Fingal Festival of Fire to return this Halloween with Blanchardstown and Balbriggan added to the bill

The Fingal Festival of Fire, part of Fingal County Council’s Safer Halloween initiative, is returning with an expanded programme this year which will see three communities host the family-friendly event, culminating in a “spooktacular” fireworks display.

Building on the success of the event in Swords over the past couple of years, communities in both Blanchardstown and Balbriggan will, for the first time, be able to enjoy the wonderful event on Halloween night.

The Festival of Fire takes place in Swords Town Park at 5.30pm. The fun starts in Millennium Park in Blanchardstown at 6pm. The event at Balbriggan Harbour starts at 7.30pm.
Funded by Fingal County Council, the launch by Acting Mayor Cllr Kieran Dennison took place at Millennium Park on Thursday (October 4) and was attended by the key emergency and support services.

In attendance was Fingal County Council Chief Executive Paul Reid; Chief Superintendent Finbarr Murphy; Supt Tony Twomey; Richie Hedderman, Assistant Fire Officer with Dublin Fire Brigade; and Fergus Byrne, Assistant Civil Defence Officer, as well as other community representatives.

Fingal County Council chief executive Paul Reid said: “Fingal County Council made a commitment to expand the Festival of Five last year. I am delighted to see that we are building on the success of Swords and that we are replicating the event in both Blanchardstown and Balbriggan to make Halloween a family fun event. We will be working with all the agencies to make sure Halloween is a safe time for everyone.”

Acting Mayor of Fingal Cllr Kieran Dennison said: “Let’s all get together to make Halloween a great time for families, children, animals and communities.”

Finbarr Murphy, Chief Supt for Blanchardstown and Finglas, said: “Halloween has become more and more of a family celebration and organised events make it safe for children to go out, enjoy dressing up, to have fun and to enjoy the celebrations of Halloween.”

“Our message is for people to be careful, to be well lit up, have an adult with them and respect everybody who is working on the night. Respect the Gardaí, the emergency services, property and the local community.”

Supt Tony Twomey from the Balbriggan District said: “I am delighted to be associated with Fingal County Council in promoting the event. It is important from our point of view to ensure the safety of children so they can enjoy Halloween. We are fully behind events that divert people away for uncontrolled bonfires and illicit fireworks.”

Richie Hedderman, Assistant Fire Officer Dublin Fire Brigade, said: “These events are very important in order to create awareness that fire and smoke can kill.”
On a broader note, he urged people to ensure they have a working smoke alarm installed in their homes.

Fergus Byrne, assistant Civil Defence Officer and liaison to Fingal County Council, said: “We want people and communities to enjoy themselves but enjoy themselves in a safe way and so they can go home with no injuries.”

Mick Harrup, Campus Manager at Mountview and Fortlawn Community Campus in Dublin 15, said the initiatives were all about ensuring a safe and fun Halloween for all the community.

ENDS

For further information contact press@fingal.ie.