



PRESS RELEASE

Official Launch of Ireland's Largest Allotment Scheme National Tree Week Closes with Major Tree Planting Event at Turvey

National Tree Week will come to a close on Saturday 13th March, and this will be marked in Fingal with two events at Turvey in Donabate, Co. Dublin on Saturday morning.

At **11am**, the Mayor of Fingal Ciaran Byrne, in the company of broadcaster and wildlife expert Eanna Ni Lamhna, will launch a Family Tree Planting Event at Turvey Park. Volunteers, families and local groups will then start on a major Tree Planting exercise and the aim is to plant 5,000 trees on Saturday..

Later that morning at **11.30am**, Mayor of Fingal Ciaran Byrne and Deputy Trevor Sargent T.D. will officially launch the new Turvey Allotments Scheme. This is the largest allotment scheme in Ireland and sees 225 brand new allotments released to eager GIY-ers. There will be plenty of representatives from businesses and organisations that support allotment users, with a variety of information on sheds, polytunnels, seeds or tools for example on hand for any brand new allotment holders

Hans Visser, Fingal County Council's Biodiversity Officer said "Fingal County Council has invested over €600,000 in this new allotment scheme, and it's been over two years in the making, so its great to see the scheme now launched. These allotments come in three sizes, and are clearly defined with water supply, proper pathways and good car parking facilities. All of the allotments in Turvey are allocated at this stage, however we're currently looking at providing allotments in other locations in the county, such as Skerries and Malahide, so it's not too late for people to put their name on the waiting list."

He continued "For the Tree Planting event, we would encourage everyone who can give up some free time on Saturday 13th to come and help plant 5,000 trees. Volunteers should wear warm clothes and wellies and if you have a spade, bring it along! It's a fantastic opportunity for families and children to take part in creating a valuable local amenity for the future.

Information on the Allotments Waiting List is available from Fingal County Council Parks Division at parks@fingalcoco.ie or T: 01-890 5600.

For further information please contact Ann Murphy, Assistant Communications Officer, Fingal County Council at T: 01-870 4453 or 087 990 8470 or E: ann.murphy@fingalcoco.ie

ENDS 10/03/10

Notes to Editors:

- Launch of Family Tree Planting Event at Turvey Park is 11am on Saturday 13th March 2010 with Mayor of Fingal Ciaran Byrne, and broadcaster Eanna Ni Lamhna
- Launch of Turvey Allotment Scheme is at 11.30am on Saturday 13th March 2010 at Turvey Allotments with Mayor of Fingal Ciaran Byrne, and Trevor Sargent T.D.
- Turvey Allotments Scheme features 225 allotments. The three sizes available are: 50sqm (45 allotments); 100sqm (100 allotments) and 200sqm (80 allotments).
- The Family Tree Planting Day is organised by Fingal County Council in Partnership with the Tree Council, Conservation Volunteers Fingal, and Birdwatch Ireland, and the event is sponsored by IKEA as part of their IKEA Family Woodland Scheme.
- IKEA has committed to a three year project and will donate a square foot of forest on behalf of its IKEA FAMILY members every time they swipe their FAMILY loyalty card in store. IKEA has a target to create 5 acres of woodland this year, at Santry Demesne and Turvey Park. The land is managed by Fingal County Council and the Tree Council of Ireland will assist in the planting of the trees which will be a mix of Oak, Birch, Field Maple and Alder. The IKEA FAMILY Woodland is part of IKEA's social and environmental commitment to have a positive impact on the environment.

FURTHER INFORMATION on IKEA Family Woodland Scheme from:

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