

PRESS RELEASE – 21st February 2011

GAME ON! – 9 Multi-Use Games Areas Delivered Across Fingal County

Fingal County Council in co-operation with the FAI and the Department of Tourism, Culture and Sports has completed construction of 9 Multi-Use Games Areas (MUGAs) across the county within the past 2 years, with the final facility recently opened in Howth on 16th February by Mayor of Fingal, Ken Farrell and President of the FAI, Mr. Paddy McCaul.

Guests of honour at previous openings have included Republic of Ireland Senior Football Team Manager Mr. Giovanni Trapattoni, and Assistant Manager Mr. Marco Tardelli. At each official launch, Fingal County Council Sports Development Officers were on hand to encourage local children to demonstrate their skills on the new pitches.

These MUGAs are located at Blanchardstown, Howth, Swords, and Rush and provide a modern facility for soccer and basketball and other ball sports on a sand-filled grass surface suitable for 5-a-side and individual play, and can be played all-year round. Delivery of these public MUGAs followed extensive public consultation and community involvement, through which suitable locations were identified.

Speaking at the launch, FAI President, Paddy McCaul said, “So far, the Football Association of Ireland in conjunction with local County Councils have launched 62 Mini-Pitches throughout the country including eight in Fingal. I congratulate Fingal County Council for their vision and dedication as they implemented this mini-pitch initiative with great enthusiasm and eagerness as they improve sporting facilities within the local communities in Fingal.”

“The creation of these facilities is proof that community partnership is alive and working well within the county, and highlights the importance of collaboration between the local authority, the FAI, the Department and the residents of the local areas. We would like to thank residents and community groups, tidy towns associations, schools, football clubs and scouting groups, who all contributed to the projects in their local areas” said PJ Howell, Fingal’s Director of Environment, Business and Enterprise.

“These facilities are a true success story, and achieved by the determination of the local people and supported by the many agencies involved in their delivery” he continued.

These MUGAs form part of Fingal County Council’s continuing commitment to the provision of quality recreational and sporting facilities in our Communities, which is also assisted through the provision of 9 co-funded Sports Development Officers for Football, Rugby, Tennis, Cricket and Sports Conditioning.

ENDS

Notes to Editors

MUGAs

- Minimum 30m x 20m
- No netting – Goals are fully integrated into the surrounds.

- Fully maintained and managed by Fingal County Council.
- These facilities are provided for community use.

Fingal County Council Co-Funded Sports Development Officers

- **FAI**

Denis Hyland	087 127 3242
Mick Pender	087 127 3258
Paul Keogh	086 044 4435
Martin Doyle	086 770 0772
Sharon Boyle	087 132 3260

- **Leinster Rugby** Christian Stemmet 087 911 8642

- **Tennis Ireland** Brendan Moran 086 835 1475

- **Leinster Cricket** Reinhardt Strydom 087 982 3402

- **Sports Conditioning** Owen McGrath 087 123 0624