

ISSUE 33

APR/MAY 2022

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NEWGRANGE: OLDER THAN GREAT PYRAMID OF GIZA

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FOR DETAILS

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EDITORIAL

Greetings residents of Lucan, Leixlip and Celbridge. We are Little Village. We have been publishing our magazine in the Dublin 15 area for more than five years. During this time we have carved out a niche as the only strictly local news publication. We are now launching a new edition in your area where we hope to do the same. Our mission is to provide the people of Lucan, Leixlip and Celbridge with local news which is important to them but is not picked up by the mainstream and national media, along

with features about famous local people, events and landmarks.

To this end we look forward to working alongside local representatives, community groups, sports clubs and local people to provide a platform where everyone can be heard. If you have a story, an upcoming event or your school or group has won an award please feel free to get in touch. We look forward to hearing from you.

Kind Regards,
Little Village



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Milo's Story

Milo Poblocki is an 11 year old boy with a huge battle. He was born with two very serious diseases. Leigh and Mabry syndrome.



The Housing Adaptation Grant is 80% exchequer funded through the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage, with 20% funding from the relevant local authority. Fingal County Council will receive a total of €3,480,028.

Leigh syndrome is a severe neurological disorder that usually becomes apparent in the first year of life. This condition is characterized by progressive loss of mental and movement abilities (psychomotor regression) and typically results in death within two to three years, usually due to respiratory failure. A small number of individuals do not develop symptoms until adulthood or have symptoms that worsen more slowly.

The first signs of Leigh syndrome seen in infancy are usually vomiting, diarrhea, and difficulty swallowing (dysphagia), which disrupts eating. These problems often result in an inability to grow and gain weight at the expected rate (failure to thrive). Severe muscle and movement problems are common in Leigh syndrome. Affected individuals may develop weak muscle tone (hypotonia), involuntary muscle contractions (dystonia), and problems with movement and balance (ataxia). Loss of sensation and weakness in the limbs (peripheral neuropathy), common in people with Leigh syndrome, may also make movement difficult.

Mabry syndrome is a condition characterized by intellectual disability, distinctive facial features, increased levels of an enzyme called alkaline phosphatase in the blood (hyperphosphatasia), and other signs and symptoms.

People with Mabry syndrome have intellectual disability that is often moderate to severe. They typically have little to no speech development and are delayed in the development of motor skills (such as sitting, crawling, and walking). Many

affected individuals have low muscle tone (hypotonia) and develop recurrent seizures (epilepsy) in early childhood. Seizures are usually the generalized tonic-clonic type which involve muscle rigidity, convulsions, and loss of consciousness.

Both of them are very rare and every day taking it's taking away a lot from him. He can't walk, talk and eat or even sit independently. To stop progress of disease he requires lots of medicines and supplements, specialised peg blended formula which the family have to purchase from the USA along with specific therapies, equipment adapted car and finally their biggest vision; an adapted house that would meet the condition for his care. As a family they have done everything to keep Milo, Happy, Healthy, Strong and Smiley but it has been a huge challenge that exceeds their financial capacity.

Unfortunately Since March 1st 2022, life has become tougher for the family as they lost Alicja their beloved Mother, Wife and Milo's Primary Carer. Alicja suffered Metastatic Cancer which after a year of suffering through various different treatments none of which could save her.

This is why this fundraiser is so important to make their life less painful.

Alicja was loved by all her friends and family. She was an amazing brave and courageous woman. She was very brave when it came to Milo and her own illness and she battled for herself and Milo till the very end.

All funds raised will go directly to Arek who is Milo and Livio's (12 years old) father and Primary Carer and to assist with Milo's 24 hour care and all his needs.

They now face a difficult chapter in their life without their shining star Alicja.

Please support this family in need by donating to Milo's GoFundMe page at: <https://gofund.me/aef1389f>



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Ceol agus Craic as Stewarts Care St. Patrick's Day Celebrations return

St. Patrick's day came early to Palmerstown as staff, service users, friends and family gathered for the Stewarts Care St. Patrick's Day parade and celebrations for the first time in two years, since the onset of the Pandemic.

Deputy Emer Higgins, TD for Dublin Mid-West has praised Stewarts Care for a wonderful celebration that brought the community back together after two years apart.

Deputy Higgins said, "St. Patrick's Day is always a massive community celebration that brings everyone together and after the hardship of the last two years it was great to see the community enjoying being together again at the Stewarts St. Patrick's parade.

"The covid-19 restrictions have been particularly hard on the most vulnerable in our society, but Stewarts continued to support and care for their service users and it's always an honour to see first hand the level of care they provide and the

happiness they give to service users," added Deputy Higgins.

"Stewarts really empowers and supports those with different abilities and additional needs to lead an enriched life and that mission statement was certainly on display during the St. Patrick's Day Celebrations.

"I really enjoyed meeting with service users like David, Lawrence and Una and taking in the parade while the Garda Band played on - it was brilliant to see the community back together again.

"I am so grateful to Stewarts Care for the incredible service they provide in the community and I look forward to many St. Patrick's Day celebrations to come," concluded Deputy Higgins.

Lucan (Dublin West) -
Laraghcon, Rokeby, Westmanstown

FINE GAEL ★

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Lucan North Says No to One-Way-System - thank you for your input

I am relieved plans to trial a one-way-system in Lucan Village, which would restrict our access onto Main Street, have been parked. This would have been disastrous for residents who live north of the Liffey, cutting us off from our local shops. The recent Part 8 Lucan Village proposals had no plans to increase parking spaces to improve the situation either. An amendment passed by my colleague Cllr Vicki Casserly in South Dublin County Council means Lucan will still receive investment and the upgrades to Weir Promenade, Lucan Demesne and the Village Green but without the loss of any parking spaces from Lucan Main Street.

Our traffic problems here in Lucan North will not be solved by a one-way-system that doesn't take into consideration the needs of the Lucan North residents.

St Patrick's Day Parade in Lucan

Thank you to the organisers and participants of the Lucan St Patrick's Day parade. It was great to see so many community and voluntary groups out together again enjoying the dry weather after a two year hiatus due to COVID-19. I was honoured to watch the parade from the viewing stand with colleagues Emer Higgins TD and Cllr Vicki Casserly.



Lucan Canvass - Drop me a text or email



I am currently doing a slow canvass of Laraghcon, Rokeby and Westmanstown, knocking on doors and catching up with people. Covid-19 limited face to face interaction and I'm keen to reconnect. Send me a text if you specifically want me to drop by. I'm working on a lot of local issues and would be delighted to discuss them with you.

Currie Calls for Oireachtas Transport Committee to Discuss Lucan Traffic

I have called for the Oireachtas Transport Committee to bring the National Transport Authority (NTA) before them to discuss plans to identify a route for a new N4 to N3 road link as per the new Greater Dublin Area Transport Strategy. No budget has been allocated for the construction of a road but the decision on its location will be critical. Get in touch with me for more information.

Currie Leads Campaign to Scrap Airport Set-Down Charges

Fingal County Council recently approved an application by the Dublin Airport Authority (DAA) to install a tolling system for a new paid drop-off and pick-up zone. As soon as I became aware of the plans I spoke out in the Seanad and called for this toll to be scrapped.

An Independent Swords Councillor and I are leading an appeal into this decision on the basis that the measure claims to be part of a sustainability agenda and will encourage the use of public transport. But unfortunately no such direct links exist for much of West Dublin. DAA has also hiked up their parking charges and the cost of taxis are set to rise by 12.5%. This is not the time to introduce charges. If the tolling infrastructure does go ahead I have asked a condition is included which states that, no charges are introduced until such a time as Dublin Airport is serviced by adequate public transport links.



LIFFEY VALLEY GREENWAY

I have been leading a campaign to reinstate the objective of a Liffey Valley Greenway in our national transport plans and promote it as a potentially worldclass eco-tourism trail. It would be a travesty if this route along the Strawberry Beds, with the potential to connect the Villages of Leixlip and Lucan to Clonsilla, Palmerstown, the Phoenix Park and Chapelizod was not prioritised. I am calling for this to be included as an extension of the Greenway planned for Lucan Village which would connect the Royal and Grand Canals.



Your Fine Gael
Westmanstown,
Laraghcon &
Rokeby Team

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Council Responds to RTE Programmeschool in September

As part of this programme the disposal of 0.796 acres of land by Kildare County Council was featured.

The programme stated that it highlighted certain issues, including allegations of fraud, corruption, waste of public money, misrs of Kildare County Council did not demonstrate any wrongdoing on the part of either the elected members or the Executive of the council. On the contrary the programme demonstrated that the elected members, in agreeing to the disposal of land, had regard to the objectives of the County Kildare Development Plan, as adopted by the elected members.

The programme intimated that the land should have been considered as a ransom strip, the rationale being that it links land zoned for residential development with a means of access to the public road. However, the County Kildare Development Plan contains a clear objective in relation to access to land:

Kildare County Development Plan 2017-2023 - Section 17.2.8 Access to Land

Development should be designed in such a fashion that it will not prejudice the provision of vehicular or pedestrian

access, or key infrastructural services in adjoining lands. Development should also be designed so as to ensure 'ransom strips' will not inhibit future development.

The role of the elected members and the Executive of Kildare County Council is to facilitate development where appropriate, having regard to the objectives of the County Development Plan.

In regard to the land at Athgarvan, the agreement of the elected members to dispose of this land at an appropriate valuation, not taking into account a ransom strip value, which would have contravened an objective of the County Development Plan as adopted by the elected members, facilitates the development of housing on land zoned for residential development, at a time when delivery of much needed housing is a key priority for the Government, elected members and the Executive of Kildare County Council.

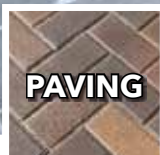
A communication has been sent to the Director General of RTE by the Interim Chief Executive of Kildare County Council requesting justification for inclusion of the segment relating to the disposal of land at Athgarvan in the programme, given that the programme did not demonstrate any wrongdoing on the part of either the elected members or Executive of Kildare County Council in dealing with this matter.

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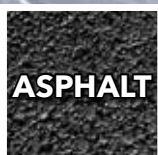
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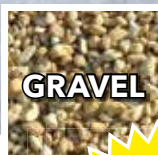
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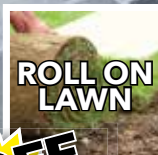
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Left water running in Kildare hotel and caused €3,600 worth of damage

A man who left a shower running in a Naas hotel was found by a garda in the water in his bare feet, Naas District Court heard on March 16.

John Jacob, 24, whose address was given as 18 Grove Heights, Robertstown, was prosecuted for allegedly damaging room 309 on November 6 last. Det Gda Christine Brady said the defendant deliberately blocked the water with a towel and the court heard that quite a considerable amount of damage was done. The court heard that the incident happened at 9.30pm-10 pm.

The court also heard that there was damage to carpets, a corridor, a room below, a lamp, a wardrobe and a hair dryer. Some €3,600 worth of damage was caused. Det Gda Brady said the defendant was staying with his dad and his dad left.

"There was a bit of an issue with him and his father

left," she added.

Solicitor Jackie McManus said the defendant is employed in Munich as a work rider and had never been in trouble. The court heard that he wants to go to Dubai to work.

"He had a cocktail of different drinks and he got violently sick. He doesn't drink any more," said Ms McManus, adding he wants to pay for the damage.

Mc McManus said the judge would never see him in court again. Sgt Brian Jacob described the incident as stupid behaviour by an intoxicated man.

"He was so drunk he had vomited," said Sgt Jacob.

"I'll give him a chance," said Judge Desmond Zaidan, opting not to convict the defendant on the basis that he would make a charitable donation of €1,000.



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Dublin mum faces her fears head on to raise money for special needs students

Colette Darcy is hoping to raise money as part of Autism Awareness and Acceptance Month

A brave Dublin mum is facing her fears head-on to raise vital funds for special needs students. Lucan woman, Colette Darcy, will be swimming in the sea every day in April to help raise money for her sons' schools to purchase much needed OT supplies.

Colette, who is mum to Zach (12), Amelia (8), and Oran (9), said she's not terrified of the ocean but of what's in it.

She told Dublin Live: "I'm terrified of fish. I'm terrified of anything touching me."

"Zach loves the water. When he was younger and we used to live by the seaside, he'd just walk straight into the sea."

Colette said her motivation to overcome her fear stemmed from her strong instinct to protect her son.

As Zach started to get older, he became more adventurous and would go deeper into the water until he had waves going over his head.

She said: "Between myself and my husband, I'm the strongest swimmer but my fear of what's in the sea kept me out of it."

"So what triggered me to get back into the sea was if something happened to Zach, I'd have to go and get him. And I need to know that I could do that without having the fear."

Colette will be swimming in the Forty Foot every day to raise money for Stewart's Special School and Lucan East Educate Together as part of Autism Awareness and Acceptance Month.

She said: "Both my sons have autism and their schools have been just phenomenal in helping them. They have a way to reach the boys that we don't."



"That's one of the main reasons as well why I want to do this. For example, Zach goes to a special school. He was non-verbal but he's now pre-verbal."

"He'd now probably have the speech of a three-year-old but it's more than he ever had."

"He can communicate a lot of his needs through a single word. And if that's what we have for the rest of his life, it's amazing because we had nothing at all."

She added: "Oran is in a mainstream school with two SNAs. He's lucky he has two. They're the opposite but they're both equally amazing with him. The school has given him so many resources."

Colette said she's amazed every day by how close the siblings are despite having very different personalities.

She said: "It's like night and day. One talks, one doesn't. One is exceptionally outgoing, the other one, he's at home with us. One can go out and have friends, the other one can't."

"Amelia has already taken on the big sister role, especially with Zach. She's been amazing. She's amazing with him. She gives him so much of her time."

She added: "Oran says when he's going to get older and he buys a house, Zach's going to live with him because they're the same but Amelia will be next door."

"The plans that they've already made and the allowances they make for each other is just lovely to see."

Council Responds to RTE Programme

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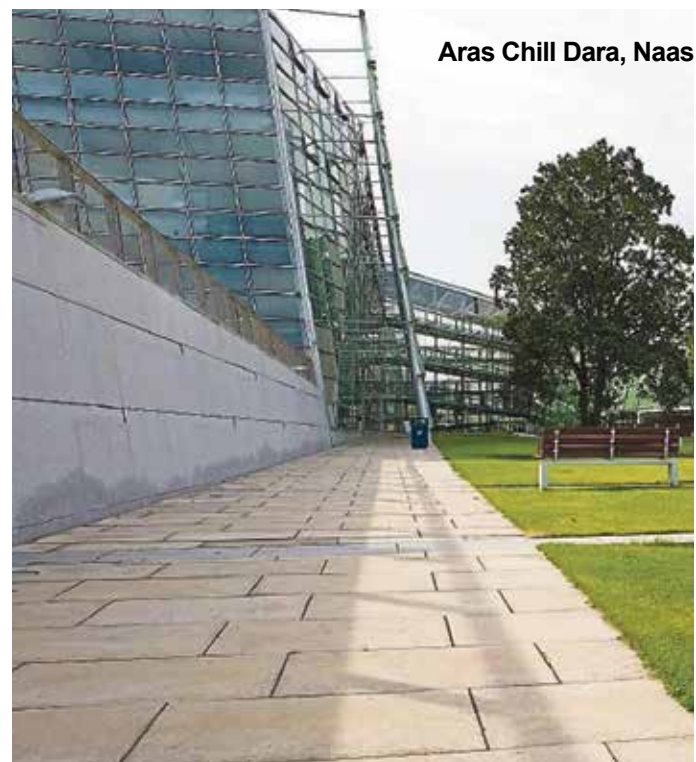
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in the programme, given that the programme did not demonstrate any wrongdoing on the part of either the elected members or Executive of Kildare County Council in dealing with this matter.

NEWGRANGE: OLDER THAN GREAT PYRAMID OF GIZA

Newgrange is a 5,200 year old passage tomb located in the Boyne Valley in Ireland Ancient East. It was built by Stone Age farmers, the mound is 85m (279ft) in diameter and 13m (43ft) high, an area of about 1 acre.

A passage measuring 19m (62ft) leads into a chamber with 3 alcoves. The passage and chamber are aligned with the rising sun on the mornings around the Winter Solstice.

Newgrange is surrounded by 97 large stones called kerbstones some of which are engraved with megalithic art; the most striking is the entrance stone.

Access to the Newgrange monument is via the Brú na Bóinne Visitors Centre.

Newgrange is a Stone Age (Neolithic) monument in the Boyne Valley, County Meath, it is the jewel in the crown of Ireland's Ancient East. Newgrange was constructed about 5,200 years ago (3,200 B.C.) which makes it older than Stonehenge and the Great Pyramids of Giza. Newgrange is a large circular mound 85m (279ft) in diameter and 13m (43ft) high with a 19m (63ft) stone passageway and chambers inside. The mound is ringed by 97 large kerbstones, some of which are engraved with symbols called megalithic art.

Newgrange was built by a farming community that prospered on the rich lands of the Boyne Valley. Knowth and Dowth are similar mounds that together with Newgrange have been designated a World Heritage Site by UNESCO.

Archaeologists classified Newgrange as a passage tomb, however Newgrange is now recognised to be much more than a passage tomb. Ancient Temple is a more fitting classification, a place of astrological, spiritual, religious and ceremonial importance, much as present day cathedrals are places of prestige and worship where dignitaries may be laid to rest.

Newgrange is a large kidney shaped mound covering an area of over one acre, retained at the base by 97 kerbstones, some of which are richly decorated with megalithic art. The 19m long inner passage leads to a cruciform chamber with a corbelled roof. The amount of time and labour invested in construction of Newgrange suggests a well-organized society with specialised groups responsible for different aspects of construction.

Newgrange is part of a complex of monuments built along a bend of the River Boyne known collectively as Brú na Bóinne. The other two principal monuments are Knowth (the largest) and Dowth, but throughout the area there are as many as 35 smaller mounds.

Newgrange is best known for the illumination of its passage and chamber by the winter solstice sun. Above the entrance to the passage at Newgrange there is an opening called a roof-box. This baffling orifice held a great surprise for those who unearthed it. Its purpose is to allow sunlight to penetrate the chamber on the shortest days of the year, around December 21st, the winter solstice. At dawn, from December 19th to 23rd, a narrow beam of light penetrates the roof-box and reaches the floor of the chamber, gradually extending to the rear of the chamber.

As the sun rises higher, the beam widens within the chamber so that the whole room becomes dramatically illuminated. This event lasts for 17 minutes, beginning around 9am. The accuracy of Newgrange as a time-telling device is remarkable when one

considers that it was built 500 years before the Great Pyramids and more than 1,000 years before Stonehenge.

The intent of the Stone Age farmers who build Newgrange was undoubtedly to mark the beginning of the new year. In addition, it may have served as a powerful symbol of the victory of life over death.

Each year the winter solstice event attracts much attention at Newgrange. Many gather at the ancient tomb to wait for dawn, as people did 5,000 years ago. So great is the demand to be one of the few inside the chamber during the solstice that there is a free annual lottery (application forms are available at the Visitor Centre). Unfortunately, as with many Irish events that depend upon sunshine, if the skies are overcast, there is not much to be seen. Yet all agree that it is an extraordinary feeling to wait in the darkness, as people did so long ago, for the longest night of the year to end.

Newgrange is one of the finest examples, not only in Ireland, but in Western Europe, of the type of tomb known as a passage-grave. Its probable date of erection is about 3000 BC. It belongs to a time when stone, not metal, was the everyday material for tools and weapons. No metal has yet been found in a primary context in an Irish passage-grave. The tomb consists, as the name passage-grave implies, of a passage and chamber, the walls and roof of which are built of large slabs without mortar. A large circular mound or cairn of stones covers the tomb and a kerb of massive slabs laid on their long edges, ends touching, surrounds the base of the cairn and was intended to act as a retaining feature. Surrounding the mound but situated from 7 to 17 meters outside it, is a circle of tall, widely spaced standing stones.

The Great Circle

This is the first feature encountered as one walks up the hill towards the monument. Only twelve standing-stones survive out of a possible original thirty-five or thereabouts. The four stones first seen are among the largest of those which remain and stand 2 to 2.5m above original ground level; many of the remaining stones have been broken off near the ground. None of the stones of the Circle is decorated.

The Circle is 103.6m (340 ft) in average diameter and encloses an area of about two acres. For those familiar with Stonehenge, it may be pointed out for comparative purposes that the outer bank of that monument is 320 ft (97.5m) in mean diameter. The two inner circles within the great circle at Avebury are each 340ft in diameter. There is of course no known relationship between these monuments and Newgrange.

The Mound

This is more properly called a cairn as it is made up of medium-sized water-rolled pebbles, 15 to 22cm across. White quartz stones were used as an outside finishing layer, at least in the entrance area. Quantities of these were collected during the excavations which took place between 1962 and 1975 and have now been restored to the outside of the mound. Round boulders of granite, about the size and



shape of a child's football, rugby style, which were found with the quartz, must also have been employed as a finish and they can be seen today interspersed with the quartz in the revetment wall. The theory has frequently been adduced that they were used as mauls to dress the slabs but it is clear that this was not their purpose.

At present the cairn is about 11m (36ft) high, taking its vertical height from original ground level just outside the Entrance Stone. Since the cairn is set on the highest point of a ridge of ground it appears higher than it is, especially when seen from a distance.

A continuous girdle of large slabs surrounds the base of the cairn. With the passage of time, this had collapsed downward over the kerb so that the latter had become hidden. Previous to the excavations only three kerbstones were left fully exposed, the Entrance Stone directly outside the mouth of the passage, Kerbstone 52 diametrically opposite the Entrance Stone on the north side of the mound, and Kerbstone 67 to the east. Twenty-one stones are now fully exposed to the left of the entrance and eighteen to the right, while a further eight can be seen at the back of the mound. This enables one to get a good idea of what the monument must have looked like when newly built. Many of these newly-exposed kerbstones are decorated but the three first-mentioned are by far the most striking. Only the tops of the remainder are uncovered, as one can see if one makes a circuit of the mound.

The kerbstones vary in length, the smallest being about 1.7m long while the largest is 4.5m. Those in the entrance area are between 3 and 4m in length and average about 1.2m in height above original ground level. The diameter of the kerb (and mound) varies between 79m (260ft) NW-SE and 85m (280ft) NE-SW. It encloses an area of just over one acre. To compare with Stonehenge once again, the diameter of the circle of Aubrey Holes inside the great bank already mentioned at that monument is 288ft (87.8m). These comparisons are drawn solely to give a touchstone for size to those familiar with the English monuments.



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Kildare County Council Publishes Draft Kildare County Development Plan 2023-2029

Seeking submissions from citizens, communities and businesses on the future development of the County

Kildare County Council are pleased to announce the publication of the Draft Kildare County Development Plan 2023-2029 and are now inviting and encouraging submissions from citizens, communities and businesses alike during this important consultation phase, to have their say on the future development of the County.

The County Development Plan outlines the future development of County Kildare over its six-year lifespan. The Draft Plan seeks to address the physical, economic, social, and environmental needs of the communities and residents of County Kildare by supporting and encouraging sustainable development at suitable locations in tandem with new and improved amenity areas and social infrastructure such as schools and childcare facilities while protecting the environment, enhancing valued amenities and heritage assets.

The strategic vision of Kildare County Council for the Draft Plan period is "To build on the strengths of the county in order to improve the quality of life of all residents, through the creation of high-quality job opportunities, the provision of high-quality residential development supported by adequate community infrastructure, the provision of a high-quality sustainable transport network, healthy placemaking and transformational regeneration, by embracing inclusiveness and by enhancing our

natural and built environment for future generations."

During this important phase of public consultation, citizens, communities and businesses in County Kildare are invited and encouraged to have their say on the future development of the County. Kildare County Council aims to ensure that the County Development Plan will be informed by high quality and meaningful public engagement, because of Covid 19, new ways of communicating with the public and interested parties will be undertaken at this consultation stage.

Kildare County Council invites all interested parties to visit our Kildare County Development Plan Virtual Consultation Rooms at <https://draftkildarecdp2023-2029.ie/> which is a one stop shop for everything you need to know about the Kildare County Development Plan. When you enter these rooms, you will be guided through each area of the Draft Plan; from delivering healthy and creative communities, to greater access to recreational facilities and amenity areas, as well as sustainable housing delivery, improved access to public transport and provision of sustainable travel infrastructure, all in support of the transition to a low carbon climate resilient environment.

To facilitate a discussion and to provide an overview around the policies, objectives, actions and targets within the Draft Plan three online public information sessions will be held:

- **Wednesday 6th April 7pm - 9pm**
- **Wednesday 27th April 10am -12pm**
- **Wednesday 11th May 2pm - 4pm**

As all three sessions will follow the same format, attendance can be booked via our consultation rooms at <https://draftkildarecdp2023-2029.ie/> under the 'Public Information Sessions' link.

Submissions are welcome and can be made;

- At Make a Submission link at www.draftkildarecdp2023-2029.ie
- In writing to; Draft Kildare County Development Plan, C/O The Administrative Officer, Forward Planning, Áras Chill Dara, Devoy Park, Naas, Co. Kildare.

Closing Date for submissions, strictly 4 p.m. 24th May 2022

Submissions will be made public on the website and at the offices of the Planning Department.

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Kildare County Council seeking advance purchase opportunities to accelerate delivery of Housing

Seeking to Purchase un-commenced Residential Developments through Turnkey Agreements

Kildare County Council is seeking to engage with home builders and housing developers in Kildare to consider offering unbuilt houses or apartments with planning permission, to local authorities under an advance purchase turnkey arrangement.

This advance purchase opportunity has been put in place to provide for accelerated delivery of housing generally, to provide affordable homes for eligible applicants nominated by the local authority in areas where a significant need for affordable or social housing has been identified.

Kildare County Council is seeking to enter advance purchase arrangements to secure turnkey homes in areas where the need, in particular for affordable housing, is most acute.

It is anticipated that, local authorities will enter into an advance purchase agreement for an approved number of homes, with payment on completion. The advance purchase agreement provides for direct sales agreements between the developer and eligible purchasers nominated by the local authority. Joint venture arrangements that include an Approved Housing Body (AHB) will also be considered.

Home builders and housing developers are asked to contact the housing department for more information and to submit an expression of interest. The local authority will consider the initial proposal and, should it meet housing needs, cost and eligibility criteria, additional information will be sought to move forward with the process.

- An expression of interest form and additional information is available from Kildare County Council's website.
- Following the submission of an expression of interest form, the proposal will be initially assessed for suitability and if it meets the requirements, the local authority will revert to the proposer seeking additional information to move the process forward.

**For further information contact:
expresssionsofinterest@Kildarecoco.ie**

Council must consider local views on Lucan Village plans – Higgins

South Dublin County Council are now reviewing submissions from the public on the Lucan Village Plan and will be preparing a report for consideration by Council in due course.

Now that the public consultation on Lucan Village has closed, South Dublin County Council must seriously consider the feedback from residents and local businesses before progressing with any plans, Lucan's government TD has said.

Deputy Emer Higgins, TD for Dublin Mid-West has called on South Dublin County Council to listen to the views of the local community before finalising any plans for Lucan Village Green and Main Street Lucan.

Deputy Higgins said: "My understanding is that, in excess of 7,000 submissions were received by the council, so this is clearly a matter which people feel very strongly about.

"I conducted an informal survey of hundreds of residents and businesses in Lucan in November and the removal of car parking spaces was definitely the main concern raised with me with 78% of respondents stating that parking in Lucan Village is already an issue.

"From that feedback it is clear that Lucan needs more carparking spaces not less so the proposal to remove 37 parking spaces and the existing accessible parking bays is of huge concern to me as both a local resident and a public representative," added Deputy Higgins.

"In keeping with the spirit of public consultation, I believe a compromise or alternative proposal will need to be found," said Deputy Higgins.

"I want to see the Village Green developed into a more usable space and I want to see our footpaths upgraded and made more accessible, in particular for our wheelchair users and buggies, but this needs to be achieved without costing us the vibrancy of our village.

If the current plans were progressed as is, I would have particular concerns for the older population or those with mobility issues who rely on parking in the village to access the medical centre or the pharmacy or who rely on their car for grocery shopping and other errands.

"I have made my own submission to the council and I hope they will listen to the concerns that I and other locals and business have raised to ensure that any changes to Lucan Village work for the whole community," concluded Deputy Higgins.

A spokesperson for South Dublin County Council told Little Village that submissions from the public are currently being reviewed and a report is being prepared for the council.

St Lorcan's receive funding for sensory garden with help from Palmerstown Credit Union Community Fund

Deputy Emer Higgins, Dublin Mid-West's Fine Gael TD, was delighted to visit St Lorcan's BNS in Palmerstown as they were presented with a cheque for €9,000 from Palmerstown Credit Union, as part of their Community Fund. St Lorcan's will use the money to make a start on their sensory garden.

According to St Lorcan's: "Mrs Kennedy came up with the idea of making a sensory garden in St. Lorcan's. At present it is in the planning stage. Mr. O'Connell and Mr. Egan are helping out with this project too. Our local Credit Union donated 900 euros which we are thrilled about. They also granted us funding under the Community Fund 2021. We look forward to getting started on this exciting project next spring!

Our wonderful school won a Community Endeavor Award with South Dublin Co. Council for Best School Garden/Allotment recently!

It was a fitting tribute to Mr. Egan's exceptional contribution to the garden over the years and to all who continue to maintain the garden, especially Mr. Glover, our wonderful caretaker.

The plaque was accepted by members of the Parents' Association and is now on display in the school."

Foxhunter Reopens

Iconic Lucan boozer, the Foxhunter is reopening soon for the first time in ten years.

The popular roadside pub first popped up as a halfway house for people heading into Dublin from the West in the early 1900s.

It retained its cult status among the capital's citizens as the city grew, becoming a hotspot for everything from a quick pint to a family meal for travellers

along the N4.

The pub closed in 2012 and has laid idle for more than a decade, but new owners the PressUp Group had already begun operating takeaway services for both their Wowburger and Elephant and Castle brands on the site.

And now the group have announced a full reopening of the pub, alongside new Elephant and Castle and Wowburger restaurants on the site, as well as a dedicated kids play area and a large event space.

The owners are looking to take on bartenders, waiters, server assistants, bar backs, cleaners, kitchen porters, and duty managers.

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Kildare County Council launches first Podcast Series

6-part series titled 'Understanding Kildare's County Development Plan'

Kildare County Council has launched a new podcast series which, over 6 episodes, will explore different aspects of Kildare's County Development Plan.

The Draft Kildare County Development Plan 2023 – 2029 was published in recent weeks and a public consultation is now underway, inviting and encouraging submissions from citizens, communities and businesses alike to have their say on the future development of the County.

This new podcast series titled Understanding Kildare's County Development Plan invites listeners to tune in and hear from those developing the plan as well as representatives from businesses and communities about what the County Development Plan is, it's goals and objectives and how it will inform the future development of the County. So, if you are interested in understanding more about the process or what it means for the future sustainable development of the towns and villages of County Kildare, then be sure to tune in.

The series will also offer insights into the opportunities for people to have their say and contribute to the future development of the county by engaging in the consultation process and making a submission.

The first episode launches today, Monday 4th April and features an interview with Cathoirléach of the County of

Kildare, Cllr Naoise O Cearúil with host Amy Granville, Senior Planner with responsibility for the Draft County Development Plan. As the first citizen of Kildare, the Cathoirléach gives his perspective on his ambitions for the plan and how its development is informed by the current and future needs of the citizens, communities, and businesses of Kildare.

Episode 1 of Understanding Kildare County Development Plan is now available to listen to on:

www.omny.fm/shows/kildare-co-co/kildare-co-co-ep1-cathaoirleach-cllr-naoise-cear-i

The new episodes in the series will be available on Monday and Friday each week from Monday 4th April to Friday 22nd April.

Make a submission:

<https://draftkildarecdp2023-2029.ie/>

In writing to; Draft Kildare County Development Plan, C/O The Administrative Officer, Forward Planning, Áras Chill Dara, Devoy Park, Naas, Co. Kildare.

Closing Date for submissions, strictly; 4 p.m. 24th May 2022

Submissions will be made public on the website and at the offices of the Planning Department.

Kildare Libraries offering free book bags to all children starting school in September

All children starting primary school in September 2022 can get a free Book Bag at their local library

The 'My Little Library Book Bag' initiative is a collaboration between libraries and the Department of Children, Equality, Disability, Integration and Youth as part of the First 5 Strategy. As part of the initiative, a 'My Little Library Book Bag' is available free for every child starting primary school in 2022 to help them to prepare for this big step. Children and their parents or guardians can collect the bags at any Kildare library.

Each My Little Library Book Bag contains:

- Three books on starting school, making friends and being comfortable to be yourself
- A story card on going to the library
- A postcard the child can write or draw on and send to their new teacher, or bring to give to the teacher on their first day at school
- Their very own library card and special 'My Little Library' cardholder
- Book bags are available in both Irish and English.

Inviting all children starting school this year to come and

collect their Book Bag, Right to Read Coordinator, Amye Quigley said:

"Kildare Libraries are delighted to be involved in the First 5 My Little Library initiative. We can't wait to welcome all the 4 and 5 year-old children in to collect their book bags and begin their library membership journey."

Reading is so beneficial for developing empathy, imagination, and creativity. Stories can really help children to understand and deal with the stepping-stones of life, such as starting school."

We hope that our new library members and their families will come back regularly to keep their My Little Library bag filled up with borrowed books and we hope to welcome them to story times, classes and all the other events we have to offer at the library."

Kildare Libraries are ready to greet the families and welcome new members of all ages. This initiative also presents an opportunity for parents to bring older or younger children along to join the library and borrow their own books.

More supports to help the transition to primary school are available on the Let's Get Ready page on Gov.ie.

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St Lorcan's receive funding for sensory garden with help from Palmerstown Credit Union Community Fund

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Update from Cllr Joe Neville



Tanaiste's Visit

An Tanaiste Leo Varadkar recently visited Leixlip to meet with party colleague, Cllr Joe Neville as part of a small tour of Kildare to assess key issues of interest.

referenced how towns like Leixlip and Celbridge were in a position to benefit from the new hybrid model of working from home but that we needed investment in our towns both from the Government and Kildare County Council to do so. As part of this discussion I covered the need to regenerate our town centres to ensure they were liveable in and accessible to with the right facilities. We covered the need for housing for the young people in the area but also the need for better community and recreation facilities that need to be funded both by the Government but also the County Council. As we know in this area all too often houses are built but facilities and infrastructure are slow to follow when they should actually be in place before the houses are built," said Cllr Neville.

"An Tanaiste has a very keen interest in Leixlip as a neighbouring town to his constituency and a place he has always been very familiar with," concluded Cllr Neville.

Bridge

"The second bridge in Celbridge has over the years seemed elusive and at sometimes at best a distant possibility. Over the last five years that dream has begun to turn into a reality and we are now at the next phase where the route has been selected being option C. In 2017 with the agreement of a majority of Councillors the new bridge was provided for in the Local Area Plan and since then multiple options have been put in public consultation. In March 2021 most importantly over €10 million was allocated to the provision of the

bridge," said Cllr Neville.

"For me I think this is a hugely positive step for Celbridge. Celbridge as a town has always been impacted by the lack of access points in and out and it has meant traffic has been an issue. Hopefully this step will alleviate some of the internal traffic issue in Celbridge. As a local representative for the area and having worked hard over the last number of years on these improvements I look forward to the next phase of making Celbridge an even more accessible town," said Cllr Neville.

Necessary Works

"As always I have asked questions as to where is the spend by Kildare County Council (KCC) on recreation and facilities in North East Kildare but now for once the shocking truth has been laid bare. It's going elsewhere. After my questions and follow up Kildare County Council have for the first time provided Councillors with the Capital spend per district over the past number of years. Sadly the truth is even worse than my own fears," said Cllr Neville.

He went on to outline a number of works he deems necessary.

"I have looked for the Wonderful Barn to be developed, the playground in Leixlip to be remodelled, a theatre Leixlip/Celbridge, a swimming pool for the area and I am currently working on a youth centre project for Celbridge among other projects that funding needs to be found for. All the time we were told either funding or resources were not available," he said.

"For those who may ask what the impact of this inequity is; it is that in Leixlip and Celbridge and indeed Maynooth and Kilcock we are short on facilities. We have no swimming Pool, we have aging playgrounds, limited community centres and indeed a Wonderful Barn that is falling more and more into disrepair. In the case of Leixlip indeed KCC is also the owner of the largest derelict commercial site in Leixlip Village, the old ESB site which could provide many great facilities," Cllr Neville continued.

"The people of Leixlip/Celbridge and North Kildare deserve better. Over the years many more houses have been built in the area putting further demands on local social infrastructure. This great divide in council investment must end and greater consideration needs to be given to the needs of the population in North East Kildare," he concluded.



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€3.5M TO IMPROVE HOMES OF OLDER PEOPLE & PEOPLE WITH A DISABILITY IN SOUTH DUBLIN

South Dublin County Council is set to receive increased funding to continue its work in supporting older people and people with a disability to live independently, a Fine Gael TD has said.

The Housing Adaptation Grant is 80% exchequer funded through the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage, with 20% funding from the relevant local authority. South Dublin County Council will receive a total of €3,571,440.

Deputy Higgins said, "This is both good news for people who need and deserve the support to live in their own homes for as long as possible and is also positive in terms of reducing dependency on our health service.

"Fine Gael is working to build stronger safer communities and it is important we support people to live in their own homes for as long as they possibly can. These grants have a really positive impact on the quality of life of the people who benefit from them and they play an important role in helping people with a disability and people who are reaching an age in life when they are less mobile, to continue to live independently in their own homes," said Deputy Higgins.

"Grants of up to €30,000 are available to assist people with a disability in carrying out necessary works to make a house more suitable for their needs, up to €8,000 to assist older people to have

necessary repairs or improvements carried out and up to €6,000 for mobility aids.

"Another positive aspect of the Housing Adaptation Grant is that it helps to create employment for local contractors," added Deputy Higgins.

Minister of State for Local Government and Planning, Peter Burke TD added, "I am pleased that funding for our local authorities to administer this scheme has been increasing year on year since 2014. This shows the importance that is attached to the scheme and the Government's commitment to older people and those with a disability.

"These grants have a huge impact on the quality of life of the many beneficiaries and play a vitally important role in helping people with a disability and people who are reaching an age in life when they are less mobile, to continue to live independently in their own homes.

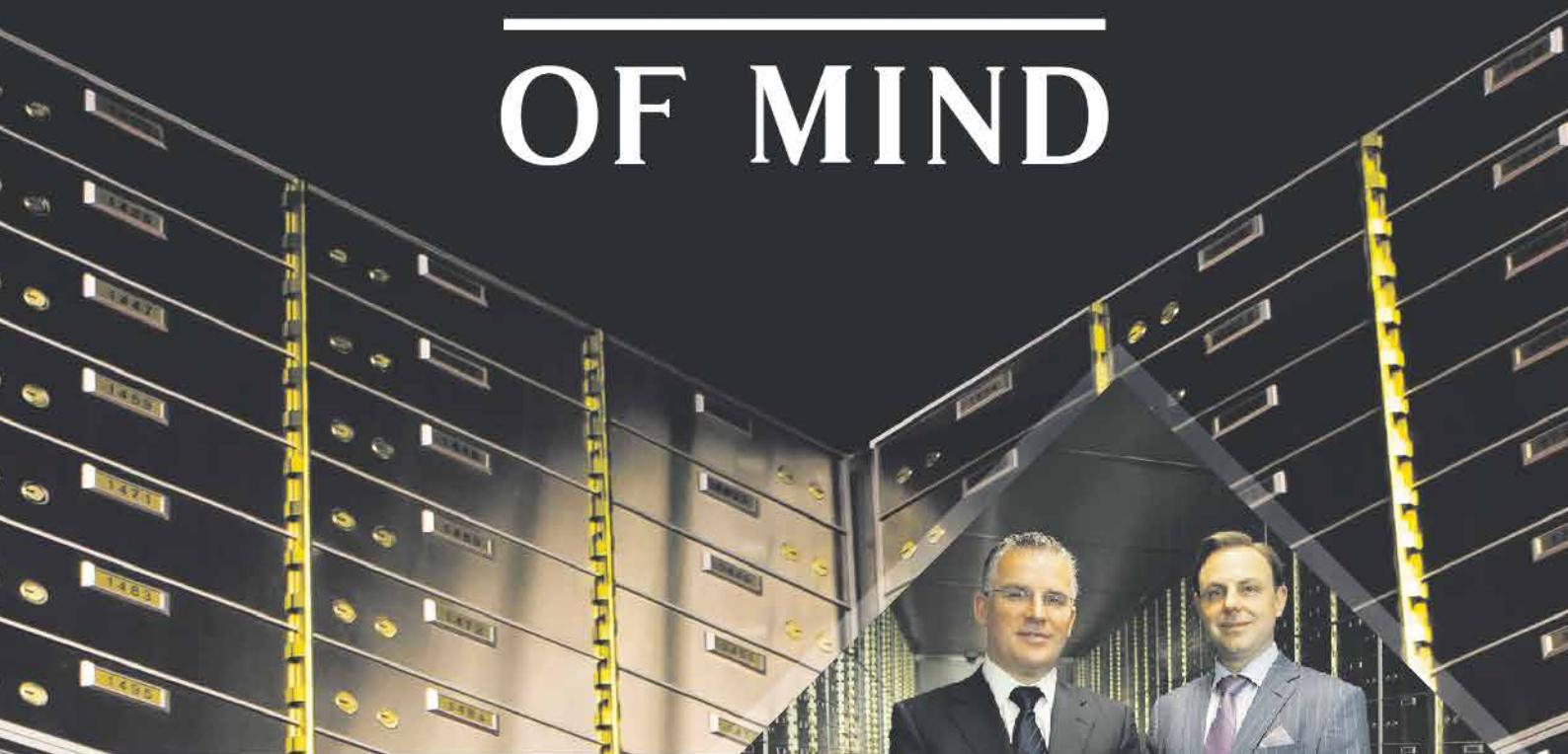
"As Minister of State with responsibility for housing for older people and people with a disability, I am fully committed to assisting individuals to stay in their own homes and within their own communities for as long as possible and these allocations today will facilitate this goal for many," he concluded.



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Kildare County Council welcomes Minister for Rural and Community Development to Kildare

The visit comprised a tour of some of the many projects and developments across the county of Kildare supported by the Department.

Kildare County Council today welcomed Minister for Rural and Community Development, Heather Humphreys TD to Kildare for a tour of some of the many rural and community projects and developments across the county.

A packed tour of the County included visits to the site of the proposed Shackleton Museum where the Minister unveiled the branding for the new Shackleton Museum.

The Cathaoirleach of the County of Kildare, Cllr Naoise O Cearuill welcomed the Minister to Athy Heritage Centre to begin the visit at the Rural Regeneration and Development (RRDF) funded proposed Shackleton Museum and Emily Square Project. He said; "I'm delighted to welcome Minister Humphreys to Kildare today to showcase many of the wonderful projects that the Government has supported over the past number of years. The Shackleton Museum here in Athy is a prime example of the positive work and co-operation between National and Local Government. The recent discovery of Shackleton's vessel Endurance, has created further interest in Ernest Shackleton not only in Kildare but Internationally. We are extremely proud that he was a Kildare man and a museum to him, his expeditions and his crew is only fitting. Launching the branding for the Museum today will create a unique selling point for tourism in Athy and Kildare."

From there an official ribbon cutting took place at The Old Hardware, launching phase 2 of the successful community-led social enterprise, the initial development of which was funded by the Town & Village Renewal Scheme.

Following stops in Crookstown to unveil Venture House Remote Working Hub, which received funding under the Connected Hubs scheme and Monasterevin for the launch of Monasterevin Town Renewal Masterplan, Kildare County Council welcomed the Minister to Kildare Market Square, which received funding of €40,000 under the Town & Village Accelerated Covid Measures scheme to develop the outdoor space during the Pandemic the success of which has led to RRDF funding approval for the permanent redevelopment of the Square.

Speaking on her visit to Kildare, Minister for Rural and

Community Development, Heather Humphreys TD said; "It was wonderful to be in Kildare to meet with community and business representatives and see first-hand the projects and initiatives that my Department is supporting.

"All of the projects I have opened today are exactly the kind of projects that I want to see receive funding from my Department. They provide fantastic facilities and help to make our communities more sustainable.

"They are helping to realise the vision outlined in Our Rural Future, the Government's new five-year strategy for rural Ireland, which is for a thriving rural Ireland full of people, places and possibilities."

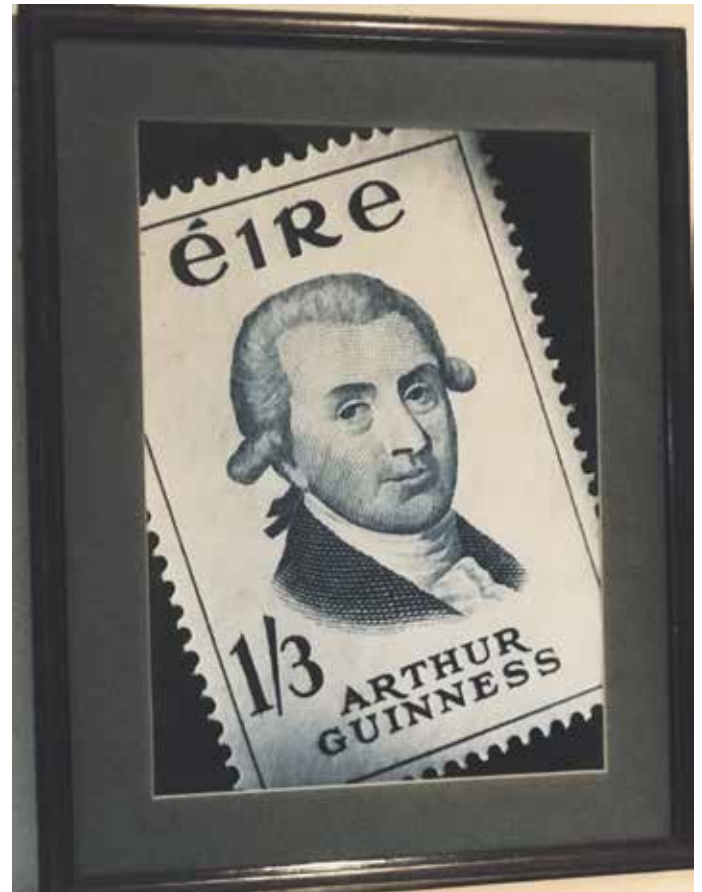
Welcoming the visit, Interim Chief Executive, Kildare County Council, Sonya Kavanagh said; We're delighted to welcome Heather Humphreys, TD, Minister for Rural and Community Development, to Kildare to witness how vital funding from her department has had a hugely positive impact on towns, villages and communities in our County. Funding from the Department of Rural and Community Development has helped to ensure the delivery of important projects for the communities of Kildare and we thank the Minister and her Department for their ongoing support."

The final stop of the day was the picturesque setting of the Barrow Blueway for an official ribbon cutting on the completion of the first 5km of the Barrow Blueway at Lowtown. The project is being delivered in partnership between Kildare County Council, Waterways Ireland and Laois County Council and is being funded through the Rural Regeneration and Development Fund. Upon completion, this project will deliver 46km of Blueway between Lowtown and Athy Co Kildare.

John McDonagh, Chief Executive, Waterways Ireland said; "I welcome Minister Humphrey's visit to view the ongoing work to create the Barrow Blueway. I want to acknowledge and thank Minister Humphreys for the funding from her department in facilitating our partnership with Kildare and Laois County Councils to deliver this project. The trail will provide a wonderful experience for local people, activity clubs, social and youth groups to enjoy. We look forward to working with Kildare and Laois County Councils to complete the project and share the beauty of this area."

Arthur Guinness

Arthur Guinness, founder of the famous Guinness brewery at Saint James's Gate in Dublin, was born in Celbridge in 1725 and lived there for 30 years.



The inventor of the world's most famous beer, and Ireland's most famous export, is commemorated by a life-size bronze sculpture in the heart of the village.

Created by local artist Jarlath Daly, it's the only one of its kind anywhere in the world.

The Guinness birthplace sculpture, a focal point of the North Kildare Guinness heritage, is a 'must-visit' feature for visitors to the renowned Guinness Storehouse in Dublin (and indeed Guinness enthusiasts generally).

Not one, but two pubs in Celbridge village, The Village Inn and The Duck, now share the site where Arthur was born.

Arthur's father, Richard Guinness, came to Celbridge as household agent to Dr Arthur Price, vicar of Celbridge and builder of Oakley Park House (1724), later Archbishop of Cashel. Shortly afterwards, Richard married a local farmer's daughter, Elisabeth Read, who, in common with all women at that time, had the skill of brewing. In 1722 Dr Price bought Carberry's malt house. This became the home of Richard and Elizabeth and it was here that their son Arthur was born in 1725. He was named after the vicar,

who also was Arthur's godfather and who left him £100 in his will, which the young entrepreneur used to set up his first brewery in nearby Leixlip. It was from these beginnings that the Guinness brewing empire began. In 1759 Arthur Guinness moved his brewing enterprise to the site of a very run-down brewery in St James's Street in Dublin. The rest is history.

On 17 June 1761, Guinness married Olivia Whitmore, a younger woman from a wealthy and well-connected family who offered him a £1,000 dowry. Whitmore was a descendant of William of Wykeham and had several socio-politically important relatives. One of these was her cousin Henry Grattan, a member of the Parliament of Ireland who argued in favour of aiding Catholics and gaining legislative independence in Ireland. With Arthur, Olivia Guinness suffered 11 miscarriages but gave birth to 10 children, all but one of whom, Olivia, survived into adulthood. These four daughters and six sons were named, from oldest to youngest, Elizabeth, Hosea, Arthur, Edward, Olivia, Benjamin, Louisa, John Grattan, William Lunell, and Mary Anne. Elizabeth was born on 28 February 1763; by the time of Mary Anne's birth in 1787, Elizabeth was already married.



GUINNESS

Elizabeth Guinness married Frederick Darley in 1809, the same year that he became the Lord Mayor of Dublin. Hosea, born in 1765, instead chose to enter the clergy. He was educated at Winchester College, the University of Oxford, and Trinity College Dublin before serving as the rector of St. Werburgh's Church, Dublin, until his death in 1841. Both Louisa and Mary Anne married into the clergy, wedding William Dean Hoare and John Burke, respectively.

Guinness's third son, also named Arthur, was born in 1768. Upon his father's death, he inherited the brewery at St James's Gate, where he was assisted by his brothers Benjamin and William. In 1808, Benjamin and William became full partners in the company, which was renamed Guinness (A., Ben & W.L.) brewers. John Grattan Guinness, who had previously served in the East India Company, joined the brewery company as a sales agent in 1824, but left the position after his wife's death. When the younger Arthur died himself in 1855, his youngest son, also named Benjamin, took over brewery operations. Guinness's only economically unsuccessful child was Edward, who fell into debt after investing in a failed ironworks company. In 1811, a bankrupt Edward Guinness

fled to the Isle of Man as protection from his debtors.

A new 21st-century phase is now being added to the brewing heritage of Celbridge with the opening of a major craft brewery the 'Rye River Brewery' and visitor centre at Donaghcumper on the Dublin Road.

Arthur Guinness died in 1803 at the age of 78. The master brewer and pioneer of enterprise now rests in a stone-walled hillside churchyard at Oughterard, a 15 minute drive from Celbridge, under an ancient round tower. This Early Christian monastic site is where Saint Briga (Brigid) founded a monastery in the 6th century. The early Irish manuscripts, or Annals, record that Viking marauders under Sitric Silkenbeard burnt down the monastery in 995.

Now a very peaceful place in a rural setting of outstanding natural beauty, Oughterard is the final stage on a heritage route tracing Arthur's earlier life from nearby Leixlip, his first brewery site, through his Celbridge birthplace, to the Grand Canal – for many decades a transport route for the famous 'black stuff' – on to this, his final destination, to join his mother Elizabeth Read, and her people.

Guinness was politically active throughout his life, both as a



supporter of his cousin-in-law Henry Gratton and as a member of the Dublin City Council. He was additionally a lifelong member and secretary of the Kildare Knot, a dining club made of wealthy Protestants and Catholics. During his tenure, the Knot was involved with the Irish Volunteers, a patriotic militia group dedicated to defending Ireland from potential French invaders. Guinness's primary political positions, however, concerned the rights of Catholics to fully participate in Irish politics and society. In addition to personally hiring Catholics for his brewery, and by accounts treating them fairly, Guinness advocated to overturn laws that restricted the ability of Catholics to enter certain professions, and as a member of the Royal Dublin Society, he argued for economic developments that would positively affect lower-class Catholics in agriculture and domestic industry. He was opposed, however, to the Irish Rebellion of 1798, both for the economic disruption and the associated violence – Guinness's son John was wounded during the rebellion, further incurring the family's disapproval. Guinness's opposition to the rebellion garnered the ire of Irish Catholics and nationalists, who subsequently referred to his beer as the "black Protestant porter".

Guinness was a deeply religious man whose personal motto was "Spes Mea in Deo", Latin for "My Hope is in God". Although he never converted to Methodism during his life, instead remaining a member of the Church of Ireland, his diaries indicate that his faith was influenced by that of John Wesley and the Methodist model of evangelical social work. He served as treasurer and later Governor of the Meath Hospital and frequently donated money to St Patrick's Cathedral, Dublin. Another religious inspiration for Guinness was Robert Raikes, who promoted Sunday school as a method of eliminating crime by introducing faith and morals early in life. In 1786, Guinness opened the first Sunday school in Dublin.

Many of Guinness's social positions were based in his beliefs of temperance and moderation. He believed that the duty of the wealthy and powerful was to set a strong moral example for their citizenry and looked unfavourably on what he viewed as displays of excess. He once protested the traditional feast of a new alderman, worried that the occasion would lead to drunken impropriety, and instead suggested that the money set aside for the banquet be donated to The King's Hospital. Guinness's investment in penal reform similarly stemmed from his displeasure towards what he believed was excess punishment towards criminals. He was particularly opposed to the culture of dueling among the Irish elite, which he viewed as a deadly sport masquerading as honour, but his efforts to eliminate or reduce dueling were unsuccessful. Despite his generally temperate positions, Guinness never ventured into the teetotalism movement, instead joining the belief of his fellow brewers that drunkenness was attributed to liquor, not to beer.

The Guinnesses moved into Beaumont House, an estate located north of Dublin, in 1764. He continued to expand and renovate the brewery throughout his life: by 1790, two flour mills in Kilmainham, known as the Hibernian Mills, were constructed and fully operational. The transition from ale to porter drastically increased his brewery's output as well: In 1796, the St. James's Gate brewery was producing 198,000 pints per month. By the time of his death, this number was up to 724,000 monthly.

Guinness died on 23 January 1803 at the family estate of Beaumont of unknown causes. Upon his death, his funeral bier, which was adorned with the family crest of the Magennises, carried his remains from the house to the parish church of Oughter Ard in County Kildare, and he was buried beside his mother. The funeral was presided over by his son Hosea. The inscription on his gravestone reads, "In the adjoining Vault are deposited the mortal remains of Arthur Guinness late of James's Gate in the city and of Beaumont in the County of Dublin Esquire who departed his life on the 23rd of January 1803 aged 78 years". His obituary in the Dublin Evening Post read, "The worthy and the good will regret him because his life has been useful and benevolent and virtuous."

Upon his death, Guinness's estate was valued at £23,000.

In his will, Guinness left Beaumont and his investment properties to Hosea, while the younger Arthur had already inherited his brewery. Benjamin and William were given £1,500 apiece, while Elizabeth received £1,000. As Guinness's other daughters were unmarried at the time of his death, they each received £2,000 to cover a dowry. Finally, his widow was afforded Guinness's Gardiner Street house, carriage, and a fixed income of £200 annually.

Guinness beer remains popular worldwide, with £12.2 billion in net sales for the 2018 fiscal year. In 1997, Guinness PLC merged with Grand Metropolitan to form the beverage conglomerate Diageo.

In addition to producing beer, part of the St. James's Gate brewery has been renovated into the Guinness Storehouse, a heritage centre and tourist attraction. In May 2008, Diageo announced that it would close the Guinness breweries in Kilkenny and Dundalk, as well as half of the St. James's Gate brewery, but that it would retain the Storehouse and would renovate the remainder of the Dublin brewery. In 2009, for the 250th anniversary of Guinness beer, the company established the Arthur Guinness Fund, which awards funds and mentoring to businesses invested in social reform.

Diageo declared 24 September 2009 "Arthur's Day", meant to be a worldwide celebration of Guinness's life and legacy. As part of the celebrations, An Post released a commemorative postage stamp for the brewer, as they had also done in 1959 for the brewery's 200th anniversary. Diageo promoted annual Arthur's Days for five years before cancelling the celebrations in 2014.

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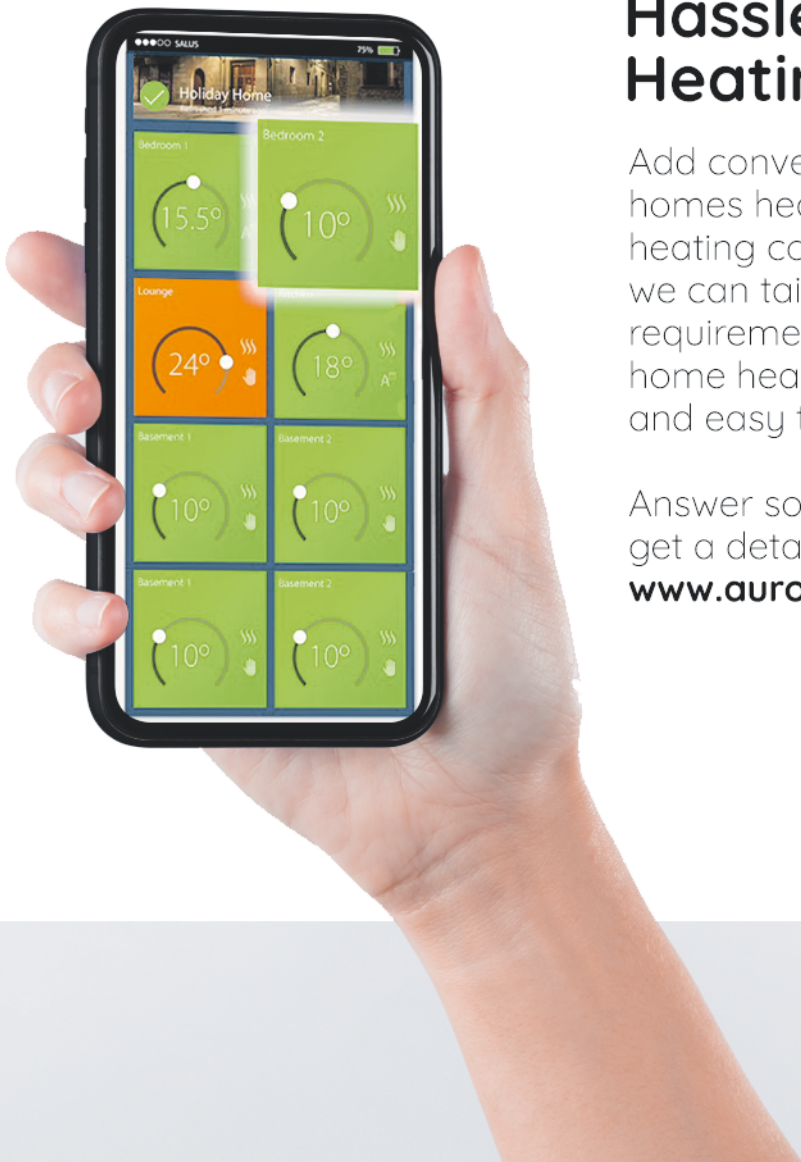
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Ireland to get €12bn Intel investment, but not new European fabrication plants

Intel will not be building a series of planned new huge European chip manufacturing facilities in Ireland, with the semiconductor producer opting instead to construct them in Germany and Italy.

But Intel said it will be investing a further €12 billion between now and the end of next year on completing its currently under construction "Fab 34" plant in Leixlip. The investment, coupled with €5 billion that has already been spent on the facility to date, will lead to a near doubling of the total amount of capital spent by Intel in Ireland since it first set up here in 1989.

Intel is planning to significantly increase its chip production capacity in Europe over the coming decade as part of an EU plan to double the bloc's current market share of global chip manufacturing to 20% by 2030.

Ireland had been competing with a number of other European countries for the investment and last year, Intel CEO Pat Gelsinger told RTÉ News that this country was on the short list of potential locations to win the new facilities.

It was reported that a greenfield site in Oranmore in Co Galway was one of a number under consideration by the company.

But speaking in the US today, Intel CEO Pat Gelsinger announced that two first-of-their-kind semiconductor fabs are to be built in Magdeburg, Germany between now and 2027, at a cost of €17 billion.

Those projects will create 7,000 construction jobs and 3,000 permanent high-tech roles.

In Italy, the company is to construct a new back-end manufacturing facility with a potential investment of up to €4.5 billion.

This factory would create approximately 1,500 new jobs plus an further 3,500 jobs across suppliers and partners.

The new "Fab 34" plant in Leixlip, which is currently being fitted out, will lead to a doubling of its manufacturing space in this country.

It will bring Intel 4 process technology to Europe and expand its foundry services, through which the company is to manufacture chips on behalf of other companies for the first time.

"For over 30 years Ireland has been the flag-bearer of Intel's European manufacturing presence and with this renewed investment in the region we remain at the very centre of our company's global ambitions," said Eamonn Sinnott, Vice-President and General Manager of Intel in Ireland.

"This is the strongest possible evidence of Intel's deep commitment to Ireland. It is remarkable to think that the €17 billion we are investing in this five-year period is double our total investment in Ireland over the previous 30 years," he added.

Last year Intel said it had already spent €5 billion on the new Fab over the previous three years and that when it is complete it will employ 1,600 new full-time staff, bringing its total direct employment in Ireland to 6,500.

5,000 construction jobs have also been created in the building of the new Fab 34.

"Furthermore, an analysis by PwC shows that, once this latest phase of construction is complete, our presence in Ireland will contribute €2.75 billion to the economy annually," Mr Sinnott said.

"We are proud of the contribution that we are making to the community and economy here in Ireland. And as the EU seeks to double its share of global microchip production over the next decade, Intel and Ireland are positioned in the vanguard of that strategic campaign," he added.

CEO of Intel, Pat Gelsinger spoke with the Taoiseach and the CEO of IDA Ireland ahead of today's announcement in Brussels.

Speaking in Washington DC, Taoiseach Micheál Martin said the announcement underlines the importance of Intel's operations in Ireland and their commitment to the country.

"Investing a further €12 billion, on top of the €5 billion previously announced on its new facility brings the overall investment by Intel in its site here to €30 billion.

"This very significant show of confidence, in Ireland and in our talented and skilled workforce, is a strong endorsement of our offering to investors," he said in a statement.

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Calling people in County Dublin to sign up to largest anti-litter initiative in the country

Registrations for the National Spring Clean 2022 are now open and people are invited to register to receive a free clean-up kit.



Registrations are now open for National Spring Clean 2022, calling all communities in county Dublin to register for Ireland's largest and longest anti-litter campaign and make a tangible impact on our environment.

The National Spring Clean campaign Ireland is largest and longest running anti-litter campaign. It is operated by the Environmental Education Unit of An Taisce and sponsored by the Mars Wrigley Company. It is supported by Local Authorities who help co-ordinate clean-up activities for communities within their counties and the Department of Communications, Climate Action and Environment. Local authorities also provide for the disposal of all rubbish and waste materials collected.

Over the past 23 years, through the National Spring Clean:

- Over 85,000 clean-ups have been organised
- 42,000 tonnes of litter have been removed
- 12 million hours of work have been put in by volunteers

What we can do outside the month of April

While the National Spring Clean usually runs through the month of April, please remember that personal actions throughout the year are very important too. Here are some choices we can make daily to

make a positive change:

- When you are out for a walk, visiting a park or a beach, do a quick #2minutestreetclean or a #2minutebeachclean.
- Avoid single-use plastic when possible, by choosing more sustainable alternatives, such as reusable bottles and coffee cups, cotton bags, metal straws, etc...
- Don't litter and if a bin is overflowing, keep your waste until you find a waste to dispose of it properly.
- If you can't reduce or reuse, recycle; know where and how to recycle all types of waste.
- Recent statistics show that, in Ireland, discarded cigarette butts make up for 60% of litter on the streets. Always bin your butt!
- Make sure to bin your chewing gum when you're done to avoid a €150 gum littering fine and keep our streets clean!

National Spring Clean is operated by the Environmental Education Unit of An Taisce in partnership with Local Authorities and supported by the Department of Communications, Climate Action and Environment and Mars Wrigley Ireland.

The National Spring Clean traditionally takes part in the month of April. For the past 23 years 85,000 clean-ups have been organised



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with volunteers dedicating a total of 12 million hours to remove around 42,000 tonnes of litter across the country. National Spring Clean 2021 was the biggest and the longest campaign so far, taking place between March and August, and despite the current situation and restrictions at the start of the year, 5,543 groups registered to carry out clean-ups throughout the country and collected an estimated 3,000 tonnes of litter around Ireland.

In 2021 over 6,500 Dublin volunteers participated in organised clean-ups to show their support to the National Spring Clean.

This year, building on the success of previous years, the hope is to make the National Spring Clean campaign the biggest yet.

The National Spring Clean is also an opportunity for volunteers to take local actions to make a change at a global scale. As a matter of fact, over the last couple of years, the National Spring Clean has also been trying to raise awareness about another crucial issue: the link between litter and climate change – the biggest environmental challenge of our time – and highlight how combined local actions can have a global effect. Our consumption patterns and how we dispose and treat our waste has a substantial impact on the levels of emissions of several greenhouse gases which contribute to climate change.

Minister for the Environment, Climate and Communications, Eamon Ryan TD, said:

“An Taisce’s National Spring Clean is a real testament to the work of volunteers all over the country. These volunteers continue to organise local clean-ups every year. The past two years have proven difficult because of the necessary Covid restrictions, but this year represents a real opportunity for people to get together and help clean up our countryside. I would urge people to get involved and I would like to acknowledge the key role played by An Taisce in overseeing the campaign. My Department will continue to provide

support to the campaign and I look forward to the many events that will be held countrywide.”

National Spring Clean, Chairperson, Michael John O’Mahony, commented:

“We have all been through some unprecedented times over the last two years. We all became more aware than ever before of our local areas. Participants continued to undertake great work for National Spring Clean in family bubbles or as individuals during these times. However, we can now look forward to working together again as larger groups and communities and celebrate the success together.”

Mars Wrigley Ireland Corporate Affairs Manager, Nicola Forde stated:

“Mars Wrigley Ireland are delighted to once again support National Spring Clean 2022. We have been working on litter reduction in Ireland for over fifteen years and while great progress has been made in that time there is a need for constant vigilance to ensure old habits don’t return. National Spring Clean is a great way to raise awareness and reinforce positive behaviours.”

The National Spring Clean programme is inviting people to visit the website at www.nationalspringclean.org to request a free clean-up kit.

While waiting for the National Spring Clean to officially kick off, the programme is also inviting communities around Ireland to join other initiatives. For example, volunteers are invited to take part in the #2minutestreetclean campaign and join the conversation on social media (details in the editor’s note). Furthermore, to celebrate Women’s Day, the National Spring Clean programme will be sharing on social media stories of women who have made a positive impact on our environment and is calling people in county Dublin to share their own stories about women volunteers.



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