



## PRESS RELEASE

### Beach visitors urged to enjoy their beaches responsibly

*Fingal beaches are for everyone – make sure your behaviour doesn't spoil someone else's visit.*

Fingal County Council is this weekend reminding sun seekers who plan to visit Fingal's beaches to make sure their visit is a safe and enjoyable one. "We are fortunate to have magnificent beaches in Fingal that are free for everyone to enjoy", said PJ Howell, Director of Environmental Services with Fingal County Council, "but every visitor must stay safe and make sure their visit doesn't spoil a visit for someone else". "Everyone who visits a beach must take personal responsibility for the rubbish they generate and take it home with them when they leave", he said. "Street bins will be emptied as usual over the weekend but we're asking people not to leave rubbish beside or on top of full bins as this rubbish will easily get knocked over or blown around after they leave". "People will also be enjoying picnics", P.J. continued, "but they should remember that alcohol consumption is forbidden on our beaches and dogs must be on a lead in all bathing areas between 11am and 6pm each day". "It's the decision to be considerate to other beach users", PJ added, "that makes a day at the beach safer and more enjoyable for everyone".

The Council is also promoting a strong water safety message this weekend. "Despite the good weather, people forget that it's still very early in the year to consider venturing into the sea, especially for occasional swimmers", explained Declan Howard, Water Safety Officer with Fingal County Council. "Sea water is still very cold and there is a real risk of suffering hypothermia which can come on very quickly", he explained. "Our beaches won't be guarded until June and we are advising people especially children and inexperienced swimmers to stay out of the sea until then", he continued. "Anyone going wind surfing, boating, sailing or canoeing must wear a wet suit and lifejacket and jet-skis and powerboats are not allowed in bathing areas", Declan added.

For further information please contact:

Florence White, Communications Officer, Fingal County Council.  
Email: [florence.white@fingalcoco.ie](mailto:florence.white@fingalcoco.ie) Tel: 087 4141580

**ENDS 22/05/10**