

PRESS RELEASE

Council delighted to open new Ballast Pit Walkway in Skerries

The new Ballast Pit Walkway & Cycleway in Skerries, provided by Fingal County Council, was officially opened by the Mayor of Fingal Cllr. Gerry McGuire yesterday November 30th. The new floodlit walk and cycleway will greatly improve access to Skerries train station for the thousands of commuters and local walkers who have traditionally used this access route to and from the station and who have long campaigned along with local politicians and community groups for a proper facility to be provided. Most importantly, the new walkway is floodlit in darkness and is also fully accessible to all pedestrians regardless of age or mobility, as well as families with buggies and prams, cyclists, and wheelchair users.

The Ballast Pit Walkway stretches 120m across the Ballast Pit, is over 6m high at its highest point and 4m in width. It provides a 2m wide cycleway and a 2m parallel footway for cyclists and pedestrians. 16,000 tonnes of material was required to construct the walkway and a particular feature of the design is the modern, low energy LED lighting along the length of the walkway which was designed specifically for this project.

Mayor of Fingal, Cllr. Gerry McGuire, performing the official opening said "The Ballast Pit Walkway has been delivered by Fingal County Council during very difficult financial times and huge credit for this must go to the local elected representatives who have campaigned for many years for it". "In particular the members of the Skerries Liaison Committee including local councillors, representatives of Skerries Community Association, Skerries Tidy Towns, Prosper Fingal and Skerries Chamber of Commerce, working closely with dedicated Council officials, deserve special thanks", he said. "The Skerries Liaison Committee's achievements to date are remarkable and great credit is due to everyone involved" he added.

Funding for the Ballast Pit Walkway was only approved by the National Transport Authority as recently as February 2011 and construction by Kilwex Limited was carried out on time and within budget. Funding was provided by the National Transport Authority under its Sustainable Transport Grants Scheme. The project cost in the region of €400,000.

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