June 15, 2017

PRESS RELEASE

Council honours parkrun volunteers

The eight Fingal parkruns have been honoured by Fingal County Council for their contribution towards the well-being of the county.

Presentations were made to the parkruns at Ardgillan, Donabate, Hartstown, Malahide, Porterstown and River Valley as well as the two junior parkruns in Balbriggan and Rush, after the June Council meeting at the County Chamber in Swords.

Parkruns are weekly, free, 5km runs, for everyone with the junior parkruns held over 2km.
In recent weeks the Mayor of Fingal, Cllr Darragh Butler, has attended the two junior parkruns and taken part in the six other parkruns and told those present that when his term of office finished on June 16 he would be focusing on achieving on some of his parkrun targets.

The Mayor added: “This presentation is an opportunity to pay tribute to the volunteers involved with the Fingal parkruns. I have seen at first-hand the excellent work that you do each weekend and I and my colleagues are very aware of the positive effects that parkruns have on the health and wellbeing of our community.

“On behalf of Fingal County Council, I want to thank you for your dedication and commitment and I hope that tonight's ceremony is goes some way to showing our appreciation for that voluntary contribution,” added Cllr Butler.

Various members of the Council also spoke and added their tributes to the volunteers for the excellent work they are doing within the community.

The Chief Executive of Fingal County Council, Paul Reid, said: “Young people need role models within the community and that's what you do every Saturday morning because you are encouraging wellbeing and healthy activities.”

In response, representatives of each of the eight parkruns thanked the Mayor for the presentation and paid tribute to Fingal County Council and its staff for the support they have provided since the first parkrun in Ireland was held in Malahide on November 10, 2012.

Since then it has expanded across the country to 62 different locations with almost 6,500 events and 100,000 runners.

Parkrun original beginnings were in 2004 when 13 runners got together on a blustery day in Teddington, England and today, some 13 years later, it is now an international movement of over half a million runners.

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PHOTO: Members of the eight Fingal parkruns pictured with Mayor of Fingal Cllr Darragh Butler, his fellow councillors and Fingal County Council Chief Executive Paul Reid.