PRESS RELEASE

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Mayor honours Portmarnock CS World Cup winners

The Mayor of Fingal, Cllr Mary McCamley, has made a special presentation to students from Portmarnock Community School to mark their achievement in winning the World Cup for Students for the Advancement of Global Entrepreneurship (SAGE).

The four students - Colin McAndrew, Ravikanth Gollapalli, Ahmed Jouda and Luke Peyton - were joined by their families, teachers and friends at a special reception in the Council Chamber at County Hall, Swords, to mark their achievement in winning the SAGE World Cup in Odessa, Ukraine, last August.
with their project *Global Citizens Mapping the Future* which is a non-profit Social Enterprise Project making maps for developing countries.

Also present at the reception were Councillors Brian McDonagh, Tom O’Leary, Adrian Henchy, Darragh Butler, David Healy, Darie Ni Laoi and Anthony Lavin as well as Fingal County Council Chief Executive Paul Reid and representatives from the Lesotho Embassy, Action Ireland Trust and Social Entrepreneurs Ireland.

Over the last four years, using the OpenStreetMap website, the students from Portmarnock have mapped Lesotho – a country with strong links to Fingal – and have helped tackle challenges such as Soil Erosion, Unemployment, Disaster Relief and an inadequate Emergency Service.

“To win the SAGE World Cup for Social Innovation is a tremendous achievement and congratulations are extended to Colin, Ravikanth, Ahmed and Luke – as well all those who supported them on their journey,” said the Mayor.

“I was delighted to learn that Fingal County Council supported the early steps of this project which has shown how the OpenStreetMap website can be used to create electronic maps of a developing country to plan infrastructure, manage the climate and provide better rapid responses to appeals for assistance.

“Our staff, who set them on their way, have been extremely impressed at how the students built on their early efforts to develop a project capable of being judged the best from the 32 countries which entered this keenly contested global competition," added the Mayor.

The Chief Executive of Fingal County Council, Paul Reid, said: “This was a CSR initiative for the Council a few years ago and I would like to thank the staff and councillors for their support for this project. It has created a new role for international agencies to be looking at because this project has demonstrated what can be achieved.”

Responding on behalf of the students, Colin McAndrew thanked Fingal County Council, the Fingal Community and Portmarnock Community School for their support for the project over the last few years and added: “This is only the beginning. It did not finish with the World Cup, it is only the beginning of where this project can go.”

On behalf of Portmarnock Community School, Niall Fitzgerald said: “Education can no longer begin and end at the gate. Participation beyond the school gate is
so important and what Fingal County Council has done is lead a model of education that is critical to the future.“

Using the OpenStreetMap website the students recorded geographical information such as infrastructure, population densities and land use in Lesotho. Over the last four years, they, and their supporters, have generated over 24 million edits for their maps and established Lesotho as the most mapped country in all of Africa. Their work is now an acknowledged model for other developing countries that have seriously inadequate maps.

The students held 24 hour Mapathons, which were Mapping Marathons that allowed them to generate big data and organise it into information. That has been used to help solve serious challenges in Lesotho. From this, they created specialised maps, reports and new technologies like the Emergency Services app and a business development website.

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PHOTO CAPTION: The Mayor of Fingal, Cllr Mary McCamley, makes a special presentation to Portmarnock Community School students Colin McAndrew, Ravikanth Gollapalli, Ahmed Jouda and Luke Peyton to mark their achievement in winning the SAGE World Cup for Social Entrepreneurship.