

Your Council,  
working for you

Comhairle Contae  
Fhine Gall  
Fingal County  
Council



June 2021

Chief Executive's  
Report on Activities



*Passing the Baton - Mayor of Fingal, Cllr David Healy with Deputy Mayor, Cllr Robert O'Donoghue following their election at the Annual General Meeting in June 2020*



## Message from AnnMarie Farrelly, Chief Executive, Fingal County Council

In presenting this month's report I would like to take the opportunity to thank the staff of Fingal County Council for their immense effort, commitment and dedication. The level of activity presented in this report is reflective of the tremendous work that is taking place across every area of the organisation. I am so proud to lead an organisation where the staff have shown such resilience and innovation, a can-do attitude to everything that was asked of them and where we really demonstrated the meaning of 'In this Together'. It is evident that every staff member has played an important role in ensuring service delivery continued.

I am so pleased to see the County looking so well with lots of outdoor space for people to safely enjoy. The Council's Economic Development, Operations and Active Tavel Departments worked together to ensure that businesses reopening had support and assistance to create safe outdoor dining areas. The new measures have been positively welcomed by businesses and also the citizens who will enjoy these new vibrant measures in our towns and villages. An additional 2000 Dining Spaces have been provided on the public realm and the additional space will be integral to the viability of the businesses concerned who are reopening with limited capacity. The work of our operational staff in keeping our area maintained is to be commended and makes a significant contribution to the success of our towns and villages. It has been a busy time for all the staff involved.

With restrictions easing it was wonderful to see our Mayor Cllr David Healy attend a number of launches including the official opening of The Green in Malahide, the new playground in Skerries and the launch of the Bleeper Bikes extension in Skerries, launch of the libraries summer reading programme, MicroForest in Blakestown Community School and an art exhibition programme in Newbridge to name a few.

We remain committed to achieving the ambitious targets being set out by Government for housing provision and the disposal of land at Ballymastone was a welcome decision. We spent the last three years developing this particular model, which can deliver mixed tenure residential development as outlined in the Donabate Local Area Plan. I would like to once again thank the councillors for their overwhelming support for our effort to improve the supply of housing in Fingal and I look forward to this project moving forward to the planning application stage as soon as possible. There is great potential to increase housing supply right across the county as we progress our plans for Church Fields in Dublin 15, Cappagh in Dublin 11, Hayestown in Rush, Ballymastone in Donabate, and Hacketstown in Skerries where we are working with the Land Development Agency.

We are all aware of the ransomware attacks on the HSE and the Department of Health and unfortunately such attacks are becoming more and more common. The IT Department in Fingal took swift action following news of the attack on the HSE and as a precautionary measure have protocols in place to check that all Council laptops have all updates fully applied before accessing the Council's network. Prior to this event they had already been raising awareness of the cyber threats that exist and they are rolling out compulsory staff training on this important issue. Vigilance is of the utmost importance.

The Tánaiste's indication that people could be returning to the office in August is a positive sign that we are continuing on the right path and myself and my management team will be giving this much consideration over the next number of weeks ensuring that the safety of our staff and citizens alongside continued service delivery are our priority.

AnnMarie Farrelly,  
Chief Executive.

**Sustainable Swords**

Your Swords, Your Say

Creating a vibrant town for all: Take part in our public consultation survey at [consult.fingal.ie/browse](https://consult.fingal.ie/browse)

### HAVE YOUR SAY...

Sustainable Swords Placemaking Project Needs You! Get involved and help shape Swords

Full Details on Page 11

### THE ENVIRONMENT

Fingal's first 'Cycle Bus' launched at Castleknock Educate Together School

Page 14



### Features

**ANYONE FOR A DIP?**  
Bathing Water Quality Alerts  
See Page 5

**LET'S EAT OUTSIDE!**  
Outdoor Dining & Parklets  
Page 6

**RARE PLANT IN FINGAL**  
Gift from Kew Gardens extends the life expectancy of butterflies

Full details on Page 8



Comhairle Contae Fhine Gall Fingal County Council

# INSIDE FINGAL

## THE FINGAL COUNTY COUNCIL PODCAST

# Inside Fingal Episode 10 - Listen Now!

Episode 10 of Inside Fingal features Paul Carroll, Senior Engineer with the Planning and Strategic Infrastructure Department outlining the Council plans for Greenways and speaking specifically about projects such as the Fingal Coastal Way, the Royal Canal Urban Greenway and the Broadmeadow Way.

To date there have been 1,559 downloads of the Inside Fingal podcast and 921 internet listens.

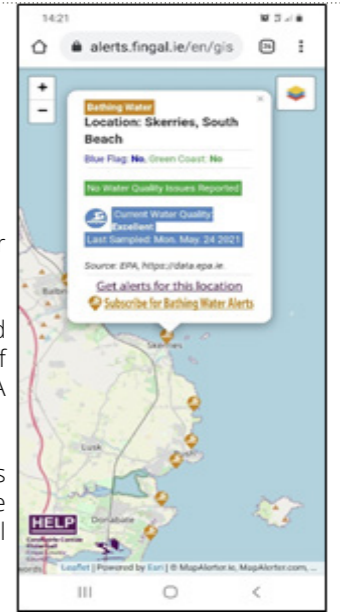
All podcasts in the series are available to listen to at [www.fingal.ie/podcast](https://www.fingal.ie/podcast).

# Bathing Water Quality Alerts

Fingal Alerts was updated in May and is now offering bathing water quality alerts for the 10 beaches in the county which are Identified Bathing Waters.

These alerts include bathing water quality results which are generally provided fortnightly during the summer bathing season and also any bathing restrictions if and when they are notified. The alerts are provided from data supplied by the EPA of monitoring carried out by the Council.

If you swim or use any of these beaches, then you can subscribe to get updates throughout the summer months as new results are published by the EPA. Each time the EPA publishes new results or notifications, you will receive an email from Fingal Alerts. This service is available at <https://alerts.fingal.ie/en/bathing-water-alerts>



# Website and Social Media Views

Comhairle Contae Fhine Gall Fingal County Council

NEWS EVENTS DIRECTORY FAQS CONTACT ENGLISH / IRISH ACCESSIBILITY TOOLS

VISITOR RESIDENT BUSINESS COUNCIL

### Latest News

04 Jun 2021 **INTEGRATION**  
Fingal County Council celebrates Pride Week 2021

05 Jun 2021 **CRUINNÍÚ NA NÓG**  
Cruinniú na nÓg in Fingal 12 June 2021

25 May 2021 **HOUSING**  
Councillors vote paves the way for 1,200 homes in Ballymastone

14 May 2021 **AFFORDABLE HOUSING**  
First sod turned on Fingal County Council's Affordable Housing Scheme at Dun Emer, Lusk

During the month of May, there was a substantial increase in the number of visitors to our website, [fingal.ie](https://www.fingal.ie), and in the number of page views. Unique visitors rose by 32% to 144,800 while page views rose by 50% to 474,200.

The Choice Based Letting Scheme and the Dun Emer Affordable Housing Scheme which ran on the website during May were contributory factors in driving traffic to the website along with Planning Applications and Job Opportunities.

May saw continued growth on our Twitter, Facebook, LinkedIn and Instagram social media accounts. On Twitter, we now have 19,636 followers which represents an increase of 570 since the start of the year. Our 248 posts received 1million impressions, with a 1.4% engagement rate.

Our Top Tweet related to the result of the special meeting to dispose of lands at Ballymastone, Donabate. It received 89,100 impressions and option selection, receiving 1,731 engagements, an engagement rate of 1.94%.

Choice Based Letting

Services & Community Support during Covid-19. Click here

# Top Tweet of The Month!

**Tweet**

Fingal County Council @FingalCoco - May 25

At a special four-hour meeting tonight councillors voted by 31 votes to 9 to approve the disposal of 28 hectares of land at Ballymastone, Donabate, which will lead to the construction of up to 1,200 social, affordable and private homes. Read more at [bit.ly/3uketfv](https://bit.ly/3uketfv)

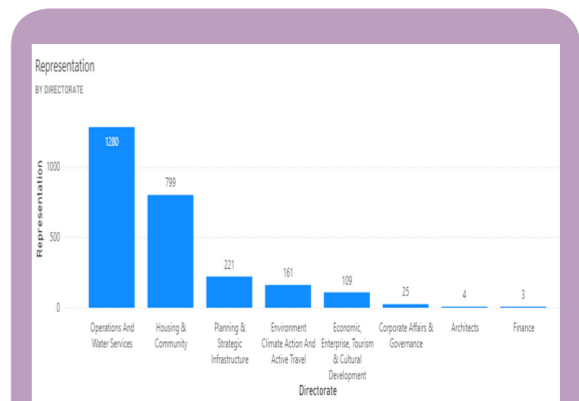
You and 9 others

12 21 57

# Customers Calling!

For the month of May 2021, the Council's Customer Care Agents dealt with a total of:

- 16,669 telephone calls
- 1,054 emails



# Staff Process 425 Councillors Reps in May

Staff continue to work on the Customer Relationship Management System (CRM) and issue responses to Councillors representations and complaints submitted by the public.

The month of May had a total of 425 Councillor's representations with an overall total of 2,602 in the year to date.

The table shows the breakdown of representations to each Directorate with Operations and Water Services receiving 1,280 followed by Housing and Community at 799.





## Outdoor Dining Scheme & Parklet Partners Helping Fingal Businesses

The Outdoor Dining Scheme is funded by Fáilte Ireland and seeks to assist the hospitality and tourism sector to increase their outdoor dining capacity.

The call for applications for grants of up to €4,000 aims to help businesses to upgrade and enhance venues and public space and implement weather-proofing solutions to facilitate outdoor dining all year round.

The Scheme provides funding for outdoor tables, chairs, umbrellas, electric heaters, screens and windbreaks etc. Expenditure must be incurred between 1st April 2020 and 30th September 2021. The Economic, Enterprise, Tourism & Cultural Department are currently validating and processing completed applications. Further information on the Scheme is available on the Council’s website and applications can be made at [www.fingal.ie/outdoordining](http://www.fingal.ie/outdoordining). We await details of the new scheme announced by An Tanaiste for weatherproofing for non food serving premises and we will advise the Members of same when received.

The Council’s second call under the Parklet Partners” initiative aims to support local businesses by transforming the existing streetscape into a welcoming and attractive community space. The parklet, which accommodates dining space and additional seating,

is aimed at encouraging people back into the centre of towns and villages while complying with public health guidance. The deadline for applications was the 28th May and 50 no. applications were received.

The Council has been engaging with the businesses who have applied and the installation of parklets is underway at locations across the county. The parklet above is being shared between Keelings, the 2 adjacent shops, illustrating the collaboration and mutual support at the heart of the Fingal In It Together Charter.



## D15 MicroForest Launch

This month, students of Blakestown Community School proudly launched their MicroForest of over 450 broadleaf trees on the school grounds. This beautiful concept of planting a forest outside of their art classroom was developed by artist Gareth Kennedy in partnership with Eoin Donnelly. The art project, initiated by Fingal Arts Office and Superprojects, involved seasonal art and ecology activities. It included wood splitting, wood turning, mulching and tree planting while learning about the ecology of our native woodlands and contemporary art practice in the open air. The Mayor of Fingal, Cllr. David Healy, officiated at the private launch and congratulated the students, school staff and artists.



## The Future is Bright

Students from Fingal have taken the Special Merit prize in Intermediate category at the National Final of this year’s Student Enterprise Programme (SEP) on May 14th. The Finals of the Local Enterprise Office (LEO) initiative were broadcast virtually from Croke Park with An Tánaiste Leo Varadkar and Ambassador Derval O’Rourke speaking, as students and teachers watched on from across the country.

Supported by LEO Fingal, the students of Loreto Balbriggan won Special Merit prize in Intermediate category. The winning students were Emily Carroll, Lucy Barnwell,

and Hannah Barnwell, who worked under the guidance of their teacher, Paula Gartland. Their student enterprise was called: ‘Bee Happy’.

In the Junior Category, Swords Community College represented Fingal with their business “Mask Company,” a mask-manufacturing business created by students James Fitzgerald, Ben Reilly, Mikey McCann, and Roan Fletcher. In the Senior Category of the competition, Fingal was represented by students Robert Doyle and Cillian Hayes at St. Fintan’s Highschool in Sutton, with their business “Dublin Sanitize.”

Cruinniú na nÓg is a national day of free creativity for children and young people, and along with other departments in the Council, Libraries have a great range of events lined up. Starting on the 12th June, the Story Trail project set in the beautiful location of Ardgillan Castle and Demesne, aims to create a family experience that combines creativity, literacy and exercise in a fun and interactive way.

Niamh Sharkey, (pictured), author, illustrator and former Children’s Laureate has kindly given Fingal County Council permission to display her book “The Ravenous Beast” along the Storytrail, and has also agreed to do a book-reading and draw-along which are also planned to take place in Ardgillan

Pages of Niamh’s wonderful book will be mounted on custom made posts dotted all along a forest walking trail adding an element of delight to the already glorious surroundings. The good news is that because the project is outdoors and self-paced, with people accessing it in their family units, the trail is Covid friendly. Copies of “The Ravenous Beast” will be distributed to junior infant classes in the local area and Fingal Book-fairies have promised to fly into 6 other Fingal parks on the 12th June to distribute copies of the book!



## Small Business Assistance Scheme for COVID (SBASC)

The Economic, Enterprise, Tourism & Cultural Development Department are currently validating and processing all completed applications for Q1 and have paid out €520k to date.

The Department of Enterprise Trade & Employment has recently launched the Small Business Assistance Scheme for COVID (SBASC) for Q2, 2021 and DETE has extended eligibility for the €60m Small Business Assistance Scheme for COVID (SBASC) to include businesses operating from a non-rateable premises such as a home business or yard.

SBASC gives grants to businesses who are not eligible for the Government’s COVID Restrictions Support Scheme (CRSS), the Fáilte Ireland Business Continuity grant or other direct sectoral grant schemes. This scheme aims to help

businesses with their fixed costs, for example, rent, utility bills, security.

The Q2 scheme covers the period 1 April 2021 to 30 June 2021. Those who applied under Phase 1 are still eligible to apply for a second payment of €4,000 if they continue to meet the criteria which is set out in Frequently Asked Questions.

Each eligible applicant will receive a payment of €4,000 or €1,000 depending on their turnover and if they meet the criteria which is set out in the FAQs.

The closing date for applications for the Q2 grant under SBASC is 21 July 2021.



## Rare plant kindly gifted to Malahide Demesne from Kew Gardens

Psiguria is a genus of flowering plants belonging to the family Cucurbitaceae (Cucumber family). Its native range is Mexico through Tropical America. Kew Gardens gifted the Talbot Botanical Gardens in Malahide Demesne a rare Psiguria warscewicii plant when the butterfly house opened.

A visitor might look at this plant and ask why we keep it. The genus Heliconius (Longwing) butterflies that hang all over the sparse, Cheetos-orange blossoms. To them, Psiguria is the most beautiful thing in the glasshouse. To understand the attraction, it helps to know that Heliconius butterflies have an unusual ability for butterflies. They can digest pollen and use the proteins. All adult butterflies get food with a proboscis – a straw-like tube that can only drink liquids. But the Heliconius butterflies produce a fluid that can dissolve the protein in pollen granules and turn it into liquid form. They essentially use their saliva to turn pollen into a nutritious protein drink.

Psiguria co-evolved with the Heliconius to meet the butterfly's pollen needs, while the butterfly meets the plant's pollination needs. By digesting this pollen, the average life range of the Heliconius is extended by 10 times e.g. if the normal lifespan is 3 days by digesting this pollen it can extend to 30 days. Unfortunately, the same cannot be said for humans. Psiguria warscewicii is quite a difficult plant to propagate. Staff in the Talbot Botanical gardens have successfully propagated it by placing cuttings in water with added rooting hormone.

This information has been gladly exchanged with staff in Kew gardens.

## Stunning Florals in 15 Fingal Locations

The installation of the 2021 Summer Floral Displays has commenced in 15 locations across the main large Urban Centres in Fingal. All should be in place by the end of the second week of June. For the smaller villages, the Council has been providing planters/baskets at the request of the local voluntary groups.

All the individual Fingal Tidy Towns groups have requested different type of support when it comes to Floral Display assistance and requests have been accommodated where feasible through the annual Floral/Bulb Display provision or via the annual Programme of Works planned works.



## Newbridge Demesne's New Facilities

*The construction of a new modern toilet building at Newbridge Demesne Playground is almost complete. The building will provide for 5 direct entry unisex toilets with full disability specification and baby changing units.*

*There is also a separate fully certified 'Changing Places' toilet room that is being installed as part of a 4-location installation across Fingal.*



## Non-Chemical Weed Control Trials Commence



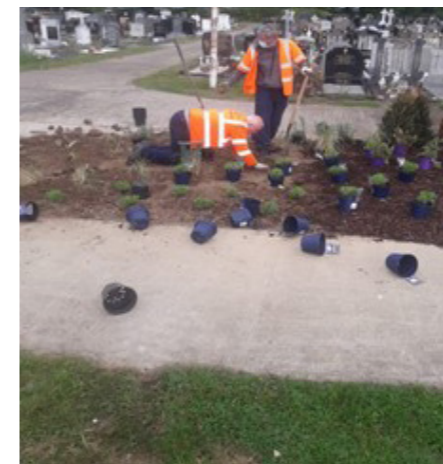
The Viaduct Cobble Area in Balbriggan



Vauxhall Street in Balbriggan

As part of the Councils plan to trial non-chemical weed control methods across 8 separate locations in Fingal, the process commenced in Balbriggan on 1st June 2021. Sites were chosen for their different challenges and examples of the different types weed control measures required. This trial is for the Hot Foam application method which is suitable in dry or wet conditions and involves saturating the weeds in a hot foam mixture containing natural vegetable oils and sugars at a temperature of 70 degrees. The selected sites will have this treatment applied in June and again in September. The results will be evaluated at the end of 2021 as part of the overall aim to continue to search for alternatives to the usual chemical weed control products traditionally used.

## Mulhuddart Cemetery Improvement Works



The Operations Department recently commenced improvement works in Mulhuddart Cemetery with the removal of the dividing wall to the newer part of the cemetery and re-landscaping of the area. This has opened up the cemetery allowing clear views from the carpark. New Yew and Birch trees have been planted in addition to pollinator friendly plants such as African Lily (Agapanthus), Goldsturm (Rudbeckia), Feather reed grasses (Calamagrostis), Woodland Sage and Catnips (Nepeta) which attracts lots of bees. New benches have been installed giving families an opportunity to sit and contemplate. Further works are planned on the boundary treatment, gates and car park.



## Fingal Development Plan 2023 - 2029

The first round of consultation on the review of the current Fingal Development Plan and preparing the new Fingal Development Plan 2023-2029 closed on 12th May.

During this 8-week consultation, an Information Booklet, summarising the seven themes contained in the Strategic Issues Paper, was distributed to households across Fingal. Four online consultation seminars and several prescribed bodies workshops took place. These were all well received and attended. 551 Submissions have been received. These are currently being summarised and will form the basis of the Chief Executive's Report which will issue in early July.

The Development Plan process is scheduled to run for the next two years and will involve three public consultation stages before the final plan is adopted by Councillors in February 2023. The current stage, which is known as the pre-draft, sets out the strategic direction for the Plan and will form the framework into which objectives and policies at the subsequent stages will sit.

Fingal Development Plan 2023-2029

**It's good to plan ahead. It's better to talk first.**

Let's talk Fingal.

[www.fingal.ie/developmentplan](http://www.fingal.ie/developmentplan)

Join the conversation

Comhairle Contae Fhine Gall Fingal County Council

STARTING NOW

## FCC aiming for 8 Estates to be Taken In Charge

There were no estates taken in charge during May, but we are aiming for 8 estates in June which will be an all-time record monthly number for Building Control/TIC. Proposed estates are: Castlecurragh Estate, Dublin 15, Rokeby Park, Phase 2, Lucan, Co. Dublin, Hawthorn Lawn, Castleknock, Dublin 15, Park Manor, Castleknock, Dublin 15, Hazel Court, Portmarnock, Co. Dublin, St. Mary's, Baldoyle, Dublin 13, Scotchstone Court, Swords, Co. Dublin, Kenure Gate, Rush, Co. Dublin.

- We have 49 Developments with formal TIC requests and a further 279 developments on our system, of which 62 are likely to remain private.

- Phase 1 Tender for TIC works on the following estates - Chieftain's way, Martello, New Haven Bay is now evaluated and is about to be awarded to the winning Contractor, there was a delay due to outstanding items to be agreed with Irish Water. Phase 2 Tender for TIC works - Drynam, is about to be awarded.



## Progress on all-weather Pitch Project for Ward River Valley Park, Swords

The second and final stage of the tender process to construct the all-weather pitch and car park at Ward River Valley Park has been published. The new third generation synthetic all-weather pitch will be a full sized GAA & Soccer pitch, similar to the facility at Broomore Regional Park in Balbriggan. The new floodlight facility will be accompanied by car, coach and bicycle parking to service the needs of the pitch users and to improve access to the park. Subsequent to contract award, construction works for the pitch are scheduled to start in Q4 this year and it is anticipated that works will take 6-8months to substantial completion. The new facility will become a valuable sporting amenity for the people of Swords and wider area.

Work completed on the project to date has involved:

- Landscape & Visual Impact assessment & mitigation (in terms of adjacent heritage gardens)
- Bat survey and design specification of floodlights to lessen impact
- Part 8 planning approval
- Archaeological investigation, reporting and test trenching
- Procurement of sports surface consultant to prepare performance specification
- Procurement and shortlisting of 5 specialist project teams capable of constructing the facilities
- Procurement of Quantity surveying consultancy services to support the phases of the project lifecycle
- Enabling works to facilitate targeted tree removals on site
- Preliminary design and performance specification for SuDS car park and new road entrance including public lighting
- Pre connection inquiries with utility providers including ESB networks to ensure there was capacity
- Site investigation of existing wastewater infrastructure
- Negotiation of build over agreement with Irish water.

Sustainable Swords

**Your Swords, Your Say**

Creating a vibrant town for all: Take part in our business consultation survey at [consult.fingal.ie/browse](http://consult.fingal.ie/browse)

Comhairle Contae Fhine Gall Fingal County Council

## Get involved and help Shape Sustainable Swords

The first consultation element of the Sustainable Swords project launched on 14th May 2021. Fingal County Council is urging local residents and stakeholders to get involved in the Sustainable Swords placemaking project which is focused on the regeneration and compact, sustainable development of the town.

The ambition of Sustainable Swords is to provide a multi-faceted approach to the planning, design and management of new development and spaces, as well as the protection and enhancement of existing assets in order to achieve better quality places as the physical setting for life in Swords.

Fingal has appointed KPMG Future Analytics and Turner & Townsend to work with the Planning & Strategic Infrastructure Department to develop this Strategy.

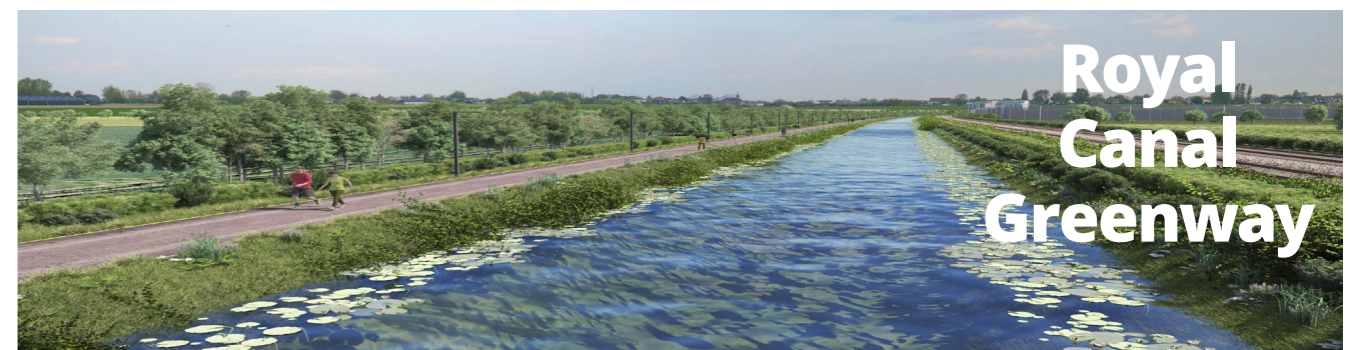
Two surveys have now opened as part of the consultation process and local residents, businesses and interested

stakeholders are urged to get involved. More details on the project and the surveys can be found at [www.fingal.ie/sustainableswords](http://www.fingal.ie/sustainableswords) or <https://consult.fingal.ie/en/surveys>.

The aim of Sustainable Swords is to identify a co-ordinated range of 'pipeline' projects for which future funding can be sought.

Work has already begun to consult with local school children. An Taisce's Green Schools are part of the project team and will be engaging with over 7,500 primary and secondary school students, undertaking audits of walkability and cyclability, and engaging with parents and students to understand what the children of Swords want their future to look like.

The Sustainable Swords strategy, which will include detail on a range of transformational projects, will be published in early 2022.



The public consultation for the Fingal Coastal Way route options recently closed and will now be reviewed by the project team. The consultation on the Royal Canal Greenway recently commenced and several briefings for elected representatives and local residents were undertaken in tandem with the online display of a large amount of information, reports, drawings and visual materials. Public consultation on the N3 Upgrade M50-Clonee is also currently underway via the Fingal consultation portal, and leaflet drops, and social media postings are ongoing to promote the consultation.



## Delivery of 31 Homes for Older Persons in Dublin 15

The construction of new homes specifically for older people is a priority under Pillar 2 of the Rebuilding Ireland Action Plan. Older persons have specific housing requirements such as being in proximity to their family and social networks and the need for access to public and other essential services, recreation and amenities.

The Council in partnership with FOLD Housing have delivered 31 homes specifically to accommodate older persons at Abelard Square, located in the Phoenix Park Racecourse. These homes were acquired under the Part V process from the developer and were allocated to older persons nominated by Fingal County Council.

Residents and management in the new-build development have a suite of automated and monitored energy and wellness services, controllable via a smartphone app. The new wellness suite of services includes motion and connected health monitoring - allowing loved ones and carers to either communicate in real time with the resident or be notified of changes in their routine if required. The wellness suite learns usual behaviours within a living space and then recognises changes which in turn triggers agreed alerts. This means if there is any issue with the tenant falling or collapsing FOLD will receive an alert and can make contact to arrange immediate assistance.

At the centre of the suite is a wellness cam which allows family members




and carers to virtually drop in on residents via voice and video to see if they are well. This plug-and-play technology is about peace of mind for families, and people in charge of residents. Similarly, connected health devices such as blood pressure or diabetes monitors link with the hub, allowing nominated people, including medical professionals, to view a dashboard of current stats.

The properties are adapted to meet the changing needs of the residents. The smart zone system allows residents to age in place and can help to ease the transition to old age by avoiding unnecessary visits to the emergency departments or costly nursing home care, many older people want to remain in their homes and expect to live their days out in their current residence. Technological advances installed in these apartments at Abelard will benefit the residents and allows FOLD Housing to provide personal centred housing solutions.

The Housing Department are committed to delivering accommodation suitable for older persons across the county. We are currently working in partnership with Tuath Housing to design a development which will deliver 31 homes specifically designed to accommodate older persons on a Council owned site at Kilhedge Lane, Lusk.

Details of this scheme will be presented to the Area Committee in the coming months.



## 316 Applications for Dun Emer Housing Scheme

Applications for the Dun Emer Affordable House Purchase Scheme closed on 31st May at 5.00pm.

The Council received 316 completed applications via the on line application portal in relation to the 39 affordable homes available for purchase by eligible first time buyers.

These applications will now be assessed in accordance with the Scheme of Priority adopted by the Council.



## Waking up to The Fingal Integration Forum!

The Fingal Integration Officer is currently supporting the development of the Fingal Integration Forum. They recently hosted Africa Day 2021 with funding from the Department of Foreign Affairs / Africa Aid.

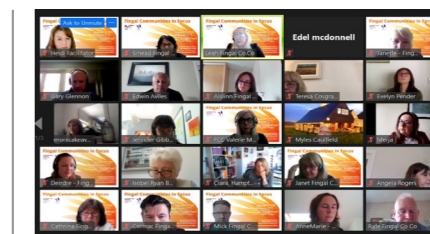
On May 25, Forum members went to Virgin Media Studios and helped Ireland AM celebrate Africa Day! They also hosted an event in Fingal which was launched by Mayor of Fingal Cllr. David Healy and aimed to showcase the diverse and cultural richness of Africa to 55 organisations / individuals that attended

## Active Club Challenge

The Sports Office in association with Healthy Fingal and our NGB partners have developed a six-week programme, which will begin on Monday June 14th and is free of charge for any Fingal sports club. It is specially designed to provide a safe, enjoyable, and encouraging environment to allow participants to build up fitness and stamina.

All sports clubs are being encouraged to facilitate the setting up of running, walking and/or cycling groups to both their members and non-members to help them to become active in their local community while staying safe.

As part of the six-week programmes in walking, running or cycling, Fingal County Council will hold a free online 'Nutrition Information' session for all participants and an online 'Introduction to Exercise' session to give participants some health-related support and advice to encourage people to stay involved in the programme.



## Fingal Communities in Focus

"Fingal Communities in Focus" a webinar for resident associations and local enhancement groups (Tidy Towns, Community Associations, Estate Management Groups etc.) in Fingal was hosted by the Fingal Community Development Office on Wednesday May 26th. The event was very successful with 72 groups registering for the event and 65 taking part on the day. Videos showcasing the work of three groups - Taylors Hill Residents Association in Balbriggan, Bayside Community Association in Sutton and Whitestown Estate Management in Dublin 15 - were shown at event as well as video contributions from the Mayor Cllr. David Healy and Chief Executive AnnMarie Farrelly. Through the online registrations, information was gathered on the needs of these groups and this was further supplemented with information gathered from the breakout rooms

during the webinar which gave local groups the opportunity to contribute and discuss their challenges and successes. Some of these challenges related to volunteering (in particular the expectations that agencies have of volunteers), insurance, knowledge of the services provided by the County Council and knowledge of various department personnel and funding schemes available. Many of the groups represented on the day received assistance from Fingal County Council through the Fingal Community Development Office over the years and many started their work with guidance and support from the Community Officers across the County. There was strong support coming from the gathering for the development of a network of the groups represented and the Fingal Community Development Office is committed to exploring the development of a network and how

## Fingal's First Cycle Bus

On a beautiful, sunny morning, Fingal's first official 'Cycle Bus' was launched on Monday 31st May with students from Castleknock Educate Together National School.

The 'Cycle Bus' initiative is about giving primary school children the opportunity to cycle to school in a safe, healthy, social, and enjoyable environment. It's about community involvement where parents, grandparents, teachers, and volunteers all create the conditions for this to happen by volunteering to participate in the cycle bus. It also enables us to reduce pollution and traffic congestion from around school

zones, creating a safe and healthy environment in our neighbourhood schools, empowering children to become more responsible, independent and active and to hopefully develop a lifelong love of cycling.

Three other schools have submitted expressions of interest in starting their own Cycle Bus. The Active Travel section will support these schools by providing high viz vests, bells, lights and guidance to encourage safe cycling and sustainable travel.

We hope this is the first of many Cycle Bus initiatives throughout Fingal.



## Additional Litter Warden Patrols take place in Fingal

A total of 252 routine Litter Warden patrols were carried out between Monday to Friday during May.

In addition to the planned routine litter patrols, the Litter Wardens carried out an additional 60 Patrols across the county in a direct response to the elevated levels of footfall during the current Covid restrictions. These patrols were targeted at business premises providing take away services and licenced premises selling take

away drinks which has been identified as a arising source of litter pollution as the weather improves and people begin to enjoy the outdoor facilities in our towns and coastal areas.

The dedicated Litter Warden patrols of River Valley Park continue and relationships are being strengthened between the Environment Department and citizen led organisations such as Tidy Towns and Swords Pickers.



## Environmental Awareness

World Bee Day and National Biodiversity Week were promoted.

A food waste and landscaping waste composting course has been delivered to 30 participants who are members of community groups from around Fingal. Follow-up projects are now being planned.

Rediscovery Centre paint is available for community groups to order paint and have it delivered free of charge, for painting estate walls and common areas.

The first phase of Community Centre Sustainability Manager Training has been delivered. This phase focused on Waste and

Recycling. Centres will become leaders in sustainable practices.

Litter kits have been delivered to groups, individuals and schools to enable them to tackle litter in their areas.

Green Schools Flag Online Assessments are ongoing, all assessments must be completed before 25th June. Online presentations are also being delivered to schools regarding single-use plastics, ocean plastics and litter.

Stencils for the dog fouling pilot has been started in Rush and has been very well received.



## Bleper Bikes Expansion in Fingal



As part of our response to COVID Bleper bikes have now arrived in: Balbriggan, Rush, Skerries, Donabate & Portrane.

We will continue to promote usage of Bleper through our social media platforms.

## 'Cycling Without Age' is Coming to Fingal



Fingal County Council is delighted to announce that 'Cycling without Age' is coming to Fingal. This inter-departmental initiative is being implemented by Active Travel, Age Friendly Fingal, Community, Sports and Fingal's Active Cities Project. Cycling Without Age is a movement which was started in Denmark in 2012 by Ole Kassow. Ole wanted to help elderly people get back on their bicycles, but he had to find a solution due to their limited mobility. The answer was a trishaw and he started offering free bike rides to the local nursing home residents.

Cycling without Age is now active in 42 countries worldwide. We are seeking volunteers and operations managers to

support us in delivering the best possible experience for older people in our community with mobility limitations. For those interested in being involved in this initiative as a volunteer, service user or operations manager, a survey can be completed on the consultation portal <https://consult.fingal.ie/en/content/cycling-without-age-information-form>

Three trio-bikes have been ordered and the three proposed locations are:

- o Baldoyle/Portmarnock Greenway
- o Skerries Seafront
- o St Catherine's Park

## End of Life Vehicle Project

Investigations continued during May for the End of Life Vehicle Project 2020 - 2021. Inspections were carried out at several suspected illegal car breaking yards and directions issued to clear sites and stop all illegal activities. Significant progress has been made to date with over 40 illegal sites closed down and hundreds of ELV's brought to authorized treatment facilities for recovery and disposal.

Waste Enforcement Officers from Fingal County Council, Dublin City Council and the East Midlands WERLA with support from An Garda Siochanna carried out a successful multi-agency End of Life Vehicle operation at a site in Finglas during May. A total of 9 End of Life Vehicles (ELV's) along with quantities of other waste metals and used tyres were removed from the site and brought to an authorised treatment facility (ATF) for recycling and disposal. Further investigations will be conducted to ascertain the owners of the ELVs involved and fixed penalty notices will be issued where appropriate under the Waste Management Act 1996.

The registered owner has a legal responsibility to bring an end of life vehicle to an ATF where the vehicle will be disposed of in an environmentally sound manner and where the owner will be provided with a certificate of destruction

(CoD). A CoD ensures that no further transactions such as change of ownership may be processed against the vehicle. ATFs are permitted facilities authorised to treat, recover and dispose of ELVs (also known as scrap cars). Fingal Co. Council and Dublin City Council are committed to using their powers under the Waste Management Act to deal with the unauthorised collection and disposal of ELV or scrap cars.





# The Month in Numbers

**48**

The rollout of a total of 48 Public Wi-Fi hotspots is underway across 17 locations throughout Fingal by Magnet Networks.



**449**

The number of book bags which have been prepared by Fingal Libraries staff for distribution to Early Learning and Care settings in the County over the last number of weeks. Each bag contains 5 story books for children up to five years. The bag also contains a library card, information about Fingal Libraries, a booklet on sharing books and stories with children under 5 and a guide to developing a little library in the ELC setting.



**8**

The number of years in a row that Portmarnock's Velvet Strand has been awarded a Blue Flag by An Taisce.



**19,636**

On Twitter, we now have 19,636 followers which represents an increase of 570 since the start of the year. Our 248 posts received 1million impressions, with a 1.4% engagement rate.



**49**

the number of developments with formal Taking in Charge requests lodged with Fingal County Council and a further 279 developments on our system, of which 62 are likely to remain private.



**2,800**

The number of tenancies set up under the HAP scheme by Fingal County Council since its inception in 2017. 375 were set up in 2021 alone.



**2,948**

The total tonnages of glass recycling collected so far this year throughout the Fingal network.



**7**

In 2021, 143 Fingal participants have participated in 7 online SYOB Programmes. The SYOB programme continues to be highly popular, the next SYOB programme will commence on the 22nd of June 2021.



**65**

The number of community groups who participated in the 'Fingal Communities in Focus' Webinar on Wednesday, May 26.



**252**

The number of routine Litter Warden patrols were carried out between Monday to Friday during May.



**430**

Réalt na Mara National School, Skerries were gifted 430 pedometers from the Active Travel Section for students participating in their Active Schools Week held from Monday 31st May to Friday 4th June 2021.



# Celebrating Fingal Pride 2021



## A Round up from Fingal



Mayor of Fingal, Cllr David Healy and Director of Operations and Water Services, Mary Daly raise the Blue Flag at Velvet Strand Portmarnock.

This is the 8th year in a row that the prestigious award has been bestowed on Portmarnock from An Taisce.

There was further good news with the announcement of the awarding of the Green Coast Award to first time recipient - South Beach, Rush as well as previous recipients Velvet Strand, Portmarnock and Burrow Beach at Sutton.



Mayor of Fingal, Cllr David Healy and Chief Executive AnnMarie Farrelly at the official opening of The Village Green, Malahide in early June



Getting summer ready! Lifeguard huts arriving at Burrow Beach



Louis Haugh's 'If Trees Could Talk' photographic work currently on display on billboards in Portmarnock

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# OUR MISSION

To be a vibrant, outward looking,  
well run Council that  
shows leadership and  
embraces diversity  
and opportunity

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Comhairle Contae  
Fhine Gall  
Fingal County  
Council

