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**ISSUE 21**  
OCT/NOV 2019

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## EDITORIAL

**T**his edition of Little Village is jam packed with local news, feature pieces and lots of local information. There is something for everyone in the latest issue of Little Village. As we enter into the Harvest period and of course with Hallowe'en fast approaching, check out our piece on Hallowe'en and its origins and Ireland's place in the history of Hallowe'en.

Read all about the new initiative where over 3,300 Fingal primary school students will run a marathon as part of the MarathonKids Programme. This is an 8-week initiative to increase physical activity among young people. Marathonkids Ireland officially launched their 2019 programme on Thursday, August 28th at Morton Stadium in Santry.

Also be sure to read about the upcoming RESPECT Swimathon. RESPECT, the organisation responsible for fundraising for capital projects and research within The Daughters of Charity Disability Support Service, is delighted to announce its latest fundraising event, The

RESPECT Swimathon, which will take place on Sunday, 6th October 2019 from 2pm – 6pm at the Aura de Paul Pool on the Navan Road.

With housing and rent being topical all across the country at the moment, take some time to read about local housing plans in Dublin 15 where Fingal County Council has received notification of a Strategic Housing Development (SHD) application to An Bord Pleanála for here in Dublin 15.

Another important topic in Dublin 15 is of course Air Pollution and Green Party Dublin West candidate, Cllr. Roderic O'Gorman has called on Transport Infrastructure Ireland to publish full year results of monitoring that it has been doing of nitrogen dioxide along the M50. Cllr O'Gorman recently received a reply to a freedom of information request he put in to TII which discovered that TII have 34 monitoring stations along the M50 and a website where these results are displayed. The website shows some locations are close to breaching the EU maximum for nitrogen dioxide.

This month's edition of Little Village is full of local stories and information and we would love to hear your stories too!

**David Whelan, Editor. Tel: 089 472 0266**

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# OFFICIAL LAUNCH OF MARATHONKIDS IRELAND 2019

Over 3,300 Fingal primary school students will run a marathon as part of the MarathonKids Programme, an 8 week initiative to increase physical activity among young people.

**M**arathonkids Ireland officially launched their 2019 programme on Thursday, August 28th at Morton Stadium in Santry.

Fingal Mayor Cllr Eoghan O'Brien, Dublin City Lord Mayor Paul Mc Auliffe and South Dublin Mayor Vicky Casserly were all in attendance at the launch along with delegates from Dublin City Marathon, Dublin City Sport & Wellbeing Partnership Programmes (DCSWBP), Dublin City Sports Inclusion & Integration Officer, Fingal County Council Sports Office, Fingal County Council Event Unit, and South Dublin County Sport Partnership (SDCSP).

This is the fifth year the MarathonKids programme has been rolled out in Fingal and the numbers have grown from 800 in 2015 to 3,300 in 2019. Inspired by a similar programme in the US, Fingal County Council Sports Officer Niall McGuirk and MarathonKids Ireland Director Neil Kennedy created a programme that was first rolled out by Fingal County Council before expanding to South Dublin County Council and Dublin City Council.

The MarathonKids programme targets 5th and 6th Class Students who will perform four running sessions each week inching them closer to completing their first marathon as well as learning about the benefits of physical

activity through an in-class workbook. The finale will see the students running their last mile and completing the marathon at Morton Stadium in Santry.

Speaking about the programme Niall McGuirk "I'm delighted with the success of the programme and I believe it should be in every school in the country. I'm delighted that other Local Authorities have embraced it and to have someone of the stature of David Gillick on board will only help to highlight the benefits of getting our young people more active and involved in physical activity."

Mayor of Fingal, Cllr Eoghan O'Brien said "I'd like to commend the Sports Office for all the work they do to promote Sport in the county. Fingal County Council strives to be innovative and at the forefront of Sports Development and this programme is a testament to that. To have almost half of all primary schools in Fingal involved proves how highly teachers and principals regard the programme".

Over 6,300 students from +100 schools from Dublin City Council, Fingal County Council and South Dublin County Council are going to be involved in Marathonkids Ireland programme starting from Monday, Sep 9th 2019. The programme, which has been running for five years, also features ex-athlete and European Gold Medal David Gillick as their official ambassador.





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# 'SWIM THE EXTRA MILE' FOR RESPECT THIS OCTOBER

RESPECT Swimathon taking place on Sunday, 6th October 2019

**R**ESPECT, the organisation responsible for fundraising for capital projects and research within The Daughters of Charity Disability Support Service, is delighted to announce its latest fundraising event, The RESPECT Swimathon, which will take place on Sunday, 6th October 2019 from 2pm – 6pm at the Aura de Paul Pool on the Navan Road.

This unique and fun fundraiser is open to all levels of swimmers and all age groups; entry is just €25 per person (or family) with all funding raised going directly towards the refurbishment of a Community House on the Cabra Road. Swim 750m (38 lengths), 400m (20 lengths) or take part in a family relay (10 lengths) to raise funds for this worthy cause. There will be fun for all the family at the event with face painting for the children as well as a raffle on the day. Everyone who takes part will also be presented with a certificate.

Speaking about the fundraiser, Sister Zoe Killeen, Director of RESPECT, commented, *"We are delighted to join forces with the Aura de Paul Pool to run our first ever Swimathon fundraiser for the charity. We are calling on swimmers of ages and abilities to swim the extra mile for RESPECT on the 6th October & join us for a fun day in the pool to raise much needed funds to support the refurbishment of our local Community House."*

All the team at RESPECT work tirelessly to provide support and funding to improve the lives of people with intellectual disabilities in the care of the Daughters of Charity service. They do this by improving the surroundings and the independence of service users, through capital building projects and ground-breaking research initiatives. The service is ultimately about helping people improve their quality of life and reach their full potential.

For more information contact RESPECT on 01 685 6502 or Aura de Paul Pool on [01 838 5422](tel:018385422).

Or log onto [www.respect.ie](http://www.respect.ie) to book in online for the event.



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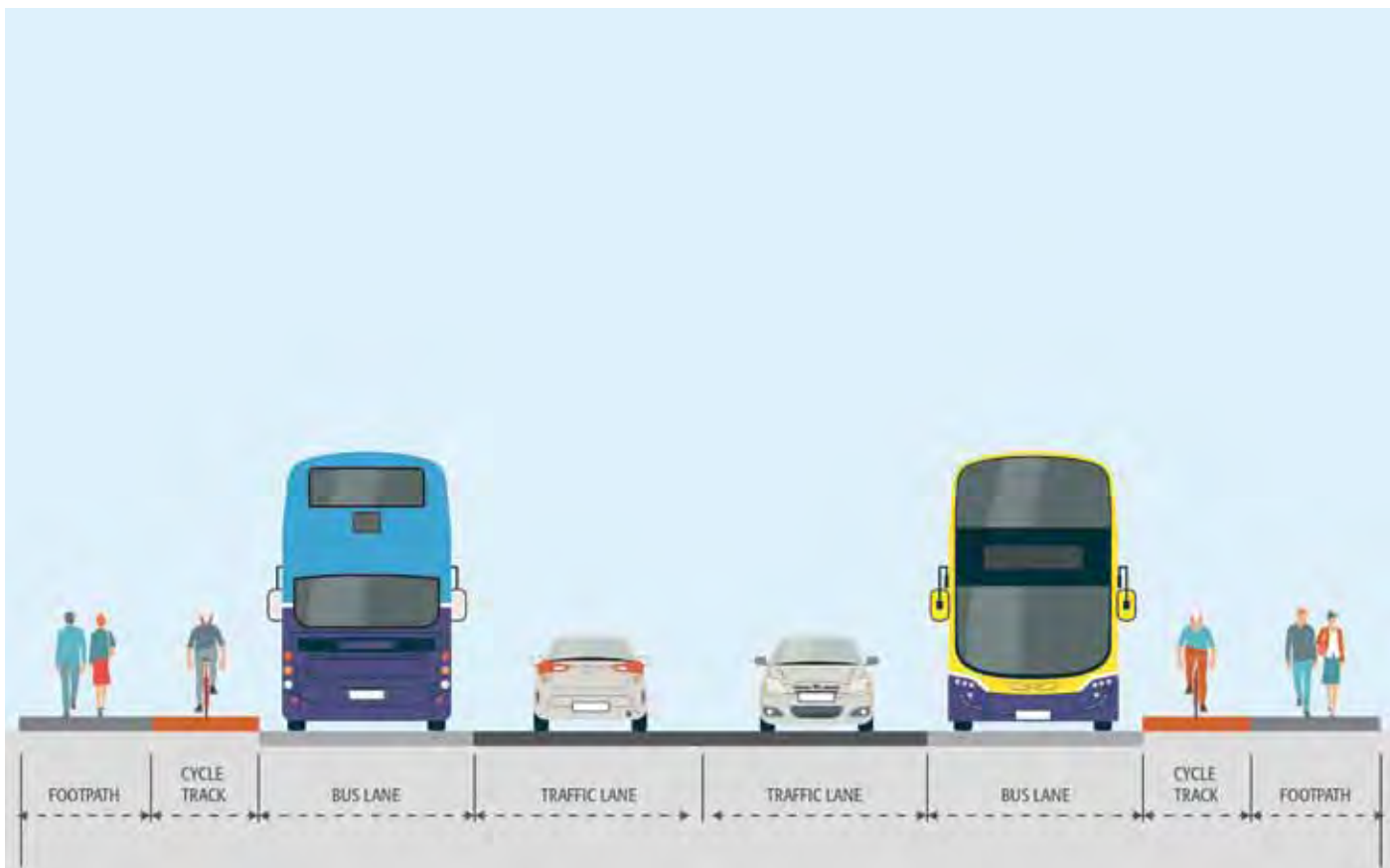
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- Online booking...
- Raffle on the Day
- Face painting for children
- Certs for all

**All monies towards the refurbishment of a community house on the Cabra Road.**

Check out details & updates on our Facebook page Aura De Paul

**For more information, please contact:**  
**Mary Crotty / Maria Mooney**  
**Crotty Communications**  
**Ph: 01 661 8777**  
**Email: [maria@crottycomms.ie](mailto:maria@crottycomms.ie)**



# DISJOINTED STRATEGIES RISK COMMUTER CHAOS – CURRIE

## Proposed Mobility Study in Phoenix Park must consult with National Transport Authority

**A** lack of joined-up thinking about BusConnects and proposed changes to the Phoenix Park risks creating commuter chaos for Dublin West, a Fine Gael councillor has said.

Cllr Emer Currie said plans by the Office of Public Works (OPW) to carry out a Mobility Study to consider movement through the park must be considered in tandem with the National Transport Authority's plans for the wider city, including BusConnects.

Plans for the Mobility Study come on the back of the 'Draft Phoenix Park Visitor Experience Strategic Review', conducted by the OPW in conjunction with Fáilte Ireland.

"The review was criticised for being too economically focused, at the risk of diminishing the natural environment of the park. It is my view that we need to tread very carefully in any changes to the park that could lead to over-development."

"We absolutely need to prioritise ensuring that the park as a natural amenity but when it comes to changes to transport in the park we cannot ignore the impact it would have on commuters outside the park, which is a commuter corridor for people in West Dublin."

"Right now, the OPW isn't talking to the NTA about plans inside the park and the NTA isn't talking to the OPW about plans outside the park. Everybody has their own transport plan but nobody's looking at the big picture. This lack of joined-up thinking in Dublin's transport strategy will have dire consequences for West Dublin residents."

Cllr Currie continued: "BusConnects currently oversees a plan where Castleknock and Clonsilla Road buses, which traditionally terminated in Baggot St, will leave commuters stranded in Parnell Square, kilometres away from work and study."

"The latest BusConnects plans for Stoneybatter will restrict private car access into town and the OPW wants to target car access in Phoenix Park, seemingly in isolation."

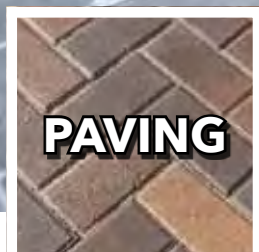
"Dublin 15 doesn't have enough cycle lanes and our trains are already at bursting point. If Castleknock and Blanchardstown residents can't get the bus, can't use a car, don't have adequate cycle lanes and the trains are at full capacity - how else are people supposed to commute?"

"We need joined-up thinking to create integrated solutions that will reduce cars on our roads, rather than a step-by-step shutdown of transport options in the area. This isn't a transition to low-emission transport - it's traffic chaos," she concluded."

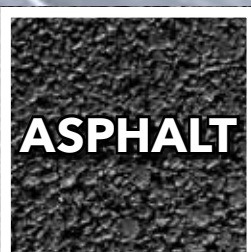


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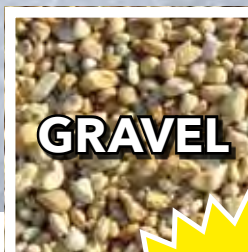
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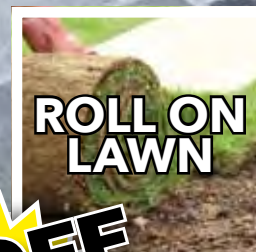
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Fingal County Council is delighted to announce the funding of places on the Master Composter Training & Volunteer Programme which is being organised in conjunction with the Stop Food Waste Programme.

If you want to learn about nature-based solutions to food and garden waste, you can express your interest to participate in the course at Skerries Mills. This action-packed programme will teach people how to prevent food waste and compost at home.

The course is designed to enable participants to:

- Make a difference in your community
- Protect the environment
- Meet like-minded people
- Save money and have fun

Participants are expected to attend all classes which consists of five evening classroom sessions on October 1, 8, 15, 22 and 29 from 7:30-10pm and three Saturday afternoon hands-on workshops on October 5th & 19th and November 2nd from 1-5pm.

This valuable training is offered free of charge to

residents of Fingal only, but volunteers are expected to contribute outreach time afterward to spread the word and motivate others. If they choose, volunteers can spearhead a community-based project which will be supported with funding and technical assistance once the training has been completed.

This is a unique opportunity for local schools, Tidy Towns groups, community centres, churches, resident associations or other community organisations within Fingal County.

This is an exclusive offer as part of the Stop Food Waste Programme funded by Fingal County Council (each place is worth €200).

**Over 6,300 students from +100 schools from Dublin CiTo sign up, send your full name, mobile phone number and street address to [craig@stopfoodwaste.ie](mailto:craig@stopfoodwaste.ie) before Friday, September 27th.**



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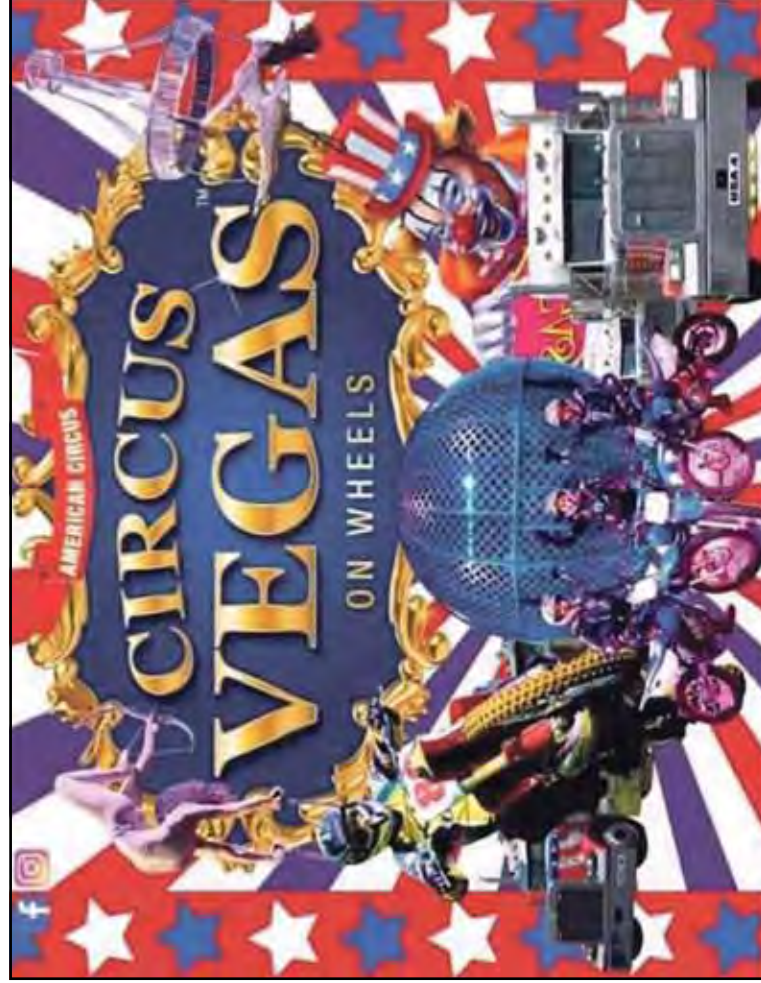


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3 <sup>rd</sup>	4 <sup>th</sup>	5 <sup>th</sup>	6 <sup>th</sup>	
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7.30pm ONLY	7.30pm ONLY	7.30pm ONLY	2pm & 5pm	2pm
WED	THU	FRI	SAT	SUN
16 <sup>th</sup>	17 <sup>th</sup>	18 <sup>th</sup>	19 <sup>th</sup>	20 <sup>th</sup>
7.30pm ONLY	7.30pm ONLY	7.30pm ONLY	2pm & 5pm	3.00pm ONLY

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# Strategic Housing

**Fingal County Council has received notification of a Strategic Housing Development (SHD) application to An Bord Pleanála for here in Dublin15.**

It's been lodged by Bartra, an organisation who have lead some high profile developments over the years. Their plans for the development of the site @ O'Devaney have been controversial to say the least. Their proposed development in the DLR Local Authority Area has been likened to "a modern day tenement". If you're considering running an article, here's my own response?

"Elected members of Fingal County Council received notification of a Strategic Housing Development (SHD) application to An Bord Pleanála for here in Dublin15, specifically in Blanchardstown Village at an area known locally known as Brady's Pub. The plans are for a Development of 210 "Bedspaces" which the Developer calls on the specially designed website as "Build to Rent Shared Living Residential Development". This form of Development is simply not sustainable. It brings nothing solid to the community. It offers no meaningful assistance what so ever to the neediest of our

community nor does it provide any meaningful hope to the ever growing waiting lists here in Dublin of young members of our community who are looking to make their start in life with a proper sustainable affordable home. There are those who will now say that I am objecting to housing. No I am not, I have been to the forefront in calling for the provision of properly sustainable and affordable housing units but developments such as this model "Build to Rent" cannot by virtue of their type ever be sustainable, they foster no sense of long term community, nor can they be affordable as they won't even be placed on the market. I am worried that this won't be the last we see of this type of Development in Dublin 15 particularly as a strategic Developer within the Hansfield SDZ has in the past linked up with the large "Rent Only" operation Ires Rait "

At the next area committee meeting, elected members will be given the details of the application and any pre-planning consultations, along with the opinion of An Bord Pleanála from the consultation stage. Following this area committee meeting a summary of the views of the elected members will be submitted to the Bord. The summary of the elected members views, the Chief Executive's Report and a summary of the observations and submissions received by the Bord will be submitted to the Board by the Planning Authority within 8 weeks of the application being made to An Bord Pleanála.

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## Fingal councillors vote to retain 10 per cent reduction in Local Property Tax

**Interim Chief Executive of Fingal County Council, AnnMarie Farrelly, has welcomed the decision of councillors at last night's monthly meeting to retain a 10 per cent reduction in the Local Property Tax for 2020.**

The elected members in Fingal voted by 31 votes to seven to accept a motion to retain the 10 per cent reduction.

Councillors have the option each year to make an adjustment in the Local Property Tax of up to 15 per cent.

The decision means that Fingal County Council, for the third successive year, has an additional €2m to invest in local communities across a range of different services.

Ms Farrelly said: "I welcome the decision of the elected members to retain the 10 per cent reduction. Like in the

previous two years, this will yield €2m in funding which will be ring-fenced for a range of services in our fast-growing county for key areas such as housing, operations, community, libraries and events.

"Extensive engagements have taken place with the Corporate Policy Group and the various political parties and groupings in which the Council's Management Team showed the benefits of having €2m extra to spend on local projects. I would like to pay tribute to our Elected Members for continuing to put the interests of the county at the heart of their decision-making.

"Fingal is the fastest-growing county in the country, with the youngest population. The decision to retain the 10 per cent reduction means that that we will be able to continue our focus in providing a wide range of services in our growing communities."

**The discussion on the Local Property Tax at last night's meeting can be viewed at [www.fingal.ie](http://www.fingal.ie).**



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## ‘ESTUARY’ EXHIBITION TO MARK 25TH ANNIVERSARY OF FINGAL COUNTY COUNCIL’S MUNICIPAL ART COLLECTION LAUNCHED

A major exhibition celebrating the 25th anniversary of Fingal County Council’s diverse, engaging and captivating Municipal Art Collection was officially opened on September 12. Organised by the Fingal Arts Office, ‘Estuary’ was launched by Mayor of Fingal Cllr Eoghan O’Brien at the Draíocht Arts Centre in Blanchardstown with special guest poet, writer and lecturer, Theo Dorgan. The exhibition will continue until November 17.

**T**his major exhibition curated by well-known Fingal artists Una Sealy RHA, James English RHA, Joshua Sex and Sanja Todorovic features works by national and international artists, graduates, emerging artists and local artists. The Fingal County Council Municipal Art collection features mostly two-dimensional work such as paintings, drawings, prints and photographs, which date from c1958 – 2018. There are some three-dimensional works which include sculpture, ceramics and mixed media. The collection contains a broad selection of work by artists such as Eva Rothschild, George Potter, John Kindness, Pamela Leonard, Maeve McCarthy, Patrick Scott and Michael Cullen, amongst others.

Speaking at the launch Mayor of Fingal Cllr Eoghan O’Brien said “I would like to thank all those involved with this exhibition ‘ESTUARY’ and the publication ‘Not in Alphabetical Order 2’, especially our arts staff, the guest curators, and the artists who created these works. Our Arts office continue to lead an ambitious programme of arts activity and strategies which have always sought to push the boundaries of what is expected and bring the best experiences to our communities.”

Interim Chief Executive AnnMarie Farrelly said: “The ‘Estuary’ exhibition presents a wonderful opportunity for the public to come and see the fantastic array of work contained in the Municipal Art Collection. I would encourage them to come along to the Draíocht Arts Centre to view the Collection

during the exhibition’s two-month run.”

Fingal’s County Arts Officer Rory O’Byrne said: “The aim of the Fingal County Council Municipal Art collection is to support artists at key stages of their careers, to enhance the experience of both the staff and public through the integration of artworks in County Hall, Swords and the Civic Offices, Blanchardstown, to educate young people about visual art and provide opportunities for them to meet artists who are part of the collection to gain an insight into their work.”

The second volume of ‘Not in Alphabetical Order’ highlighting the collection’s latest acquisitions was also launched at the opening of ‘Estuary’. In 2008, the first volume was produced and provided a snapshot of work from the collection. Artists were invited to comment on their particular work from the collection which provided an insight in to their creative process and was accompanied by a reflection on its inclusion in the collection by County Arts Officer Rory O’Byrne.

A free public engagement programme for adults, children and young people will coincide with the exhibition. The first of these events takes place on Culture Night on Friday September 20th in Draíocht Blanchardstown with a curator’s tour of Estuary exploring key themes and artworks in this major exhibition. The curators Una Sealy RHA, James English RHA, Joshua Sex and Sanja Todorovic will guide you through the collection. For details of all programme see [www.fingalarts.ie](http://www.fingalarts.ie) or [www.draiocht.ie/events/estuary\\_adult\\_engagement\\_programme](http://www.draiocht.ie/events/estuary_adult_engagement_programme)





## InterTradelreland Local Government Supplier Engagement Event

In partnership with  
**LGMA**  
LOCAL GOVERNMENT MANAGEMENT AGENCY

**Date:** Tuesday 1st October 2019  
**Venue:** CityWest Hotel & Conference Centre  
– Sycamore Suite, Dublin  
**Time:** 10am – 2pm (Registration from 9.30am)  
**Cost:** Free of charge

## Local Government procurement opportunities is focus of free supplier engagement event

Fingal County Council is one of eight local authorities from Greater Dublin and surrounding areas supporting a Supplier Engagement event focusing on local government procurement opportunities.

InterTradelreland, together with the Local Government Management Agency (LGMA), are hosting the free half-day event at the CityWest Hotel on October 1.

Local government in Ireland manage contracts which support and maintain civic amenities and community services. Those who attend will meet with local council sector experts and decision makers from key categories to provide market updates on new products or innovations and find out about procurement processes and tender opportunities coming up.

This event will facilitate face to face engagement opportunities across a range of procurement categories including:

- Corporate Services and Housing
- Emergency Services
- Environment
- Finance & ICT
- Community, Sports, Arts and Recreation
- Roads, Transportation, Marine & General Services
- Green Energy

Workshops examining various aspects of the tendering process will also run throughout the morning.

Director of Corporate Affairs and Governance John Quinlivan said: "In line with Fingal County Council's

Procurement Policy, we are committed to helping prospective suppliers to understand the Council's procurement and purchasing processes. In this respect, competitive processes are structured for public contracts in a manner that facilitates increased participation by SMEs (small and medium enterprises), while continuing to ensure that public sector purchasing is carried out in a manner that is legal, transparent, and secures optimal value for money."

Fingal County Council's Procurement Officer Brian Murray said: "The Council's Corporate Procurement Plan contains an objective to have greater supplier and market engagement. This is one of a series of engagements we will be conducting and I would urge micro and small businesses who do not currently provide supplies or services to the Local Government sector to attend."

This half-day event is taking place from 10am to 2pm in CityWest Hotel, Dublin. As this is a free event early registration is essential to secure your place.

Representatives from the key business development agencies can also advise you on current funding opportunities and business supports available.

**For more information and to register for your free place for the event please visit:**

[www.intertradeireland.com/selltolocalgov/](http://www.intertradeireland.com/selltolocalgov/)



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# Council invites submissions on Draft Dublin Airport Local Area Plan

**Fingal County Council is inviting submissions in relation to the Draft Dublin Airport Local Area Plan which will be on public display for the next six weeks.**

**T**he draft Local Area Plan can be viewed at County Hall, Swords, Civic Offices, Blanchardstown, Fingal branch libraries or at [www.fingal.ie](http://www.fingal.ie). Submissions can be made online at [consult.fingal.ie](http://consult.fingal.ie); by email to [devplan@fingal.ie](mailto:devplan@fingal.ie); or by post to Senior Executive Officer, Planning and Strategic Infrastructure Department, Fingal County Council, County Hall, Main Street, Swords, Co Dublin, K67 X8Y2. The deadline for receipt of submissions is October 15.

The Council will host two information evenings for members of the public in order to set out the contents of the LAP and provide background information outlining the need for the LAP. All interested parties are encouraged to attend these events which will be facilitated by the Council's Department of Planning and Strategic Infrastructure. One will be held in County Hall, Swords on September 18 and the other will be in the Radisson Blu Hotel in Dublin Airport on October 1. Both information evenings will run from 4.30pm to 8pm.

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The Interim Chief Executive of Fingal County Council, AnnMarie Farrelly, said it is important that citizens with views in relation to the development of Dublin Airport took the opportunity over the next six weeks to familiarise themselves with the Local Area Plan.

Ms Farrelly said: "Dublin Airport is a key driver for growth in Fingal. The Draft Dublin Airport Local Area Plan sets out the strategic vision and future direction for this key economic asset for a six year period from 2020 to 2026. The public consultation process is an opportunity for citizens to see what is being proposed and then make submissions in which they can state if they agree or disagree with what is being planned."

The draft LAP has been prepared in line with the objectives of the Fingal Development Plan, relevant national and regional guidelines and the transport strategy of the National Transport Authority. The draft Plan is a requirement of the current Fingal Development Plan and consists of a written statement and maps setting out a land use

strategy for the proper planning and sustainable development of the airport, in addition to a Strategy for St. Margaret's Special Policy Area.

The LAP provides a detailed planning framework for Dublin Airport and its environs and has focused on Sustainable Growth & Development, Surface Transport Access, Sustainability & Environment, and Strategic Flood Risk Assessment. It also considers future development of the Airport in the context of the local communities in the vicinity. Ultimately the plan will provide the policy context against which all future development proposals at the Airport will be assessed.

The need for the LAP arises as a result of the success of Dublin Airport over the past decade. Ongoing growth at the Airport is a national policy and is expected to continue into the longer term. Locally, the Airport is the single largest economic driver in Fingal generating significant employment and income.

Managing the growth of the Airport in a sustainable way is a priority for Fingal County Council and the draft LAP provides the framework to allow for ordered growth to take place while ensuring that growth will protect amenities enjoyed by existing communities.

Ms Farrelly said: "As a Council we are trying to facilitate the sustainable growth of the Airport so we can build on the strategic advantage of this significant asset to drive economic investment and continue to generate employment in Fingal."

Fingal County Council's Director of Planning and Strategic Infrastructure Matthew McAleese said: "This draft Local Area Plan is set against the background of the National Aviation Policy, 2015, which sets out, as government policy, the aim to facilitate growth of passenger numbers at Dublin Airport into the longer term. It has been prepared in the context of National and Regional planning policy and the Fingal Development Plan 2017-2023. Since the adoption of the Fingal Development Plan, we have been working on the preparation of this Draft Local Area Plan to provide a strategy that ensures that growth at the airport is sustainably managed for the benefit of the local and national economy."

Fingal County Council is also holding a separate public consultation process, which will commence in the coming days, on the proposed Variation No. 1 to the Fingal County Development Plan **2017 – 2023** which also relates to Dublin Airport. It is therefore important when making a submission to clearly state if it relates to the draft LAP or the proposed Variation No.1 to the Development Plan..



## Fingal County Council and Erigo Group announce new public art piece COLD WINTER TREE by Grace Weir

Fingal County Council, in conjunction with the Erigo Group is delighted to announce the commissioning of a major new piece of contemporary public art by internationally renowned artist, Grace Weir, for the impressive new Vantage Business Park located at Coldwinters, just off the N2 in North County Dublin.

**T**he Flood family, in association with Fingal County Council Arts Office have appointed Grace, to create a new bronze sculpture for the landscaped grounds of Vantage Business Park, due to open in 2020 is titled **'COLD WINTER TREE'**

Fingal County Council has introduced specific planning conditions in its County Development Plan, where all private developments of a certain scale proposed for the county are encouraged as a condition of planning to engage with Fingal Arts Office in commissioning an artist to make a piece of public art. Mayor of Fingal Cllr Eoghan O'Brien supported the initiative from the outset and commented : "Myself and my fellow councillors agreed to this unique provision in the recent development plan and we are delighted to see this exiting piece of art being commissioned as a result. I look forward to seeing these innovative collaborations between the business communities and the Fingal Arts Office grow to bring art to the public in exciting new locations"

The Erigo Group is a Dublin based, property development company constructing several large industrial buildings, which will be used as warehouses, production, manufacturing or office facilities. Its development at Coldwinters, Vantage Business Park, enjoys significant road profile as it fronts the N2, just off the M50 motorway, and is located in the Dublin Enterprise Zone, a pro-business environment. This particular art commission arises from the visionary and pioneering approach that informs all Erigo Group developments. The family business has demonstrated a real and valuable commitment to investing in the arts and culture.

These commissioning partnerships form part of Fingal County Council's INFRASTRUCTURE Public Art Programme under our "Buildings and Public Spaces" Panel. INFRASTRUCTURE was widely advertised by open call in 2018. A selection of artists from this prestigious panel were considered from this submission process for this public art commission. They were invited to develop detailed proposals by Erigo Group Director, Laurence Flood, assisted

by curator Aisling Prior and Fingal County Council Public Art Co-ordinator Caroline Cowley. Grace Weir was awarded the commission for her exciting concept for the site.

Grace Weir, whose family are the Dukes and the Weirs from St Margaret's, is an artist of international standing. It was this personal connection to the place that really sparked her interest in making a sculpture for the Coldwinters location. For this commission, Grace has proposed to cast a real, fully grown tree in bronze. This mature tree, with its trunk spreading and forking into smaller branches which will be growing in all directions, will represent a natural order of dissemination. Grace commented:

*"A three- dimensional 'bronze poem', the proposed 'word tree' sculpture will be dynamically read from different angles. While situated in a specific place, 'COLD WINTER TREE' will connect people's imaginations both in time and space to other locations and moments, both near and far."*

The sculpture will incorporate the bronze casting of words that conjure up the particular character of the location, Coldwinters, and the nature of the site and the activity therein. The new Vantage Business Park will shortly become a busy nexus, filled with activity as a site for manufacture, storage and distribution.

Grace is excited to be making a new piece of sculpture and looks forward to the challenge of casting a full size tree in bronze and said: "I value working in the public arena, outside of the gallery and museum, and engaging with people working in other fields. The personal, family connection with the area makes this commission particularly special."

Fingal County Council's Public Art Co-ordinator, Caroline Cowley commented "This public art commissioning process between Fingal County Council, the Erigo Group and the artist demonstrates a forward-looking and progressive interaction between the art and business and industries & is a flagship example of how to promote contemporary art in different contexts, for new audiences going forward".



# Councillor John Walsh

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**LABOUR** 



**The Parishes of Castleknock and Mulhuddart with Clonsilla welcome you to our upcoming Winter Fair. The Winter Fair will take place in the Parish Centre and Castleknock National School, Main Street, Castleknock, on Saturday 16th November 2019.**

**THE PARISH CENTRE &  
CASTLEKNOCK NATIONAL SCHOOL  
MAIN STREET, CASTLEKNOCK  
SATURDAY 16TH NOVEMBER 2019.**

**T**he Winter Fair a great, festive community and family event suitable for all ages. It is an important part of parish and community life and is our parishes' main fund-raising event of the year.

Santa will be making his annual visit and will be arriving with bells on at 11.30am. We also have a fantastic Winter Wonderland for all the kids and adults to enjoy. However it doesn't stop there, we also have a Kids' Zone with games area, face painting and a fantastic toy stall. Lots of activities and fun to keep the kids entertained!

The Winter Fair has lots of stalls suitable for all ages and tastes. We have a yummy Cake Stall stocked with lots of homemade treats. The Craft Stall is always popular. Why not stop by and pick up that unique Christmas gift or a special decoration for your own home. You can also take a rummage through the Book Stall which will has a wide range of books available – the perfect accompaniment for the cosy Winter evenings.

Then take a break, relax and chat at the Tea Cafe which has some delicious sandwiches and nibbles on offer. Or grab a Hot Dog outside and listen to the live Brass Band!

Once you are well rested and fed, search for a bargain in

Household & Handbag Heaven or find an antique at The Old Curiosity Shop Stall. And don't forget to visit the Good as New Clothing Stall. Perhaps you'll find that perfect item you've been searching for!

We also welcome all quality donations for the Winter Fair. Perhaps you've been thinking of making some room for some new Christmas outfits in the wardrobe, or you have a few good books you'd like to pass on. Or perhaps you're a great baker and would welcome an opportunity to contribute to a great day out. Donations are welcome in the Parish Centre from the Friday evening before the Fair so please don't hesitate to drop by with any quality donations (under Health & Safety regulations we regret that we cannot accept electrical items, baby chairs or baby/child car seats) you think would be suitable for the stalls.

We also ensure that all the items fit for resale that aren't sold on the day are given to charity shops. This ensures that waste is kept to a minimum and the thoughtful donations provided can continue to make a valuable contribution to another worthy cause.

Please mark Saturday, 16th November in your calendar and we very much look forward to welcoming you to the Winter Fair on the day!





Castleknock and Mulhuddart with Clonsilla

# Winter Fair

Parish Centre, Main Street, Castleknock.

**Saturday 16th November 2019**

11.00 a.m. - 2.00 p.m.

**Enjoy a great Family day out!**

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Our group meets every Saturday morning at 11am at the above address, the meeting is open and everyone is welcome to attend and discover what we do. Our members have recovered from a seemingly hopeless state of mind **and** body, to show other alcoholics precisely how we have recovered is the main purpose of our group, for them we hope it will prove so convincing that no further authentication will be necessary. The **only** requirement for A.A. membership is a desire to stop drinking, there are no fees to be paid. Alcoholics Anonymous is an international fellowship of men and women who have had a drinking problem. It is nonprofessional, self-supporting, multiracial, apolitical, and available almost everywhere. There are no age or education requirements. Membership is open to anyone who wants to do something about his or her drinking problem.

Alcoholism is an obsession of the mind that condemns one to drink and an allergy of the body that condemns one to die. (Dr. Wm. D. Silkworth), this is underpinned by a Spiritual malady that changes our actions and personality for the worse. The spiritual programme of A.A. if lived as a way of life, can expel the obsession to drink and enable the sufferer to become happily and usefully whole.

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# The Promise Maker

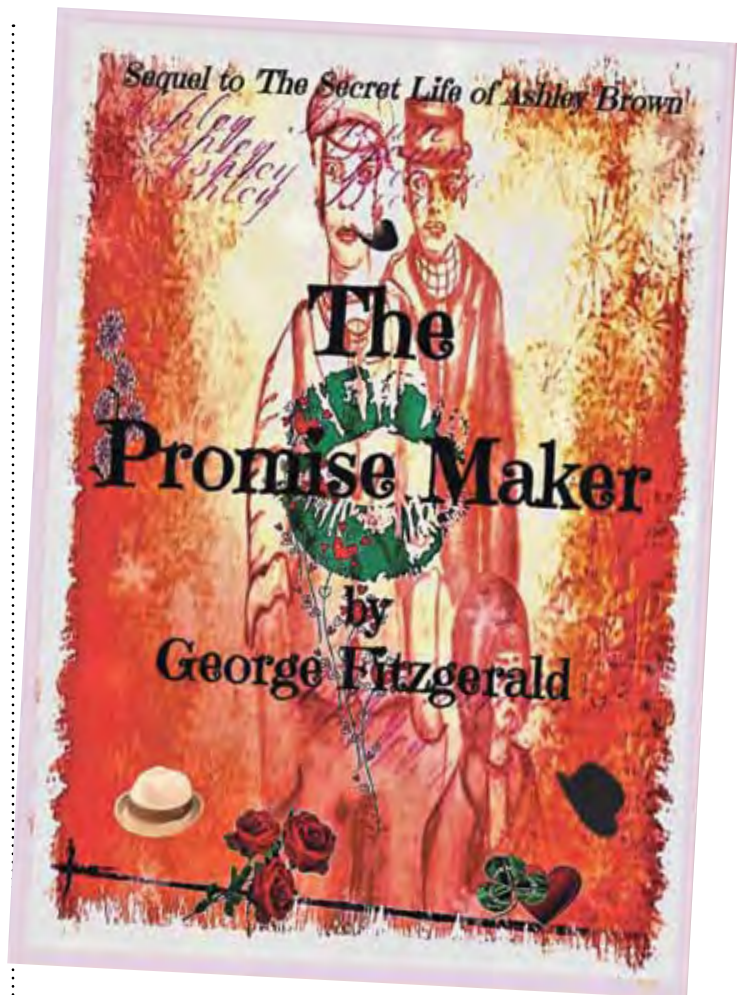
The director of the documentary series, “The Dublin Behind the History”, has just released a new book,” The Promise Maker”.

**T**he two-part documentary which was widely advertised as one to watch, is a mixture of realities and tales. Fitzgerald shows a nation in turmoil in the early part of the last century, but the name, The Dublin Behind the History, tells the real story of a hidden history of the working class people.

The documentary starts with the fictional character Ashley Brown. Ashley Brown is the central protagonist in the highly publicised book The Secret Life of Ashley Brown. She is the blonde bombshell who lives life from her ‘pillow clutching dream’ mind-set. However, life is not so kind as to leave her there.

In London, she falls into the hands of a man called, Mr Picador. Mr Picador shows Ashley the dark underworld, and at one point in a desperate bid to rid himself of her, he tries to sell her as a sex slave. The book has been described as beautifully written, engaging, on the edge of your seat drama. But this, not the book we are dealing with, it is the sequel called the Promise Maker, Fitzgerald’s fifth book. The book opens with Ashley Brown as she explains a phone call she received in the last book and the death of her friend. It is well after attending a funeral as the burial party set in the Addison Lodge that her aged friend Frankie is coaxed into telling his story.

Frankie born in 1930 in the lower east side of New York in an Irish ghetto, leaves there with his mother Nelly and the notorious Dubliner Paddy Smith in 1935 to find his home in the Dublin tenements. An area labelled as the town with the poorest slums in Europe. The novel follows the tenement experience of the young Frankie. It is here we join boyhood friends Harry-Boy and the crafty Slasher. Frankie believes that Paddy Smith is his father. In the tenement room, there is much conflict so in many ways,



he is orphaned to the streets. And again on the streets the brushes with the shocking Daisy-May. In the book, we encounter the other characters, the murderous Buster, and various characters. In a current radio interview, Fitzgerald revealed how with this novel he concentrated on characterization, explaining how the readers said the characters were very Dickinson.

Fitzgerald who is a radio producer and broadcaster, an award-winning artist a former boxer and it has been widespread news that he was the inspiration for the block Buster film the Commitments, being the founding member of the hit band, The D11 Runners. In a recent interview in the Daily Mirror, he said, that question may never be answered.



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# Shared Living

**Co-living development at Brady's should be rejected – application is incompatible with proper planning and will undermine quality of life**

**T**he shared living development proposed by Bartra Property for the Brady's site on the Old Navan Road flies in the face of proper, sustainable planning, is a missed opportunity to build real homes and would undermine residential amenity and quality of life in the local area.

Bartra Property are applying to An Bord Pleanála for permission to build a new Co-living development on a 0.317hectare site at Brady's Pub, Old Navan Road. The proposed development would involve the demolition of the existing two storey public house and restaurant and replace it with a much more intensely developed five storey (over basement) 'Build-to-Rent Shared Living Residential Development'. This will comprise of 210 bed spaces, with the vast majority being single occupancy rooms (182). This development will be located in the middle of existing estates in Talbot Downs and Talbot Court and will visually dominate the Old Navan Road area.

Shared Living is a misnomer for this development – it should more accurately be termed dormitory or barracks accommodation, although it is inferior to either proper student accommodation or a military barracks. Among its most negative features are the almost total absence of privacy or comfort for the occupants who will share communal living, kitchen and dining facilities on each of the five floors; the provision of only a single library/study on the third floor and abysmally poor amenity space restricted to the basement and ground floor. Even more ludicrous is that the proposal includes **only two car share parking spaces** for both occupants and visitors.

This application is being made directly to An Bord Pleanála under the current Government's legislation - the Planning and Development (Housing) and Residential Tenancies Act, 2016 and subsequent regulations made by the Minister for Housing under this Act in 2017 – which allows the developer to seek permission directly from the Board for developments of more than 100 units under the guise of strategic housing development. The application vindicates warnings by the Labour Party and other public representatives who opposed the decision by the Government in 2017 to remove local councils from planning decisions over strategic housing and undermine rights of consultation available to the public in bypassing a vital layer of democratic accountability.

There is nothing strategic about this application – it is all about maximising profit rather than addressing the real problems caused by the housing crisis. Co-living developments simply prevent the building of real homes for Dublin 15. Instead of facilitating co living complexes, the Government should support local authorities to address the housing crisis in a meaningful way by building more affordable homes with decent amenities. We need real homes which are affordable and linked with sustainable communities, rather than fake solutions which pretend that relaxing planning regulations will solve the housing crisis.

Planning permission was previously given for a substantial number of apartments at Brady's, but the developer is now trying to shoehorn in over 200 housing units on a site which previously had permission for less than 40 dwellings. By any standard the proposal amounts to over-development on a constrained site in a quiet suburban, residential area. A five to six storey development is



out of keeping with the existing two storey homes in the surrounding estates and is entirely inappropriate in its scale, design and overwhelming visual impact on the area. Moreover, the development will significantly damage local amenities for existing residents by acting as a magnet for traffic and on-street parking, while offering only substandard accommodation to the potential occupants. The development is incompatible with proper planning and undermines quality of life both for current residents and potential occupants of such a development.

We will be making a submission to Bord Pleanála asking the Board to reject this development. The planning department of the Council also have an important role in making their own submission and should apply the same critical approach which they took to a similar development in Hollystown. **Anyone who wishes to do so may make an objection to this development within five weeks of the original application (submitted on 18 September 2019) on payment of a fee of €20. Any application should include the name of the person making an observation; their address; the subject matter of the submission and the reasons and arguments on which the submission is based (which should have regard to planning considerations).** We would urge residents to exercise their legal right to make submissions relating to this development which will have a long-term detrimental impact on the area if approved.

Joan Burton TD

Cllr John Walsh



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# Govt failing to act on air pollution

Labour TD for Dublin West, Joan Burton, has accused the Government of being all talk and no action when it comes to tackling air pollution.

**T**he comments come as the latest report from the EPA said parts of Dublin city centre were likely to breach EU and WHO air quality guidelines this year.

Deputy Burton, who raised the issue in the Dáil today with the Minister for Climate Action Richard Bruton, said:

“There has been a noticeable deterioration in the quality of the air as one walks around the streets of Dublin, to which sufferers of asthma can attest.

“Ten times as many people die by air pollution than in road accidents in the European Union.

“The UN has stated the failure of governments across the world, including Ireland, to ensure their citizens can breathe clean air is a violation of the rights to life, health and well-being. The Clean Air Alliance claims that four people die in Ireland each day from the effects of air

pollution and that around 1,150 premature deaths in Ireland are attributable to air pollution.

“The Minister previously said that up to 6 June, 98 breaches of the daily air quality limit had been recorded in the State, of which 65 had occurred in Dublin, including two in the Phoenix Park.

“The EPA report pointed to our over reliance on cars as a major contributing factor to poor air quality. The reality is our public transport system is simply not up to scratch, with many parts of Dublin under serviced, and the shortage of cycling lanes means people are being forced to use their cars.

“If the Government was really serious about tackling air pollution it would phase out diesel buses much quicker. But despite its big announcements, the Government is all talk and no action on air pollution, its impact on the ecosystem and climate change.”

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## Local Councillor elected Chairperson of Education Board

Local Councillor John Walsh has been elected as Chairperson of Dublin and Dún Laoghaire Education and Training Board. Cllr Walsh, who represents Castleknock local electoral area for the Labour Party, was elected Chairperson of the Board at its meeting on 16 September.

**W**alsh said: ‘I was honoured to be elected by my colleagues as chairperson of DDLETB. The ETB plays a hugely important role in Dublin 15 through its support and oversight of local primary and second-level schools.’

Walsh added: ‘A key priority is to develop further education and training locally especially through post leaving certificate courses. New PLC courses are badly needed in Dublin 15 to act as a bridge to apprenticeships and decent jobs for young people. I will be working with the ETB and local schools to establish PLC courses in Blanchardstown.’

Cllr Walsh will serve as Chairperson for one year under an inclusive arrangement between members of the ETB which guarantees representation to politicians and non-political members of the Board, including parents and teachers, over a five year term.





# Department must listen to schools and parents on special needs education

Contribution by Joan Burton TD to Dáil debate on special needs education:

I would like to especially thank parents in Dublin West who over the past year have mounted a series of public campaigns through meetings, social media and through reaching out to journalists and other media to explain the story of their lives and their children's lives, and what they want in access to education, and what they want from a functioning system. I also thank Fianna Fáil for putting forward a comprehensive motion, which genuinely gives a flavour of the different problems at different stages in various parts of the country. It is important. This is a whole-of-life approach for the child and for the parents and family of the child. We have to become much more realistic in acknowledging that. I believe there has been a running away from that approach in the system.

We sometimes believe that if we partly address a problem it will be enough and we will not hear about the problem again.

I would like to give a specific mention to AslAm, a group of young adults affected by autism and, therefore, knowledgeable about spectrum issues, which has been lobbying on this issue and is very much a part of what has been happening in the UN in terms of the contribution being made by people such as Greta Thunberg to make us aware of the immediacy of the situation from the point of view of children.

The Minister corresponded with a number of schools in Dublin 15 in west Dublin to generate the education legislation. He will be aware of the shock of some schools, and the willingness of others, at being asked to provide additional provision. Some of these schools are DEIS designated schools that are not massively well resourced and are dealing with a number of children who have specific needs, not necessarily all in the autism area. I find the refusal of the Department of Education and Skills to put in place a proper schools budget very strange. No school should be asked to give up two of its resource rooms, as happened when the Minister's officials visited two schools in Dublin West. He will be aware that such rooms facilitate special teaching. The schools in Dublin West often have hundreds of children in need of special teaching and, therefore, these rooms are important. It is reasonable to request schools that have grounds and so on that they construct additional facilities but the Department needs to fund them. Schools do not have the funds to generate the special facilities required.

Scoil Mhuire in Blakestown in Dublin 15 is a DEIS school. The principal of the school set out the resources in terms of grants and so on to equip a special room. The school is to receive a set-up grant of €6,500, €2,500 for loose furniture and equipment and €5,000 for ICT equipment. The Minister will be aware that if he and his wife wanted to upgrade their kitchen and all the electrics therein, they would not be able to do it with such a small amount. Schools want to meet the requirements set for them but they are unable to do so with such small grants. There were floor to ceiling windows in one of the rooms I visited. I am sure the Minister's officials are aware that it is not appropriate to have such windows in an autism adapted room, which is supposed to be a sensory and safe environment. He will also be aware that replacing full length windows costs an awful lot more than the grants being provided. There is a need for detailed discussion between the schools and the Department of Education and Skills regarding what is required and how it can be funded. The grant for tables or chairs is approximately €2,500 per classroom to cater for six children plus a teacher and, possibly, one or two SNAs. It is not possible to provide the type of specialised furniture required with that level of grant. That is the reality. If the Department knows of companies that will provide it for that amount, the Minister might identify them to the schools.



On training for people wishing to work in the ASD or special class environment, according to the Minister in many replies to parliamentary questions I have tabled, the Teaching Council is the body responsible but it does not recognise people who have specialist ASD training, perhaps from other countries. The Department passes the buck to the council, which passes it to the schools, which, in turn, pass it back to the Department such that we are going around in circles. There are people who want to train and work in this area. The Minister has proposals to bring this area into the programme for the degrees in education. He needs to progress those proposals. There are people who were home tutors last year and would like to be home tutors this year but neither the Department nor the special education needs organisers, SENOs, have not yet communicated with them in that regard.

The Minister should declare that two hours per day in a primary school is not a full education. It is not possible with the kind of immersive programme we have for primary education, particularly at junior-senior-infants-first class level, for a child to be in a school environment for only two hours per day. In many cases, parents are required to be in the school for those two hours as well. This is not a provision of service. It is a patch, which is not good enough for people's precious children because they will only get one chance at education. I commend the Minister for the interest he has shown in this area and his desire to improve it. We need to make serious provision for this area in the upcoming budget. Many companies are making a lot of money in Ireland and paying no tax. The Minister and his colleagues in government should give consideration to some of them being asked to contribute to the education sector so that we can do what we want and need to do, particularly in the area of special needs.

We are making progress. The Dublin West model is one that could be used in the future. When Minister for Social Protection, I initiated a review by the chief medical officer of the Department of the domiciliary care allowance paid to families of children with autism on a monthly basis. As a consequence of the changes, the demand and payments per annum increased by approximately 20%. The same is waiting to happen in the education sector at primary level but even more so at secondary level. As a country, we have focused on provision at primary level but the Minister will know that the resources at secondary level are only 30% of what they are at primary level. The children who complete primary level have to move on to their next level of education when we have an inclusive programme.

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# The Debs

**The cramming has finished, the exams have been sat, the results have been received and you now know your destination for the coming year.**

**T**his is truly an exciting time for students who have just completed secondary school and sat the Leaving Certificate. No doubt, this is a time of change and an exciting time for most who look forward to the next step in their young lives. But before taking the next step as you transition into University, a trade or a full time job, there is one special night before all of this, the Debutants Ball, but as we like to call it, the Debs!

We all know how important an event the Debs is, but what is its origin and is it just celebrated in Ireland? A school's Debs, also called Grad or Grads, is a formal ball for students in their final year of secondary school in the Republic of Ireland. It is most commonly referred to as the "Debs" (from "debutante") but some schools (mainly boys' or coeducational) call it the "Grad" or "Grads" (from graduation). Each school organises its own ball, which usually takes place after the Leaving Certificate results are received in August.

So, who actually organises the Debs Ball and where do they take place? The organisation of the Ball of course depends on each school but this is usually organised through a collaborative effort of school teachers, parents and the students themselves. The Debs Ball takes place in a hotel where the guests usually enjoy a formal dinner, followed by a live band and hopefully a DJ after that to round the night off. This is of course before a nice Irish breakfast is enjoyed as all the fun and dancing will no doubt leave everyone hungry.

The burning question besides what to wear of course, is who to take to the Ball? This is of course the choice of each individual

student and someone may go with their partner, while others attend the Ball with a friend or by themselves. Gone be the days where the man has to invite the woman, nowadays it is just as common for the woman to invite the man. Regardless of this, the big question is "What are you wearing? Where did you get your hair done? Who did your nails? Where did you those shoes? Or which barber cut your hair? Where did you get your suit?"

*Little Village* has decided that no stone should be left unturned and we have created a checklist for both men and women. Of course, these are optional and depending on each person's choice.



#### FOR HER

- Hair styled/cut/highlights/extensions
- Make up (if preferred)
- Nails manicured
- Dress chosen and altered if necessary
- Tan applied (if preferred)
- Jewellery selected
- Shoes selected (wear for a couple days before the Debs, you'll thank us!!)



#### FOR HIM

- Hair cut
- Suit tailored
- Dicky bow/Tie selected (sometimes looks best if this is the same colour as your partner's outfit)
- Shoes cleaned and shined (a man can be judged by the presentation of his shoes!!!)
- Bunch of flowers selected for partner's mother
- Corsage selected for your partner, if preferred.

In recent times, it is not uncommon for some schools to have a Pre Debs Ball, but if this is not the case for you then Little Villages' Debs Ball Daily Planner might just come in handy. As this will be a long day and night and most probably roll into the next morning, the Debs Ball can be something of a marathon!! The most important start is to ensure you have a full healthy breakfast and dinner the day of the Debs Ball and plenty of water, you'll thank us later!!

To begin with, leave plenty of time to prepare; whether it's make-up, dress fitting and getting used to the shoes or heels, there will inevitably be a hiccup, such is life!! Ensure that the limousine, if hired

is given a call that morning just to remind them, sometimes even the best of us double book!! Try to relax in the lead up as this is one of the most enjoyable parts of the whole day and night. Be sure to arrive at the venue early, not too early to be hanging around but not late so you miss the meal, you'll need the food. When packing your bag, be sure to pack your mobile phone for those important shots and selfies, make up for those important touch ups if needed and most of all a pack of tissue as there will be tears!! The most important thing is to enjoy this special night before you start a new chapter in your life.





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# Communities4Environment Anti-Litter & Anti-Graffiti Grant Available to Community Groups

Fingal County Council Environmental Department has launched a competition where communities/ residents groups can apply for €2,000 funding.

**A**pplications are invited for the grant scheme which is targeting areas that have issues with litter and graffiti. These areas can be transformed into beautiful spaces for all the community.

Applicants can find further information and download the application form from the [www.fingal.ie](http://www.fingal.ie) website home page and email it to [communities4environment@fingal.ie](mailto:communities4environment@fingal.ie). Any community/ residents/ tenant/ estate group can apply but must be registered with the Fingal Public Participation Network ( PPN) <https://fingalppn.ie/registration/>. Typically suitable projects are listed on the application form and will target sources of litter, dog mess and graffiti.

Fingal County Council Environmental Awareness Officer Sinéad Fox said "I am looking forward to an enthusiastic



response from the public and I would particularly encourage new groups to apply. There are many suitable innovative projects you can try such as a mural to combat graffiti, having reusable cups at community events or creating a community garden in an area prone to litter"

This project is funded by the Fingal County Council and Department of Communications, Climate Action and the Environment. . For further information or any queries email [communities4environment@fingal.ie](mailto:communities4environment@fingal.ie)

## Fingal County Councillor, Natalie Treacy is delighted after a very long debate and support from cross party

**It was agreed that my proposal would be brought to the Environmental SPC for further discussion and for a report to be brought back to full council for a decision.**

**T**his was on the back of my SF colleagues in DCC and SDCC got similar motions passed.

"I would firstly like to thank to the manager for the very detailed response to my motion. However, it is not the answer I was hoping for especially due to the fact that in July my Colleague in Sinn Féin Cllr Dáithí Doolin got a similar motion passed in Dublin City Council. This was supported by FF, Lab, Greens, Ind and Social Democrats and last year my SF colleagues in South Dublin County Council also had this motion passed.

Actually, only last week in DCC they had a cross party meeting where Sinn Féin, Labour, Social Democrats, Independents and People Before Profit met with SIPTU & Fórsa unions and they all gave their commitment to work

together to take Dublin's bin service back into Dublin City Councils ownership.

I understand that this will be an expensive task but the cost of removing and disposing of illegally dumped waste in Dublin alone was estimated to be £1.1m. The privatisation of our waste collection is not working. It would be a better service for the public, better service for the environment and better service for the workforce if it was back under public ownership and managed by our local authorities.

I am asking that we give this serious consideration over the next 5 years and we start by setting up a working group to achieve this with members from all parties, council officials and the trade unions. Let's look into the pros and cons properly with a view to FCC eventually tendering for the contract to take back in charge our waste management.

I am asking all my council colleagues here today from all parties to take the first step today and let's have a discussion on us as a local authority taking back in charge our domestic wastes collection and pass this motion like our colleagues in DCC and SDCC and let's put a plan in place to move towards this happening."

# No time to waste on long-promised secondary school – Jack Chambers

**Further delays to the delivery of the long-promised secondary school for Castleknock/Carpenterstown are unacceptable, according to Fianna Fáil's Jack Chambers.**

**T**he Dublin West TD has called on the Minister for Education to urgently intervene to ensure the new school is delivered and to prevent further distress for parents and children.

It was hoped the school, which will be under the Edmund Rice Trust patronage, would be ready in time for the start of the next academic year in September 2020 at a site in the Phoenix Park Racecourse. However, the school board of management has advised parents due to delays with developing the site, the school will not be open by September 2020 and it will remain at its present temporary site for the coming academic year.

Deputy Chambers raised the matter with the Minister for Education Joe McHugh through parliamentary questions and asked the Minister to intervene in the matter.

"Minister McHugh has confirmed to me the school will not be open for the start of the next school year which is bitterly disappointing for parents, staff and teachers and those due to enrol next year," he said.

"This school has been long promised and is long overdue.

The Dublin West area is one of the most densely populated and fastest growing in the country and demand for school places is at an all-time high. It is unacceptable that this project is facing more delays and I am calling on the Minister to intervene now to ensure the school is delivered as soon as possible and that there are no more delays.

In a reply to the parliamentary question by Deputy Chambers, Minister McHugh stated: "A meeting was held between Department officials and representatives of the Board of Management of the school on September 3rd. In the course of the meeting the projected timelines for the progression of the project were outlined and the factors underpinning those timelines were explained in considerable detail. Following the meeting an email issued to the Board confirming the timelines for the project.

"For the school year commencing September 2020, the school will remain in its current location and plans are being put in place to provide the necessary additional accommodation.

He added: "My Department officials will keep the Board of Management fully informed of developments as they occur.

## The Exercise: Energise Multi-Sports Day is a knockout

**Fingal Sports Office's Exercise Energise Multi-Sports Day was launched on September 24 in the National Indoor Athletics Arena.**

**T**he Mayor Cllr Eoghan O'Brien, Fingal County Council Senior Executive Officer, Íde De Baitiseil and 2018 Women's World Boxing Champion Kellie Harrington were in attendance.

300 girls from eight post-primary schools across Fingal attended the Multi-Sports Day. The girls got to try out various activities such as Zumba strong, gymnastics, circuit training and Athletics (both Track & Field) under the guidance of accredited coaches from the National Sports Campus. Both the Mayor and Kellie Harrington were there to offer the girls their encouragement.

Speaking about the launch of this year's event, Mayor of Fingal Cllr Eoghan O'Brien said; "I am delighted to see an emphasis on sports for those who are not currently involved in sport or physical activity. Sport plays an important role in the lives of young people and I hope after taking part in the Exercise Energise Multi-Sports Day many of the participants will choose to make sport a regular



activity in their lives."

The Exercise: Energise Multi-Sports Day is held during the European Week of Sport each year and is part of Fingal's Sports Office's initiatives under the Federation of Irish Sport's 20X20 campaign. This year there was an increase in participation from last year's attendance.

The Exercise: Energise programme is aimed mainly at girls aged between 12-15 years, (First or Second Years) who are not currently involved in sport or physical activity and the primary objective of the programme is to help combat the drop off from sport among this age group.

The activities are mainly taking place at lunchtime and after-school. The girls are involved in selecting the activity and this has proven to be successful with over thirty girls participating in each school. The activities range from Judo, Martial Arts, Dance, Futsal, Basketball, Hip-Hop, Zumba and Gym work.



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# HALLOWE'EN



**October 31st, Hallowe'en is a very special time in Ireland, particularly for the children who have the opportunity to get dressed up and call on neighbours, family and friends and be allowed to openly put their basket or hand out and ask for TREATS. But the question I have is where did it really all start? What is the history behind Trick or Treating? Why do we all make such an effort to wear costumes?**

**H**alloween or Hallowe'en (a contraction of Hallows' Even or Hallows' Evening), also known as Allhalloween, All Hallows' Eve or All Saints' Eve, is a celebration observed in several countries on 31 October, the eve of the Western Christian feast of All Hallows' Day. It begins the three-day observance of Allhallowtide, the time in the liturgical year dedicated to remembering the dead, including saints (hallows), martyrs, and all the faithful departed.

## History of Hallowe'en

It is widely believed that many Halloween traditions originated from ancient Celtic harvest festivals, particularly the Irish festival Samhain; that such festivals may have had pagan roots; and that Samhain itself was Christianized as Halloween by the early Church. Some believe, however, that Halloween began solely as a Christian holiday, separate from ancient festivals like Samhain.

Halloween activities include trick-or-treating (or the related guising and souling), attending Halloween costume parties, carving pumpkins into jack-o'-lanterns, lighting bonfires, apple bobbing, divination games, playing pranks, visiting haunted attractions, telling scary stories, as well as watching horror films. In many parts of the world, the Christian religious observances of All Hallows' Eve, including attending church services and lighting candles on the graves of the dead, remain popular, although elsewhere it is a more commercial and secular celebration. Some Christians historically abstained from meat on All Hallows' Eve, a tradition reflected in the eating of certain vegetarian foods on this vigil day, including apples, potato pancakes, and soul cakes.

Today's Halloween customs are thought to have been influenced by folk customs and beliefs from the Celtic-speaking countries, some

of which are believed to have pagan roots. Jack Santino, a folklorist, writes that "there was throughout Ireland an uneasy truce existing between customs and beliefs associated with Christianity and those associated with religions that were Irish before Christianity arrived". Historian Nicholas Rogers, exploring the origins of Halloween, notes that while "some folklorists have detected its origins in the Roman feast of Pomona, the goddess of fruits and seeds, or in the festival of the dead called Parentalia, it is more typically linked to the Celtic festival of Samhain, which comes from the Old Irish for 'summer's end'."

Samhain was the first and most important of the four quarter days in the medieval Gaelic calendar and was celebrated on 31 October – 1 November in Ireland, Scotland and the Isle of Man. A kindred festival was held at the same time of year by the Brittonic Celts, called Calan Gaeaf in Wales, Kalan Gwav in Cornwall and Kalan Goañv in Brittany; a name meaning "first day of winter". For the Celts, the day ended and began at sunset; thus the festival began on the evening before 7 November by modern reckoning (the half point between equinox and solstice). Samhain and Calan Gaeaf are mentioned in some of the earliest Irish and Welsh literature. The names have been used by historians to refer to Celtic Halloween customs up until the 19th century, and are still the Gaelic and Welsh names for Halloween.

Samhain/Calan Gaeaf marked the end of the harvest season and beginning of winter or the 'darker half' of the year. Like Beltane/Calan Mai, it was seen as a liminal time, when the boundary between this world and the Otherworld thinned. This meant the Aos Sí the 'spirits' or 'fairies', could more easily come into this world and were particularly active. Most scholars see the Aos Sí as "degraded versions of ancient gods whose power remained active in the people's minds even after





they had been officially replaced by later religious beliefs". The Aos Sí were both respected and feared, with individuals often invoking the protection of God when approaching their dwellings. At Samhain, it was believed that the Aos Sí needed to be propitiated to ensure that the people and their livestock survived the winter. Offerings of food and drink, or portions of the crops, were left outside for the Aos Sí. The souls of the dead were also said to revisit their homes seeking hospitality. Places were set at the dinner table and by the fire to welcome them. The belief that the souls of the dead return home on one night of the year and must be appeased seems to have ancient origins and is found in many cultures throughout the world. In 19th century Ireland, "candles would be lit and prayers formally offered for the souls of the dead. After this the eating, drinking, and games would begin".

Throughout Ireland and Britain, the household festivities included rituals and games intended to foretell one's future, especially regarding death and marriage. Apples and nuts were often used in these divination rituals. They included apple bobbing, nut roasting, scrying or mirror-gazing, pouring molten lead or egg whites into water, dream interpretation, and others. Special bonfires were lit and there were rituals involving them. Their flames, smoke and ashes were deemed to have protective and cleansing powers, and were also used for divination. In some places, torches lit from the bonfire were carried sunrise around homes and fields to protect them. It is suggested that the fires were a kind of imitative or sympathetic magic – they mimicked the Sun, helping the "powers of growth" and holding back the decay and darkness of winter. In Scotland, these bonfires and divination games were banned by the church elders in some parishes. In Wales, bonfires were lit to "prevent the souls of the dead from falling to earth". Later, these bonfires served to keep "away the devil".

From at least the 16th century, the festival included mumming and guising in Ireland, Scotland, the Isle of Man and Wales. This involved people going house-to-house in costume (or in disguise), usually reciting verses or songs in exchange for food. It may have originally been a tradition whereby people impersonated the Aos Sí, or the souls of the dead, and received offerings on their behalf, similar to the custom of souling (see below). Impersonating these beings, or wearing a disguise, was also believed to protect oneself from them. It is suggested that the mummers and guisers "personify the old spirits of the winter, who demanded reward in exchange for good fortune".

In parts of southern Ireland, the guisers included a hobby horse. A man dressed as a Láir Bhán (white mare) led youths house-to-house reciting verses – some of which had pagan overtones – in exchange for food. If the household donated food it could expect good fortune from the 'Muck Olla'; not doing so would bring misfortune. In Scotland, youths went house-to-house with masked, painted or blackened faces, often threatening to do mischief if they were not welcomed. F. Marian McNeill suggests the ancient festival included people in costume representing the spirits, and that faces were marked (or blackened) with ashes taken from the sacred bonfire. In parts of Wales, men went about dressed as fearsome beings called gwrachod. In the late 19th and early 20th century, young people in Glamorgan and Orkney cross-dressed.

Elsewhere in Europe, mumming and hobby horses were part of other yearly festivals. However, in the Celtic-speaking regions they were "particularly appropriate to a night upon which supernatural beings were said to be abroad and could be imitated or warded off by human wanderers". From at least the 18th century, "imitating malignant spirits" led to playing pranks in Ireland and the Scottish Highlands. Wearing costumes and playing pranks at Halloween spread to England in the 20th century. Traditionally, pranksters used hollowed out turnips or mangel wurzels often carved with grotesque faces as lanterns. By those who made them, the lanterns were variously said to represent the spirits, or were used to ward off evil spirits. They were common in parts of Ireland and the Scottish Highlands in the 19th century, as well as in Somerset (see Punkie Night). In the 20th century they spread to other parts of England and became generally known as jack-o'-lanterns.

### Trick-or-treating and guising

Trick-or-treating is a customary celebration for children on Halloween. Children go in costume from house to house, asking for treats such as candy or sometimes money, with the question, "Trick or treat?" The word "trick" implies a "threat" to perform mischief on the homeowners or their property if no treat is given. The practice is said to have roots in the medieval practice of mumming, which is closely related to souling. John Pymm writes that "many of the feast days associated with the presentation of mumming plays were celebrated by the Christian Church." These feast days included All Hallows' Eve, Christmas, Twelfth Night and Shrove Tuesday. Mumming practiced in Germany, Scandinavia and other parts of

Europe, involved masked persons in fancy dress who “paraded the streets and entered houses to dance or play dice in silence”.



**Girl in a Halloween costume in 1928, Ontario, Canada, the same province where the Scottish Halloween custom of guising is first recorded in North America**

In England, from the medieval period, up until the 1930s, people practiced the Christian custom of souling on Halloween, which involved groups of soulers, both Protestant and Catholic, going from parish to parish, begging the rich for soul cakes, in exchange for praying for the souls of the givers and their friends. In the Philippines, the practice of souling is called Pangangaluwa and is practiced on All Hallow's Eve among children in rural areas. People drape themselves in white cloths to represent souls and then visit houses, where they sing in return for prayers and sweets.

In Scotland and Ireland, guising – children disguised in costume going from door to door for food or coins – is a traditional Halloween custom, and is recorded in Scotland at Halloween in 1895 where masqueraders in disguise carrying lanterns made out of scooped out turnips, visit homes to be rewarded with cakes, fruit, and money. The practice of guising at Halloween in North America is first recorded in 1911, where a newspaper in Kingston, Ontario, Canada reported children going “guising” around the neighbourhood.

American historian and author Ruth Edna Kelley of Massachusetts wrote the first book-length history of Halloween in the US; *The Book of Hallowe'en* (1919), and references souling in the chapter “Hallowe'en in America”. In her book, Kelley touches on customs that arrived from across the Atlantic; “Americans have fostered them, and are making this an occasion something like what it must have been



in its best days overseas. All Halloween customs in the United States are borrowed directly or adapted from those of other countries”.

While the first reference to “guising” in North America occurs in 1911, another reference to ritual begging on Halloween appears, place unknown, in 1915, with a third reference in Chicago in 1920. The earliest known use in print of the term “trick or treat” appears in 1927, in the *Blackie Herald* Alberta, Canada.

The thousands of Halloween postcards produced between the turn of the 20th century and the 1920s commonly show children but not trick-or-treating. Trick-or-treating does not seem to have become a widespread practice until the 1930s, with the first US appearances of the term in 1934, and the first use in a national publication occurring in 1939.

A popular variant of trick-or-treating, known as trunk-or-treating (or Halloween tailgating), occurs when “children are offered treats from the trunks of cars parked in a church parking lot”, or sometimes, a school parking lot. In a trunk-or-treat event, the trunk (boot) of each automobile is decorated with a certain theme, such as those of children's literature, movies, scripture, and job roles. Trunk-or-treating has grown in popularity due to its perception as being more safe than going door to door, a point that resonates well with parents, as well as the fact that it “solves the rural conundrum in which homes [are] built a half-mile apart”.

### Costumes

Halloween costumes are traditionally modelled after supernatural figures such as vampires, monsters, ghosts, skeletons, witches, and devils. Over time, in the United States, the costume selection extended to include popular characters from fiction, celebrities, and generic archetypes such as ninjas and princesses.

Dressing up in costumes and going “guising” was prevalent in Scotland and Ireland at Halloween by the late 19th century. A Scottish term, the tradition is called “guising” because of the disguises or costumes worn by the children. In Ireland the masks are known as ‘false faces’. Costuming became popular for Halloween parties in the US in the early 20th century, as often for adults as for children. The first mass-produced Halloween costumes appeared in stores in the 1930s when trick-or-treating was becoming popular in the United States.

Eddie J. Smith, in his book *Halloween, Hallowed is Thy Name*, offers a religious perspective to the wearing of costumes on All Hallows' Eve, suggesting that by dressing up as creatures “who at one time caused us to fear and tremble”, people are able to poke fun at Satan “whose kingdom has been plundered by our Saviour”. Images of skeletons and the dead are traditional decorations used as memento mori.

“Trick-or-Treat for UNICEF” is a fundraising program to support UNICEF, a United Nations Programme that provides humanitarian aid to children in developing countries. Started as a local event in a Northeast Philadelphia neighbourhood in 1950 and expanded nationally in 1952, the program involves the distribution of small boxes by schools (or in modern times, corporate sponsors like Hallmark, at their licensed stores) to trick-or-treaters, in which they can solicit small-change donations from the houses they visit. It is estimated that children have collected more than \$118 million for UNICEF since its inception. In Canada, in 2006, UNICEF decided to discontinue their Halloween collection boxes, citing safety and administrative concerns; after consultation with schools, they instead redesigned the programme.



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## Fingal County Council continues to deliver pipeline of newly constructed social houses

**Fingal County Council is gearing up for a busy second half of 2019 as its social housing construction programme remains on target.**

**D**ue to strong growth between 2015-2018, Fingal exceeded its targets under the Rebuilding Ireland Programme and provided 4,000 social housing solutions.

Fingal continues to have an ambitious social housing construction programme with building activity currently taking place on six sites across Fingal.

Keys are expected to be handed over shortly to 84 families following the completion of construction projects at Mulhuddart, Rolestown, Rivermeade and Balbriggan.

Regarding future delivery, construction is underway or about to commence on a number of other sites throughout Fingal. This is in addition to 200 new homes already completed and occupied on 10 housing projects across the County.

Fingal County Council is now implementing a three-year strategy, running from 2019-21, that will continue to deliver a pipeline of social housing and see construction start on the delivery of affordable housing.

A strong delivery pipeline of social housing is also in place in collaboration with Approved Housing Bodies on sites across the county including developments at Mulhuddart, Corduff, Dublin 11, Santry, and Lusk. Construction is

advanced on council-owned land in Mulhuddart where Cluid are building 65 new homes, including 22 which are adapted to meet special needs for disability and older persons on the housing list.

Director of Housing Margaret Geraghty said: "We are committed to delivering a strong pipeline of housing between now and 2022 on lands in our ownership and working with our partner Approved Housing Bodies and the Land Development Agency

"We are also working with private developers where building is taking place at over 80 sites across the County to agree the provision of social housing in private developments in accordance with the Planning Acts. These combined approaches ensure that Fingal will continue to deliver new social housing to meet the needs of people on our housing waiting list."

In tandem with the social housing output, the Council is advancing projects that will deliver new affordable homes over the next number of years. The Council has recently sought Expressions of Interest for the developed design, construction, delivery and sale of affordable dwellings on Council owned land at Dun Emer, Lusk.



# FUTURE STARS

More than 300 girls descended on the AUL complex in Clonsaugh for the 17th Fingal Festival of Football, which has become a fantastic showcase for girls' football in Fingal.

**T**he Fingal Sports Office used the event on Saturday 17 August to promote the Irish Federation of Sport 20X20 campaign which aims to achieve a 20 per cent increase in the media coverage, participation, and attendance of women's sport by 2020.

The Fingal Festival of Football provides opportunities for some girls to put on a club jersey for the very first time and also acts as pre-season warm up for the more established teams.

This year's Festival involved teams from all over Dublin, Meath, and Kildare, and over 89 players travelled from Donegal to take part. St. Ita's FC triumphed in the U14 Cup competition, and Bohemian FC beat Raheny Utd for the Shield. Meanwhile, the visitors from Donegal took home three trophies in the U13 and U12 competitions.

The event was organised by Fingal County Council Sports Office in collaboration with FAI/Fingal Development Officers Paul Keogh and Sharon Boyle.

Paul Keogh, FAI/Fingal County Council Development Officer, said: "We are delighted to assist Fingal's Sports Office with this great event. It provides for a fun-filled day and helps harness the great work of the volunteers who put in hours of work to ensure girls have regular football as without them there is no girls' football.

"We have seen great growth in girls' football over the last few years, especially in the Fingal area and events like this are



encouraging clubs to provide opportunities for girls to play on teams with their peers."

Niall McGuirk, Fingal County Council Senior Sports Officer, added: "We made a conscious effort to include girls in the Festival of Football nine years ago and it has grown from four U13 girls teams to a girl's only event with 40 teams and over 300 players from U8-U14 taking part in 2019. We hope that this event, combined with the work being carried out by the FAI, MGL and volunteers in clubs around Fingal, encourages girls to stay involved in football for many years to come and help promote the 20 X20 campaign."

Mayor of Fingal Cllr Eoghan O'Brien said: "Fingal's Festival of Football is a fantastic opportunity to promote and showcase the physical and social benefits of the sport. It is particularly encouraging to see the involvement of over 300 girls in the teams this year – football is for everyone, and I welcome the efforts of all concerned to make this a reality."

For more info contact the Sports office at [sports@fingal.ie](mailto:sports@fingal.ie) or 087-120-6431, or check out Fingal Festival of Football on Facebook.

## O'Gorman calls on OPW to provide clear timeline for responses to public submissions on Phoenix Park plan

**Green Party Dublin West candidate, Cllr Roderic O'Gorman has called on the OPW to provide a clear timeline within which it will respond to the 1,500 public submissions that were made regarding the Phoenix Park Visitor Experience Strategic Review.**

**H**e was speaking in response to a Dail question put down by Green Party TD Catherine Martin, which revealed that 1,512 submissions were made about the Review by members of the public.

"The recent Phoenix Park Visitor Experience Strategic Review has caused a lot of concerns among residents of Dublin 15 and Dublin 7. People who use the Phoenix Park on a regular basis are really worried that some of the proposals, like large temporary car parks within the Park,

will see the area being over developed. I asked the Green Party TDs to put a question to the Minister for the Office of Public Works to find out when the OPW will be responding to these public concerns", stated Cllr. O'Gorman."

"The reply from the Minister states that over 1,500 submissions came in. This is a very substantial number and demonstrates the level of interest amongst members of the public in the future of the Park. However, I was disappointed that the Minister wasn't able to give clear details on how the OPW will respond to these public submissions."

"While I accept that it will take some time to go through all these submissions and give them the consideration that they deserve, the OPW should be in a position to give a timeframe within which this will be done. There's real worry about some of the proposals contained within the Review and it is important that clarity is given as to whether the OPW are still going ahead with some or all of the proposals, or whether they accept that elements of what they were proposing were excessive", concluded Cllr. O'Gorman.

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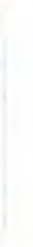
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