

PRESS RELEASE

"A brand new community centre for Swords"

Fingal County Council's official handover of the Applewood Community Centre to the local Community

Mayor of Fingal, Cllr. Gerry McGuire, officially handed over the keys of the Applewood Community Centre to the local community on 22nd of November 2011.

The Applewood Community Centre is part of a new 'shared facility' involving the Gaelscoil Bhrian Boróimhe, Swords Educate Together National School and the Community Centre.

At the handover event, the Mayor of Fingal, Cllr. Gerry McGuire, said that "Fingal County Council is proud of its role that allows the delivery of facilities through the Fingal Schools Model. This innovative initiative continues to provide greatly needed facilities to communities across Fingal".

The Fingal Schools Model was developed as a way of fast tracking the delivery of schools and community facilities throughout the county. In 2006 Fingal County Council signed an agreement with the Department of Education and Skills whereby the Council identifies school sites and assists in their acquisition. This arrangement enables modern facilities to be provided to both the school and the local community.

The Applewood Community Centre comprises meeting rooms, a dance studio, a children's activity room and a kitchen facility. Also included is a large multi-purpose Sports Hall, which the schools utilise during school hours and after which the community has access.

The facility will be managed on a day to day basis by a Shared Facility Executive that will comprise representatives from the Schools, the Community and Fingal County Council.

Speaking at the handover, the Chairperson of the Shared Facility Executive, Séamus Seaghach, said "the benefit of the shared facility model means more than access to enhanced facilities for everyone involved. The fact that the facilities will be in constant use means the investment is more than worthwhile".

The official opening of the Community Centre and the School will take in early 2012. The Community Centre is currently taking bookings for groups and organisations and the Centre Manager can be contacted at 01-8079582

ENDS 22/11/11