals for stronger enforcement tools, including larger fines and faster shutdowns in cases of serious non-compliance.

Several structural issues help explain why problems continue to recur. Staffing remains a major pressure point: private homes struggle to compete with the HSE's

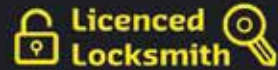
higher pay scales, forcing many to rely heavily on agency nurses—a costly and often short-term fix that fuels both financial strain and staff turnover. Rapid corporate consolidation has added another layer of complexity. Chains like Emeis (formerly Orpea) expanded aggressively through acquisitions, and HIQA has raised concerns that their governance structures have sometimes failed to keep pace with their growth. Meanwhile, many of the country's smaller, often family-run homes are housed in converted residential buildings, which brings longstanding fire safety concerns. Publicly run community nursing units often date back to the 1970s and require full-scale rebuilding to meet modern standards. Financial viability is another looming issue. The Fair Deal scheme has not kept up with inflation, and since 2017, more than 70 nursing homes—mostly smaller rural ones—have shut their doors, chipping away at national bed capacity.

In response, a slate of long-discussed reforms is back on the table. HIQA could soon be granted stronger enforcement powers, including the ability to issue on-the-spot fines and require mandatory CCTV in communal areas. There's also renewed momentum behind adult safeguarding legislation, which has stalled in the Oireachtas since 2017. This would put protection for vulnerable adults on a clear statutory footing. A new capital fund for upgrading fire safety in older homes is also being discussed, alongside a much-anticipated review of the Fair Deal scheme. That review, due as part of Budget 2026, aims to bring funding levels in line with staffing costs and could introduce incentives for developing smaller, homelier care settings.

At its core, Ireland's nursing home sector is now a predominantly private enterprise sustained by public money and monitored by a public regulator. The events of 2025 demonstrate that the system can, and does, respond when standards slip—but too often only after harm has already occurred. With Ireland's over-85 population set to surge, the challenge now is not just regulatory but political: how to restore trust, protect residents, and expand capacity before today's cracks widen into a full-blown care crisis.



# WarmEdge Windows Ltd



**NO CALL OUT CHARGE!**



Licensed by  
The Private Security Authority  
(PSA Licence Number 00041)



## WINDOW & DOOR REPAIRS

Call us today and put the life back in your Windows & Doors!



**PROTECT YOUR  
HOME - NO  
MORE DRAUGHTS!**



**UPGRADE YOUR  
LOCKS & PROTECT  
AGAINST INTRUDERS**

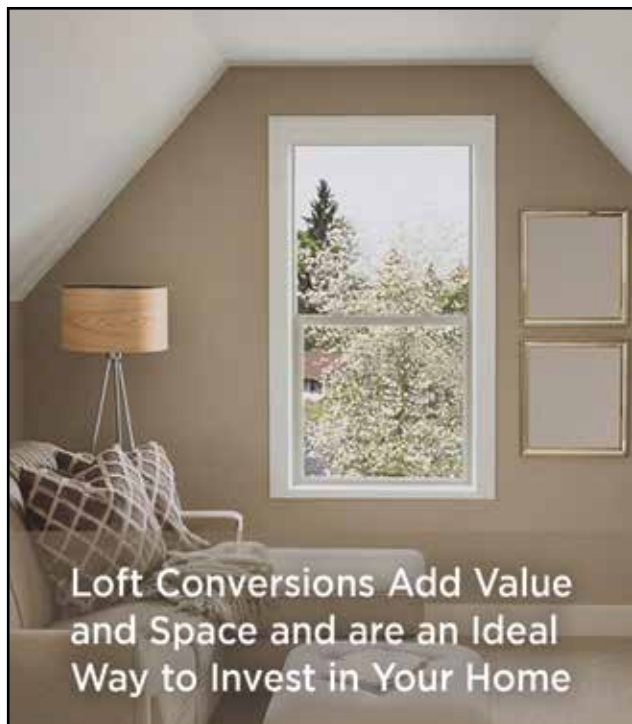
### We Supply & Fit

- High Security Cylinders
- Emergency Lock Opening
- All Window & Door Locks
- Replacement Glass
- Replacement Seals
- Child Safety Locks
- Hinges & Handles
- Burglar Prevention
- Patio Tracks & Wheels
- Door Closers
- Letter Boxes

[www.warmedgewindows.ie](http://www.warmedgewindows.ie)

[warmedgewindowrepairs@gmail.com](mailto:warmedgewindowrepairs@gmail.com) Airlie Heights, Lucan, Co. Dublin.

**01 621 34 81 085 882 98 83**



**Loft Conversions Add Value  
and Space and are an Ideal  
Way to Invest in Your Home**



Mobile: 087 705 0026  
Phone: 01 5518127  
Email: [info@apexattics.ie](mailto:info@apexattics.ie)

[www.apexattics.ie](http://www.apexattics.ie)



### KEEPING YOUR BUSINESS IN BUSINESS

The Reliable Roofing  
Contractor You Need

### COMMERCIAL & DOMESTIC ROOFING

PVC Gutters, Facias and Soffits	Nest preventing and removal
Fibreglass Waterproofing	Painting and decorating.
Loft and attics insulation	Power Washing service
Gutter cleaning	Chimney repairs
Torch on felt	Verge repointing



**01 564 48 71 | 085 848 34 39** [www.mjroofingandmore.ie](http://www.mjroofingandmore.ie)



## Free Travel Companion Card from September 2025

In Ireland, a new Free Travel Companion Public Services Card (FT+C PSC) will be available to people aged 70 and over who are already eligible for Free Travel.

**T**his card allows a companion (aged 16 or older) to travel with the Free Travel cardholder for free on all Free Travel transport services. The FT+C PSC will be issued automatically to eligible individuals starting in September 2025.

### Eligibility and Implementation:

#### Age:

The FT+C PSC will be available to all individuals aged 70 and over who are already entitled to Free Travel.

#### Application:

There is no need to apply for the companion pass; it will be issued automatically to eligible individuals.

#### Implementation:

The Department of Social Protection (DSP) will start issuing the FT+C PSCs from July 2025.

#### Existing Free Travel Passholders:

If you currently have a Free Travel "Personal" (FT-P) or "Spouse" (FT+S) PSC and it expires after August 31, 2025, a new PSC with "FT+C" on it will be sent to you.

#### Expired or Expiring Passes:

If your PSC has already expired or will expire before September 1, 2025, you will need to renew it online or at a PSC Intreo Centre to receive the FT+C PSC.

#### Transportation Coverage:

The Free Travel Companion card allows travel for free on all transport services covered by the Free Travel scheme.

#### No Application Required:

Individuals will not need to apply for the Free Travel Companion card.

#### Recipient:

The companion must be aged 16 or older and can include a spouse, partner, family member, or friend.

**DRUMLARGAN**  
CONSTRUCTION LTD  
CONSISTENCY · QUALITY · INNOVATION

**BESPOKE  
GARDEN ROOMS**



David O'Neill – 087 987 2275  
Richard O'Neill – 087 290 5394

[www.drlg.ie](http://www.drlg.ie) | [info@drlg.ie](mailto:info@drlg.ie)



# Community Pushes Back as Clonsilla's Historic Schoolhouse Faces Apartment Conversion

**Clonsilla, Dublin 15** — A cherished piece of local heritage is at the centre of growing controversy, as Fingal County Council (FCC) proposes to convert the Old Schoolhouse in Clonsilla into apartments — a move that has sparked strong opposition from residents and heritage advocates.

**B**uilt in the 1850s, the Old Schoolhouse served as Clonsilla's National School until 1963, after which it fell into disuse. Despite its prominent location on five acres of land, adjacent to the Royal Canal and close to Clonsilla Village, the building has been left neglected for decades. Now, as part of a broader masterplan, FCC is supporting its redevelopment into residential units — a proposal currently open to non-statutory public consultation until 11 August.

But locals say this plan risks erasing a vital part of the community's history.

The Clonsilla & Porterstown Heritage Society (CPHS) has condemned the proposal, arguing that the schoolhouse should instead be restored as a community and visitor centre, citing its architectural character and deep social significance.

*"There has been a huge amount of development in Clonsilla, but we still don't have a community centre," said a CPHS spokesperson. "This building is iconic. It deserves better than to be carved up into apartments."*

## Historic Design, Deep Community Roots

The schoolhouse stands as a rare example of Victorian Gothic architecture, with a unique internal structure that reflects 19th-century social norms. The top floor, with its lofty ceilings, was originally designated for girls, while boys were taught on the ground floor. The basement housed two self-contained apartments for the schoolmaster and schoolmistress and their families.

Generations of Clonsilla residents passed through its doors, and for many older locals, the building holds powerful memories.

## Timing Raises Eyebrows

Further fuelling public concern is the timing of the consultation. After a year-long wait, the consultation opened on 30 June — just 20 days after the schoolhouse was listed for sale, having previously been offered in December 2023. The land remains under private ownership, adding complexity to the debate, though CPHS argues this should not prevent FCC from stepping in.

*"FCC has made significant investments in heritage across Fingal — from Rush to Swords to Balbriggan," said the CPHS. "Why not Clonsilla?"*

## Local Heritage Under Threat

This isn't the first time local heritage has been under threat. FCC recently granted planning permission to demolish Clonsilla Lodge, and earlier this year approved the demolition of Keane's Cottage, believed to be the oldest in Porterstown.

By contrast, other parts of the county have benefitted from well-funded restoration projects. FCC has converted a former church into a library in Rush, restored the old Carnegie Library in Swords, invested heavily in Malahide Castle and Newbridge House, and brought Bremore Castle in Balbriggan back to life.

*"Dublin 15 is one of Fingal's major economic engines," said a CPHS member, "yet when it comes to heritage, we're being left behind."*

## A Vision for the Future

CPHS is urging Fingal County Council to purchase — or compulsorily acquire (CPO) — the building and transform it into a vibrant local hub. Their proposal includes:

### A community centre offering a meeting space and café.

A visitor attraction for walkers and tourists on the Royal Canal and National Famine Way.

An arts and heritage venue, leveraging the high-ceilinged upper floor and unique design.

## Have Your Say

Members of the public are encouraged to participate in the non-statutory consultation, which remains open until Sunday, 11 August 2025. Submissions can be made through the official consultation portal:

<https://consult.fingal.ie/en/consultation/old-school-house-masterplan-clonsilla>

As the deadline approaches, community advocates hope their voices will be heard — and that the Old Schoolhouse will be given a new lease of life as a cornerstone of Clonsilla's future, not just a relic of its past.

# DUFFY

## AUCTIONEERS

VALUERS, SALES & LETTING AGENT

MIPAV, PSRA Lic. No. 001325



**Having recently sold the following properties in Dublin 15, we now require similar properties for disappointed under bidders.**



Charnwood Green



Sorrel Heath



Lohunda Road



Castlegange Lawn



Bellgree Rise



Bellgree Court



Bellgree Court



Cruise Park Rise



Ashling Heights



Fortlawn Park



Brookhaven Park



Woodvale Ave



Castaheany, Clonee



Beechfield Way, Clonee



Allendale View



Rusheenny Court

**Contact us now to avail of the following competitive package:**

- ✓ Free No obligation Sales Valuation\*
- ✓ Free Floor Plans of your property\*
- ✓ Free Professional Video Tour and Pictures\*
- ✓ Free Listing on all Online Platforms\*

\*T&Cs apply

**CALL US TODAY ON  
01-8237087**