PRESS RELEASE

December 14, 2017

Dublin Half-Marathon Review published

Dublin Race Series and Fingal County Council have pledged to implement the recommendations of the Dublin Half-Marathon Review which was published today.

The Dublin Half-Marathon, which was held for the first time at Newbridge House and Demesne, Donabate, on Saturday, September 23, caused major traffic disruption in the area which had implications for participants and residents. Both the Dublin Race Series and Fingal County Council apologised at the time for what occurred and jointly agreed to conduct an independent review of the event.

The Review has identified issues which occurred on the day and has made a series of recommendations for future events organised by Dublin Race Series and Fingal County Council as well as those staged at Newbridge House and Demesne.

The recommendations are designed to generally improve the overall planning and approach to events. These include:

- A baseline assessment of Newbridge House and Demesne, as a venue for hosting events, needs to be carried out.
- A longer lead-in period, with earlier deadlines for completion of Traffic Management Plans and Event Management Plans, needs to be implemented for future events.
- A protocol needs to be established for communication, clarification and sign-off for any changes to traffic management and traffic control plans.
- A Steering Group structure, chaired by a Senior Official in Fingal County Council, needs to be established to oversee similar large events held in Fingal.
- Below the level of the Steering Group, all ad hoc groups should be formed by the Steering Group with names, roles and responsibilities assigned and a reporting channel established.
- For events in Newbridge House and Demesne, which are likely to attract large crowds, a community liaison committee (CLC) needs to be established.
- A permanent slot on Joint Policing Committee Agendas for 'major events attracting large crowds' should be established.
- A review of the operational performance of each of the stakeholders for the Half-Marathon event should be conducted by each of them in order to identify areas where improvements can be made for future events of this type.
The Dublin Race Series and Fingal County Council intend to implement recommendations of the independent review.

The Chairman of Dublin Race Series, Jim Aughney said: “We would like to apologise again to all runners affected by the delay on the day. This was the first year running the event at this location. We had a full and comprehensive traffic management plan in place. It is clear however that there were shortcomings and we will take on board the findings to improve the Race Series for 2018. We will revert to the Phoenix Park for the SSE Airtricity Half-Marathon in 2018.”

The Chief Executive of Fingal County Council, Paul Reid, said: “We regret that so many people were inconvenienced by what occurred on September 23 and jointly commissioned an independent review in an effort to better understand what had happened and why it had occurred. We will take on board the learnings from this event and the recommendations from the Review and use them to strengthen the planning and management of all our events.”

ENDS

Note
The Review was carried out by former Dublin City Area Manager Charlie Lowe, who has extensive experience in managing the impact of major events on local communities and participants. As part of the Review, interviews were conducted with stakeholders, participants, local residents and local councillors while 136 submissions were also received.

A copy of the Review is attached.

For further information please contact:

Sinéad Galvin, Wilson Hartnell Public Relations
Tel: 087-6266816. Email: sinead.galvin@ogilvy.com

Gerry McDermott, Media & Communications Manager, Fingal County Council.
Tel: 087-2849995. Email: press@fingal.ie