



# **Chief Executive's Management Report**

**11<sup>th</sup> March 2024**  
**Item 23**



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## Chief Executive's Foreword

March has come around again so quickly and ushers in a busy time for us in Fingal as we prepare for events this month and over the course of the spring and summer.

Fingal County Council was well represented at the Local Authority Members Association's All-Ireland Community and Council Awards on Saturday, February 17th at the Dublin Royal Convention Centre. Not only did we win the prestigious Grand Prix award as overall winners, but we also took home four category awards, were shortlisted in a further seven categories and were one of five local authorities to be shortlisted for 'Council of the Year'. A huge body of work is represented in receiving these accolades and both myself and Mayor of Fingal, Cllr Adrian Henchy, were very proud to be in attendance at the event and to see such well deserving initiatives and projects showcased. Congratulations to you all – Collaboration is something we do very well here and it is testament to your commitment and hard work that we continue to be recognised so favourably for our excellent standards of public service.

Last month, I was very pleased to welcome Minister for Community Development, Joe O'Brien TD to help launch a new Local Economic and Community Plan (LECP) for Fingal. This plan is the result of collaborative efforts involving local communities, individuals, businesses, organisations, and other significant contributors throughout the county, all aiming to steer Fingal towards a flourishing future. The plan was informed by the 2016 version and provides a strong roadmap for future development in the thriving county of Fingal. It is centred around six core themes; Sustainability & Climate Action, Prosperous Economy, Skills for Life & Work, Healthy Inclusive Connected Communities, Rich Arts Culture & Heritage and Safe Accessible Vibrant Places. A need for continued focus on economic growth, rural integration and sustainability has been addressed in the plan with 15 high level objectives providing direction. I extend my thanks to all those who participated in the extensive research required to formulate this plan and I look forward to seeing the benefits of the plan realised for local businesses, communities and the people of Fingal.

There is much to celebrate in March here in Fingal with Fingal Enterprise Week, International Women's Day, Seachtain na Gaeilge and St. Patrick's Day festivities. As always, we supported a full schedule of events to mark International Women's Day on Friday, March 8th. We are fortunate to have a strong female representation in Fingal County Council and I was delighted to join my colleagues, Councillors and members of the public in taking part in some of the events to celebrate and highlight women's achievements and to shine a light on equality, diversity and inclusivity. The theme this year was *#InspireInclusion* and this is something that we all strive for in our personal and professional lives. I would like to thank all the departments who devised such an enjoyable and varied programme of events for this year's celebration.

From celebration of International Women's Day we move to the celebration of our language and heritage during Seachtain na Gaeilge. Our Irish Language Officer, Bernie Kelly, encourages us all to use our Irish, regardless of our proficiency, and to 'Bain Triail Aisti' – Give it a go! Seachtain na Gaeilge is the perfect opportunity to not only speak our language but to immerse ourselves in the culture and music of Ireland. With fantastic events taking place in County Hall Swords, Local Libraries, Ardgillan Demesne and the Seamus Ennis Centre, there are many opportunities to get into the spirit of the occasion. On Wednesday March 13<sup>th</sup>, the Atrium County Hall Swords, with the support of the Seamus Ennis Arts Centre, is the venue for a Seachtain na Gaeilge celebration with Ceol, Craic and Gaeilge from 7 to 9pm. The entertainment will be provided by three hugely accomplished Fingal resident musicians, Ellie Ní Fhionnghaile, Dónal Kearney agus Fergus Cahilane and this is always a hugely popular event. During the fortnight, there will also be a guided bilingual walk in Ardgillan Demesne, a showing of Irish language film An Tine Bheo (The Living Flame) in the Seamus Ennis Art Centre, Naul and music by Antaine Ó Faracháin and Nollaig Mac Carthaigh in Balbriggan library. I would encourage you to see the full programme of events at

[Celebrate Seachtain na Gaeilge in Fingal | Fingal County Council](#)

Continuing the theme of celebrating our heritage, the highly anticipated St. Patrick's Day parades will take place across the county on Sunday March 17<sup>th</sup>. The day will bring together a wonderful mix of sports teams, community groups and thousands of enthusiastic spectators. This year, Fingal County Council proudly present parades in Blanchardstown, Swords, Balbriggan, Malahide, Rush, Lusk and Skerries. Ensuring the parades are hugely enjoyable, safe and sustainable is a considerable task and each year we rely on the expertise of the council's Events Unit who collaborate with other council departments, emergency services and local groups to facilitate the excellent entertainment we look forward to with such excitement each year.

I hope you all have an opportunity to enjoy just some of our events this month – I look forward to shortly bringing you updates on key events such as the Malahide Castle Concert series and Flavours of Fingal in the months ahead.

Best wishes,

**AnnMarie Farrelly CE**

## PEOPLE, CORPORATE AND DIGITAL SERVICES

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People Services
Health & Safety Unit
Customer Services
CRM
Communications
Building Facilities
Current Judicial reviews

### People Services

#### Recruitment

People Services' recruitment of staff will continue in 2024, with a total of 34 recruitment campaigns underway year to date (January & February).

Recruitment Programme 2024	
Total Recruitment Campaigns	34
Campaigns Completed	7
Current Campaigns	27
Interviews Held to date	67
New Starters	36
Number of Current Job Offers	48

#### Learning & Development Update

The Learning and Development team continue to deliver high quality training opportunities for staff. Throughout March the following courses will be delivered:

#### Personal Development

Grade 5 IPA Management Training  
 Grade 7 IPA Management Training  
 IGNITE Programme  
 Council Meeting, Staff Induction  
 Personal Effectiveness Grade 3 & 4  
 Pre-Retirement Training

#### Health and Safety

Manual Handling (indoor / Outdoor)  
 Driver CPC  
 Safe Pass  
 First Aid  
 First Aid Refresher  
 Fire Warden

#### Business Skills

Basic IT Skills (outdoor)  
 Time Management  
 Court Room Skills  
 Intro to Excel  
 HR Dilemmas  
 Minute Taking  
 Effective business Writing

#### Specialised Departmental Training

IAT Road Engineering Training  
 Understanding your Statutory Responsibilities on Accident Prevention | Legalities & Reporting  
 Leaders in LG Development Programme

#### Mandatory

Diversity and Interculturalism  
 Managing Aggressive Behaviour  
 Dignity and Equality



#### Wellbeing Update

Fingal County Council Digital Gym Monthly timetable will be issued to staff including Yoga, Pilates, Combat fitness, Family Fit, Active Agers. Providing something for all staff to keep fit and improve their Wellbeing. Over 150 classes are available on demand.

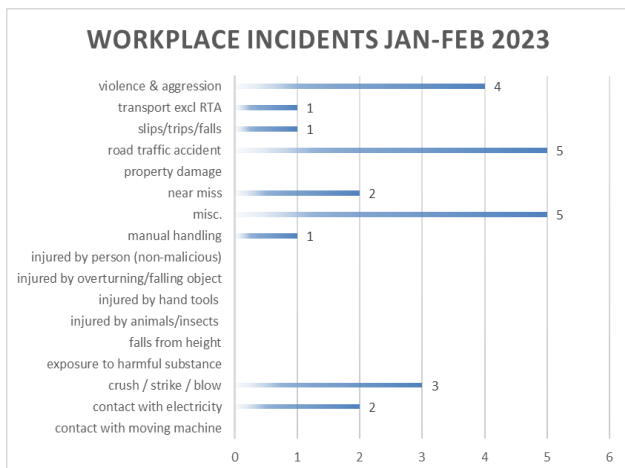
We successfully secured funding from the LGMA for our 'Creativity for Wellbeing' programme launching in March. We are providing guided art sessions for staff. Artistic activities such as painting have been proven to Enhance mental health, Reduce Stress, Foster Resilience, Fuel Joy.

International Women's Day takes place on March 8th a wellbeing message will be issued raising awareness of events throughout the county and nationally.

In collaboration with the new integration officer, we are in the process of procuring Debriefing Training for staff and managers who deal with traumatic or critical incidents. This vital tool will assist in improving the wellbeing of staff who work in difficult circumstances such as Housing, Integration, Community, Customer Care, Inspection roles and Operations staff.

## HSU - Health & Safety Unit

The HSU generated a number of risks assessments early this year covering handling of waste materials likely to turn up in FCC recycling facilities and as waste material on public open spaces. These included assessments on the handling of WEEE, batteries, paint, motoring products, aerosols, gas cylinders and chemicals. A number of procedures were created / revised in the same period covering the reversing of vehicles, responses to unreasonable behaviours and vehicles tail-lifts. The unit carried out 67 site safety inspections and audits from the start of 2024 to date in addition to 52 VDU assessments for office and remote based staff. 20 incidents and dangerous occurrences were reported to the HSU to date with 18 incident investigations completed. Overall there was a drop [of 4] in workplace incidents compared to the same period in the previous year.

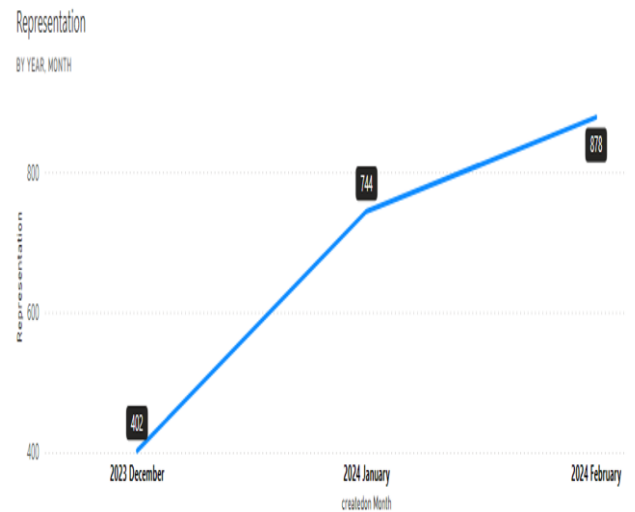


## Customer Services

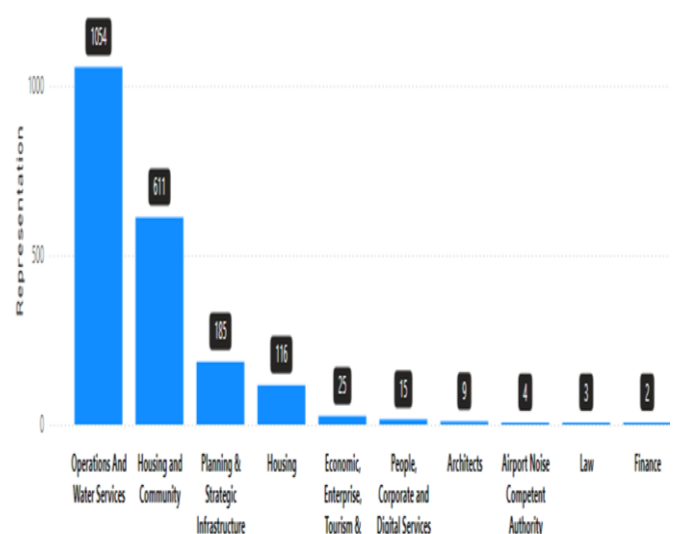
Month	Total No. of Calls	Total No. of Emails	Presenting in Person
February	10,798	1402	2136

### CRM

Staff continue to work on the Customer Relationship Management System (CRM) and issue responses to representations from Elected Members (Councillors, TDs and Senators) and complaints submitted by the public. The total number of Elected Members' representations were as follows for February – 878.



The table below shows the total number of Elected Members' representations assigned to each Department to date in 2024.



## **Communications**

### **Seachtain na Gaeilge**

We are halfway through Seachtain na Gaeilge with a broad ranging programme taking place in Fingal. Thursday saw the Ardgillan Demesne Bilingual Walk with Irish Officer Bernie Kelly and Head Gardiner Dominica McKeivitt. The walk was recently awarded Best Irish Language Initiative at the LAMA awards. On Wednesday in County Hall the Annual Oiche Cheol for Seachtain na Gaeilge will take place with musicians Ellie Níc Fhionnghaile, Dónal Kearney agus Fergus Cahillane. Announced during Seachtain na Gaeilge were the 10 recipients of the new Fingal County Council Gaeltacht Scholarship Scheme for second level students while a further 14 Fingal Staff commenced the Certificate in Professional Irish.



### **Website**

The fingal.ie website attracted 130,915 visitors during February which was almost 10,000 up on the figure for January and 34,126 more than in February 2023. The number of page views, at 312,179, was up by 5% from January and by 26% from the same month last year. The month visited pages during February were the Home Page, Planning Applications, Jobs, Contact Us, Affordable Housing and Playability of Pitches.

### **Social Media**

A post promoting the housing information evening in Donabate on March 7 and the various schemes to support people trying to own a home such as Affordable Housing, the Local Authority Home Loan and the Vacant Property Refurbishment Grant got very good traction across our various platforms.

It had a reach of 30,506 on Facebook and a 6.76% engagement rate.

### **Page 3**

On Instagram there was a 6.46% engagement rate from a reach of 2,711. On X the post had 4,908 impressions and 105 engagements. The number of followers on Facebook has risen to 33,176 while Instagram now has 8,900 followers and LinkedIn has 8,656. The X account saw its followers rise to 23,314 from 23,233.

The five corporate social media channels now have a cumulative following of 75,296, having risen by 758 from last month.

### **Videos**

Nine videos were produced during February and uploaded onto the Council's You Tube channel. They included a video about the photo shoot artist John Byrne held to create a Fingal version of a painting by French artist Eugene Delacroix from 1830. There were also videos produced about the sod-turning for 300 social and affordable homes in Church Fields, the opening of the Carnegie Library in Swords and the visit by the Minister for Housing, Local Government and Planning to housing developments in Malahide and Swords.

All Videos can be viewed at <https://www.youtube.com/@FingalCountyCouncil> Video/videos



### **Press Releases**

Seventeen press releases were issued during February. These included the commencement of construction at Church Fields and the opening of the refurbished Carnegie Library in Swords as well as the launch of the new Tourism Strategy and the new Local Economic and Community Plan. .

### **LAMA Nominations**

The Communications Unit received two nominations at the recent All Ireland Local Authority and Community Awards organised by the Local Authority Members Association. The Ardgillan Demesne Bilingual Walk won the Best Irish Language Initiative Award while the Inside Fingal Podcast was nominated for the Communications Award.

## Resident's Booklet



A 24 page Irish-English booklet has been produced by the Communications Unit and delivered to every home in Fingal. The purpose of the booklet is increase awareness of the work being done by the councillors and staff of Fingal County Council to make Fingal a great place to live, work, visit and do business in. The booklet highlights some of the major Capital projects the Council is delivering and how the Council is addressing housing challenges as well as focusing on the work being done by some of the sections within the Council.

## Media Queries

The Communications Unit received 26 media queries during February. Among the topics covered were Dublin Airport, Corduff Park, the R132 and restricted dog breeds.

## Building Facilities / Energy Improvements

Condensing high-efficiency Calorifiers (hot water heaters) are in the process of being installed and commissioned. Five Units in total. Two which are now in situ in County Hall. Three in Grove Road which are due to be installed in the coming week. These units will show a 20% gas reduction per unit on the efficiency compared to the previous unreliable models that were in place.

The new units will be operated by the BMS and have a range of functions to ensure energy controls while delivering hot water throughout the buildings.

Heat pump primary heating solution are been pursued as part of the general decarbonization of the Civic Offices.



## Current Judicial Review Cases - March

Jimmy Guerin -v- Fingal County Council High Court Record No 2022/116 JR
Kimpton Vale Limited -v- an Bord Pleanala and Fingal County Council High Court Record No. 2022/390 JR
Christian Morris v. An Bord Pleanála, Fingal County Council and Trafalgar Capital Limited High Court Record No. 2022 1074 JR
Graymount House Action Group, Darragh Richardson, and Aoife Grimes v An Bord Pleanála, Fingal County Council, the Minister for Housing, Ireland, and the AG High Court Record Number 2022/1107 JR
Joan Reynolds and Edel McDonough -v- Fingal County Council High Court Record No 2023/372 JR
MKN Properties Limited and another -v- Fingal County Council High Court Record No. 2023/373 JR
daa plc -v- Fingal County Council High Court Record No 2023/383 JR
Fiacre Ó Cairbre -v- An Bord Pleanála, Garlandbrook Limited, Alcove Ireland Four Limited, and Uisce Éireann High Court No 2023/570 JR
Ciaran O'Kelly and Dorone Paris -v- an Board Pleanala and Jacko Investments Limited and Fingal County Council High Court Record Number 2023/581 JR
daa plc -v- Fingal County Council and the Irish Aviation Authority High Court Record No. 2023/916 JR
Friends of the Irish Environment CLG and SMTW Environmental DAC-v- the Minister for Housing Local Government and Heritage, Ireland and the Attorney General and the Office of Planning Regulator and Fingal County Council High Court Record No 2023/1047 JR
Niall O'Connor and Geraldine Kiernan -v- An Bord Pleanala and Fingal County Council High Court Record No 2023/1122 JR
Erigo Limited and Joseph Flood -v- Fingal County Council and others High Court Record No 2023/1233 JR
Timothy Fitzgerald and James Fitzgerald -v- Fingal County Council Record No 2023/1236 JR
Kinwest Limited -v- An Bord Pleanala, Minister for Housing Local Government and Heritage, Ireland and the Attorney General and Fingal County Council High Court Record No. 2023/1206 JR
Kinwest Limited -v- An Bord Pleanala, Minister for Housing Local Government and Heritage, Ireland and the Attorney General and Fingal County Council High Court Record No 2023/1207 JR
KInwest Limited -v- an Bord Pleanala, Minister for Housing Local Government and Heritage, Ireland and the Attorney General and Fingal County Council High Court Record No. 2023.1208 JR
Martin Ryan and Mary Ryan -v- Fingal County Council High Court Record No. 2023/1245 JR

## ECONOMIC, ENTERPRISE, TOURISM & CULTURAL DEVELOPMENT

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### TOURISM DEVELOPMENT

#### Launch of the Fingal Tourism Strategy



The Fingal Tourism Strategy 2024-2029 was officially launched at Ardgillan Castle on Thursday 8<sup>th</sup> February. The event brought together key representatives from across the tourism stakeholder community and the Strategy was formally launched by the Mayor in the presence of the Minister for Housing, Local Government & Heritage, Darragh O'Brien and Paul Kelly, CEO of Failte Ireland. Despite the inclement weather, over 60 people attended the successful launch that included traditional Irish music, an archery demonstration and an opportunity to sample a golf simulator as well as a much-praised lunch provided by The Salty Buoy food truck.

A small delegation will participate in a visit to New York from 18th to 21st March which will coincide with the premiere of the Fingal Sessions on US TV. The sessions were filmed in January 2024 and will be broadcast on almost 100 TV stations across the US. The visit will include a launch of the Fingal Sessions and the Fingal Tourism Strategy and will include opportunities for economic and tourism promotion with local elected officials, media, cultural and business representatives. Meetings have been arranged with Tourism Ireland's North American team, IDA and the Irish Business Organisation of New York. Meetings are also proposed with the County Dublin Society of New York and other groups with a view to strengthening the Council's links with the Fingal diaspora.

#### Fingal Food & Drink Network



The Fingal Food Network undertook their first Familiarisation visit of 2024 on Friday 23<sup>rd</sup> February to Belfast to learn best practices in creating food tours. Over 15 members attended the very successful visit which took in the inspiring Belfast Taste Tour sampling the best of produce in Northern Ireland. There was a great opportunity for members to network and discuss possible collaboration projects for food related businesses in Fingal.

The Fingal Food and Drink policy will be launched at Flavours of Fingal at the end of June.





**LAMA Awards**



Fingal Culture & Tourism TV won the best tourism initiative category at the LAMA All Ireland Council & Community Awards at a ceremony held on Saturday 17<sup>th</sup> February. The award was for 'Tradfest the Fingal Sessions' and 'Ireland in Music' TV programmes that feature traditional Irish music in unique settings across Fingal and is broadcast worldwide in conjunction with Tradfest/Temple Bar Company.



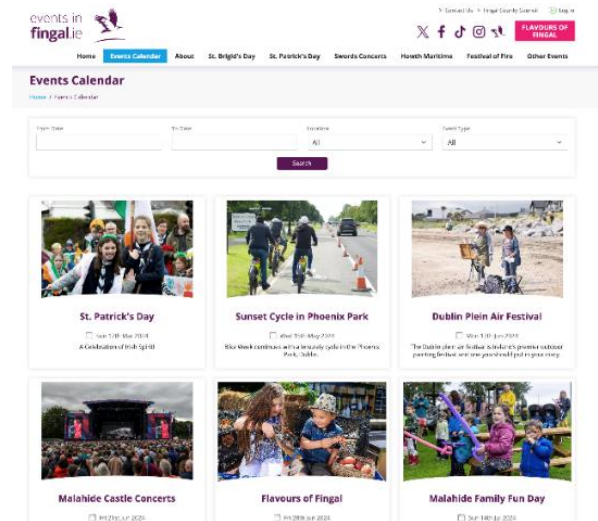
**EVENTS**

**Festival & Event Funding Scheme 2024**



The 2024 Festival & Event Funding Scheme closed on the 31<sup>st</sup> of January 2024. It was launched on the 29<sup>th</sup> of September. 114 applications were received and 84 will be brought forward to the Council Meeting in March for approval with a value of €375,130.00.

The current events calendar can be viewed on [www.eventsinfingal.ie/events](http://www.eventsinfingal.ie/events)



**St. Brigid's Day 2024**





The free family fun day was a huge success in Blanchardstown Community Centre and the concert in the church was a sellout, the feedback received from the attendees and the Blanchardstown Tidy Towns was very positive. A picture of the family fun day made the cover of the Irish Times on the Monday.



### St Patricks Day 2024



Applications for this years parades are now open. For Swords, Balbriggan & Blanchardstown you can apply via: [www.fingalparades.com](http://www.fingalparades.com) and Malahide via: [www.malahideparade.ie](http://www.malahideparade.ie) additional needs areas are being provided in all four parades and can be booked via emailing [patricksparde24@gmail.com](mailto:patricksparde24@gmail.com) for Malahide and [fingal@davisevents.ie](mailto:fingal@davisevents.ie) for Swords, Balbriggan & Blanchardstown.

Particular attention is being given this year to try and animate the parades by more creative and artistic ways. So far signs up of groups are: Swords - 29, Blanchardstown - 27, Balbriggan - 20, Malahide - 13

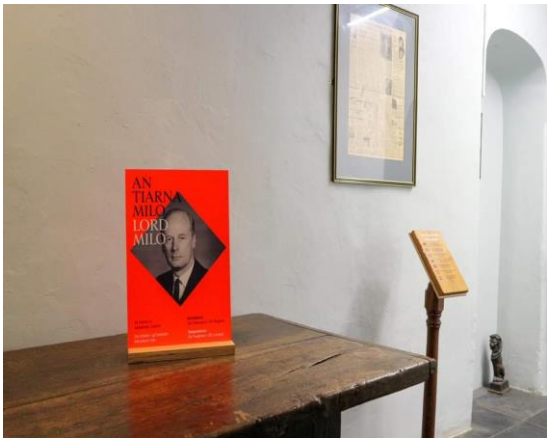
### HERITAGE PROPERTIES

#### Malahide Castle - Boiler upgrade incl. Rainwater Harvesting/CHP

The Mechanical & Electrical consultants are finalising the tender package for the Boiler upgrade incl. Rainwater harvesting/CHP.

The works will consist of a full replacement of the boilers, reintroduction of the CHP and Rainwater Harvesting System, thus providing enhanced efficiencies over time by reducing costs and by promoting energy and water conservation. It is envisaged that works will commence in Q2 2024.

### Malahide Castle – The Lord Milo Exhibition



The Lord Milo exhibition has officially opened in Malahide Castle. This exhibition explores the life of Lord Milo Talbot of Malahide (1912-1973), the last Baron to live at the castle. It covers his childhood in England, his mysterious diplomatic career, his extensive travels and his imprint on Malahide Castle. Recognising his great contribution to botany and plant collecting, and research on the art collection.

### Swords Castle – Lighting up for Rare Diseases Day



Swords Castle was lit up for a week to raise awareness for Rare Diseases Day which took place on 29<sup>th</sup> February.

### Newbridge House – Cafe Upgrades



An improvement to the outdoor environment was agreed with the operator to include better provisions for dog walkers and shelter from rain. This will include a partially covered area on the existing terrace. A mobile coffee unit is included in these discussions and will be located within the demise of the cafe operator. This will reduce queue times and enhance the overall experience and comfort for service users.

## **CULTURAL DEVELOPMENT** **ARTS**

### **Carnegie Library**

After a year of extensive works, the Carnegie Library in Swords has been officially reopened, marking a key advancement in the extensive Swords Cultural Quarter. The Arts Office will now begin to develop a programme which will feature a diverse array of exhibitions, multi-disciplinary residencies, performances, and workshops. A Programme Development Manager has been appointed and a public launch will take place later this year.



### **Youth and Education**

#### **Space Crafts**

Fingal Arts Office and DIAS Dunsink are delighted to announce a new STEAM initiative at the observatory, generously supported by the Science Ireland Discovery Programme. This new initiative, titled Space Crafts, will provide new and innovative ways for artists to engage children in and through the arts. Artists Aileen Murphy (dance & visual) Julia McConville (visual) Mary Jo Gilligan (visual & education) will take up residency at DIAS and develop artistic workshops inspired by the work at DIAS and reach out to children in eight local primary schools across a two-year period.



### **Public Art**

John Kindness visited Balbriggan for a site visit and a meeting with the project teams for Harry Reynold Road and Quay Street as we plan for a new Public Art Commission for the town. While in Fingal he visited Swords to look at some of his work and the new Carnegie Library where artist John Byrne was making plans for his installation of new work featuring 60 Fingal residents planned for later this year.



## Draíocht

Draíocht's major project, NEST, formally launched on February 17th. This was the first time we gathered everyone involved in the project. Our 48 hosts (a host being a person who lives in Dublin 15), their families, our 5 visual artists, curator, 41 theatre/dance/music artists and our production team were all present. Our hosts are between the ages of 7 weeks old to 22 years old. Our 48 hosts include one class group from PobalScoil Setanta (22 children).

On March 1st, our 23 shows will be performed 3 times, 69 performances in total. These performances will take place in schools and homes all over Dublin 15. It is estimated that they will be seen by 1,500 people.

Our Festival 'Spreacha Soar', where all of the 23 shows will be performed in Draíocht takes place from 11th to 16th March.

April 13th will be the final event of the NEST project. This is the day we formally handover the NEST Portrait project works to Fingal County Council's collection.



## The Séamus Ennis Arts Centre Art Exhibition

Fingal Artist Stephen Wylie's first solo exhibition opened on February 3<sup>rd</sup>, with 60% of his paintings selling within the first weekend.

## Comedy

David McSavage played on February 10<sup>th</sup> and sold out, with a waitlist.

## Cinema

French film Driving Madeleine on February 8<sup>th</sup> has been one of our most popular films in the last year, with 66 tickets sold. 25% of those attending opted for a meal deal ticket and dined in the café.

## Slow Sessions and Singing Sessions

Our slow sessions and singing sessions have been well attended in person, while people from all over the world have joined us on Zoom and via live stream.



## Music

Mary Coughlan and Ultan Coughlan played a sell out gig on February 3<sup>rd</sup>, Blues Singer Dom Martin sold 80% of tickets, The Breath due to play 23<sup>rd</sup> February have sold out one gig and are playing a matinee, while Session Americana due to play 24<sup>th</sup> February is also on course for a sell out gig. Piper Ronan Browne and tin whistle maestro Mary Bergin received great reviews for their More Than Music performance on 16<sup>th</sup> February which was also live streamed on Facebook, Youtube and for the first time on Instagram.



## Classes

We started a Parent and Toddler Traditional Music Class called Céilí Beag – each week the children interact with various toys and art materials themed around the “instrument of the week” and in the last 20 minutes a musician comes in and plays that instrument. Thus far we have had Bodhran, Fiddle and Harp! These sessions have been very popular and are selling out every week.



This breathtaking procession was developed through a collaboration between Creative Fingal, Fingal County Council, Our Balbriggan, Community Wellness, Luxe Landscape Theatre, and the entire Balbriggan community. This demonstrates how the Creative Ireland Programme delivers through collaboration and partnership to promote understanding and appreciation of the value of creativity in all its forms. It was a wonderful and unique opportunity to celebrate community and creativity and to mark the celebration of Lá Fhéile Bríde, St Brigid's Day.



## Libraries

### **Brigid in Balbriggan**

To celebrate Brigid's bank holiday, the wonderful community of Balbriggan gathered for a spectacular, illuminated procession through the streets of the town and onto the beach. Balbriggan is one of Europe's most diverse towns and is expanding into a vibrant hub of creative expression and life. On a beautiful, calm February evening, performers from Luxe Landscape Theatre Company were joined by community groups at the Lark Concert Hall. Accompanied by an ethereal soundtrack, they carried light together from Church Street, gathered the community at George's Square and in a powerful and emotive performance, spread Brigid's light, before bringing everyone on a processional journey down Quay Street, under the viaduct and onto a celebration on the beach. All were welcome to join in this family-friendly event to celebrate the return of Spring with a celebration of light, hope, and the coming together of this wonderful and beautifully diverse community.



### Author Visits

Best-selling authors Emer McLysaght and Sarah Breen of the Aisling series joined author Sarah Maria Griffin in Blanchardstown Library on St. Brigid's Day for a discussion of their work. This booked out event was followed by a lively Q&A session from the audience.

Balbriggan Library hosted the Arts Council of Ireland's Art of Reading Book Club on 7th February. Readers and book clubs joined the Laureate for Irish Fiction Colm Tóibín (via video link), in conversation with Balbriggan author Kevin Curran.

To mark Ireland Reads Day, a national day to celebrate reading supported by public libraries on Saturday 24th February, children's author and illustrator Alan Nolan visited Blanchardstown Library to talk about his books featuring Molly Malone & Bram Stoker.

Children's authors and illustrators Niamh Sharkey and Owen Churcher will visit Rush Library on 15th March for a Monster Doodle event to celebrate the publication of their new book Hello Bird. Children attending this event will be gifted a copy of the book.



### Fingal Libraries World Book Tour 2024

Acclaimed children's authors Alan Nolan, Sadhbh Devlin, Nicola Pierce, Ellen Ryan and Sarah Webb will visit libraries and schools across Fingal between 4th - 8th March to celebrate World Book Day Ireland 2024. This is the second year of the popular Fingal Libraries World Book Tour, which gives primary school children the opportunity to meet some of their favourite authors. The children will be gifted a copy of the author's book and get fun World Book Tour-branded activity sheets full of puzzles and games.

### Launch of Sensory Resource Back Packs in Fingal Libraries

Backpacks full of sensory-friendly resources are now available in Baldoyle, Swords and Balbriggan Libraries. This has been funded by the Community Recognition Fund. The roll out of the sensory resource backpacks was launched by the Mayor with a photo call in Swords Library on Monday 19<sup>th</sup> February. The Mayor was joined by the County Librarian and children from St. Cronan's Junior National School in Brackenstown, Swords. The children, who were in the Library for a fun sensory-friendly slime workshop, got some hands-on experience trying out the resources in the backpacks, including fidget kits, fibre optic lights and an ocean wave projector with sounds and speaker. The sensory resource backpacks continue the Libraries' Dept commitment to making our spaces and services inclusive of neurodivergence, through the provision of materials and resources, training for library staff, programming, and sensory-friendly quiet hours.



### Inclusive Creativity

Prosper Fingal is taking part in creative workshops in Malahide Library and Swords Library as part of an ongoing Inclusive Creativity project. The workshops include creative writing, photography and illustration. St. Michael's House is also taking part in creative workshops, including painting, arts and crafts, and illustration classes in Swords Library. These workshops give participants an opportunity to express their creativity and interact with others in a supportive and friendly environment.

## Seachtain na Gaeilge

Fingal Libraries is presenting a range of events for all ages to celebrate Seachtain na Gaeilge. Balbriggan and Baldoyle Libraries will host Irish traditional music and singing from Antaine Ó Faracháin and Nollaig MacCarthaigh. Children and adults alike will get the opportunity to learn how to play the bodhrán with champion bodhrán player Niall Preston. Gaeilge i mBaile Brigín will host a bilingual poetry evening in Balbriggan Library. Donabate, Malahide and Blanchardstown Libraries will screen a 3D Irish language film, Ar Ais Arís, on Oculus Virtual Reality headsets. Created by James Riordan from the Brú Theatre in Galway, this visually stunning film features the Irish language, culture, dance, and music.

Storyteller Seosamh Ó Maolalaí will tell stories in Irish for all the family in several libraries. Róisín Murphy will recount Irish legends and folklore that have been passed down through the generations. Illustrator Tarsila Krüse will read Ná Gabh ar Scoil followed by a children's drawing workshop. Fingal Libraries Seachtain na Gaeilge programme features several workshops for schools, including yoga sessions as Gaeilge and comic strip drawing workshops with cartoonist Aidan Courtney of Coimicí Gael. High Rock Productions will present an Irish speaking performance workshop featuring school children, in Skerries and Donabate Libraries.

## Creative Ireland: Creative Communities Open Call 2024

Following a significant increase in queries relating to Creative Ireland funding through Fingal since the start of 2024, the Creative Fingal team performed an evaluation of the existing process. Following this, the team engaged with consultant Sinéad Begley to develop an Open Call application form and guidance document for Creative Communities Grants for 2024. This should streamline the process for both applicants and evaluators going forward.

The Open Call is due to go live on 22/02/2024 on the Fingal Submit platform. It will remain live until the deadline of 5:00 pm on 29/03/2024. Information on the funding scheme and how to apply will be available on the Fingal website and it will be advertised across social media channels.

There will be four awards within this scheme. Each award is to the value of €5,000 - €10,000 (max.). Applicants are asked to link their projects to the key strategic themes of the Fingal Culture and Creativity Strategy 2023 – 2027. Applications will be evaluated in early April and successful applicants notified and supported to begin preparations on their projects.

## ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

### Fingal Skills Strategy

Planning has commenced for the 2024 “Xplore Your Future Expo” which will be held in The Helix, DCU on the 15<sup>th</sup> of October 2024.



Tenders for consultants to prepare the next iteration of the Fingal Skills Strategy 2024 – 2029 are currently under evaluation.



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The SKYLA Project “Smart Specialisation Skills Ecosystems for the Twin Transition” is a 4-year project which focuses on enhancing the role of VET in smart specialisation sectors. Project partners include Italy, Poland, Sweden, Lithuania, Bulgaria, Greece and Belgium. Reporting for Period 1 of the Project has been completed and the identification of good practices in Fingal is in progress with key stakeholders – DRSF and Baldoyle Training Centre – which will be shared with the Project Partners and presented at the next transnational meeting scheduled to take place in Florence in March 2024.



## Economic Development Strategy



Grant Thornton Consultants have completed work on the Fingal Economic Development Strategy 'Future Fingal' which was agreed at the February Council Meeting. Work has commenced on a Marketing Plan, with consultations with key stakeholders taking place in January and February 2024. Preparations are underway to launch the Economic Development Strategy in April 2024.

## URBACT - EcoCore



Fingal County Council is leading the URBACT EcoCore Project which comprises a network of 9 small cities/towns in Europe focussing on challenges and opportunities for green growth and sustainable economic development along transport corridors.

Balbriggan is the lead town and the other partners committed to the network are Albu Iulia, Romania; Dubrovnik, Croatia; Kekava, Latvia; Ormoz, Slovenia; Parnu, Estonia; Santo Tirso, Portugal; Tuusula, Finland; Villena, Spain.



**The EcoCore Project** baseline study and roadmap for the project for the next 2 years has been approved by the URBACT Secretariat. As Lead Partner, Fingal is proceeding to schedule the transnational city visits in collaboration with our Project Partners and to plan Balbriggan's small-scale actions for 2024.

The next core network meeting is scheduled for the 12/13<sup>th</sup> March in Santo Tirso, Portugal where members of the Balbriggan URBACT Local Group (ULG) will attend the two-day transnational meeting.

As the project is entering the action planning stage for 2024 a series of masterclasses on key topics for partners has commenced, with the following masterclasses delivered to date:

- Corporate Sustainability Reporting Directive (CSRD) and delivered by URBACT Ad-Hoc Expert Tiago Ferreira, Lead Expert of Urbact Residents of the Future Project on 23<sup>rd</sup> January 2024
- Facilitation Skills delivered by Louise O'Meara of Queens University on the 16<sup>th</sup> and 23<sup>rd</sup> February 2024



- Small Scale Actions delivered by EcoCore Lead Expert Eileen Crowley on 27<sup>th</sup> February 2024

Fingal County Council attended an Urbact Irish Networks Meeting held by EMRA in Limerick on the 21<sup>st</sup> February 2024 to present progress on the EcoCore Project and connect with representatives of the Irish local authorities involved in other Urbact Networks.



The Balbriggan Project Team is examining a further application to the Urbact European Urban Initiative (EUI) to inform the development of plans for Balbriggan under the EcoCore Project.

## Citizen, Equality, Rights and Values Programme (Cerv)

CERV is an EU Funding Programme for citizens' engagement and the implementation of EU rights and values. Fingal County Council has been awarded CERV funding to participate in 2 separate projects, which commenced in January 2023 and will continue for 18 months.



## Green It Your Work

Fingal is hosting the fifth Green IT Your Work international meeting on the 6/7<sup>th</sup> March 2024 with a focus on "It's Time For Green Start"

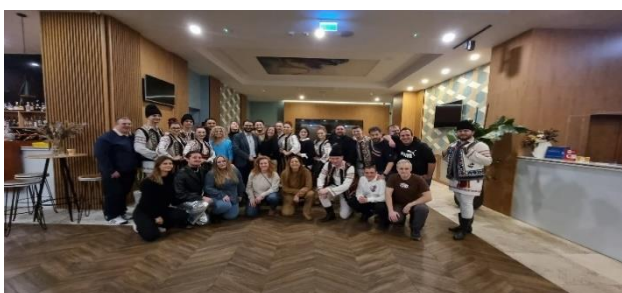
Fingal County Council will host partner representatives from Romania, Spain Greece, Cyprus, Slovenia, Croatia, Italy and Ireland.

Work is ongoing on the objectives of 'Green IT Your Work' which are:

- Youth Debates about European Digital Age project highlighting the role of young people in the green transition.
- Promote green jobs with the aim of contributing to greener European cities

## InclusEU

The InclusEU project aims to encourage volunteer action as a social response for an inclusive Europe. Work continues on the project with partners from Italy, Poland, Hungary, Spain, Portugal, the Netherlands and Romania. Representatives from Fingal's Sports Office and Foroige attended Lasi, Romania, in February with the Portugal event taking place in April 2024.



## Sustainable Fingal



The Council met with representatives from DCU and daa in February to discuss a work programme for 2024 to progress sustainable projects. A follow-up meeting is scheduled for March 2024 to prioritise projects.



Work continues on the development of an action plan to advance the objectives of Circular Cities in Fingal. Fingal's profile has been published on the Circular Cities website and the first annual report on Fingal's transition to the circular economy under the Circular Cities Declaration was submitted in October 2023.

[CC Declaration | Fingal County \(circularcitiesdeclaration.eu\)](https://circularcitiesdeclaration.eu)

## Dublin Belfast Economic Corridor



Fingal County Council was awarded €150,000 by the Department of Housing, Local Government & Heritage under the Shared Island Local Authority Development Funding Scheme for a Feasibility Study for the development of regional innovation/enterprise hubs along the Dublin Belfast Economic Corridor. DBEC's ambition is to use innovation hubs to encourage the development of new and existing high-growth businesses to stimulate sustainable and climate-conscious growth along the Corridor. The feasibility study has been completed and was submitted to the Department. Drawdown of the eligible funding has been completed and the Council is liaising with DBEC to consider potential funding streams to progress the implementation of the Study's recommendations.

Fingal County Council continues to liaise with DBEC on a series of potential projects for DBEC.

## Enterprise Ireland – Smart Regions Funding

The Council has commenced preparations of applications to the Smart Regions Fund. The application deadline is 31<sup>st</sup> March 2024. The Council is reviewing potential applications under Stream 1 for Capital Infrastructure and Under Stream 4 for a Feasibility Studies/Priming Grants and is liaising with key stakeholders such as DBEC and the Council's Enterprise Centres on the applications.

## LOCAL AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT



## Fingal Local Community Development Committee

The Fingal LCDC continues to oversee and administer the key areas of LEADER and SICAP and the various Local Development and Community Development funding programmes under its remit. The LCDC also manages the Healthy Ireland Initiative and the Social Enterprise Grants Scheme. The LCDC met on the 7<sup>th</sup> of February 2024 and reviewed progress on various programmes under its remit, discussed a joint application from the Fingal LCDC and Fingal CYPSC for a pilot project under the EU Child Guarantee Ireland's National Action Plan and approved the SICAP end of year 2023 review and discussed the annual plan for 2024.



## Fingal Local Economic Community Plan 2023 – 2028

The LECP was adopted by the Council in January 2024 and includes a two-year LECP Implementation Plan with actions to implement the Goals and Objectives set out in the LECP.

The LECP was launched on the 26<sup>th</sup> February 2024 by the Mayor Councillor Adrian Henchy and Minister Joe O'Brien with internal and external stakeholders attending the launch at County Hall along with Minister Darragh O'Brien.



## Local Enhancement Programme

The Local Enhancement Programme is funded by the Department of Rural and Community Development. Fingal was allocated €220,842.98 in funding for groups across the county. A call for applications has been advertised by the Council with a closing date for applications from community groups/organisations of 8<sup>th</sup> March 2024. The evaluation of applications will take place in March with a deadline of 28<sup>th</sup> March for the submission of proposed allocations to the Department of Rural and Community Development for approval.



## Alcohol Education

Healthy Fingal in collaboration with the North Dublin Drugs Task Force are piloting an alcohol education programme with Lusk Utd AFC from January 2024. The pre-crisis education programme targeting men over 35 will run for 8 weeks in tandem with an exercise programme to encourage men to evaluate their drinking levels and potentially reduce their consumption levels.



## We Can Quit

Healthy Fingal have teamed up with Empower to deliver two pilot We Can Quit programmes with the Blanchardstown Training Centre (to start in Q1) and the Tolka River Project, Mulhuddart. The We Can Quit programme, was developed by the HSE and is aimed at encouraging people to quit tobacco/vaping. The programme with the Tolka River project started in January 2024 and will run for 10 weeks with participants enrolled both quit smoking sessions and weekly yoga sessions to encourage a healthier lifestyle.



## Community Recognition Fund

The Community Recognition Fund (CRF), funded by the Department of Rural and Community Development, approved the Council's project proposals in March 2023. Fingal County Council has received an allocation of €1,748,912 for 26 projects across Fingal.

There is an allocation of €850,512 for eight projects in Swords and €435,000 has been provided for four projects in Dublin 15. Three projects in the Howth Malahide Local Electoral Area have received a total of €92,000 while €96,600 will be spent on four projects in Skerries, Rush and Lusk. Three projects in Balbriggan will be funded by grants amounting to €44,000 while two projects in Baleskin will receive a total of €30,200 and one in Santry will receive €20,000.

All projects are required to be complete by 18<sup>th</sup> October 2024 and work is progressing on the implementation of the project with the Council submitting an initial drawdown in 2023 of €243,000 with a further drawdown to be completed in Q1 in respect of works completed to date in 2024.

## SICAP



The resources and staff of the Fingal SICAP Programme continue to be leveraged to assist with the Ukrainian Refugee Crisis response. The SICAP Programme continues to help in the response to this crisis and is a central resource to the work of the Ukrainian Refugee Community Response Forum. Additional funding has been received from the DRC to help with the delivery of services to Ukrainian Refugees in Fingal and additional staffing resources from the Ukrainian community have been employed on the ground to assist with this. The Fingal SICAP Programme has been allocated €304,369 in 2023 specifically for Fingal's Ukrainian Refugee Response with an additional allocation of €65,000 recently granted.



The new contract for the provision of the SICAP programme over the period 2024-2028 has been awarded to Empower CLG and contracts have been signed. The annual SICAP budget for 2024 is €1,520,811 and there is a separate funding provision for new arrivals to the value of €375, 372 for 2024.



### Leader Programme

Following the outcome of the Local Development Strategy (LDS) selection process Fingal LCDC and Fingal LEADER Partnership were selected to run the LEADER Programme 2023 – 2027 in the Dublin rural area. The Dublin Rural LEADER (LAG) includes rural areas in the administrative areas of Fingal, Dun Laoghaire Rathdown and South Dublin. The new LEADER programme launched at the end of February, following the signing of the LEADER Funding Agreement by the Minister for Rural & Community Development, Heather Humphreys, TD. The new Dublin Rural LAG met for the first time on the 27<sup>th</sup> February 2024 and were briefed on the new LEADER Programme by Fingal LEADER Partnership. A number of workshops are planned in March 2024 to promote the new LEADER Programme.



### ENTERPRISE CENTRES

Fingal's Enterprise Centres continue to participate in ConnectedHubs.ie.

ConnectedHubs.ie is a one-stop-shop for remote working hubs throughout Ireland.



All three Enterprise Centres have space available to start-up businesses and businesses/individuals who wish to avail of remote working options and facilities. Bespoke options or generic office fitouts can be considered. Occupancy rates at the Council's three enterprise centres are all over 90%. The three Enterprise Centres currently support 65 businesses and over 320 direct jobs.

Fingal County Council was approved for €50,000 in new funding to promote Remote Working Hubs in the County under the Town and Village Renewal Scheme Marketing Measure. A cross-departmental team within the Council is implementing initiatives to promote Fingal as a Remote Working Hub base for remote workers with a marketing campaign now underway across various media platforms and includes an article in the Business Post. Drinan Enterprise Centre is also promoting the availability of a bespoke media studio facility available for immediate booking to all individuals, groups and business interests which is also being promoted with a podcast which is planned in March from Drinan Enterprise Centre's Creative Studio by the bilingual podcasters "How to Gael".



**TOWN REGENERATION OFFICE**  
**Our Balbriggan 2019 – 2025 Rejuvenation Plan – A Socio-Economic Strategy**



The Our Balbriggan Programme Office continues to support the Leadership Group and its five pillars - Growing the Local Economy, Public Realm & Infrastructure, Education, Skills & Employment, Community Integration, Health & Well Being and Community Safety. The Balbriggan Leadership Group, provides oversight and stewardship for the plan’s implementation. A ‘Review and Renew’ meeting of the Leadership Group was held in February. The next meeting will be held in March 2024 where the review and renewal of the Our Balbriggan Programme will continue to progress.



Tenders submitted to appoint a contractor for the Quay Street, Harbour & Environs Scheme are being evaluated. Following successful selection and appointment, the appointed contractor is anticipated to be on site in April 2024, the project is to be completed on a phased basis in 2025. Irish Water are currently on site in the Quay Street Car Park to complete upgrade works on the pumping station located there, with alternative car parking currently available at Bath Road/Balbriggan FC & Bremore Castle. Communications to this effect have been issued on social media and other local channels in Balbriggan.



Part 8 Planning Permission for 2-4 Dublin Street was granted approval at full Council in October and the project has now progressed to detailed design phase. 2-4 Dublin Street is to be transformed into a new Creative Hub with 8 workspaces at 2 Dublin Street and an ancillary connected space at 4 Dublin Street which will support STEAM education, training and enterprise activities supported by SMART Balbriggan and the Fingal Arts Office.



Demolition works on 14 Bridge Street (house known locally as Keelings) have been completed and a temporary Pocket Park has been installed. Demolition contractors are on site and have implemented a programme of works to demolish the rear of the De Bruns Buildings. The front facade of the buildings facing Bridge Street are to be kept to maintain the street line. An Integrated Design Team has been selected and will look at preparing a design based on best possible uses and options in line with site constraints. Early and on-going stakeholder engagement will take place shortly and throughout the design process.



Donnelly Civil Engineering Ltd and MWP Engineering have delivered a package of improvement works at Balbriggan Harbour. The main Harbour upgrade works and shoreside services are complete, with some lighting improvements awaiting final completion further to new electricity connections.

The programme office met with Project Management Consultants in February to initiate the phase 2 element of the Balbriggan Tidal Pool and Swimming Platform Feasibility Study. Potential funding options and funding models will also be investigated and identified and necessary environmental studies, site investigations will form part of the phase 2 stage.

An Internal Project Team has been established from the Town Regeneration Office, Our Balbriggan and FCC Architects to progress the Boathouse and Bathhouse project. FCC has met with local stakeholders and potential end users for the Bathhouse and Boathouse. Enabling works commenced in February. Works include full surveys and assessment of the site, which will inform the full works design and planning proposal.



A comprehensive Balbriggan Public Realm Strategy - Masterplan & Design Guide and a Balbriggan Active Travel & Transportation plan are complete with both expected to be published shortly.



The Our Balbriggan Office continues to generate regular and unique content across all social media channels, Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, LinkedIn with over 5.1k followers on Facebook.



Lár Bailte ar dTús  
Town Centre First

### Town Centre First - Lusk

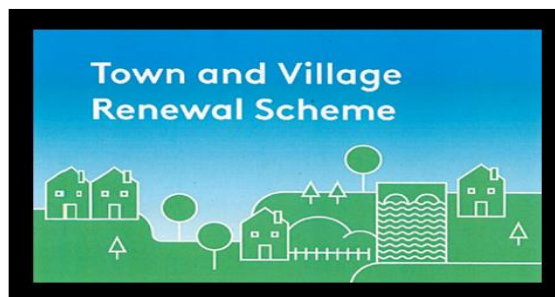
The structure, membership and Terms of Reference for the new Lusk Town Team were agreed in the third quarter 2023. Together with the Town Team there are three Pillar Groups representing the Community, Business and Economy and Public Realm / Climate Action & Sustainability (to include Vacant & Derelict Buildings). Consultants to support the preparation of a new Town Plan were appointed to work with the Community, Businesses and Public Realm Pillars in Lusk to get their views for inclusion in the new town plan. Work on this has progressed well, with a draft of the new Town Centre First Plan for Lusk currently being reviewed, with final sign-off on the plan expected shortly. The plan will then be published.

### Town Centre First - Rush

At the National Town Centre First Day held 28<sup>th</sup> February in Limerick, the Minister for Rural and Community Development, Heather Humphries T.D. announced that Rush had been selected as Fingal's second Town Centre First Town. The Town Regeneration Office welcomes the selection of Rush as a Town Centre First Town and will be engaging with the Local Elected Members, the Community and the Business Sector in Rush to establish a new Rush Town Team. This new Town Team will prepare a new Town Centre First Plan for Rush.

### Town & Village Renewal Schemes

The 2023 Town and Village Renewal Scheme was launched during the Summer 2023 and the Town Regeneration Office submitted 5 applications to the Department of Rural and Community Development for consideration in November. The outcome of these applications is awaited.





In 2023, the Town Regeneration Office completed the implementation of projects in Rush, Donabate, Oldtown, Naul, St. Margaret's and Balrothery. With respect to these 6 schemes, the local authority has invested €282,276.00 in total funding drawn down from the Department of Rural and Community Development to support the revitalisation of our Rural towns.



### Outdoor Recreation Infrastructure Scheme

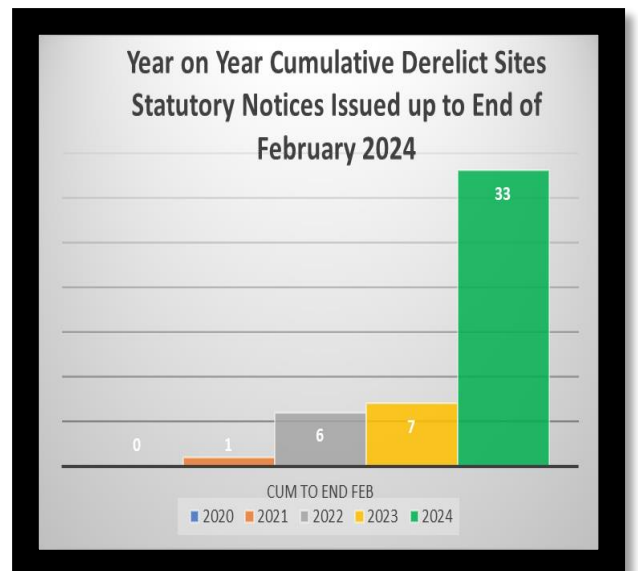
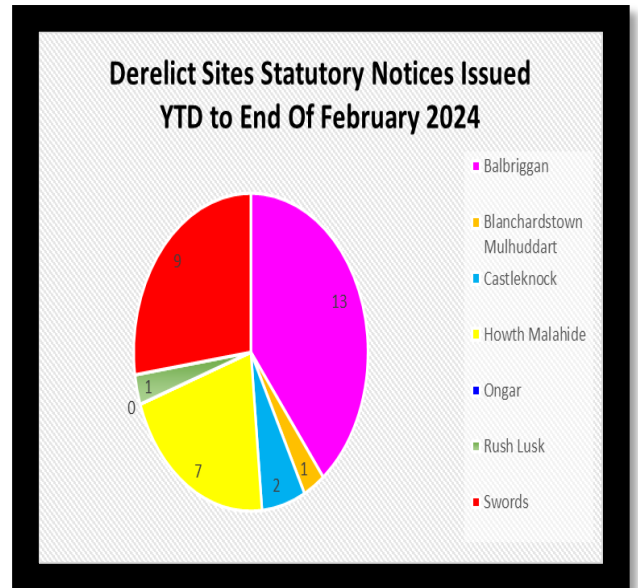
An application under the Outdoor Recreation Infrastructure Scheme for a feasibility study for facilities for sea swimmers in Skerries was successful in November. As of February 2024, the Town Regeneration Office has commenced the study process by engaging with local stakeholders, gathering and collating feedback to inform future options and study scope.

### Urban Regeneration Development Fund Call 3

In 2023, the Town Regeneration Office was successful in securing €7 million for a new revolving fund that will acquire vacant or derelict properties to renovate, bring back into use and sell back into the market for housing purposes. An initial 19 properties under this fund have been approved for inclusion by the URDF Call 3 Fund administered by the Department of Housing Heritage and Local Government. A further 5 properties were approved by the Department of Housing, Heritage and Local Government in February. These are being assessed and progressed where appropriate. A further 20 properties are under consideration to be added to the list of properties going forward.

### Derelict Sites

33 statutory notices have issued to owners of Derelict properties to the end of February 2024. This equates to 71% of the total notices issued in 2023 and the team are gaining momentum as they work through referrals throughout the County. 25 new sites have been identified to the end of February 2024 which are actively being progressed in line with the Derelict Sites Act 1990.



The Derelict Sites Section actively encourage the reporting of potential derelict sites. Referrals can be made by accessing the Report Form on Fingal County Councils public website and emailing the completed form through to [derelictsites@fingal.ie](mailto:derelictsites@fingal.ie)

## **LOCAL ENTERPRISE OFFICE**



LEO Fingal provides a broad suite of support services to stimulate enterprise and enable small businesses to succeed. Some of the LEO highlights for February 2024 are as follows:

### **Local Enterprise Week 2024**



Local Enterprise Week 2024 is scheduled for March 4th to 8th. The week kicks off in the Riasc Centre, Kinsealy with the Fingal Startup Bootcamp. On Tuesday the LEO in partnership with the Balbriggan Chamber is hosting a networking event in the Lark, Balbriggan called “Don’t Wait for Opportunity, Create it” with 3 Fingal entrepreneurs sharing their journey at the event. On Wednesday, Fingal Chamber is running a “Behind the Business” event in the Portmarnock Hotel featuring local entrepreneurs. Thursday sees Fingal LEO present a Dublin regional event in the Crowne Plaza, Blanchardstown, with Richard Curran as MC and covering the topic of Raising Finance. Friday will celebrate International Women’s Day with the Fingal Enterprising Women Network in the Roganstown Hotel, as well as the LEO sponsored Pitch Perfect event in TU Dublin, Grangegorman.

### **Fingal Local Enterprise Awards 2024**



**Fingal Enterprise Awards 2024**



The Fingal Enterprise Awards competition is organised annually by the Local Enterprise Office to acknowledge the achievements of small businesses. This is part of a national competition in which one overall winner from each of the 31 Local Enterprise Office areas will compete for the National awards. Each of the finalists who complete the full judging process will be eligible to share in the overall prize fund of approximately €10,000 to be invested in their business. The Fingal winner will be announced at a ceremony on Tuesday of Local Enterprise Week 2024.

Following an assessment of eligible applications these are the 5 Fingal Businesses that have been shortlisted and are now going forward to the judging phase of the competition:

Silvertop Ltd, T/A QBM (Baldoye), PRM Assist Ltd (Swords); Thorn Environmental Ltd (Dublin 15); MSC Retail T/A Carol Kinsella Chocolates (Kinsealy); Lumineire Ltd, T/A Elite Woodworking Machinery (Dublin 15).

### **Student Enterprise Programme**



26 Second level schools across Fingal are competing in this year's Student Enterprise Programme. Over 1,000 Fingal students have developed their own real-life businesses, researching, resourcing, trading services and products, with the guidance of business mentors. Final preparations are underway for the Fingal County Final which will take place on Thursday 14th March 2024 in the Crowne Plaza Blanchardstown, with the Junior, Intermediate and Senior Fingal winners progressing to the National Finals in Mullingar on 9<sup>th</sup> May.

## Fingal Enterprising Women Network



**Media, Motivation and Making it Happen**

**Friday 8th March 11:00 - 14:00**

**Featuring TV Personality & Business Woman Anna Daly**



As part of Local Enterprise Week 2024 and in honour of International Womens Day, the LEO's Fingal Enterprising Women Network will host an engaging networking lunch on Friday, March 8th at the elegant Roganstown House Hotel. Renowned TV personality and accomplished Businesswoman, Anna Daly will feature as guest speaker as she will discuss all things media, motivation and making it happen!

## Upcoming Fingal Business Briefing Sessions



A second Business Supports Briefing for 2024 was held on 6th February where 60 small business owners and entrepreneurs heard about supports and services available to them. The briefings outline services and supports for small businesses and individuals seeking to start their own business, through the LEO and other state agencies. 204 individuals attended a business briefing in 2023. The next business briefing is scheduled for Local Enterprise Week Friday 8th March at the Carlton Hotel Dublin Airport.

## Food Supports



LEO Fingal is running the next Dublin region Food Starter programme in April 2024, working with small food producers who are starting out on their food business journey. The Food Starter programme is the industry specific Start Your Own Business training for the food sector. As part of the programme, businesses are given a thorough grounding in what is required to set up their business, the health and safety implications and how to capitalise on market opportunity. Participants also benefit from the network of other food businesses on the course and leave with a new set of mentors and business advisors to help them on their journey. As part of Local Enterprise Week, we are running a Meet the Food and Drink Entrepreneurs event for all Dublin food producers, featuring successful food producers who will share their experiences with the audience.

## Evaluations and Approvals Committee

The Evaluation and Approvals Committee (EVAC) approved €174,990 in funding across six Business Feasibility, Priming and Expansion Grants in February 2024. Four Technical Assistance for Micro Exporters grants to the value of €10,000 and two Digital for Business grants amounting to €9,000. The next EVAC meeting will be on 20th March 2024.

## Management Development



# LEADERSHIP FOR BUSINESS ACCELERATION



The Leadership for Business Acceleration Programme provides an exceptional opportunity for SME Owners and Managers to build on the necessary leadership skills and knowledge needed to successfully compete in existing, new and international markets. This highly successful “International Best Practice” training programme will run from March – May 2024 and is delivered to small groups by way of onsite skills development workshops and online workshops. As part of the programme, the owner manager participants each produce Work Based Assessments which document their strategic plan and acts as a living document as well as a point in time reference for where their business is now and the actions they need to take to grow. Applications will shortly open for the programme.

## Energy Efficiency Grant Scheme



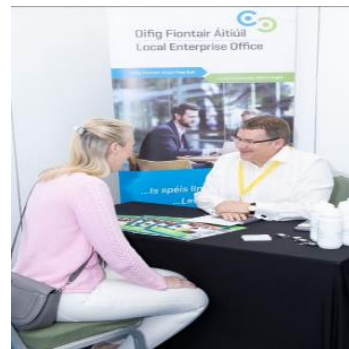
Applications are open for the Energy Efficiency Grant Scheme, the Scheme enables small businesses to invest in technologies and equipment to make their businesses more energy efficient. The grant will cover up to 50% of the costs to a maximum amount of €5,000. The goal is to reduce the impact of small businesses on the environment and help them to reduce costs to enable them to become more competitive. As part of the process, applicants complete the Green for Business Programme, a customised initiative whereby the business develops a strategy to become sustainable.

## Trading Online Voucher Scheme



An initiative under the Government’s National Digital Strategy, the Trading Online Voucher (TOV) scheme supports small businesses by allowing them to enhance their online offering by providing a grant of up to €2,500 for ecommerce and digital marketing activities, as well as giving businesses a better understanding of how they can exploit E-Commerce opportunities for their business. In January 2024, a total of 18 applications have been approved in the amount of €38,504. The next Trading Online Voucher seminar will be held online during Local Enterprise Week on 7th March 2024

## Business Advice Clinics and Mentoring



LEO Fingal provides one to one business support services through Business Advice Clinics and a Mentoring programme, both online and in person. These services are heavily subsidised by LEO and provided free of charge to small businesses. The Fingal mentor panel consists of a variety of skilled and experienced mentors from a range of business backgrounds. So far this year, over one hundred clients have availed of one-to-one advice in our Business Advice Clinics. The Mentoring Programme has already got off to a busy start, with 63 clients receiving expert mentoring so far this year.

## Microfinance Ireland Loans

LEO Fingal provides a loan scheme through its partnership with Microfinance Ireland, with loans of up to €25,000 per approved applicant. LEO Fingal is actively promoting the availability of loans from businesses that have difficulty raising finance from their bank. Applications are processed and assessed by LEO Fingal and submitted to MFI (Microfinance Ireland). Applications submitted through LEO Fingal are eligible for a reduced interest rate. LEO Fingal has processed and submitted 5 MFI loan applications to date in 2024.

## Training and Events

2024 training is continuing apace with over 530 participants in events year to date. The second Start your own Business course starts on February 29th bringing to 24 the number of participants at the multi-day event YTD. The Social Media and Digital Marketing QQI course kicked off in January and is still ongoing with a class size of 12. The second Social Media course is running in Local Enterprise Week. Fingal LEO is running a Startup Bootcamp in Local Enterprise Week which is an intensive one-day course for those who wish to invest in their training for starting their business.

## Internationalisation and Export Development



Five Fingal businesses have been selected to participate in the 2024 Export Development Programme. The purpose of this new programme is to provide clients with the skills and the confidence to identify, target and exploit new business opportunities in the Benelux Region. In addition, the TAME (Exporter) grant enables small businesses to explore and develop new market opportunities by providing up to €2,500 to businesses investigating and researching export markets. Four Fingal businesses have been approved for Export Grants in 2024 to date.

# OPERATIONS

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Works Programme
Car Parking Services
Burial Grounds Services
Traffic Operations County-wide
Fleet Management & Plant Hire Unit
Street Lighting LED Programme
Recycling Centre Update
Licenses
Surface Water
Meetings/Briefings

## Works Programme Balbriggan / Swords Area

### Balbriggan Area Parks



As part of the ongoing improvements and path upgrades in Skerries Town Park, there are recent installations of park rail and bollards at strategic junctions.



As part of the improvement of sightlines at the exit of Loughshinney Park Estate, a small section of hedge was removed with the installation of bollards and associated path improvements.



Following a recent high tide flooding event, the steps access at North beach Skerries required repair and replacement of the bottom set of steps. Works completed by FCC Operations staff.



New self-watering planters installed outside Naul Community Centre.



The Height restriction barrier at the entrance to Red Island Car Park required an increase in height to accommodate the newer design emergency vehicles that occasionally require access to the site.

### Swords Area Parks



**Holywell Park** – 130 trees planted on a rainy Saturday morning in February. The Continuation of volunteer planting undertaken by the Swords Woodland Association and assisted by youth players of Kinsealy Utd along the Northern boundary of Holywell Park, adjacent to the car park.



**Santry Demesne** - Veteran/Ancient Oak tree fenced off in Santry demesne to restrict access as part of woodland management measures.



Recently installed access path to bench at Portrane, following requests from elected representatives.



Removal of vegetation along paths edges in Rivermeade Open Space.

## Harbours

### ➤ Balbriggan Harbour

Repointing on sea wall.

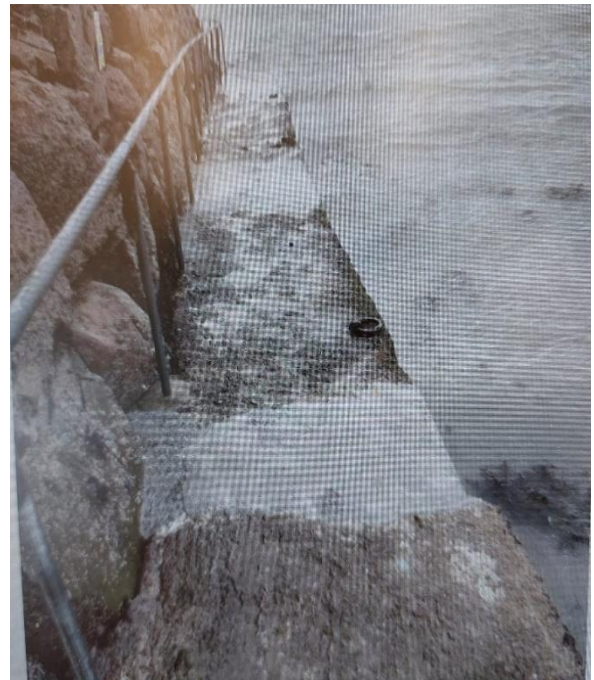


Clear out & Removal of container from harbour.



### ➤ Skerries Harbour

Repairs to the back of the concrete sea wall.





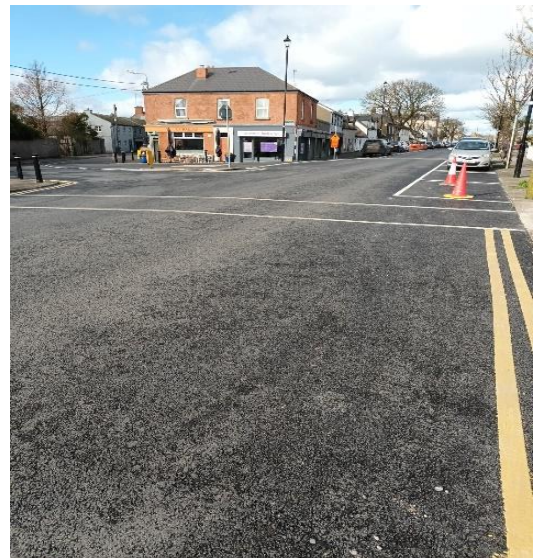
## Bridges

Clearing of vegetation from 16 bridges for principal inspection.



## Skerries

Newly resurfaced Strand Street in Skerries.



## Swords

Concrete road repairs, carried out by the Direct Labour Crew, in Valley View.



Removal of timber posts and clean up of area at Elmwood.



Replacement and adjustment of various road signage in the Swords greater area.



## Portrane

Concrete road and footpath repairs by FCC crews at Seaview Park.



Concrete bases, benches and bins installed at Quay Road and Tower Bay.



## Public Convenience Building Programme Balbriggan Swords Area

The Part VIII planning consent process for the replacement of the public toilet at Rush South beach commenced following the Area Meeting in December. Plans and drawings of the proposal went on display on the 30<sup>th</sup> of January 2024 for final decision at the April Council Meeting. It is hoped to have the new toilet, which is to be constructed off site, to be in situ before the start of the bathing season.

**Howth Malahide Area  
Programme of Works**

The 2024 POW is currently being tendered. Road Closures have been booked for Road Inlays in March and April and footpath works have been tendered and will commence when suitable weather conditions allow.

**Depot Work**



Substantial patching repairs carried out by Fingal County Council on Kinsealy Lane



Wearing course being laid as part of deep patching repairs by FCC Crews on Kinsealy Lane



Substantial patching repairs on Feltrim Rd carried out FCC Operations Road Crews



Substantial patching of Streamstown Lane carried out by FCC Operations Crews. Potholes reported through CRM system.



Replacement of Defective Footpaths in Bayside reported through the CRM system.

**Malahide Demesne**

Official opening of a new piece of inclusive equipment in Malahide Demesne.

Despite the poor weather, spirits were high with Joe Duffy presenting and the Minster and other dignitaries attending.



➤ **Refurbishment works of the existing Sports Pavilion and Cafe in Malahide**

Series of photos showing the significant progress of the works at the Sports Pavilion and Café in Malahide. Essential and emergency refurbishment works prior to advertising a new tender were required to the building. There are final checks for electricity and plumbing taking place at the moment. The public conveniences are available to the public with works completed to the accessible toilet.

The concession for the management, maintenance and operation of the facility including the Pitch & Putt, Golf Course and Tennis Courts will be going out to tender at the end of Q2 2024. It is hoped to have a new services concession in place by end of Q3 2024 and in the meantime it remains open with a temporary arrangement in place.



### Kettles Park Trim Trail



Pictured above, Kettles Park Trim Trail installed and completed.

### Burial Ground Works



Replacement concrete aprons and stone wall repairs at St. Fintan's burial grounds on going.



Due to traffic driving onto the green at Balgriffin, Fingal burial grounds team installed new bollards and wooden posts.





Tree maintenance and cutting back of overhanging trees within St. Fintan's burial grounds in progress.



Kilbarrack burial grounds removal of dangerous tree from storm damage complete

**Beaches & Cleansing**





Installation of new bins Kinsley, Malahide, Seagrang, Baldoye and Red Arches, Baldoye completed.



Power washing and cleaning at the square rear of Malahide church works completed.



Graffiti removal Red Arches and Seagrang Baldoye completed.



In progress replacement new signage Howth Malahide beach locations currently in progress.





Sand bag delivery at Sutton Strand due to threat of sea overtopping. There was no breach at high tide.



Replacement ladder for High Rock, Malahide due to be installed at location once weather and sea conditions allow.

**Public Convenience Building Programme  
Howth Malahide Area**

Work is continuing finalising the Final Drawings, Appropriate Assessment Screening Reports and Environmental Impact Assessment Screening with the aim to complete the replacement toilets at Howth East Pier and Malahide Muldowney in 2024. Part VII to commence as soon as the EIAS is complete. This is now underway.

**Castleknock Mulhuddart Area**

**Tyrellstown Playground**



The playground at Tyrellstown Park has re-opened following fire damage.

Works included a new wet pour and spring replacement.

**New Climbing Equipment Millennium Park**



New climbing equipment was installed at Millennium Park to cater for 13-16-year-olds.

## Beechpark



New Calisthenics equipment and additional paving for the car park has been installed at Beechpark, Clonsilla.

## Road/Footpath Widening Millennium Park



Road and footpath widening has been carried out in Millennium Park.

## Gritting Works



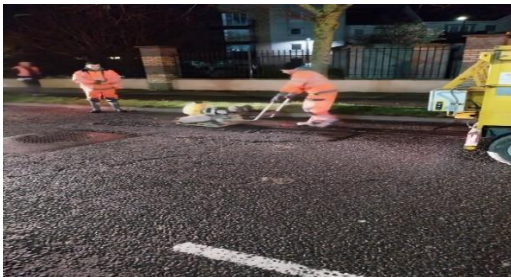
Gritting Works were carried out by our depot crew during the recent cold snap.

## Leaf Collection



Leaf Collection was carried out by our operations crews in D15 this month.

## Pothole Works



Pothole works were carried out in the D15 area this month.

## Car Parking Services

### January 2024

There was a total of 1217 parking tickets issued during January 2024.

### Breakdown of Parking Offences Top 10 Offences

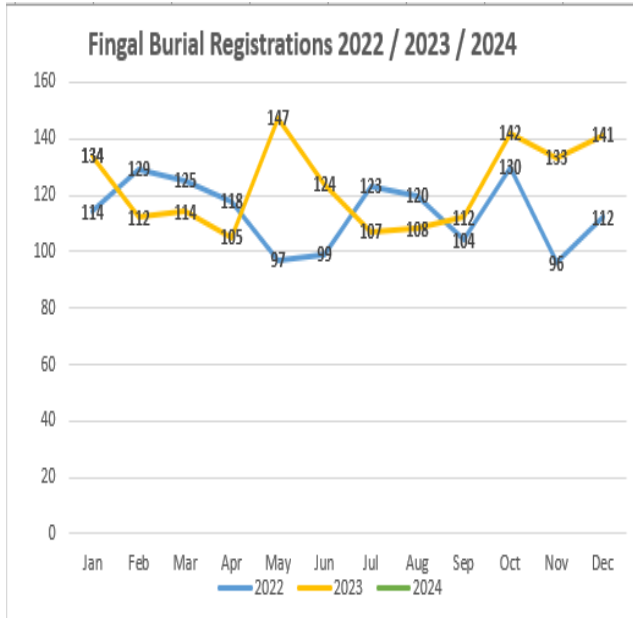
Offence	Main Ticketing Offences - January 2024
9A - A VEHICLE COMMITTING AN OFFENCE CONTRARY TO PAY AND DISPLY/PERMIT PARKING	674
04G - PARKING A PRIVATE VEHICLE IN A LOADING BAY	142
08A - PARKING A VEHICLE ON A FOOTPATH	126
9A - A VEHICLE OUT OF TIME TICKET	103
9D - PARKING A VEHICLE ON A DOUBLE YELLOW LINE	81
9C - VEHICLE OUTSIDE BAY	16
9F - PARKING/STOPPING A VEHICLE IN A DISABLED PERSONS PARKING BAY	16
04C - PARKING A VEHICLE IN A TAXI BAY	14
07A - OBSTRUCTION TO OTHER ROAD USERS/PEDESTRIANS	13
9H - PARKING IN AN ELECTRIC BAY	7

### Main Ticketing Locations: Top 10 Locations

Location	Main Ticket Locations January 2024
North Street - Swords	132
Bridgefield Car Park - Malahide	101
Main Street - Swords	80
The Green - Malahide	56
South Strand Skerries	53
Church Road - Malahide	48
Drogheda Street - Balbriggan	48
Harbour Road - Skerries	43
Coast Road - Malahide	42
Quay Street (short stay)Carpark - Balbriggan	36

### Burial Ground Services

The Operations Department are continuing to administer and monitor delivery to ensure business continuity for Fingal's Burial Ground Service. There were 134 Interments in January 2024.



### Kellystown Burial Ground

The Council went out to tender for the works at Kellystown Cemetery prior to Christmas 2023. The Tender deadline had to be extended to 29<sup>th</sup> of February, as the Council had concerns over lack of interest in the competition. 9 tenders for the works were received.

Once the tender evaluation is complete, we hope to have the contractor commence the works on site by end of May/June. However, this does depend on the successful contractors work schedule. In advance of the works members of the public who are waiting for a place for family members ashes in the planned Columbarium Wall can now register with [HowMalOpArea@fingal.ie](mailto:HowMalOpArea@fingal.ie).

In advance of the completion of the Cemetery, burial plots, cannot be purchased in accordance with the Burial Ground Bye-Laws 2023.

### Traffic Operations County-Wide

The 2024 Programme of Works (POW) for Traffic was approved in all administrative areas and work is ongoing to progress overall programme.

### Castleknock/Mulhuddart Area

#### ➤ 2023 POW



Traffic calming ramps on Delwood Road completed with permanent paint and reflectors.

#### ➤ Road Markings - Lining



Flexible bollards are placed exiting Navan Parkway to delineate traffic entering and exiting the train station.



Directional arrows are placed at Littlepace Bridge to direct traffic into the merging lane.

## Balbriggan/Swords Area

### ➤ Traffic Calming Ramps



Swords – Chapel Lane - Speed Ramp Replacement



Swords - St. Colmcille's G.N.S.- Speed Ramp Replacement

### ➤ New Traffic Calming 2023 POW



Naul - New Traffic Calming Ramps in the proximity of Naul National School



Garristown- New Kerb Build Out Garristown Main Street

## Howth/Malahide Area

### ➤ Relocation of warden crossing outside St Lawrence Senior School, Brookstone Road, Baldoyle.

Existing ramp was extended with provision of new tactile pavement, new road markings and adjustment to railings.



Warden crossing upgrade on Brookstone Road, Baldoyle



Meadowbrook Park- Baldoyle, Dishing of footpath to improve mobility for wheelchair users and mobility scooters.

➤ **New Approved Road Markings**



New Bus Cage markings for relocated Bus Stop on the R124 by Malahide Community School and New Double Yellow Lines for the entrance of Evora Park Howth



New Speed Roundels at entrance to Dal Riada – Portmarnock and additional school markings for Stapolin Educate Together School



POW 2024 – Commencement of conversion of an uncontrolled crossing to a Zebra crossing by St Fintan’s National School on Carrickbrack Road-Sutton

**Fleet Management & Plant Hire Unit**

86 vehicle and plant hires were put in place from 01/02/2024 to 29/02/2024, engaging 21 suppliers. 2 New Fully Electric 3.5 Tonne Fleet Vehicles, pictured at Watery Lane Depot. February 2024



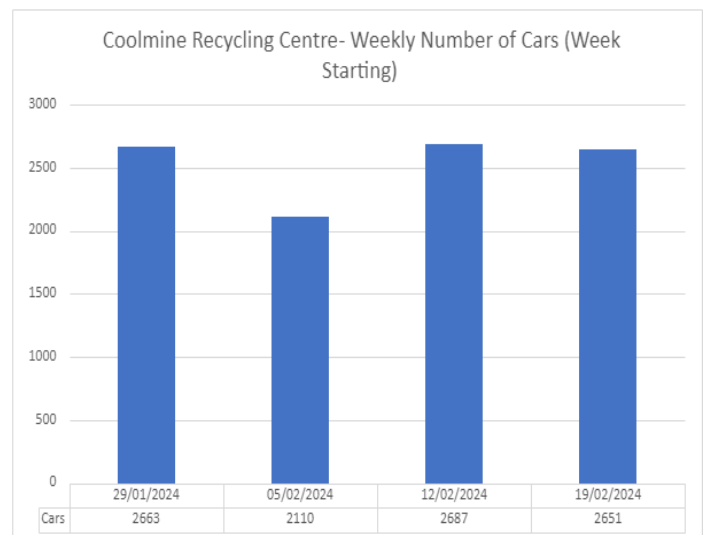
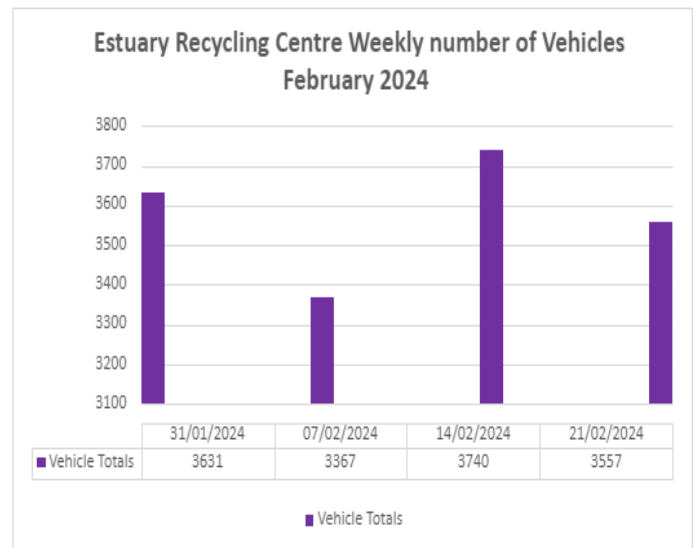
**Street Lighting LED Programme**

The Public Lighting Section will continue with the LED Programme with 99.6% of all lights switched to LEDs.

100% of new Decorative LED fittings have been installed in towns and villages across the county.



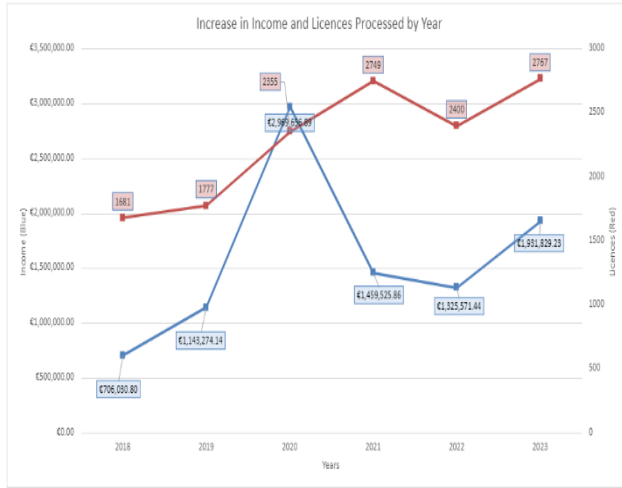
**Recycling Centres Update**



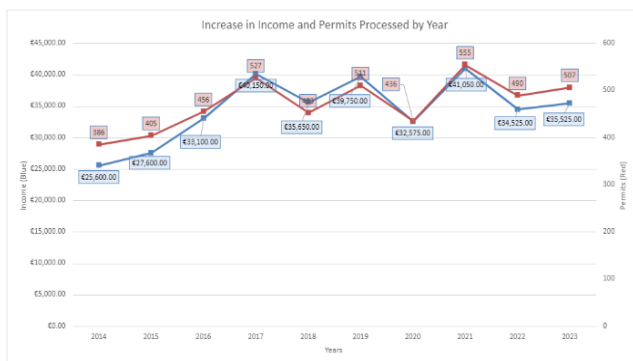
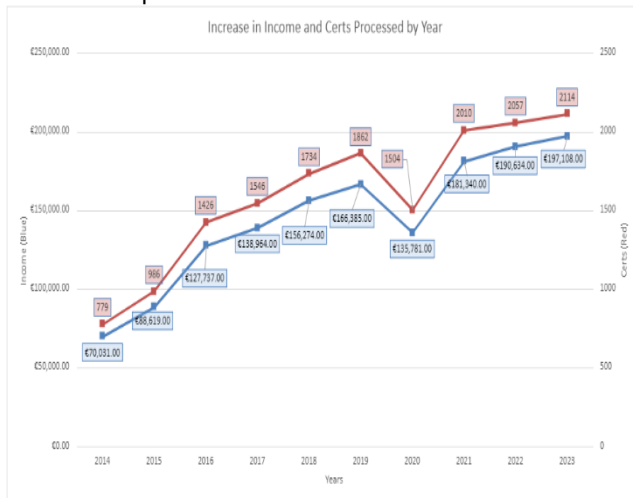
## Licenses

### - Annual Changes in Licencing Numbers

The below charts show the increasing volume of workload of the licencing department as well as corresponding increase in income in the period.



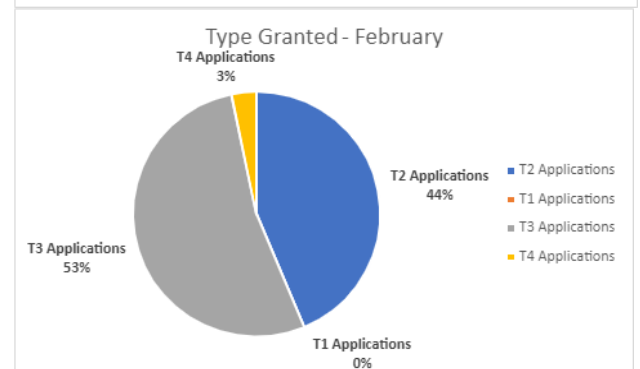
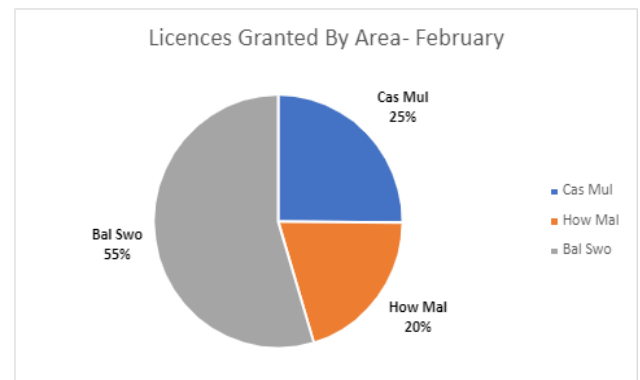
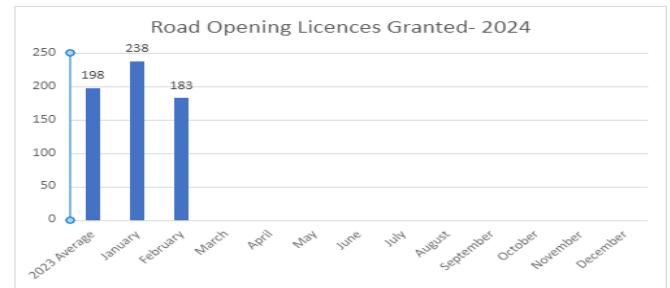
\*sharp increase in 2020 is due to major projects being completed while roads were quieter during the COVID pandemic.



### - Road Opening License's

The Licensing unit continues to process and manage the licensing system for the County. Applications are allocated by area for examination and conditioning which includes reviews of the existing carriageway, footpaths, cycleways, and grass verges. Applicants submit temporary traffic management plans for review to ensure all works are carried out safely within the public domain. Road Opening Licences are a cross functional process for the department and are essential for the asset management of Fingal County Council Road network.

**183 Licences** were granted in the month of **February**, **56%** of which were granted by way of **automation**. Clerk of Works in each area continue to carry out regular inspections following road opening works by Utilities.





### Casual Trading License

Fingal County Council are currently accepting renewal applications for Casual Trading Pitches throughout the Administrative Area this covers the trading of Hot Food/Tea & Coffee/Ice Cream and Flowers.

Current Casual Traders have got the opportunity to renew their licence at the same pitch for 2024 many of which have applied to do so.

Any remaining pitches are currently being advertised on the Fingal County Council website where there is a high level of interest a lottery system may be required to determine which Casual Trader will occupy a pitch.

Any further applications that come in after the 26<sup>th</sup> of February deadline are being processed on an Ad – Hoc basis.

The Castleknock/Mulhuddart Operations Department is in regular communication with our traders and area inspectors to assist in delivery of quality service and ensure compliance.

### Street Furniture Licences



Fingal County Council has processed a significant amount of Street Furniture Applications for 2024 and licences are in the process of been issued. Similar to 2023 there is a high level of interest in securing a Licence for 2024.

The Castleknock/Mulhuddart Operations Department will continue to carry out site inspections in the coming months to ensure compliance throughout the year.

### Storm Water

#### ➤ Stormwater Capital Programme 2023-2025

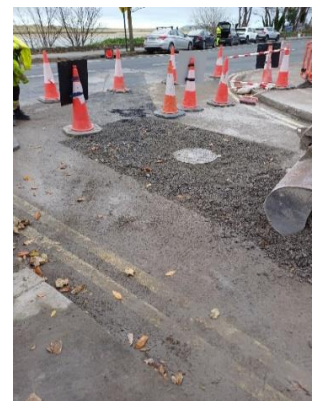
Fingal County Council are continuing to progress projects recently adopted in the 2024-2026 Stormwater Capital Programme. The 3-year programme includes 17 projects estimated at approximately €2.5 million with this figure under review as the projects are developed. Below is a brief update in relation to the status of some of the projects that have commenced and planned upcoming projects.

#### ➤ Howth Stormwater Culvert

All Topographical, Manhole, Flow and CCTV Surveys are complete and satisfactory. WPB Optioneering report is currently under review by the consultant after which it will be issued to FCC for review. The Consultant Roughan O Donovan is preparing contract documents for the procurement of a GPR (investigations) contractor to enable design documents to be progressed. An updated programme is due.

#### ➤ Bath Avenue Storm Water Pipe

This project involved the laying of a new Stormwater pipeline along Bath Ave in Malahide to alleviate localised flooding and allow for future capacity. In total 235m of pipe was laid, with the existing network on Grove Road connected to the new network. The new SW pipe is tied into an existing outfall on the Coast Rd. A road closure is currently in effect and additional mobility and drainage works are ongoing. Full reinstatement works by McQuillan Contractors will commence on 11/03/2024.



## - Burrow Beach

The proposed remediation of a surface water outfall pipe on Burrow Beach was scheduled to begin following the seabird wintering season around March 2024. However, delays with procurement for the supply of anchor blocks have pushed back the start date until September 2024 or March 2025. Works will be executed by FCC Direct Labour with technical assistance to be provided by design consultants.



## ➤ Wendell Avenue/Heather Walk

Stormwater sewer rehabilitation works in Portmarnock are now complete. In total 200m of collapsed sections of network have been replaced in the Dewberry Park, Wendell Avenue and Heather Walk estates. Trench reinstatement works are progressing. Following a tender process a contractor has now been appointed. Reinstatement works are planned for early March 2024.

## - Lusk Network Remedial Works

The above project consists of Stormwater infrastructure provision and improvement in the Lusk urban area. It will include second level/follow up investigation, surveys, non-invasive interventions jetting, root removal, pipe lining, replacement and new lay – using conventional cut and cover plus reinstatement of surface.

Currently the Direct Labour crew are upgrading sections of localised damaged pipeline. The works at the junction of **Treen Hill/Ministers Rd** are now complete. In total 60m of damaged and collapsed pipeline has been replaced with a 300mm diameter pipe, in the footway. Some reinstatement work is continuing.



Following additional CCTV surveys two sections requiring remediation along **Lusk Main St** have been identified. Works on these repairs will commence in late January. Sections of the network along **Station Rd & Dublin Rd** are currently undergoing camera survey works to examine its condition and confirm capacity. Most of the repair/replacement will be undertaken By Direct Labour with some input by contractors. The overall project is likely to take 24 months to complete.



➤ **Clonsilla/Mulhuddart Network Improvements**

Following historical reports of flooding additional CCTV surveys are being carried out to determine the condition of the Stormwater infrastructure in the **Rusheeney and Manorfield estates in D15**. So far, several large restrictions have been found and a manhole was completely blocked with household waste. Build-ups of concrete and collapsed sections have also been identified in other locations along the same network. Works are ongoing to carry out multiple trenchless repair works using a robotic cutting machine.



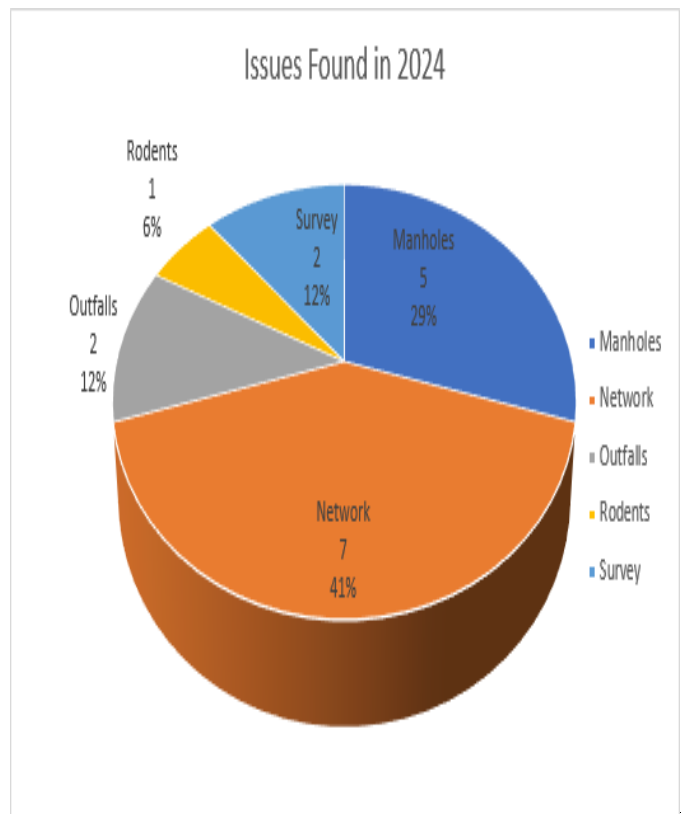
- **Carpenterstown Rd SW Pipe refurbishment**

Following survey work and subsequent analysis completed in 2023, a Contractor will be engaged to carry out various remedial works including part liner repairs on damaged sections of the network along Carpenterstown Rd. Tender documents are currently being drafted. It is hoped to have a contract in place to allow works to start on site during April of 2024.

- **Storm Water Maintenance**

Maintenance of the network and much of the capital works programme is generated by inspections which are tabulated on a Works Planner. The types and volumes of issues reported are shown in the chart.

**Up to February 23<sup>rd</sup> 2024**



- **Storm Water Connections:**

8 new connection applications including one diversion application have been processed to date in 2024.

- **Donabate**

Quotations were sought to carry out maintenance work on the **Beaverstown stream** to remove restrictions and clear and overgrown ditch to create storage and to remove flow restrictions, thereby alleviating risk of road flooding. These works were undertaken in February 2024 and will enable further examination of the catchment to improve surface water management.



➤ **Assets**

Ironworks

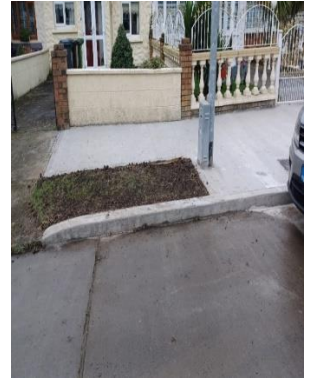
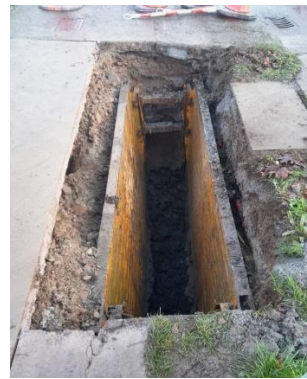
The Stormwater manhole cover and frame replacement programme for replacing assets at the end of life is ongoing. Covers and frames were recently replaced on highly trafficked locations in Lusk and Balrothery. Offline replacements were also completed in the Bun-a-Knock estate in the Naul.

- **Water Quality**

Balbriggan – Water Quality Improvement

A Contractor has been engaged to carry out reinstatement works following the removal of previously misconnected properties to the Surface Water network in **Flemington**. Full reinstatement is planned for completion in Q1 of 2024.

Following CCTV surveys in **Clonard Court** area of **Balbriggan** a collapsed section of pipe was found. This has since been excavated and replaced with a new section and all restrictions have been removed.



➤ **Seagrang park**

Assistance is still being given by the Storm Water Unit to *Baldoyle Tidy Towns* who had secured funding for a Biodiversity project on the Seagrang Park stream, Baldoyle.

Recent inspections have focussed on a local culvert to determine the source of contamination to the surface water network and further sampling is being carried out to support this investigation.



**Meetings/Briefings**

Meeting held with Balbriggan Elected Representatives and "Save Our Sand" group on Monday 26<sup>th</sup> February with regards to Balbriggan beach

# PLANNING AND STRATEGIC INFRASTRUCTURE (PSI)

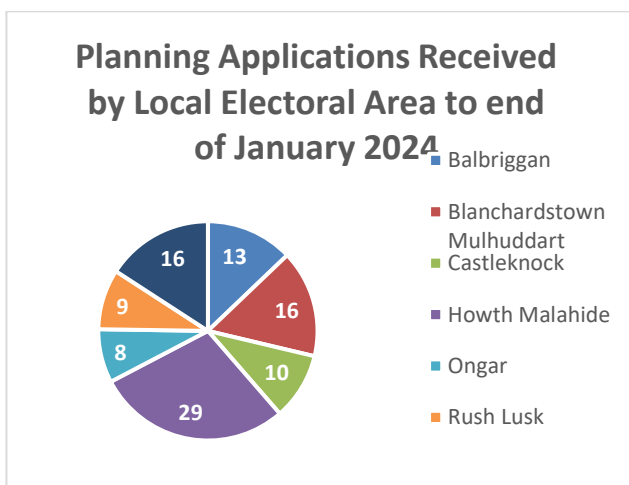
Contents
Planning Applications
Planning Decisions
Building Control Admin
Strategic Policy Unit
Built Environment Division
Transportation Planning
Parks & Green Infrastructure Division
Heritage Officer

## Planning Applications

There have been 101 planning applications received from 1<sup>st</sup> January 2024 to 31<sup>st</sup> January 2024, 31 applications were invalid leaving a total of 70 valid applications. The volume of applications received by Local Electoral Area (LEA) is detailed in the table below.

From 1<sup>st</sup> January 2024 to 31<sup>st</sup> January 2024. There have been no Large-scale Residential Development (LRD) full applications made to the Local Authority in January 2024. From 1<sup>st</sup> January 2024 to 31<sup>st</sup> January 2024 two decisions have been made on Large Scale Residential Developments. Of these two decisions made, both have been to grant Permission. As these are amendments only the overall number of units granted to date remains the same (3,791 Units)

An Bord Pleanála have issued no decisions on SHD applications in the period from 1<sup>st</sup> January 2024 to 31<sup>st</sup> January 2024. There are five SHD's (4,577 units) remaining with An Bord Pleanála for decision.



## Planning Decisions

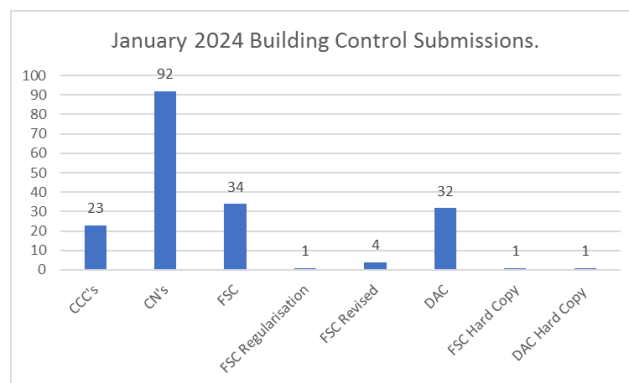
A total of 110 planning decisions have been issued to 31<sup>st</sup> January 2024. There have been 93 decisions to grant permission (85%) and 17 refusals of permission (15%). Included in the 93 grants there have been 7 grants of permissions in respect of single house construction, 43 grants of permission for domestic extensions/works, 16 commercial grants of permission, 3 retail grants of permission and 3 grants of permission in respect of housing developments of which 3 relate to developments of 2 – 20 units.

## Building Control Admin

In January 2024, there were 186 Building Control submissions made via the BCMS together with 1 hard copy FSC and 1 hard copy DAC submission. This was made up of 92 Commencement notices, 23 Compliance of Completion Certificates, 39 Fire Safety related Certificates and 32 Disability Access related Certificates.

Commencement notices and Compliance on Completion Certificates are submitted through the Projects module on BCMS. Fire Safety, Disability Access, Regularisation and Dispensation/Relaxation Certificate applications can be submitted online via the Applications module on BCMS and we are also still accepting hard copy applications directly into the office. Most applications are now being submitted via the online system.

The Building Control Admin team processed 244 decisions in January 2024 relating to Fire Safety and Disability Access Certificates. This was made up of 63 decisions to grant and 181 extensions of time.



## Strategic Policy Unit

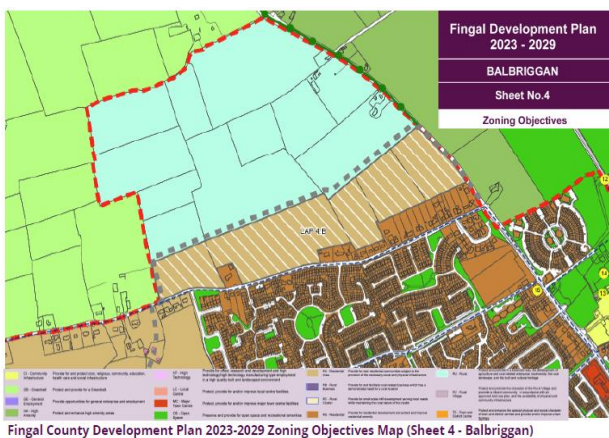
### Local Area Plans, Masterplans and Framework Plans

In July, the first round of Plans falling out of the development plan was agreed. This comprises Swords and Flemington LAP's, the Dunsink Plan, Kilbarrack and the Old School House Masterplans and the Stephenstown, Folkstown and Clonsilla Framework Plans.

Work has begun on the Flemington Local Area Plan and the Clonsilla Framework Plan.

### Flemington Local Area Plan

The proposed LAP boundary has been designated in the Fingal County Development Plan 2023-2029. Local Area Plans play an important role in setting the framework for the achievement of integrated and balanced communities within a specified area. They seek to provide the optimal development framework to ensure the protection and enhancement of the existing areas, key features and the environment within an area, while providing for a high quality living environment through the use of robust urban design principles. Fingal County Council has commenced the consultation process which is a key feature of the Local Area Plan process. The pre-draft consultation period ran from 1<sup>st</sup> February to 1<sup>st</sup> March. A targeted workshop for local members, landowners and community groups took place on Friday 2<sup>nd</sup> February and a very well attended information drop in session for member of the public was held on 19<sup>th</sup> February, 4pm – 7pm in Bracken Court Hotel, Balbriggan.



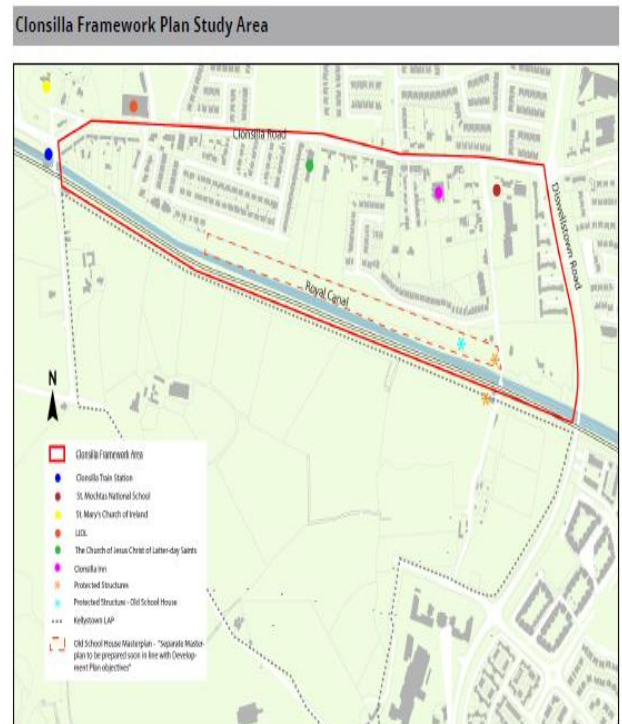
### Clonsilla Framework Plan

The Fingal Development Plan 2023-2029 provides for an objective to prepare a Framework Plan for lands at Clonsilla (Plan Ref. FP 13.C).

The proposed FP boundary has been designated in the Fingal County Development Plan 2023-2029 and includes an area of land south of Clonsilla Road/Larch Grove, bounded by Diswellstown Road to the east, Callaghan Bridge to the west and extends just south of the railway tracks.

The Kellystown Local Area Plan, located to the south of the Clonsilla Framework Plan area, was adopted in January 2021 and provides for the future development of that particular area. A specific and separate Masterplan will also be prepared for the Old School House area in the near future.

Public consultation is a key element in the preparation of the Clonsilla Framework Plan and the pre-draft consultation period ran from Tuesday 6<sup>th</sup> February to Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> March. A targeted workshop for local members and community groups took place on Tuesday 6<sup>th</sup> February and a separate information drop in session for member of the public was held on 19<sup>th</sup> February, 4pm – 7pm.



### Donabate Framework Plan

Fingal County Council has prepared and published a Draft Framework Plan for Donabate, County Dublin. The draft Plan provides a vision for the Donabate town centre which will improve and enhance the Main Street area and guide careful urban improvement. The Plan will provide an opportunity to improve the public realm and setting of the town and will guide future funding opportunities. This Plan highlights the distinctive character of Donabate, its setting on the peninsula, current issues pertinent to Donabate and, lastly, outlines a programme of actions which must be agreed with the community.

The Draft Donabate Framework Plan, including SEA Statement and Screening Report for Appropriate Assessment was on public consultation until Wednesday 21<sup>st</sup> February and is before the March meeting for agreement.

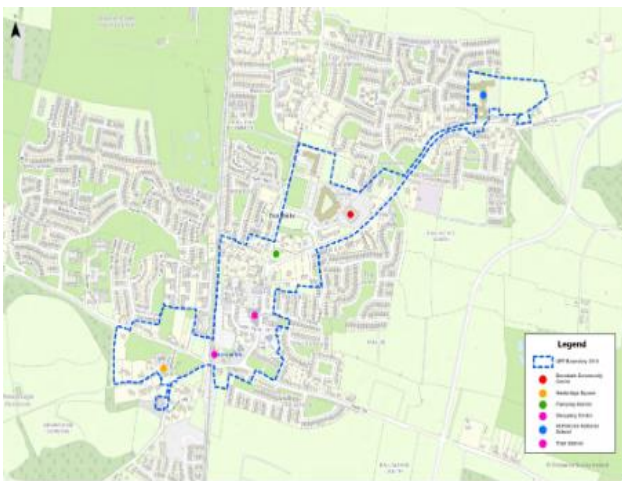
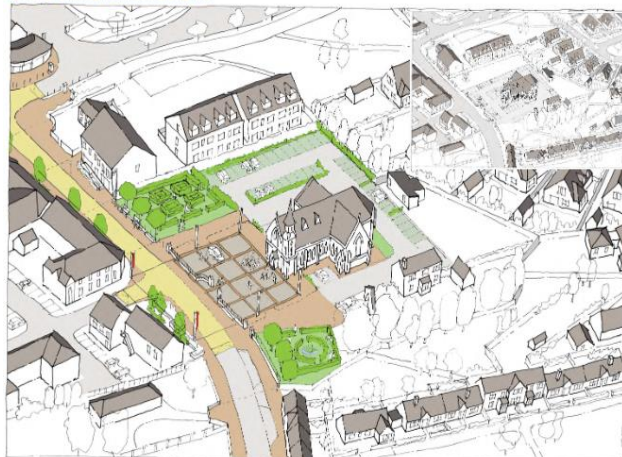


Fig. 6-6: St. Patrick's Sq. Indicative and Existing Views



### Residential Zoned Land Tax

The Residential Zoned Land Tax (RZLT) is a tax aimed at activating serviced and residentially zoned land for housing. Local authorities are responsible for identifying the land that is subject to RZLT.

On 1<sup>st</sup> February 2024, Fingal County Council published the annual draft maps for 2025 identifying land currently in scope for the tax, land proposed to be removed from the current scope and land proposed to be added for the first time. Landowners may make submissions and submit rezoning requests regarding land identified on these maps. 1<sup>st</sup> April 2024 is the last date to make submissions regarding removal of land from the 2025 annual draft maps if considered to be outside scope, including submissions by landowners in support of the exclusion of their land where it is identified on the annual draft map that the local authority proposes to exclude such land, or challenging the date of inclusion. Submissions may also be made recommending land be included on the maps. The 31<sup>st</sup> May 2024 is the last date to make a rezoning request regarding land identified on the 2025 annual draft map

Fingal County Council's final RZLT map for 2024 is now available on our website and at our public office at County Hall, Main Street, Swords. The map includes lands that meet the relevant criteria for inclusion on the map as set out in the current legislation.

- In Scope Residential Lands in Fingal: 3,502 Hectares
- In Scope Mixed Use Lands in Fingal: 209 Hectares

### Built Environment Division

#### Building Control/Taking in Charge Section - 29/02/2024



- There were 19 Building Control Inspections in January 2024 with 31 buildings inspected.
- There were 3 developments Taken in Charge in February 2024 (Barnageeragh Cove in Skerries, Vauxhall Street in Balbriggan and Drynam Hall in Kinsealy).
- There are 4 developments scheduled for Taking in Charge in April 2024 (Riverwood Gardens Carpenterstown, Emsworth Kinsealy Lane in Malahide, Golden Ridge phase 2 in Rush and Coopers Wood in Kinsealy).
- Sustainable Drainage System (SuDS) – The Fingal SuDS guidance document (Green/Blue Infrastructure for Development) has been reviewed to include changes in technical standards. This document along with the SFRA documents have been incorporated into the new development plan.



### Incorporating Sustainable Drainage Systems in Residential Developments



The GSDS has outlined SuDS as a sustainable way to manage surface water as we prepare to meet the challenges of climate change. This example of Millers Glen in Swords, shows an example of surface water being held onsite, providing treatment via appropriate planting, and then discharging at greenfield runoff rate. This is a move away from the traditional method of collecting all surface water via piped systems which can often no longer manage the intense rainfall's being experienced.

### Multi-Party Framework Agreement for the preparation of Surface Water Management Plans (SWMP)

The procurement process has begun for the new Multi-Party Framework Agreement for the preparation of Surface Water Management Plans (SWMP) for the new County Development Plan. The SAQ for the above framework was posted on eTenders with a closing date for tender submissions set for 30/09/2022. The tenders were assessed and a recommendation for progression to the next phase has taken place. WSFP are working with the planners to identify areas for inclusion in the framework.

### Transportation Planning

#### PSI 001 Snugborough Interchange upgrade

The Snugborough Interchange is currently programmed to be completed in late May 2024. The last element of the scheme to be completed will be the shared active travel route through the underpasses. The scheme has been delayed mainly due to the complexity of the scheme and the number of utility diversions involved. During Q1 refurbishment works have been carried out on the old bridge which include repairs, re-waterproofing, and some surfacing. Utility diversion works in the area near the underpasses have continued. Boundary wall construction at Waterville road, traffic signal installation and construction of footpaths have been carried out. Some of the current works which include surfacing, duct installation and road marking are being carried out in at night to limit impact on traffic flow. New traffic signals and the new junction layouts/ pedestrian crossings will be put in operation during April. Updates will be posted on the scheme web site [www.snugboroughinterchange.ie](http://www.snugboroughinterchange.ie)





### PSI 002 Ongar Barnhill Road

Bam Civil Ltd. have completed the south abutment base and columns for the bridge over the railway line. The installation of culverts to carry a stream under the proposed road is underway. A consultation for extinguishment of public right of way on Barberstown Lane North was initiated by FCC to allow for the construction of the road [Consultations | Fingal County Council Online Consultation Portal](#). Improvement works will be carried out to Barberstown Lane North and South during March in conjunction with the scheme. An update site briefing for local Councillors has been arranged for mid-March. Updates for the scheme will be posted on [www.fingal.ie/ongar-barnhill](http://www.fingal.ie/ongar-barnhill)



### PSI-039 R132 Connectivity Project

Consultation with the National Transport Authority and with Transport Infrastructure Ireland regarding the connection with Metro Link is ongoing with Monthly meetings. Following a meeting with a developer on a new access onto the R132. Modelling the impact of this junction is currently being undertaken by consultants. Detailed design stage is underway and progressing as programmed. Meetings continue to be held with the various department of Fingal County Council to gather information for detailed design. The tender documentations has been prepared for CCTV drainage contractor and another tender is currently been also prepared for the Ground Investigations to inform the detailed design process and de-risk the project.



### PSI-005 Harry Reynolds Road Pedestrian and Cyclist Route

Construction works is progressing on the Harry Reynolds Road Pedestrian and Cyclist Route for this key infrastructure project for Balbriggan. The Project is now approx 45% completed. The work is ongoing and progressing well at three locations on the project on Hamilton Road, Harry Reynolds Road just south of the R122 and at Moylaragh Road. Additional meeting with the ESB in Feb onsite for the new connection points at 12 Controlled crossing points along the project. Also, relocation of existing ESB cables has been agreed on Harry Reynolds Road.

A site visit to the took place in Early February with the local Councillors for the Balbriggan Electoral Area to the Harry Reynolds Road Pedestrian and Cyclist Route Project to show the progress and answer any queries.



Local Councillors for the Balbriggan Electoral Area attending the site visit.

To assist with communication to the community a dedicated project website has been setup which will be updated throughout the project, highlighting the projects progression and key milestone stages; [Harry Reynolds Road Pedestrian & Cycle Route | Fingal County Council](#)



Works progressing on Harry Reynolds Road just north of Fingal Bay Business Park with Footpath and cycle track installed recently.



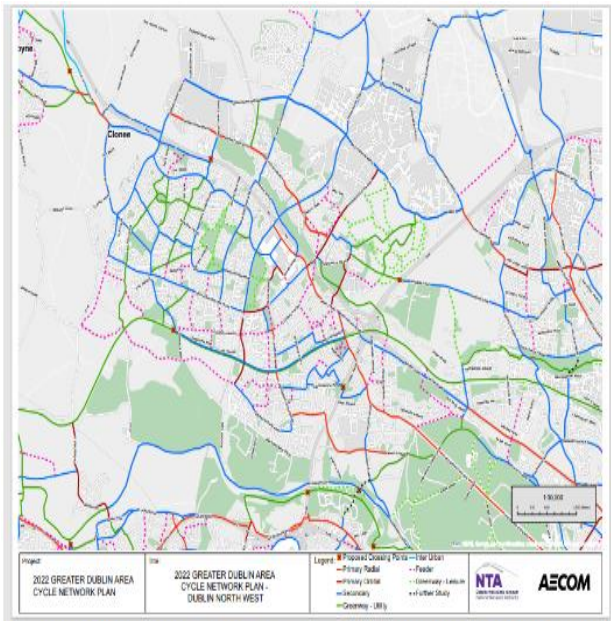
Works progressing on Harry Reynolds Road just north of Fingal Bay Business Park with Footpath and cycle track installed recently.



Works completed on the south side of the Hamilton Road

## Consultancy Framework for Dublin 15 Walking and Cycling Projects

The Planning & Strategic Infrastructure Dept has commenced the procurement process for a Single Party Framework for Engineering Consultancy Services for Pedestrian and Cycling Route Projects in the Dublin 15 Area. The procurement process has now moved to Stage 2. Proposed projects will include the Clonsilla-Damastown Cycle Route and Pedestrian & Cycling Bridge at Granard Bridge Castleknock.



Cycle Network Plan for The Greater Dublin Area - Proposed Cycle Network Dublin North West - Sheet N8

### PSI 063 Granard Bridge

A tender was published recently for Engineering Consultancy Services for a Pedestrian and Cycling bridge over the Maynooth Rail line and Royal Canal at Granard Bridge on the Castleknock Road and will form an integral part of the walking and cycling route for Blanchardstown to Phoenix Park which is a proposed route in the NTA's Greater Dublin Area Cycle Network Plan. The tender forms part of the initial project for the Engineering Consultancy Services Framework for Dublin 15 Pedestrian and Cycling Route Projects which is currently at stage 2 of the procurement process. The current closing date for submissions of tender is late March but this be extended if tenders request a extension.



Figure 1 - View from Rail Bridge towards Granard Bridge and Blanchardstown



Figure 2 - Site Location

### PSI - 004 Royal Canal Urban Greenway

Dialogue continues to be held with key stakeholders the National Transport Authority and Waterways Ireland along the route of the greenway to ensure a coordinated, high quality final design is achieved at interfaces between existing facilities and the proposed scheme.

As the project is currently at pre-planning stage there is a requirement to ensure the project preliminary design complies with the new cycling manual which was recently published. Therefore, this has resulted in the need to revise the preliminary design drawing for the project. These changes in the preliminary design requires the need to hold additional meetings with all the relevant key stakeholders to agree the revised design. These meetings will continue over the coming monthly to ensure a coordinated, high quality final design which compiles with the new cycling manual is achieved at interfaces between existing facilities and the proposed scheme. Landowner searches and land referencing are ongoing also.

Following completion of the preliminary design, all the required documents including the Environmental Impact Assessment Report will be prepared for a planning application to An Bord Pleanála. As a result of the additional requirements the project team has carried out a re-appraisal of the timeline of the project given the additional design and meetings to be held with key stakeholders has determined a revised estimated programme for submission of a planning application to An Bord Pleanála to be in Q4 2024

### S2M Pedestrian and Cycle Scheme

The preliminary design drawings are being finalised. The recently published Cycle Design Manual has led to some improvements being incorporated into the overall scheme design including revised layouts for crossings and bus stops to comply with the new standards. A surveyor has recently completed topographical surveys of public and private lands within the proposed scheme. Ground Investigation Works will be required along the route at all locations where new structures are being proposed. These works have been procured and are scheduled for early 2024. A tree surveyor will be procured in the coming months and a survey of all trees along the proposed route will be carried out. Following this process, the preliminary design can be finalised, and documents will be prepared for a planning application to An Bord Pleanála. Engagement with potentially impacted property owners, businesses and stakeholders is ongoing. A search of unregistered lands is ongoing for production of the deposit maps for the land acquisition.

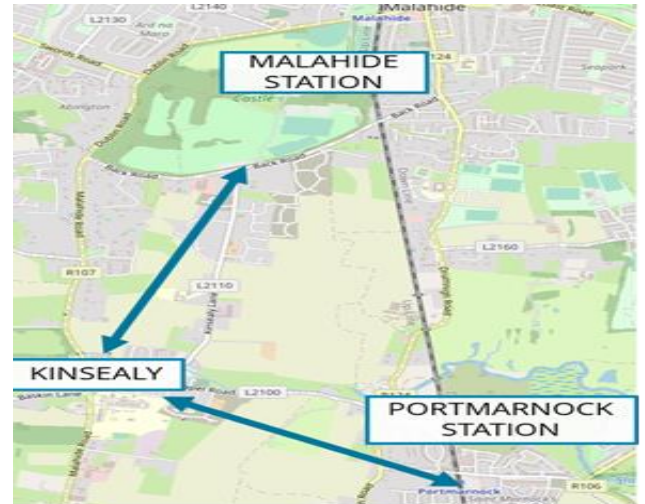


Artists impression for section of S2M Pedestrian and Cycle Scheme

### Kinsealy Walking and Cycling Routes

The consultancy framework for various Swords & Kinsealy projects with the initial project being the Kinsealy Walking and Cycling Routes was recently awarded to Barry transportation. The appointed consultants are currently progressing the Kinsealy Walking and Cycling Routes Projects. The Options Selection phase is progressing on two routes, Kinsealy Lane and Chapel Road/Station Road to determine the draft preferred routes. Traffic surveys have been completed. Topographical surveys are ongoing which.

Non-statutory stakeholder consultation which will include road users will be targeted for 2024 whilst targeted stakeholder consultation, for example with potentially affected landowners, will be undertaken as needed.



### Fingal Coastal Way

Meetings have commenced between the Independent Agronomist and affected landowners with farming and horticultural businesses. Searches continue for potentially affected landowners who have not been identified yet. A local consultation remains open in the Quay Street Area of Skerries and will run to the end of March. The consultation is asking residents for their preferences on traffic management options to facilitate the Fingal Coastal Way. The responses will assist in the selection of designs to be developed further.

The topographical survey of public lands is now complete and the survey data will allow designs in the town and village centres to progress. Further local consultations will be held as details are developed.



17.01.2024 - 10:00am  
28.03.2024 - 5:00pm

OPEN

**Fingal Coastal Way – Traffic Management Survey for Residents of Quay Street Area, Skerries.**

13 SUBMISSIONS

### Broadmeadow Way Greenway

Design options for the northern causeway have been developed using recently acquired ground investigation data from the ground investigation (GI) contract conducted over the summer months. These options will then be workshopped with the NTA and Irish Rail to seek approval to proceed with single preferred design option that meets the project objectives and ensure the safety and integrity of the railway causeway.

Tender competitions are complete for a number of sub-elements of the project. Irish Rail have awarded the following contracts which will allow the construction of the main bridge across the estuary:

- OHLE strengthening works to the foundations of the overhead electrical systems associated with the Dart which must be completed in advance of the bridge and ramp construction awarded to Global Rail Services Ltd.
- Manufacture and supply of precast concrete units for the 12-span 180m long precast bridge deck units awarded to Shay Murtagh Precast Ltd.
- Main estuary bridge Civil Engineering Contract awarded to Jons Civil Engineering Ltd.
- 

The Underwater Archaeology Unit in the Department of Local Government and Heritage have requested that Fingal County Council undertake an underwater archaeology desktop assessment as part of planning and foreshore commitments. A tender competition for this piece of work was issued to the market and Archaeological Management Solutions were awarded the contract. The study is due to be completed by the end of March.

The Department of Housing, Local Government & Heritage has advised that the Minister has approved the granting of the Foreshore Lease, Licence and Consent and the application has now been referred to the Chief State Solicitor's Office for drafting and execution. This is the final step for Foreshore Licence Approval.

Works to strengthen the foundations of the OHLE masts have commenced at Bisset's Strand, Malahide. This work is to be completed in advance of the construction of the main estuary bridge. In accordance with the conditions of planning, monthly bird surveys are currently being carried out and will continue until April.

### Church Fields Link Road

Works are continuing on phase 2 of the Church Fields Link Road and Cycle Network project, including the upgrade and reconfiguration of the existing Wellview Avenue, Damastown roundabout and the installation of 670m of high-quality pedestrian and cycling facilities through the eastern parklands linking up with existing networks and future proposed facilities in the vicinity.



Landscaping at Ladyswell Road Roundabout

### Turvey Avenue & Portrane Road, Donabate

Fingal County Council has lodged an application to An Bord Pleanála (ABP) for a Compulsory Purchase Order (CPO) for the Portrane Road Enhancement Project. Two landowner objections have been lodged with ABP in this regard. Further consultation regarding landowner concerns has resulted in one of the landowners withdrawing his objection. Consultation continues with the other landowner to try to reach an agreement. The project involves works to widen the existing narrow footpath on the northern side of Portrane Road in order to provide a suitably wide and safe footpath for pedestrians to use in the vicinity of two national schools (St. Patrick's Boys National School and Scoil Phádraic Cailíní).

The project also involves works to provide safe pedestrian crossings and appropriate traffic calming facilities. Subject to approval from An Bord Pleanála, the CPO will allow Fingal County Council to purchase privately-owned land that is required to widen the path and deliver the project. Fingal County Council awaits the decision of An Bord Pleanála in this regard.

Separately, Priority Construction Ltd, working on behalf of Fingal County Council, has commenced work on the Turvey Avenue Footpath Enhancement. As part of this project, a new footpath is currently being built on the northern side of the road where no footpath previously existed. The new footpath will provide a continuous and safe walking route along Turvey Avenue for pedestrians travelling to and from Donabate Village and train station. The project also includes drainage improvements, widening of an existing footpath nearby, resurfacing of the road and provision of new line markings, speed ramps and signage. Stop-Go traffic management is in place on Turvey Avenue with marshals on hand to bring vehicles and pedestrians safely around the works area. The project is due to be completed this summer.



### Donabate Pedestrian Bridge

License agreements are being finalised with the developers of adjacent lands to facilitate access to, and construction of the bridge. Procurement for a main contractor for the works is nearing completion. All necessary documents have been submitted to the NTA for approval to award the contract and for funding for 2024. Construction is expected to commence in Q1 2024.

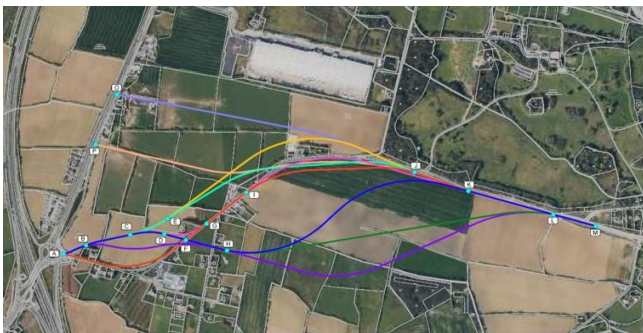
### Donabate Transport Projects

Fingal County Council has appointed Roughan and O'Donovan, a leading multi-disciplinary consultancy firm, to provide engineering, planning and environmental services for the Donabate Transport Projects, which comprise a number of major projects with the objective of improving transport and active travel infrastructure and road safety on the Donabate-Portrane peninsula.

The projects include:

- Phase 2 of the Donabate Distributor Road project, to improve access to Donabate and Portrane from the M1-Lissenhall Interchange for all road users, particularly vulnerable road users such as pedestrians and cyclists;
- Blakes Cross Junction Upgrade, to provide a safer junction layout that caters for both motorised traffic and active travel modes of transport such as walking and cycling;
- A study of the M1-Lissenhall Interchange, in collaboration with TII, to assess all technical and operational traffic issues associated with this strategic motorway junction;
- 7no. Active Travel Routes which encompass a number of related local projects which aim to increase local connectivity for pedestrians and cyclists.

Work on the initial data-gathering, concept development and option assessment stages of the Donabate Transport Projects is underway including topographical surveys of relevant areas of Donabate. Fingal County Council and Roughan and O'Donovan are currently analysing traffic data and carrying out traffic modelling on the M1-Lissenhall Interchange. Separately, a number of potential route options have been identified for Phase 2 of the Donabate Distributor Road. These options are shown below and will be subject to multi-criteria assessment to determine the preferred route.



Further stages of work, relating to environmental assessment, planning consent, etc. will follow on in subsequent years as appropriate.

### Parks & Green Infrastructure Division

- The new playground at Lanesborough Park, Meakstown (illustrated below) is now at Practical Completion and will open to the public in the coming weeks.
- Hansfield Park, Clonsilla including the new playground has now been taken in charge.
- Works on the new playground and associated park improvements at Cardy Rock, Balbriggan will be completed during March.
- Works on the Library Garden and playground at Garristown will commence during March.
- Plans for the development of the Rathmore Recreational Hub in Lusk will be submitted to An Bord Pleanála for planning approval during March.
- Works on the historic Brick Arch in the Ward River Valley are now fully completed.



### Heritage Officer



The Fingal Heritage Plan 2024-2030 was launched on the 01 March by Fingal Mayor, Cllr. Adrian Henchy and Minister Darragh O'Brien T.D. in Malahide Castle.

Thank you to all who contributed to the development to the new Fingal Heritage Plan 2024-2030, during the two phases of public consultation. The heritage plan was approved by the Fingal Heritage Forum and accepted at the December 2023 County Council meeting. The new plan is available to download from <https://www.fingal.ie/FingalHeritagePlan2024-2030>



## Fingal Heritage Plan 2024 – 2030



The Heritage Plan launch was preceded by a tour of the works undertaken at Malahide Demesne Church as part of the Community Monuments Fund 2023. The Community Monuments Fund was first established in 2020 to provide investment in Ireland's archaeological heritage and Fingal has benefited from funding for over 20 projects including survey, conservation management plans, audits and conservation works. Application for six grants across two streams of Community Monument Funding have been submitted for 2024.



The Howth Community Heritage Audit process is underway for the Peninsula of Howth. Consultants from Abarta Heritage have been appointed and will be working closely with the Howth Peninsula Heritage Society and the local community to undertake a review of the heritage of Howth peninsula and advise on related actions, interpretations and projects.



**Cuir ardú  
meanman  
le do  
thionscadal!**

An Ciste Pobail  
Oidhreachta 2024  
Iarratais ar oscailt anois

An Chomhairle Oidhreachta  
The Heritage Council

Clliceáil anseo chun tuilleadh a fháil amach

The Heritage Council's Community Heritage grant scheme is now open for applications. The scheme supports community and voluntary groups nationwide with heritage projects- built, natural, and cultural. The deadline is 25 March 2024. For more information see <https://www.heritagecouncil.ie/funding/community-heritage-grant-scheme-2024>



## HOUSING

Contents
Housing Supply
Asset Management
Support
Tenancy Services
Housing Ukraine Response
Vacant Homes

### Affordable Home Purchase Scheme



Fingal County Council are making homes available for sale under affordable dwelling purchase arrangements across the County.

Our pipeline for affordable housing over 2024 is:

Scheme	Partner	No. of Homes
Balleally Rise, Lusk	Lagan Homes	21
Balmaston, Donabate	Glenveagh	86
Kilmartin Grove, Dublin 15	Glenveagh	36
Churchfields, Dublin 15	GEM	180
North County Homes - (Selection of homes across North Fingal)	FCC	16
Wilkinsons Brook, Dublin 15	LDA	57
Aster Park, Rush	Ballymore	96

### Balleally Rise, Lusk

On February 27<sup>th</sup>, Fingal County Council announced a new affordable home purchase scheme in Balleally Rise, Lusk. Fingal County Council has agreed with Lagan Homes and the Land Development Agency to deliver 21 affordable homes in Balleally Rise, Hands Lane, Lusk, Co Dublin. The scheme will comprise of the following:

- 15 - 2 bed properties
- 6 - 3 bed properties

**The application portal for this scheme will open at 12 on March 12<sup>th</sup>, 2024.**



### Housing Information Event- Donabate

We will be hosting a **Housing Information Event** for our upcoming Donabate development on **Thursday - March 7th at Donabate Golf Club from 5 p.m. - 8 p.m.**

This event will allow potential applicants to learn about affordable housing schemes, vacant homes grants and local authority home loans offered by the council. Further updates will be posted here.

### Affordable Housing Scheme at Hayestown, Rush

52 Affordable and 10 Social Units

Works are continuing on Phase 1 of the affordable units at Hayestown, Rush which is due for completion in early 2024. Phase 1 consists of a total of 26 units – 24 affordable private homes and 2 social homes.

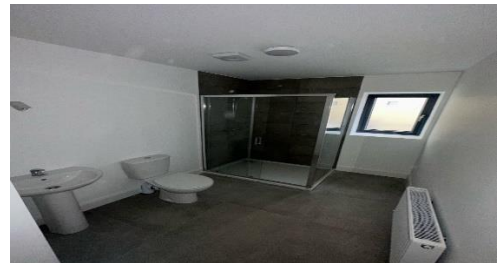


### Fingal County Council – Update on Affordable Housing Scheme at Hampton Gardens Close, Balbriggan

18 Affordable Homes

18 homes have been made available for sale under an Affordable Housing Purchase Arrangement with Orchid Homes in Balbriggan, Co. Dublin. The development is progressing well with completion expected in early 2024. 5 of the 9 no. 1 bedroom apartments are sale agreed and 9 no. 2 bedroom duplex units are all sale agreed.

(All units are now nearing practical completion).



Fingal County Council is also actively engaging with Developers for opportunities to collaborate on Turnkey developments that are suitable for sale under Affordable Purchase arrangements.

**Construction Programme**

Summary of unit numbers in the pipeline	Units
Under Construction	416
Schemes with Planning Approval and Tender Stage	500
Planning and Design	700
Part V	356
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>1,972</b>



**Progress of Projects on Site**

**Tuath Housing - Construction Scheme at Kilhedge Lane, Lusk, Co. Dublin - 31 dwellings**

Works are continuing on the 31 units in Lusk being constructed by Tuath Housing. This development is due for completion in early 2024.



**Fingal County Council - Restoration of St Ita's Portrane - 14 units**

Nine units have been completed and restoration works commenced on the final 5 units and are due for completion in mid-2024.



**3 Part V houses nearing completion in Fosterstown Place, Swords, Co. Dublin**



**Fingal County Council – construction scheme at Bowden Court, Swords – 11 dwellings**



Works are progressing at Bowden Court, Swords



**Fingal County Council - construction scheme at Ballough Place, Lusk – 10 dwellings**

Works at Ballough Place, Lusk are progressing without significant delays.



**Fingal County Council - construction scheme at Monastery Court, Lusk – 5 dwellings**

Works are progressing at Monastery Court, Lusk and the scheme is on track for completion in Quarter 2, 2024.



### **Fingal County Council - construction scheme at Seatown Road, Swords – 16 dwellings**

Works at Seatown Road, Swords have begun with 6 houses being demolished.



### **City to City Exchange**

Following a successful collaboration between the Housing Delivery team and the Economic, Enterprise, Tourism & Cultural Development Department, Fingal County Council were successful in an application for funding under the European Urban Initiative City-to-City exchange programme. The funding is facilitating a learning exchange between Fingal County Council and Helsinki City Council in March and May 2024. Housing Europe recommended Helsinki as an exemplar for affordable housing initiatives in Europe. The city of Helsinki has a long track record of house building with the ability to influence housing supply as well as affordability. The City Council targets a balanced range of housing options for inhabitants while not being dependent on the market for delivery and also not excluding the private sector. It also prioritises new developments to be low carbon while actively retrofitting existing housing stock to become more energy efficient.

### **Housing Asset Management Report** **Energy Efficiency/Retrofitting Programme**

Fingal County Council's Energy Efficiency Retrofit programme is progressing well. The 2024 Programme has commenced with Strandmill Phase 3.

Investigative works are ongoing in several other housing estates across the county to include them in this programme.



*Post-works – Strandmill Estate, Portmarnock (external wall insulation, new windows and doors)*

### **Returning Dwellings to Productive Use**

The number of casual voids within social housing stock which are currently in the re-let process is set out below:-

<b>Voids for Re-letting</b>	<b>27<sup>th</sup> February 2024</b>
In the letting process	50
Undergoing re-let repairs	18
With County Architect for procurement of pre-let repairs	14
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>82</b>

## Planned Maintenance Programmes

### Cyclical Maintenance - Scheme Painting

The Scheme Painting Programme provides for external painting and joinery repairs to Council housing stock and currently operates on a 6/7-year cycle. Works are currently reaching completion in Corduff Park and works are ongoing in Whitechapel Estate and Craoibhin Close/Park.



Before (L) & after (R) Whitechapel Green

### Housing Assistance Payment (HAP)

HAP continues to be the primary source of rent support for those in private rented accommodation. Fingal County Council has set up over 48 new tenancies in 2024 to date with approximately 3975 tenancies set up since HAP began in 2017.

The HAP team is on hand to deal with any queries from applicants and landlords in person at the Housing Department in the Fingal County Council Blanchardstown Office, by phone at 01 8905000 via the CCU or through email at [hap@fingal.ie](mailto:hap@fingal.ie).

### Rents

The new rent review process continues, and tenants are required to return their Rent Assessment Form with the relevant documents so that an assessment can be carried out and the correct rent charge applied to the account.

The Rent Arrears team is working methodically through accounts in substantial arrears to encourage tenants to engage with the Council in reducing their arrears. In cases where there is no engagement, despite repeated efforts, proceedings will progress through the legal arena, and to date, the Rents Section has secured two Possession orders with 5 others currently before the courts. We have recently resolved one case to a satisfactory conclusion for both the tenant and the council. Regarding the two possession orders secured, both tenants are engaging with the team to address their areas.

The Rents team encourages any tenant who is having trouble paying their rent to engage with the Council to examine possible solutions. However, there are instances where tenants do not engage or make alternative payment arrangements, and, in those situations, the Council needs to take further action.

### Housing Loans

The Local Authority Home Loan (LAHL) is a government-backed mortgage for first-time buyers and certain other applicants who are unable to obtain home loan financing from a commercial lender. Interest rates are fixed for the term of the loan and loan terms are available for up to 30 years. The LAHL can be used to purchase new-build homes (including affordable homes); second-hand homes & self-build.

#### **Eligibility Criteria:**

- **Income Limit** – Single Applicant = 70,000 / Joint Applicants = 85,000
- **Employment** – 2 years continuous employment / if joint application with a second earner, second earner to be 1-year continuous employment
- **Residency** - legal right to live & work in Ireland & be habitually resident in Ireland
- Insufficient Offers of finance from 2 commercial lenders
- 10% Deposit – 3% to come from savings
- Satisfactory savings record

Further information on the Local Authority Home Loan and the eligibility criteria can be found at [www.fingal.ie/localauthorityhomeloan](http://www.fingal.ie/localauthorityhomeloan) & [www.localauthorityhomeloan.ie](http://www.localauthorityhomeloan.ie)



### Private Rented Inspections

The inspections programme for 2024 has commenced. The inspections team are working towards inspecting 25% of the registered tenancies which is approximately 17,000 tenancies. We anticipate specific targets for 2024 and should receive these from the Department of Housing in the coming weeks. Currently, 927 inspections have been conducted in 2024, with over 400 of them being inspected in February.

The team will continue to work this year with the contractor improving and streamlining the process and utilising all avenues to ensure that compliance improves, and the target is reached.

### Housing Tenancy Services Report

#### Housing Support and Housing Position

Housing List positions have been issued to all applicants.

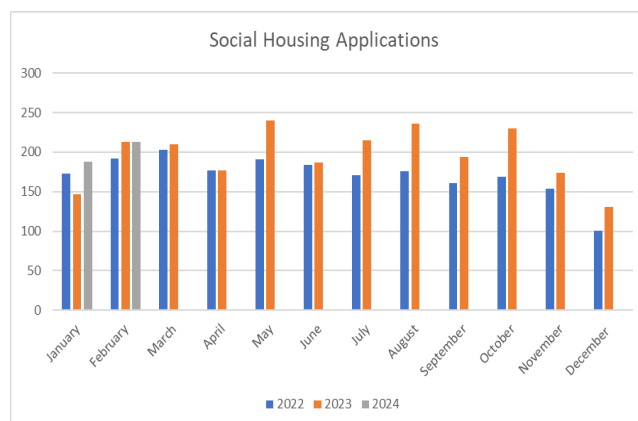
The list position is also available through the CBL portal on Fingal.ie. Applicants who do not have access to this portal should contact [Choicebasedlettings@fingal.ie](mailto:Choicebasedlettings@fingal.ie) to request their unique username and password.

### Changes to Income Eligibility Thresholds

By Circular 48/2022 and changes being implemented via the Social Housing Assessment (Amendment) (No. 3) Regulations 2022, the Social Housing Eligibility Bands increased with effect from 1<sup>st</sup> January 2023.

#### Housing applications received year to date.

January – February 2024	401
January- December 2023	2,354
January - December 2022	2,051



### Housing Support Appeals

Applicants are reminded, that an appeal must be received within 28 days of a decision being communicated in writing to be eligible for review.

An email address has been established to facilitate the submission of appeals about housing support applications by applicants e.g., closure of social housing applications, transfer of tenancy, income limit queries, medical priority, and transfer applications. Applicants can email – [Housing.Appeals@fingal.ie](mailto:Housing.Appeals@fingal.ie).

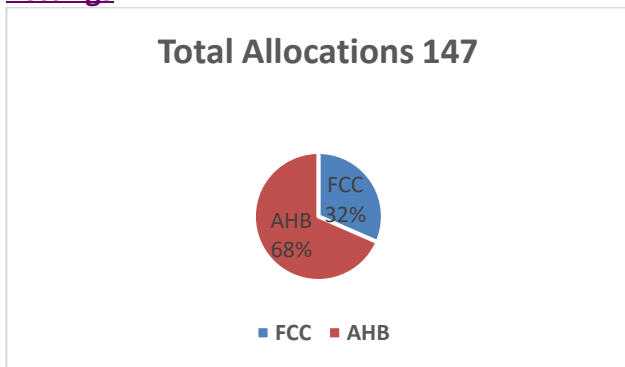
### Housing Needs Assessment

Following Circular 26/2023 as released on 5<sup>th</sup> July 2023, the Summary of Social Housing Assessment (SSHA) is due for return to the Department of Housing Local Government and Heritage by 29<sup>th</sup> November 2023.

Letters Issued to applicants on 15<sup>th</sup> September to all applicants required to complete the SSHA. Following the successful launch of the Online HNA System in 2022, applicants have been advised to complete the assessment where possible online. This system went live on Monday 18<sup>th</sup> September 2023 with initial uptake positive and was closed on Wednesday 22<sup>nd</sup> November.

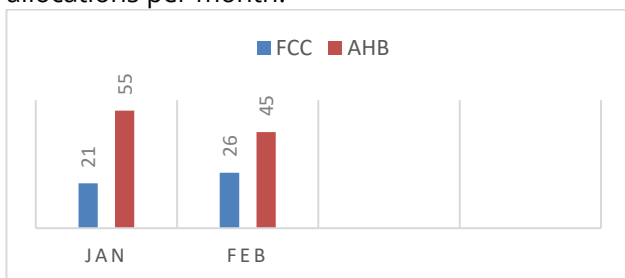
The assessment was complete with the Summary Return submitted to the Department on 28<sup>th</sup> November 2023.

### Lettings

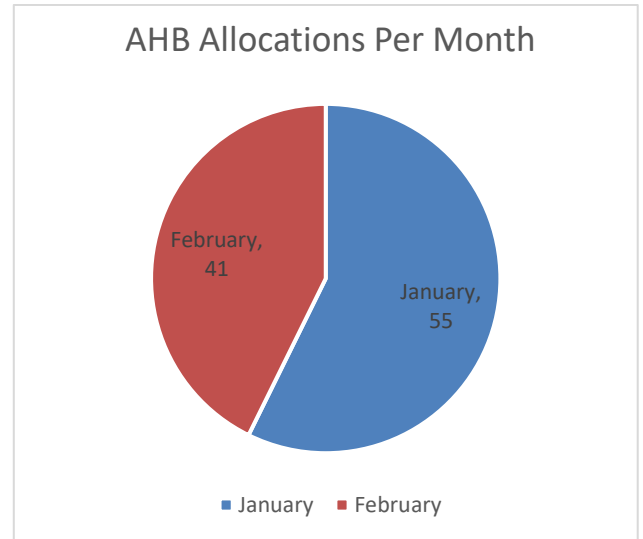


The above chart depicts the total number of properties allocated since the beginning of 2024.

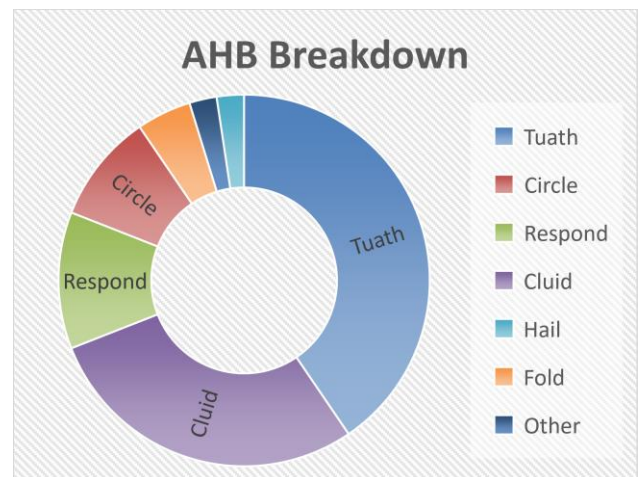
The chart below shows the breakdown of allocations per month.



**102** of the **147** allocations have been in collaboration with several Approved Housing bodies. The other **47** properties were allocated using Fingal County Councils own stock.



There were an additional **42** nominations made in February on behalf of FCC applicants. Lettings are awaiting confirmation of their tenancies from the AHB's.



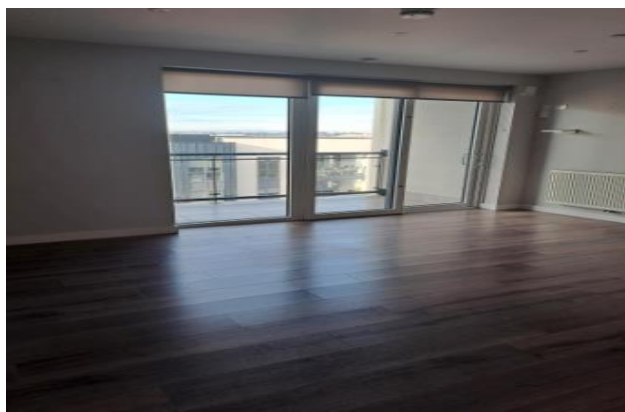
**Tuath** have received the most nominations from Fingal County Council during the month of February.

The collaboration between Local Authorities and Approved Housing Bodies is continuing to have a positive impact on the delivery of social housing.



## Choice Based Lettings February Advertised Properties

Of the **127** allocations made to date, **57** were made via Choice Based Lettings.



Applicants who do not have access to this portal should contact [Choicebasedlettings@fingal.ie](mailto:Choicebasedlettings@fingal.ie) to request their unique username and password.

### Homeless Services.

### Homeless Exits 2024

During February 2024, 43 households exited homeless circumstances into various forms of social housing support - including privately rented tenancies under the Homeless HAP Scheme.

Please see the table below for a breakdown of the figures:

Type of Exit	HHAP Tenancy	Allocation of Tenancy	Total
EA	2	6	8
Homeless Prevention	17	18	35
<b>Total</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>43</b>

There was a total of 35 homeless prevention cases and 8 who exited emergency accommodation comprising:

18 allocations of social housing support to homeless prevention cases and 6 who exited emergency accommodation.

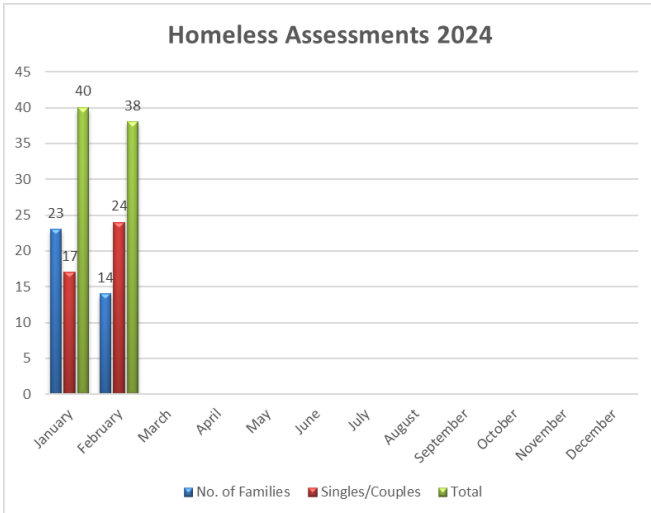
19 Homeless HAP tenancies, comprising 17 homeless preventions and 2 who exited emergency accommodation.

### Homeless Assessments

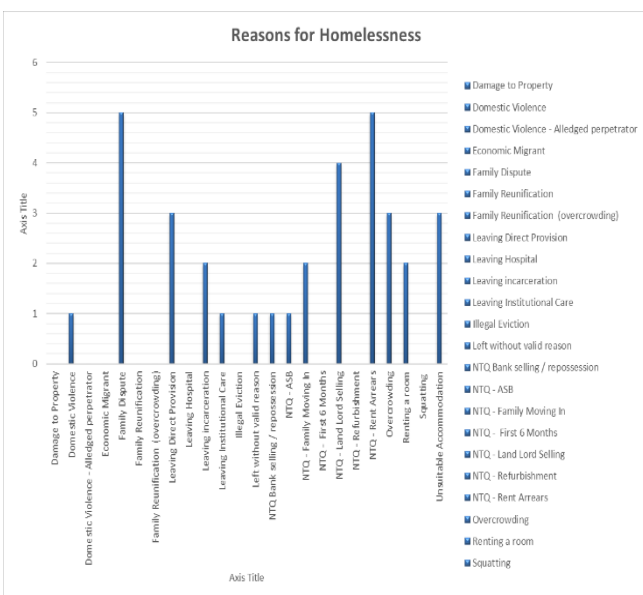
Fingal's Homeless Team continues to engage with those experiencing homelessness to offer advice and support. Homeless Assessments continued to be carried out.

Advertisement Period	Property	Bed	Type	Number of Views	Expressions of interest
31 <sup>st</sup> January – 6 <sup>th</sup> February	Piper's Court, Hansfield, Clonsilla, Dublin 15	2	Apt	1504	294
7 <sup>th</sup> – 13 <sup>th</sup> February	Canal View Court, Hansfield, Clonsilla, Dublin 15	2	Apt	1609	350
14 <sup>th</sup> – 20 <sup>th</sup> February	Creston Avenue, Finglas, Dublin 11	2	Apt	1027	126
14 <sup>th</sup> – 20 <sup>th</sup> February	Park Walk, Hansfield, Clonsilla, Dublin 15	2	Apt	1397	336
21 <sup>st</sup> – 27 <sup>th</sup> February	Lanesborough Crescent, Finglas, Dublin 11	3	Apt	987	96
<b>Total</b>				6524	1202

In February 2024, there were a total of 38 full homeless assessments completed – comprising 14 families and 24 singles/couples.



During January 2024, of the 38 Homeless Assessments carried out, 35 % cases resulted from a Notice to Quit (NTQ) having been served. Most of the other presentations to the Homeless Section are from family/relationship breakdown (15%), living in overcrowded conditions (9%) and state that they cannot/will not return to the property. The remaining 41% comprise various reasons outlined in the chart below



### Emergency Accommodation (including Fingal County Council Family Hubs)

There continues to be a high demand for Emergency Accommodation across the region for both families and individuals.

### Rough Sleepers

The Homeless Services Team continues to liaise with the DRHE Outreach Team regarding any reports of rough sleeping, to establish their names and circumstances and to offer support. Regrettably, some rough sleepers are reluctant to engage with service providers and may refuse offers to access emergency accommodation. Any rough sleeper who is willing to engage with the Outreach Team and/ or the Council will be assisted.

The Council will carry out homeless assessments and every effort is made to encourage them to avail of homeless services.

A weekly Rough Sleepers Coordination Group monitors the reports of rough sleepers. The reports come from various outlets, including the DRHE Outreach Team, Elected Representatives, the FCC Operations Department, and the general public.

There were no reported Rough Sleeping cases over the Christmas period and 8 reports in January 2024.

5 of these reported rough sleepers have been provided with suitable accommodation.

The progress of the remaining 3 cases are being monitored until the needs of the reported rough sleepers are met and the cases can be closed

### Dublin Street Outreach Service Tel: 01 872 0185 from 7 am to 1 am

The DRHE in partnership with Dublin Simon Outreach and the PMVT Intake team are assertively working on the streets offering accommodation to all rough sleepers.

The teams are very familiar with the locations of people sleeping rough across the Dublin Region and persistently work with individuals to support them into emergency accommodation. This process can take time and multiple contacts, as some people do not want to engage but the teams persevere with every person working to achieve a successful outcome.

The service operates 365 days a year, until 1 am. The Outreach Teams also ensure that people sleeping rough are linked with other appropriate health services such as addiction and mental health services to prevent further rough sleeping. PMVT's Housing First Intake team links rough sleepers to permanent accommodation with long-term support.

All emergency accommodation is now 24-hour, with food and shower facilities provided.

### **National Housing Strategy for Disabled People 2022-2027 Implementation Plan**

Action 1.2.2 of the National Housing Strategy for Disabled People 2022-2027 Implementation Plan states that Local authorities and the HSE must work together to plan and deliver on housing targets for disabled people in the community (including de-congregation) in line with the forthcoming Disability Services Action Plan.

The HSE Mental Health Housing Coordinator from Parkgate Hall liaises with the Homeless Services Team on a monthly basis.

Currently 11 Fingal County Council clients have been identified, one was housed in January, a second is going through the nomination process after a property has been identified and the teams continue to liaise in relation to the other clients.

### **Homeless Action Plan 2022- 2024**

The DRHE, with the approval of all 4 local authorities in the Dublin region, has finalised the Homeless Action Plan Framework for Dublin 2022-2024. This Plan is the first plan to be put into operation since Ireland signed the Lisbon Declaration on combatting homelessness in June 2021, which aims to end homelessness by 2030.

It will follow on from the previous Homeless Action Plan for 2019- 2021 and continues with the three key themes of **Prevention, Protection and Progression**.

The Plan was developed based on a detailed consultative process including submissions from various Stakeholders, interested organisations, Service Providers, Members of SPCs of the four Local Authorities, the Dublin Joint Homelessness Consultative Forum and the Statutory Management Group.

### **Preventing Homelessness, Notices to Quit and Tenant In-situ Acquisitions**

Fingal County Council is aware that households in the Fingal area who may have received a notice to quit, which is also referred to as a notice of termination, from their landlord may be worried or unsure of what to do.

Fingal County Council and the Dublin Regional Homeless Executive (DRHE) would like to advise anyone affected of the services that are available to them in these circumstances.

**We strongly encourage tenants residing in the Fingal area, who have been issued with a notice of termination, to contact Fingal County Council as soon as they receive a notice from their landlord. The contact details for Fingal County Council are provided at the bottom of this page.**

When the tenants contact Fingal County Council, staff in the Housing Department will take note of the termination date.

The Council advises the tenant to refer the notice to Threshold, a service funded by the DRHE to provide a Tenancy Protection Service for private renters in the Dublin Region, including Fingal. Threshold can also be contacted directly on Freephone 1800 454 454 or via their website [www.threshold.ie](http://www.threshold.ie) which contains more information and advice on the validity of your notice.

The Council's first response will be to try to prevent homelessness. This includes assessing the person's position on the social housing list, providing advice on applying for Choice Based Lettings, advising the person on the level of Housing Assistance Payment (HAP) they may be eligible to receive, and, in some cases, assessing if the Council can acquire the dwelling where the tenants reside if it is being offered for sale.

Placement in emergency accommodation will be a last resort if no other alternative can be identified.

The Council has been engaging with tenants who have been issued with a notice of termination, as well as their landlords, and following assessment, 232 tenant in-situ properties are at the sale closed stage. A total of 82 properties are at the sale agreed stage with a further 77 cases in the negotiation process. In addition, the Council is assessing a further 302 queries concerning notices of termination and tenant-in-situ acquisition.

The Council will continue to deal with notice of termination queries and cases as expeditiously as possible and progress tenant in-situ acquisitions while taking account of circulars and guidance issued by the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage.

Fingal County Council continues to liaise with other Dublin and neighboring local authorities to deal with tenancy issues that may require an inter-authority approach. In particular, we are working closely with our colleagues in the other Dublin Local Authorities on the implementation of the Government policy and guidance, with a focus on the needs of tenants.

Whilst the Council will, in the context of current circumstances, adopt flexibility in dealing with potential acquisitions of properties with tenants in situ, any acquisition is subject to appropriate due diligence and checks before any commitment is made to acquire, including, for example, determining that a valid notice of termination is in place, the tenant has a social housing need, and the condition and valuation of the property.

The Government has put forward options to allow tenants who are not eligible for social housing to remain in their homes, including schemes to support the purchase of homes and a Cost Rental in-situ Scheme. The Cost Rental Tenant-in-Situ Scheme is available for tenants who are not eligible for social housing and are at risk of homelessness. The DHLGH has advised that local authorities are to be the first point of contact for this scheme, but it is managed by the Housing Agency. Under the scheme, the Housing Agency can purchase a property and rent it to the tenant. Fingal County Council will undertake an initial assessment of the tenant's circumstances and refer details to the Housing Agency for consideration, where the tenant is at risk of homelessness and the Cost Rental Tenant-in-Situ scheme applies. The Housing Agency will then contact the landlord about the purchase of the property.

Where a tenant wishes to purchase their home from the landlord, local authorities can provide advice about the Local Authority Home Loan scheme. The Government is examining implementing a 'right of first refusal' for tenants to purchase their homes, as well as expanding the First Home shared equity scheme. The Council will be able to provide more information on these when available.

Works around preventing homelessness, assessing notices of termination, and responding to tenant and landlord in-situ queries are being led on by the Council's Homelessness section, taking a tenant-centred approach, supported by staff dedicated to dealing with tenant in-situ housing acquisitions.

The contact details below, including a dedicated email address [NTQEnquiries@fingal.ie](mailto:NTQEnquiries@fingal.ie), should be used by tenants who may have received a notice of termination or a landlord who has issued a notice of termination to their tenants and who may wish to sell their property to the Council. The key contact details are:

### **Fingal County Council Housing Department**

Monday to Thursday, 9 am to 5.00 pm,

Friday 9 am to 4.30 pm:

Tel. **01 890 5000** or [homeless@fingal.ie](mailto:homeless@fingal.ie)

Email: [NTQEnquiries@fingal.ie](mailto:NTQEnquiries@fingal.ie)

### **Dublin Region Homeless Executive, Central Placement Services:**

**Freephone :** 1800 707 707

### **TRAVELLER ACCOMMODATION PROGRAMME**

Refurbishment works to the 5 Bay Halting Site at St Brigid's Lawns, Porterstown, Dublin 15 is ongoing. Works include replacing the existing welfare units with new modern units and upgrades to the on-site utilities.

Work has begun preparing the Draft Traveller Accommodation Programme 2025 – 2029. Letters of intent have been issued to relevant stakeholders with further engagement anticipated to take place over the coming weeks, with public consultation anticipated to take place regarding the Draft Plan during Summer 2024.

Regular site visits by Housing Inspectors continue all Fingal County Council Traveller specific sites while checking on vulnerable residents and advising on the continued support available.

Council officials continue to liaise and engage with the Traveller Community, Traveller Advocacy Groups, Welfare Services, Child Services, Mental Health Services and other services and agencies to resolve issues when and where possible.



**St Brigid's Lawns, Porterstown, Dublin 15**

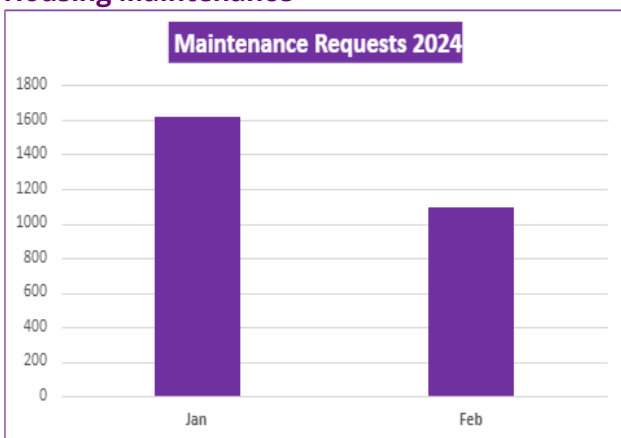


**Removal of dumping at Morgans Place, Castleknock, Dublin 15**

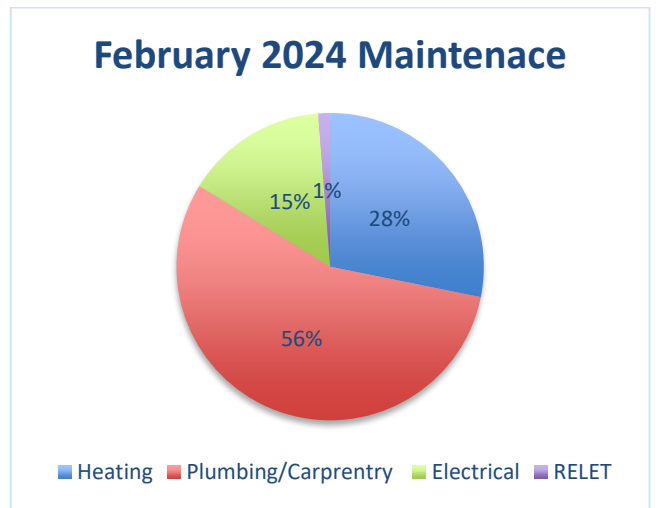


**Removal of Vegetation at Meakstown Close Dublin 11**

**Housing Maintenance**



Boiler	814
Plumbing/Carpentry	572
Electrical	152
RELET	7
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>1545</b>



**Boiler Servicing Programme**

The 2023 Programme had a 91% completion rate across the County.

The 2024 Programme of work is now underway, with Contractors working across the County in areas such as Blackmills Grove, Strandmill Road, Strand Road, Cardy Rock Road/Ave/Walk/Sq, Lambeecher Estate and Russell’s Terrace.

**Anti-Social Behaviour/Inspectorate Unit**

The Council is committed to investigating all reports of ASB and will take all preventative measures possible. All complaints are received in confidence by the ASB Unit

Fingal County Council delivered 9 tenant Induction Courses throughout 2023. Further courses are expected during 2024 as new developments are completed and are ready for allocation.

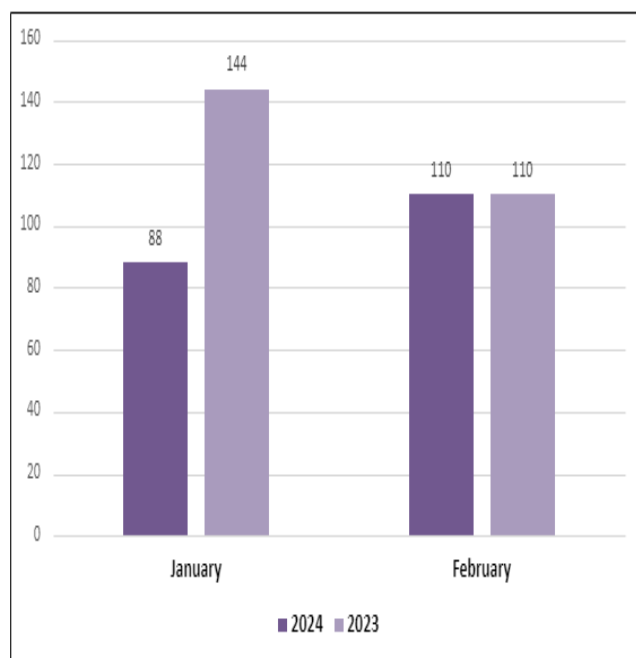
### ASB Caseload Management

Complaints January 2024	Total	Active	Monitoring	Closed
Balbriggan	15	10	2	3
Rush / Lusk	15	12	1	2
Swords	14	11	0	3
Howth / Malahide	21	21	0	0
Blanchardstown / Mulhuddart	27	13	1	13
Ongar	12	9	0	3
Castleknock	6	6	0	0
<b>Total</b>	<b>110</b>	<b>82</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>24</b>

### Surrenders on Estate Management Grounds 2024

January (1), February (4)

### Monthly Breakdown of ASB Complaints Received 2023-24



### Anti-Social Behaviour Interventions

<b>Interviews Held 2024</b>	24
Interviews Held 2023	95
<b>Tenancy Alerts 2024</b>	5
Tenancy Alerts 2023	23
<b>Tenancy Warnings 2024</b>	3
Tenancy Warnings 2023	6

### Inspectorate

<b>Traveller Specific Site Inspections 2024</b>	295
Traveller Specific Site Inspections 2023	1665
<b>Estate Inspections 2024</b>	250
Estate Inspections 2023	1305
<b>Estate Management Inspections 2024</b>	311
Estate Management Inspections 2023	1666

### Housing Ukraine Response *Those Fleeing the Conflict in Ukraine*

The Government is committed to delivering a humanitarian response to welcome people fleeing the conflict in Ukraine and seeking protection in Ireland.

Web resources with useful information on support and accommodation for Ukrainian Beneficiaries of Temporary Protection and the wider Fingal community are shown below:

[www.gov.ie/ukraine](http://www.gov.ie/ukraine)

[Ukraine україни Україна | Fingal County Council](#)

The Council's Fingal Ukraine Response Forum chaired by the Mayor continues to meet regularly to co-ordinate the response of the various statutory agencies and voluntary groups in the county to assist the Ukraine community with the most recent meeting held on the 26<sup>th</sup> February 2024.

## Liam Rodgers Rest Centre

The centre continues to provide accommodation and support to Ukrainian Beneficiaries of Temporary protection. In the main occupants are new arrivals to the country with various statutory agencies linked with the centre to provide support to the new arrivals.

Supported by the Council and the Peter McVerry Trust (PMVT) over **460 persons** have moved from the Liam Rodgers centre to OfferAhome\pledge accommodation across the county and country with arrangements finalising concerning further moves to OfferAhome\pledge accommodation. An additional **210 persons** have moved along to varying other forms of accommodation in the main to state contracted accommodation.

## OfferAhome\Pledge Accommodation

The monthly recognition payment is **€800** per month for vacant properties and **€800** to host a Ukraine person in your home. To pledge fully vacant accommodation, please visit the national portal at <https://offerahome.ie> or for enquiries, e-mail [offerahome@fingal.ie](mailto:offerahome@fingal.ie).

To pledge a room in your home, this can be done through the Irish Red Cross via [www.redcross.ie](http://www.redcross.ie) Note **Helping Irish Hosts** can offer support and advice to both hosts and guests in pledge accommodation.

See website <https://www.helpingirishhosts.com> for further information.

## Vacant Homes

The Vacant Homes Team continues to engage with owners of vacant properties to encourage owners to bring them back into use and advise of schemes that are available to assist this with on-going follow up of properties reported as vacant to the Council and those identified by way of survey.

The Croí Cónaithe Refurbishment Grant Scheme is in utilisation to address vacancy and assist citizens in getting a home with increasing enquiries, applications, and grant approvals. The grant can also be used to bring a vacant property back into use for the private rented market.

## Croí Cónaithe Vacant Homes Refurbishment Grant

On the 1<sup>st</sup> May 2023, the scheme was further extended with the eligibility criteria now allowing for properties built pre-2008 to qualify and grants increasing to €50k (vacant) and €70k (vacant and derelict).

The scheme now also allows for a grant for approved properties to be rented on the private market when refurbishment is complete. Before this change, the grant-approved property had to be the principal private residence of the grant. **105** applications have been received under the scheme with a steady flow of new applications, **54 of** which have been approved with further applications moving to the approval stage. In addition, staff are engaging with numerous other expressions of interest which have the potential to lead to further applications.

Promotion of the scheme is ongoing by the Vacant Homes Team who have been present at various Housing Information Events most recently the event held in the Crown Plaza, Hotel, Santry on the 1<sup>st</sup> December 2023 and at Donabate Golf Club on the 7<sup>th</sup> March 2024. For enquiries on the scheme and other schemes to bring properties back into use please contact the Council's Vacant Homes Office via e-mail at [vacant.homes@fingal.ie](mailto:vacant.homes@fingal.ie) , Vacant properties can also be reported to this add

## Croi Connaithe Vacant Property Grant before and after Photos below:





Before



After



Before



After



Before



After

## COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

Contents
Community Development
Facilities Management
Interagency
Local Authority Integration Team (LAIT)
Age Friendly Fingal
Funding

### Community Development Office

Community development is a process where community members come together to take collective action and generate solutions to common problems. Community wellbeing, economic, social, environmental and cultural challenges are often solved through collective action being taken at a grassroots level. Community development ranges from small initiatives within a local group to large initiatives that involve the broader community.

Building community capacity, strengthening community participation, and involving people in decisions that affect their lives is a complex process and can only be achieved by working with local communities and agencies who have responsibility to the people in those communities. In February/March the Community Development Office worked in partnership with a number of community groups and partners to support many projects/Initiatives including;

#### Pre-development of Meakstown Community Centre Board of Management

The Community Development Office is working with the community of Meakstown to form a Board of Management for the new community centre currently under construction in Lanesborough Park. The new centre is due for completion in Q4 2024.

A second online information session was held on 7<sup>th</sup> February with over 20 participants in attendance representing various community and voluntary groups in the wider Meakstown area.

Community and Voluntary groups may now nominate one member to sit on the Meakstown Community Centre Board of Management through an expression of interest process that is open until 17<sup>th</sup> March.

Full details of how to apply are available here: [Meakstown Community Centre - Board Member Expression of Interest form. | Fingal County Council Online Consultation Portal](#)



### GLAS @ TU Dublin Community Garden Workshops

The Community Development Office will issue a new Service Level Agreement with Global Action Plan for 2024 for the GLAS @ TU Dublin Community Garden. This community garden, located on the campus of TU Dublin Blanchardstown, is growing from strength to strength with a calendar of events planned for the benefit of local residents, community and voluntary groups in the wider Dublin 15 area. Two free workshops have been scheduled for March 2024.

1. how to construct and manage raised vegetable beds
2. seed sowing for community gardens.

Both workshops are free and open to everyone.

**Free workshop**  
How to construct and manage raised vegetable beds  
GLAS @ TU Dublin Community Garden, Corduff  
7 March 2024, 11 am - 1 pm  
Register via Eventbrite  
[https://bit.ly/veg\\_beds](https://bit.ly/veg_beds)



**Free workshop**  
Seed Sowing for community gardens  
GLAS @ TU Dublin Community Garden  
21 March 2024, 11 am - 1 pm  
Register via Eventbrite  
[https://bit.ly/Seeds\\_Sowing](https://bit.ly/Seeds_Sowing)



## Fingal Women's International Day Women's Programme



Fingal International Women's Day (IWD) will host a series of 35 events across Fingal from the 4<sup>th</sup> to 10<sup>th</sup> March. Events are community led and celebrate women in the community by encouraging social engagement, skills development, empower talks and recreational activities.

As part of the programme, the Community Development Office is supporting 29 groups to organise their local events. These groups have demonstrated experience of working with women and will use their event to further reach out or show support to local women.

All events are promoted by Fingal County Council through various media channels and will feature alongside the Fingal Shine a Light Swords flagship event. For more information visit [International Women's Day 2024 in Fingal | Fingal County Council](#)

## Fingal She Leads: Finding the Voice of Fingal Women Pioneers



'Fingal She Leads' are launching an exciting online creative coaching training program, **"Raising the Voices of Fingal Women Pioneers,"** on Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> March 8pm-9pm. This innovative initiative is designed to bring together a diverse and dynamic group of 16 women who exhibit a budding interest in leadership and possess the potential to become impactful leaders. The program will run from April to July and aims to amplify the leadership identity of those women, fostering their influence in the upcoming local election.

**For more information,** RSVP now to secure your launch spot!

<https://consult.fingal.ie/en/content/raising-voices-fingal-women-pioneers-launch>

## Donabate and Swords SAMH Groups

The Community Development Office continues to support the Substance Abuse Awareness and Mental Health (SAMH) groups in North and Mid county. Meetings of the Swords and Donabate groups took place, last month with the focus mainly on the findings of the latest Planet Youth research on the emerging needs of young people in the county on issues around vaping, drug and alcohol use and creating safe spaces for young people to express themselves.

SAMH Donabate is organising a community-focused Hello How Are you Day in May on this issue and the Swords group is liaising with the Thrive project in Balbriggan, which promotes community-wide positive mental health, with a view to being a partner in the proposed Thrive initiative planned for Swords.

## Mourne Estate Development Working Group



The Community Development Office is supporting local residents from the Mourne Estate Development Working Group to acknowledge the 50<sup>th</sup> year of the Skerries Estate in 2024. Several key stakeholders have committed to the group and are meeting once a month to plan a calendar of events for the year which is collectively known as "Mourne 50".

The group consists of several local FCC Councillors and representatives from Mourne Celtic FC, Scoil Réalt Na Mara, Mourne Estate Residents Association (MERA) and Foróige. So far events planned will include Street Feast, tree planting and landscaping projects with the co-operation of FCC Operations Department, historical photographic exhibitions, talks about the estate and a Family Fun Day in July with football tournament, similar to the 2023 event successfully led by Mourne Celtic FC.

## **Facilities Management**

### **Works on Rush Multipurpose Youth Facility**



Work is continuing at pace on the Rush Multipurpose Youth Facility, which is anticipating reopening in Q2 2024.

FCC have supported the project financially, alongside funding secured from LEADER, which funded the public realm element of the contract.

The centre has been closed since late 2021 when refurbishment works commenced.

The Board of Management are liaising with the Community Facilities Management Support Unit regarding re-opening initiatives, service delivery, governance and financial support. It is anticipated that the main building works will be completed by and reopened in May 24.

The building, once complete, will be an asset to the local community.

## **Interagency**

The Community Development office actively seek to work in collaboration with agencies to maximise service delivery and resources to communities In January/February the CDO supported the delivery of the following:

### **Balbriggan Demystifying Integration Conference**

The Community Development Office is supporting Balbriggan Integration Forum on the development of a conference taking place on the 13th March 2024 to highlight the importance of '*Demystifying Integration*'. It seeks to provide a platform for lived experience, challenges, and discussion on the meaning of Integration. Social Justice Ireland's Susanne Rogers and practitioner/scholar Fidele Mutwarasibo will be offering insights and direction throughout the conference.

## **Fingal Comhairle Na nÓg**



Representatives from Fingal's Comhairle Na nÓg presented to the Mayor of Fingal, Cllr. Adrian Henchy and CE AnnMarie Farrelly in the Council Chambers on 14<sup>th</sup> February as part of a visit to County Hall. Following a presentation which was delivered by two of the youth representatives, there was an engaging discussion around youth spaces in the Fingal area, which is the Comhairle's work topic for the year.

Other topics addressed during the visit included young person's involvement with Sports, Arts and Housing in the county. There were plenty of questions for both the Mayor and the CE. The group are now busy preparing for Dail na nÓg in March. Six members will attend on the day which will take place in Leinster House.

There will be more planned engagements with those seeking election and the young Comhairle Na nÓg members around local election time and with the new Council representatives later in the year.

Fingal Comhairle na nÓg is the recognised voice of young people in the county and it is important that they are consulted on the development of relevant policies and plans.

## **Local Authority Integration Team (LAIT)**

The role of the Local Authority Integration Team (LAIT) is to provide integration supports to applicants for International Protection, Programme Refugees, those with refugee status, subsidiary protection, or permission to remain status and beneficiaries of temporary protection (BOTP) to enable them to live independently in the community.



In Fingal County Council, the LAIT team is based in the Community Development Office. The team comprises four new roles, and the interview process for these positions is now finished. The LAIT Coordinator and the LAIT Administrative Support Officer took up duty in January 2024. It is anticipated that the remaining two team members, Integration Support Officers, will be in place by the end Q1 2024. The team have begun planning and putting in place systems to support the work of the service. The coordinator and senior FCC staff are working with national and regional implementation and working groups and participating in a series of training sessions relevant to the work of the service alongside colleagues in the Leinster region.



**Age Friendly Fingal**

Age Friendly Fingal is committed to driving a collaborative, multi-sectoral approach which supports interventions that will significantly help to improve the quality of life of the current population of older people in Fingal and future generations.

**Cross Border Intergenerational Project**



Participants in our Cross-Border Intergenerational Projects in Balbriggan and Mayobridge, Newry met in Bagnal's Castle, Newry on Saturday 3<sup>rd</sup> February. While the meeting provided an opportunity for both groups to give an update on their projects, it was also a chance for engagement among the groups.

An open discussion on the impact of the project was very insightful with older participants in Balbriggan commenting positively on how they enjoy seeing the younger participants around the town, who wave from a distance or spend time chatting and have even introduced them to their parents.

One younger participant, spoke about how the project has changed her opinion of older people, and said that "older people are still living their first life". Through the interactions with older people in the project, she has learned that older people are individuals who continue to learn, develop new skills and interests, and continue to participate in civic and social activities as they age, just like young people.

## Information Event for Over 55s in Dublin 15

Comhairle Contae  
Fhine Gall  
Fingal County  
Council



### Information Event for Over 55's

Tuesday 19 March 2024

2.00- 4.00

Blanchardstown Library, Dublin 15

- Do you know our rights and entitlements?
- Will your home meet your needs as you grow older?
- What grants are available to you?
- Would you like advice on budgeting?
- Do you need help with small jobs in your home?
- Would you like to know what is happening in your local library and community centre?

#### Call in and have a chat with

Age Action (Care & Repair), ALONE, An Garda Síochána, Citizens Information, Dublin Fire Brigade, Education & Training Board, Empower, Fingal Volunteer Centre, Fingal Community Team, Fingal Healthy Age Friendly Homes, HSE, Libraries, Money Advice & Budgeting Services, Sage Advocacy, Safer Blanchardstown and more...

Contact [jacinta.lowndes@fingal.ie](mailto:jacinta.lowndes@fingal.ie)

An Information Event for Over 55s will take place in Blanchardstown Library on Tuesday 19<sup>th</sup> March (2.00 p.m. -4.00 p.m.). Information stands will be provided by local organisations and groups providing services and activities for older people in Dublin 15, including the HSE, An Garda Síochána, Age Friendly Ireland, Fingal Older People's Council, Age Action, Alone, Citizens Information, Dublin Fire Brigade, MABS and Community Centres.

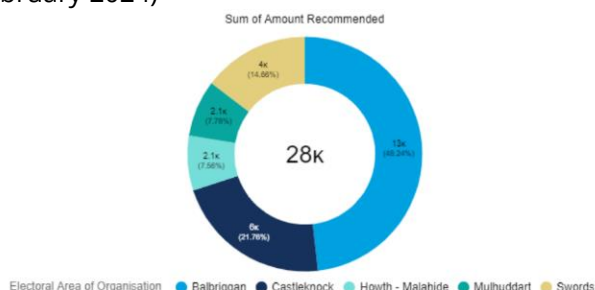
### Swords Men's Shed - Heart Foundation Mobile Unit

The Community Development Office continues to support Swords Men's Shed in creating an avenue for social engagement and wellbeing for men in Swords. Recently we supported the Heart Foundation Mobile Unit to visit the shed, providing an opportunity for up to 30 members to have their heart rate and blood pressure checked. Information and advice were provided by nurses in the mobile unit to all attendees on the day.



## Funding Community Activities Funding

Community Activities Funding (up to 22<sup>nd</sup> February 2024)



Communities Activities Funding has been awarded to 14 projects to the amount of €27,554.

<b>Castleknock/Mulhuddart</b>	€8,139 (3 projects)
<b>Balbriggan</b>	€13,291 (6 projects)
<b>Swords</b>	€4,040 (2 projects)
<b>Howth Malahide</b>	€2,084 (3 projects)

## Community Facilities Remedial Works Scheme for non-Council owned facilities

Remedial Funding Up to (22<sup>nd</sup> February 2024)



Remedial Funding has been awarded to 2 projects to the amount of €33,054 in 2024.

<b>Balbriggan</b>	- €9,800 x 1 project
<b>Swords</b>	- €23,254 x 1 project

# ENVIRONMENT, CLIMATE ACTION, ACTIVE TRAVEL AND SPORTS DEPARTMENT

## Contents

- Active Travel
- Climate Action
- Environmental Awareness
- Bring Centres
- Litter Management
- Landfill Aftercare
- Water Quality Protection
- Sports Office

### Active Travel

**NTA funding allocations for 2024 have not yet been finalised.**

### Protected Cycle Lanes:

#### BLRS Area:

#### **R132 Blakes Cross to Quickpenny Lane**

This project that is constructing nearly 4km of protected shared pedestrian and cycle facilities on both sides of the R132 Road is progressing to the final stages of works. Over 80% of the contract is now complete with the remaining works to be implemented in March/April. The contractor is programming works with suppliers to complete drainage and road resurfacing works on Kilhedge Lane. Installation of bollards, lane separators, line markings and road signage are ongoing as works progress. The project team and Director of Services recently met with agricultural and haulage representatives to discuss concerns raised in recent protest in relation to traffic lanes narrowed and difficulty large farming machinery is having navigating sections of the scheme. Engagement is ongoing with the local community and designers are reviewing issues raised and possible solutions. Weekly updates are provided to local councillors and through social media outlets.



#### **Seatown Road Swords:**

The Engineering Consultant is currently working with the Project Team to finalise the Non-Statutory Public Consultation Report, the Options report and detailed drawings and screenings on the final option. Once the documents have been finalised, it will be published on the Consultation Portal in the coming weeks. The project team are working towards going to the market in the coming months for a Contractor to progress to the Construction stage in 2024, subject to NTA approvals. This project will provide segregated walking and cycling infrastructure from the R132 at Swords through to the estuary and connectivity to Malahide along the estuary.

### **Donabate Portrane R126 cycle paths:**

The Project Team are continuing to work collaboratively with our property section to progress the potential acquisition of lands along a section of the route to facilitate the progression of the proposed walking and cycling infrastructure from the end of the distributor road in Donabate along the R126 through to the coast at Portrane. Details of the preferred option are being finalised and once completed will be presented to the members at local ACM. Additional surveys are being carried out to establish further details to inform the design process.

### **Coney Hill Balbriggan R132 cycle paths:**

The Engineering Consultant is currently working with the Project Team to finalise concept designs and options report to assist with stakeholder engagement. Further Topographical Surveys are underway to assist with the decision-making process on the preferred option.

This is a complex section of road as the road widths are narrow and confined. All options are being considered at present so that the preferred option can be established. Further details will be presented to Cllr's later in the year.

### **Pathfinder Pinnock Hill to Airport cycle paths:**

The Engineering Consultant has developed Options Report and initial concept designs for review and agreement with relevant stakeholders before moving to the next steps. The appointed traffic survey consultant has completed the traffic survey to inform the design process. Consultation is ongoing with the relevant stakeholders including the DAA, NTA and Bus Connects project team. Further updates will be provided over the coming months, through this report and at ACM level.

### **Howth-Malahide Area:**

#### **Baldoyle-Howth Protected Cycle Lane Scheme Phase 2**

The Active Travel Unit is currently reviewing funding requests for the 2024-2025 programme, including for a review of the existing road network in Baldoyle. This will include Willie Nolan Road, Brookstone Road and Main Street. It will comprise an advancement of a previous study for the improvement of pedestrian and cycle facilities on the existing road network. A brief will be developed for consultants in the coming months, in line with the Fingal County Development Plan, the Climate Action Plan and an Active Travel Strategy for Fingal.

Once a further study and preferred option has emerged from the process, it is envisaged that the scheme will progress, subject to funding from the National Transport Authority (NTA).

#### **Paddy's Hill to Broomfield via Naomh Mearnóg GAA**

The design brief for 'Concept Development and Options Selection' has been finalised for this connectivity project. Internal consultation with other FCC departments has taken place. The remaining tender documents are being finalised by the Active Travel Unit.

When these are finalised, the next step will be to run a tender competition to appoint a design consultant for the 'Concept Development and Options Selection' Selection.

Enabling works have been completed to provide connectivity from Paddy's Hill Car Park to St. Helen's Junior School and Limetree Avenue. This included tree surgeon works, footpath works, new access points to the school, ramps, table-top crossings, dropped kerbs and ramps on the carriageway on Paddy's Hill.





### **Seapark Hill to Old Golf Course Link Park**

A brief, and tender documents are currently being prepared by the Active Travel Unit to progress this project from the design phases through to completion as soon as possible.

The design will incorporate feedback from internal FCC stakeholders and the local Resident's Association.

A temporary footpath has been constructed in December 2023, to provide safe access to the Old Golf Links site and paths through the park, providing safe connectivity to Seamount Heights.

The Developer on the Seamount Road side as recently reopened the access, which is now through the new development, closing the temporary footpath.

### **Feltrim Road Cycle Infrastructure**

A design brief has been completed to bring this project from the 'Concept Development and Options Stage' to completion.

The remaining tender documents are substantially complete and are under review.

It is expected that the works will go to tender for a design consultant in Q1, 2024.

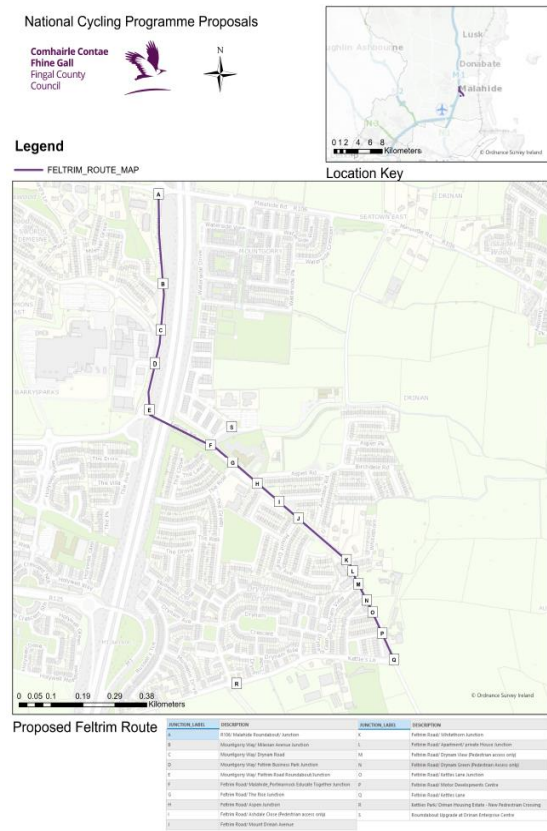
The route of the Feltrim cycle scheme is shown on the map below, commencing at Kettles Lane, along the Feltrim Road to Mountgorry Way and on up to the Swords Road Roundabout.

The Active Travel Unit of Fingal County Council proposes to engage a consultant to provide multi-disciplinary consultancy services for the provision and improvement of infrastructure for pedestrians, people on cycles and other vulnerable road users.

The study area is from the Mountgorry Way/Swords Road roundabout via Mountgorry Way and Feltrim Road, tying into the Feltrim Road/Kettle's Lane junction. An indicative route for illustrative purposes is provided below.

This map outlines the route of the proposed improved active travel infrastructure with the addition of a pedestrian crossing facility to be provided at/near the entrance to Kettles Park on Kettles Lane, and treatment of the three roundabouts at Swords Road/Mountgorry Way, Mountgorry Way/Feltrim Road, and Drinan Enterprise Centre/Liam Rogers Centre/MPETSS.

The tender for consultants is due to be issued in March 2024. With an anticipated concept and preliminary design completion by Q4 2024.



**Scoil an Duinnigh to Waterside Footpath and Cycleway**

Planning permission has been granted for the school and the Department of Education is to engage with Fingal County Council in relation to pedestrian access as a condition of the granted Planning Permission. In the interim, a footpath, dropped kerbs with tactile paving have been provided on the route to/from the school and the Feltrim Road.

**BMCO Area: Snugborough Road - NAC to Ongar**

The options report for the project has been completed after internal reviews by the Active Travel team and a workshop with the NTA. A Gateway 2 Report has been issued to the NTA and approval to proceed to the preliminary design phase of the project has been received.

The consultant is now engaging road safety audits and environmental screening on the emerging preferred option. Stakeholder engagement continues with the Bus Connects project team for a proposed new signalised junction at Waterville. A draft preliminary design report has been issued to the Active Travel Unit for comment. Further updates will be provided over the coming months, through this report and at ACM level.

**Clonee to Blanchardstown Shopping Centre**

All data collection has been collated and has informed the initial development of the options report. The design consultant has been issued with an updated review of the draft Options report and drawings following input from the Active Travel team. Further engagement with Meath County Council and the TII has taken place. Once reviewed a workshop will be held with the NTA.

**Castleknock to Dunsink Lane**

This project is now focusing on Auburn Avenue linking into the Royal Canal at the 12th Lock along the Old Navan Road. The Options Report and relevant drawings for Auburn Avenue have been reviewed and approved by the NTA in compliance with the Gateway 2 Hold Point requirements.

A stage 1 road safety audit has been carried out and comments taken into consideration with drawings updated accordingly. Photomontages of the emerging preferred option have been prepared in advance of a public consultation.

A presentation will be given to the ACM in March 2024.

### **Hartstown/Huntstown/Mountview Road**

It is proposed to use a newly formed Single Party Framework to progress design from earlier work carried out by the Cycle Design Office. A tender competition has been published to engage the design consultant for phase 2b in this regard. Fingal County Council will progress on finalising the detailed design for roundabout and junction upgrades. This is subject to revision of design standards to ensure compliance with the new National Cycle Manual.

### **Castleknock to Blanchardstown via Farmleigh**

Stage 2 of the tender competition for a design consultant and assessment has been completed. Contract documents have been signed and sealed and a commencement meeting has taken place. The feasibility study has started, and traffic and drone surveys have taken place which will help inform the study.

### **Towns & Villages**

Works are continuing in the development of an Active Travel Plan for a number of our Towns & Villages. Details are outlined below.

### **New Street**

The Chief Executives report for the Part VIII is has been presented to the area committee meeting and full Council in January 2024. The Part 8 Planning Permissions was passed by a vote of the full council. Development of the brief and tender documents for the detailed design are ongoing at present. It is expected to commence detailed design in Q1 2024.

### **Balrothery Active Travel Plan**

The design Consultant is in the process of information gathering and have presented their initial findings to the Active Travel team. The consultant will conduct data collection and initial surveys in Q1, 2024. A non statutory public consultation was held on the 20<sup>th</sup> February in Balrothery Heritage centre. The purpose of this non statutory consultation was to gain insights from the public of issues experienced and what they would like to see in their village.

The consultation was attended by a significant number of people from 3pm to 8pm, and included a class from St Oliver Plunketts National School, members from community, recreational, agricultural, and business community groups, as well as members of the public and their families of all ages. It was a very successful engagement. The consultants are in the process of analysing the feedback from that engagement and to assess the opportunities and challenges to be considered in the project.

### **Skerries Active Travel Plan**

The project team are currently developing tender documents and a consultant's brief for Stage 2 of the tender process to appoint an Integrated Design Team to deliver active travel town plans across the county. The first project to be developed from this consultancy framework will be Skerries Town. It is anticipated to publish Stage 2 tender documents by the end of March. The three shortlisted tenderers from Stage 1 will have approximately 4-weeks to submit a tender response for assessment. The evaluation board will evaluate the tenders received and aim to appoint a consultant to commence services in May 2024 for this framework.

### **Skerries Harbour Road:**

The Preliminary Design documentation and environmental reports for this project are with the Planning Authority for pre-planning consultation and assessment. The outcome of this will establish the governance and planning route for the project with a decision expected in March 2024. Further meetings will be arranged to update the elected members on the next steps and timelines involved.

### **Connectivity/Permeability**

We are continuing to receive various requests for Permeability and Connectivity improvements from various stakeholders across the county. These requests are being recorded in detail for evaluation through a multi criteria analysis.

The projects are then reviewed across the departments to identify if an appropriate means of delivery can be established on the ground.

Several projects identified through this process are being developed through the design phases for execution on the ground.

Other projects are being progressed in the areas at either design or construction stage. These Connectivity and Permeability improvements are being delivered in cooperation with our Operations Department. These projects will enhance local communities and provide improved walking and cycling infrastructure within the county.

Greenway connectivity support teams have been convened to review, design, and deliver active travel infrastructure that will enhance accessibility between the proposed strategic greenways and residential, educational, amenity and commercial zones. These support projects have been set up for Fingal Coastal Way, Broadmeadow Way/Sutton to Malahide Greenway and Royal Canal Greenway. This will help to optimise the use of the proposed greenway by both leisure and commuter users.

#### **Newtown Bridge, Balheary Road:**

The Engineering Consultant is currently working with the Project Team to finalise the Non-Statutory Public Consultation Report, the Options report and detailed drawings and screenings on the final option. Once the report has been finalised, it will be published on the Consultation Portal. The project team are working towards going to the market in the coming months for a Contractor to progress to the Construction stage in 2024, subject to approvals.

#### **Rush South Beach:**

The project team and the Engineering consultant have prepared concept design and options report for new universal access path. Discussions with landowners are ongoing, with further meetings in the coming weeks.

We are working collaboratively with the property owners to find an optimal solution that caters for everyone's needs.

#### **Beaverstown Road, Donabate:**

Active Travel is currently at Construction stage for the provision of footpath to link up to existing footpath along Beaverstown Road in Donabate. These works commenced on the 19<sup>th</sup> February and is expected to last 3-4 weeks in total.

Over the past two weeks site clearance works, including the removal of vegetation and setting out of sight lines for the new footpath and fencing has been conducted. The new fencing will be erected over the next week along with the planting of new trees and some landscaping. On completion of these works the new footpath will be installed including the provision of tactile paving and the appropriate dishing at the end of the new path section.



#### **Balgriffin Park Shared Pedestrian and Cycle Path:**

This connectivity piece provides a shared pedestrian and cycle path from the county boundary with Dublin City on Balgriffin Park, to the junction with the R123. This will provide a pedestrian and cycling connection for many dwellings on/near Balgriffin Park to the newly constructed pedestrian and cycling facilities on the R123. Works are substantially complete and snagging is due to take place.



**Howth Summit Inn to Bus Stop 567:**

Dropped kerbs with tactile paving have been provided on the route between the Summit Inn and Bus Stop 567. This work has been completed.

**Offington, Howth:**

Junction tightening and provision of tactile paving is complete at three junctions in Offington, Howth: The two junctions of Offington Drive with Offington Avenue and the junction of Offington Lawn with Offington Avenue are complete. This will slow turning movements by motorised vehicles while providing a shorter crossing distance for pedestrians and other vulnerable road users. Grassed areas are also being provided in the new pavement, which will provide additional greening and drainage.

**Secure Bicycle Parking Infrastructure**

The Contractor is currently progressing works to install a number of bicycle parking facilities across the Dublin 15 and Swords Areas. Further works are planned in Skerries and Balbriggan in the coming weeks.

18 bicycle parking spaces have been provided in the Dublin 15 Area. Bicycle Parking Sheffield Stands have been installed at the following locations:

- Hazelbury Park, Huntstown, Dublin 15
- Bus Stop 6113, Ongar Distributor Road, Dublin 15
- Bus Stop 7219, Blanchardstown Road South, Dublin 15
- Bus Stop 1902, Orchard Court, Clonsilla Road, Dublin 15

The image below illustrates 5 Bicycle Parking Sheffield Stands that have been installed in Hazelbury Park, Huntstown, Dublin 15.



10 bicycle parking spaces have been provided in the Santry Area. The image below illustrates 5 Bicycle Parking Sheffield Stands that have been installed in Santry Park, Santry, Co. Dublin.



## Safe Routes to School

### Round 1 – Tranche 1

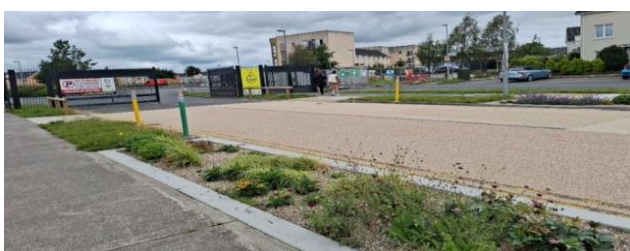
The works contractor for the Safe Routes to School Tranche 1 contract is finalising snags at each of the 5 schools. A brief update is provided below for each school site and associated construction works completed to date since the appointment of the works contractor.

### Rush and Lusk Educate Together

Works are now completed on this SRTS Project. The contractor has recently carried out some snagging and maintenance work to the rain gardens and addressed issues that were identified through the independent Road Safety Audit.

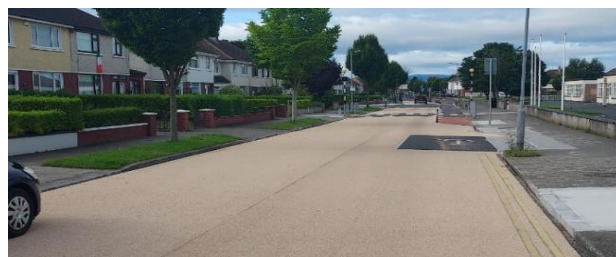
### Castaheany ETNS / St.Benedict's NS

Works are now completed at the school site. The contractor has carried out minor snagging and maintenance on rain gardens. The Stage 3 Road Safety Audit has been completed by an independent auditor.



### Bayside Junior & Senior School

Works are now completed at the school site. The contractor has carried out minor snagging and maintenance on rain gardens. The Stage 3 Road Safety Audit has been completed by an independent auditor. It is anticipated that the Belisha beacons at the zebra crossing will be connected in Q1, 2024.



### Scoil Choilm CNS

Installation of flexible bollards on Porterstown Rd outside the school entrance is complete. These initial works took place before the new school year starts to alleviate poor parking near the school gates. The main works are due to start during Q1 2024.



### Round 1 – Tranche 2

Detailed Design is complete for the Tranche 2 schools (4 no.) and a tender competition for the construction works has been published with a view to start on site in Q1 2024. This tender is now closed and has been assessed with contract documents issued for signing.

### Round 2

In mid-December, An Taisce announced Round 2 of the Safer Routes to School programme, with the following Fingal schools selected:

- Holy Family Junior National School, Forest Fields, Swords
- Scoil Bhríde Buachaillí, Church Avenue, Blanchardstown
- Scoil Bhríde Cailíní, Church Avenue, Blanchardstown
- St Helen's SNS, Limetree Avenue, Portmarnock
- St. Colmcille's Girls' National School, Chapel Lane, Swords

The Active Travel team are working closely with An Taisce in relation to data collection and engagement with the schools to develop delivery plans to enable the designers and contractors to carry out the works.

An Taisce are due to provide the delivery plans for each of the schools in the new year that will inform the design process. Fingal County Council has procured the services of a consultants' team that will be working on the designs for these schools.

#### Rush National School:

Active Travel together with Operations have recently launched two public consultations connected to road safety measures in Rush. A School Street initiative for Rush National School and a junction upgrade adjacent to the school are now open for public feedback.

The public has been invited to review plans for changes at Rush National School on the Fingal consultation portal. A proposal has been brought forward by the council's Active Travel unit to provide a School Street in the area. This initiative is being paired with a proposal from the council's Operations unit who have proposed junction upgrade measures at the nearby 5-arm junction at Millbank Road, Chapel Road and Whitestown Road which forms part of the 2024 Programme of Works. Together these upgrades will reduce traffic speeds in the area and provide children walking or wheeling to school with a much safer environment, at and on the approach to the school gate.

## Mobility & Behaviour Change

### TY Girl's Bike Mechanics Course

We recently rolled out a Bike Mechanics & Safe Cycling Workshops for TY girls, with training led by the Bike Hub, with the first course held at St Mary's secondary school in Baldoyle from 21-23 February. The course was a great success with 24 TY students participating. The rate of Irish secondary school girls who cycle is very low when compared to the number of boys who cycle. The workshops aim to address Ireland's teenage cycling gender gap, increase interest in cycling and normalise cycling amongst teen girls.



### Learn 2 Cycle with a Disability

Our Learn 2 Cycle with a Disability lesson continue to be extremely popular. We are continuing to roll these lessons out across County Fingal, with two more courses starting this March; one in Corduff Sports Centre starting on Saturday 2 March. and another in Luttrellstown community centre starting on Monday 11 March.

Our course in Flemington recently ended and the final lesson in Rivervalley will be held on Monday 26 February. We are putting emphasis on making sure these lessons are promoted across as many channels as possible, to support this we recently shot a promotional video for the course, which we look forward to sharing once the final editing is completed.



### Walking Buses

Our walking buses are continuing in 2024. Active Travel are currently assisting on walking buses in Pope John Paul NS on Mondays and St Fintan's NS in Sutton on Fridays. The Pope John Paul NS Walking Bus started on Monday 22nd January and goes from Seabury every Monday and Friday morning. We started a Naul NS Walking Bus on Tuesdays from 23rd January. Walking Buses are a great way for children and parents to get to school



### Staff eBike Trials

The Staff eBike Trials are continuing in 2024, we now have 5 eBikes available to staff for a one-month trial period.

These are

2 x Trekking Commuter Style Bikes

2 x Folding Bikes

1 x Long Tail Cargo Bike

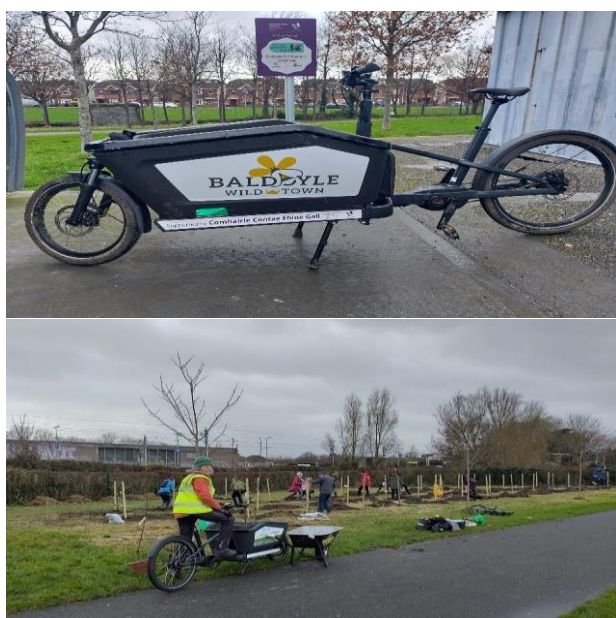
If any staff are still interested in signing up for the eBike Trials, you can fill in the Expression of Interest form

<https://forms.office.com/e/Gng6aR1LaH>



### eCargo for Business/Community Group Trials

Our eCargo for community group scheme continues, we are working on providing a bike to Castleknock Tidy Towns and Malahide Meals on Wheels and hope to have these bikes with the groups soon. Our first Community eCargo Bike was launched in December with Baldoyle Wildtown. The cargo bike has been given to the group for a 12-month period to help them with their activities around Baldoyle. The eCargo has already been put to good use by the group to transport shovels, compost and trees during their orchard planting event in Seagrang Park in December.



### Men's Walk & Talk Groups

A new Men's Walk & Talk group recently started in Baldoyle, set up in conjunction with the Baldoyle Family Resource Services. The Baldoyle group had their first walk on Thursday 22 February, and they will continue their walks each Thursday at 7pm meeting point at the Baldoyle Family Resource Centre on Grange Road, behind the Credit Union. We have Groups in Swords, Rush, Lusk and Castleknock but are always on the lookout for people who would like to start their own group. Just email [active.travel@fingal.ie](mailto:active.travel@fingal.ie) and we'll help you get going

### Fresh Air Friday

We have launched our Fresh Air Friday Challenge, with several new Fingal schools joining the initiative. Participating schools will be entered into a fun prize draw for a trip to Flynn Park / PE Supply Pack, and some active travel goodies. Participating schools just have to register online and then walk, cycle or scoot to school each Friday! Fresh Air Fridays can help to encourage a long-term behaviour change, improve the air quality around our towns and villages while also promoting a healthy start to the day. If your school or business are interested in signing up to Fresh Air Friday, simply contact [active.travel@fingal.ie](mailto:active.travel@fingal.ie) and we will help you get going.



### Marchathon & Staff Heritage Walks this March

The annual Marchathon step challenge for FCC staff starts again on 4 March! Marchathon is a fun way to get more fresh air and exercise, while also building some team spirit! To join the Marchathon step challenge go to [ActiveTravelLogger](#). The active travel unit are organising a series of lunchtime heritage walks for staff during March, to encourage staff to walk this Spring- [Sign up Here](#)

### Skerries Community Car

The Community Car in Skerries had 98 requested Trips for December and completed a total of 90. The Community Car completed 667 trips in 2023. 64% of Requested bookings were completed, 18% were cancelled by the hospital and 18% were cancelled due to no volunteer being available. We are always in need of additional volunteers for the Community Car, if you are interested in learning more, please contact [active.travel@fingal.ie](mailto:active.travel@fingal.ie)

Month	Total Bookings	Total Trips	Appoint. Cancelled by Hospital	Missed Demand (no volunteer available)
Feb	106	90	12	4
Mar	108	58	34	16
Apr	114	80	16	18
May	65	34	11	14
Jun	50	26	8	16
Jul	50	33	7	10
Aug	130	52	28	50
Sep	128	66	30	32
Oct	102	68	22	14
Nov	90	70	18	2
Dec	98	90	4	4



### Bike Share Schemes



### Bleeper Bike

You can pick up a Bleeper bike easily. Just download the Bleeper app, scan the code on the bike to unlock it and you are on your way!

#### Bleeper Bike Update January 2024; key statistics

429 Bleeper bike journeys started within Fingal operating zone in January
453 bike journeys ended within existing Fingal operating zone
Highest usage recorded on Fridays (18.4%) and Mondays (17%)
Hartstown and Donabate were the most popular starting points.
Estimated emissions avoided: 196.3kg of CO2

### TIER eBike Update

You can pick up a TIER e-bike easily. Just download the TIER app, scan the code on the e-bike to unlock it and you are on your way! The e-bikes are suitable for anyone over the age of 16 and note that a credit or debit card is required to sign up for the service.

#### TIER Mobility January 2024; Key Statistics

Metric	Details
Trips	1,142
No of Customers	474
Trips / Customer	2.4
Distance Covered (KM)	3,440
Average Trip Duration	13.9mins
Average Trip length (KM)	3km

During the Winter Period TIER have taken a commercial decision to alter their service provision in areas with limited or no usage. This will enable them to maximise efficiencies in areas of high demand.

Swords, Howth, Malahide and Skerries will see a reduction in eBikes from January to April. Donabate, Rush, Lusk and Loughshinny will see a pausing of the service until the beginning of April 2024.

Dublin 15 will see an increase in the number of eBikes in areas previously underserved. We are currently preparing full tenders for both Pedal and eBikes and we would hope to have these in place by the start of Q2 2024.

## ENVIRONMENT

### Climate Action

The Climate Action Plan 2024-2029 was adopted by the Members at the Council meeting on February 12<sup>th</sup>, 2024. Section 16 of the Climate Action and Low Carbon (Amendment) Act 2021 states that no more than 30 days after a local authority climate action plan is approved, the local authority shall publish the local authority climate action plan in such a manner as the local authority consider appropriate. The climate action plan along supporting documentation including the SEA and AA Reports, the CE Report, the SEA Statement and Notice of Adoption will be published and available for viewing by members of the public in County Hall, Swords, Civic Office, Blanchardstown and online from Monday 11<sup>th</sup> March to Friday 12<sup>th</sup> April 2024.

### Community Climate Action Fingal

The Community Climate Action Fingal Grant application process closed on 28<sup>th</sup> February. A total of 25 applications were received through the online portal. These applications represent inputs from community groups all over Fingal, many in partnership arrangements, representing climate action initiatives to the value of 1.6m Euro. The Community Climate Action Officer worked with applicants to ensure that the applications included all the relevant quotations and information necessary for assessment. The Council is required to assess the applications and present a portfolio to the Department of the Environment, Climate and Communications before the end of April.



### Climate Awareness

Two Climate Action awareness programmes are being delivered to secondary school students in Fingal. Susan Adams, environmentalist, TED speaker, educator in conservation and founder of non-profit social enterprise Education for Sustainability is on board to deliver an 8-week Climate Literacy Programme to students.

The programme aims to increase climate literacy, foster behavioural change in students, and covers 8 different environmental topics such as climate justice, sustainable development, sustainable transport, and biodiversity loss, among others.

The programme educates young people about the climate crisis and equips them with the knowledge, skills, and tools to take climate action and live sustainably. One of the unique elements of this programme is that it provides training and resources to teachers to enable them to deliver the programme to subsequent year groups.

Students undertake a class action project at the end of the programme to improve their school or local community. Initiatives in Fingal schools so far have included creation of a biodiversity garden, tackling fast fashion through clothes swap shops and 1 school has become plastic free!

Rubbish Film Festival, an exciting digital arts education initiative is also on board to raise climate awareness among secondary school students. Students receive training and support to create short films highlighting climate change and climate action issues. An awards ceremony will be held for best film followed by a regional final. 12 other local authorities are involved in rolling out this programme currently.

### Environmental Awareness

#### Green Schools

Currently 26 schools in Fingal County are undergoing assessments for their Green School Flag, a prestigious recognition of their commitment to environmental sustainability.

The Green Schools Programme supports a student lead approach in encouraging school communities to adopt eco-friendly practices and educates young people about environmental issues, while building a sense of citizenship through participation. The assessments this year are focusing on the themes of Bio Diversity, Litter and Waste, Travel and Water and are being carried out by the Environmental Awareness Officer in conjunction with An Taisce. Below is more information regarding the six themes Green Schools covers.



#### Litter and Waste

Examines the impact of litter and waste on the environment and explores practical means for reducing and minimising the amount of litter and waste produced by the school.



#### Energy

Suggests ways in which all members of the school can work together to increase awareness of energy issues and to improve energy efficiency within the school.



#### Water

Provides an introduction to the importance of water both locally and globally and raises awareness of how simple actions can substantially cut down water use.



#### Travel

Suggests ways for pupils, staff and local government to work together to raise awareness of transport issues and come up with practical solutions that will make a real difference to pupils' everyday lives.



#### Biodiversity

Examines the flora and fauna present in the school environment and suggests ways to increase the levels of biodiversity around the school and raises the pupils awareness of biodiversity and nature.



#### Global Citizenship Litter & Waste

Examines what our rights and responsibilities are on a National, European and Global scale and encourages staff, students and parents to look at the impacts our consumption habits have on other parts of the world.

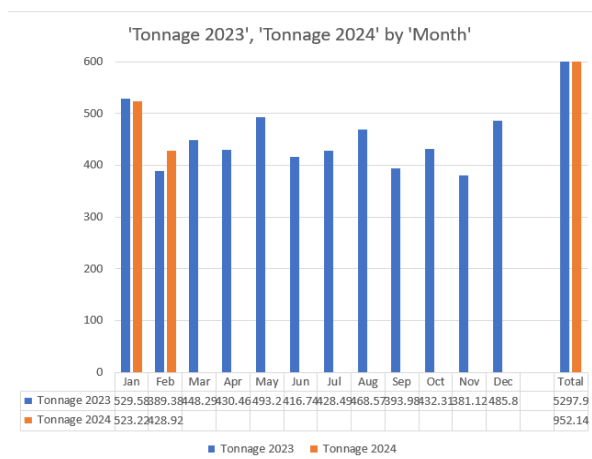
The purpose of assessments is for schools to highlight the work of their Green School committee and for An Taisce and the Environmental Awareness Officer to make recommendations to support schools on achieving green flag status. From reducing waste to promoting active travel, these assessments highlight the incredible efforts of the schools in Fingal to create a greener communities and provide a platform to showcase Fingal's next generation of environmentally conscious citizens. Best of luck to all schools involved!

The Environmental Awareness Office also sponsored the ECO UNESCO Young Environmentalist Awards.

Over the years a number of schools in Fingal have taken part in the programme, this year involving Pobalscoil Neasáin and Skerries Community College. Castleknock Educate Together were granted funds to cover the costs of biodiversity signage. Ballyboughal Tidy Towns received funding towards signage for the new bottle recycling cage at the GAA grounds. The Blakestown Mountview Youth Initiative were granted funding for a hot-bin composter at their facility.

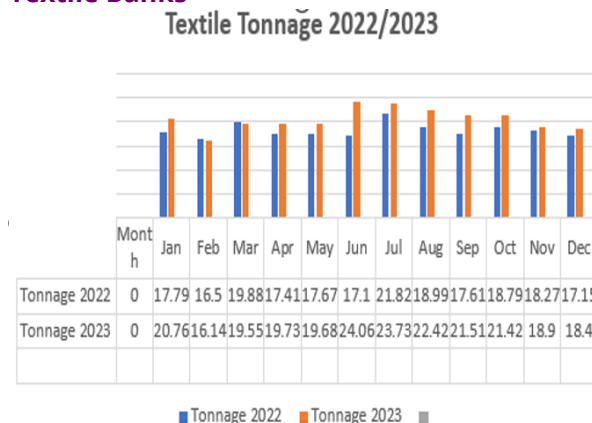
### Bring Centres

#### Bottle Banks



Glass volumes collected in February 2024 were 429 Tonnes. The Glass volumes collected by comparison in 2023 were 389 Tonnes.

#### Textile Banks



Textiles volumes collected in December 2023-the most recent data available-were 18 Tonnes. This compared with 17 Tonnes of Textiles volumes collected in December 2022.

## Litter Management

The Litter Wardens carrying out inspection on large scale dumping in the Fingal area. They also continued with their daily patrols and carried out 276 inspections on all known litter black spots in Fingal.



The Litter warden continued to receive several complaints regarding muck on the roads from building sites. They carried out inspections and ensured that the roads were being kept clean of muck and that the building sites had a road sweeper in operation.

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They also followed up on reports to ensure farmers were ensuring the roads were kept clean of muck.



The Litter warden continued to raise awareness of the issue of dog fouling on beaches, paths, and green areas in Fingal. They engaged with dog owners and dispensing dog poo bags, making people aware of their responsibilities to clean up after their dogs. They also erected anti dog fouling signage in areas where complaints were received.



The Litter Warden conducted walking patrols, engaging with business regarding their responsibilities to keep outside their premises clean and free of litter. They also checked to see if any issues have arisen for the Operations crews, and they carried out inspections and followed up with fines/warning notice if evidence found.

All the bring banks in the Fingal area were inspected daily to ensure that there was no dumping. Any evidence found was dealt with under the Litter Pollution Acts.



The Litter Warden also investigated reports of abandoned cars, taking photographs and updating the litter app and the CRM system.

There were 12 cases before the district court in February 2024.

Month	Fines	Warning Notices
January	29	4
February	56	2

The Litter Management section receive numerous complaints regarding litter enforcement and **the following cases were assigned to the Litter Warden under the CRM system.**

CRMs February 2024	Amount
Env - Dog Fouling	2
Env - Fly tipping 1-20 bags equivalent	35
Env - General Litter Issue	15
Env – Littering at Bottle Banks	5
Env – Muck on road	3
Env litter incident with witness	5
Env - Pollution - Dog Fouling Signage	9
Env – Abandoned cars	40

## Abandoned Vehicles

There have been 50 reports of alleged Abandoned Vehicles received between 1<sup>st</sup> January 2024 – 27<sup>th</sup> February 2024. Burnt-out vehicles are also reported to the Environment Department.

The Litter Wardens carry out an initial inspection of all reported abandoned and burnt-out vehicles. To report a suspected abandoned vehicle the following information is required and should be emailed to [environment@fingal.ie](mailto:environment@fingal.ie)

- Vehicle Registration
- Colour / Make / Model
- Exact Location
- Period of time that vehicle has not been moved
- Name and Contact Number of person reporting the vehicle

Information on Abandoned Vehicles can be found on the Fingal County Council website:

<https://www.fingal.ie/council/service/abandoned-vehicles>

Month	Abandoned Vehicles			Burnt Out Vehicles		
	2022	2023	2024	2022	2023	2024
January	0	0	0	0	1	6
February	0	1	2	1	0	0
March	3	1		0	1	
April	2	0		0	0	
May	1	0		0	0	
June	0	0		0	5	
July	0	1		0	0	
August	2	0		0	3	
September	0	3		0	0	
October	2	0		0	0	
November	2	4		1	0	
December	1	0		1	0	
	13	10	2	3	10	6



## Dog Warden Service

The dog wardens continue to carry out enforcement in relation to breaches of the Control of Dogs Act 1986, Control of Dog Regulations 1998, Parks and Open Spaces byelaws and Beach and Foreshore byelaws. They also educate dog owners on the responsibilities of keeping a dog and remind owners to pick up after their pets when in public places. The dog wardens also increase their patrols of the beaches during the summer months to optimise bathing water quality and retain the status of Fingal's Blue Flag beaches.

The dog wardens are continuing with door-to-door licence checks. Dog owners should ensure that they hold a valid licence for their dog and if issued with a 10-day notice by the dog wardens, should present their licence to [controlofdogs@fingal.ie](mailto:controlofdogs@fingal.ie) within the 10 days provided on the notice. Failure to do so may result in a fine being issued for failing to produce a dog licence when requested to do so by a dog warden and keeping a dog without a valid licence. The fine per offence is €100.

There were 297 x 10 Day Notices and 38 Fines issued by the dog wardens during February 2024.

Month	10 Day Notices		Fines Issued		Fines Paid	
	2024	2023	2024	2023	2024	2023
January	217	40	20	68	€1497	€7,800
February	297	13	38	32	€1735	€2,600
March	0	97	29	€0	€2,100	
April	0	152	42	€0	€1,500	
May	0	232	98	€0	€2,956	
June	0	135	53	€0	€2,700	
July	0	109	35	€0	€2,644.20	
August	0	140	21	€0	€1,500	
September	0	125	40	€0	€3,549	
October	0	241	40	€0	€1,500	
November	0	91	7	€0	€1,100	
December	0	222	12	€0	€1,422.50	
TOTAL	217	1597	430	477	€1497	€31,372

The Animal Welfare Section received 79 complaints in relation to dogs in February 2024.

Service	No of Complaints per services for February 2024
Dog Fine Appeal	4
Dog on Dog Attack	1
Dog on person Attack	5
Env - Pollution - Issue with	35
Env - restricted breed dog	11
Surrendered Dog	0
Stray Dog	23
Grand Total	79

## Dog Licences and Fines

The below table shows the number of annual and lifetime licences purchased during February 2024 in comparison with the same months in 2023. An annual dog licence fee is €20 and a lifetime dog licence fee is €140. We will continue to promote the requirement for a dog licence on social media platforms. It is a legal requirement to hold a valid licence for any dog you own or are responsible for under the Control of Dogs Act 1986. Failing to hold a valid licence for a dog that you are own or are responsible for can incur a €100 fine.

Month	Annual Licences Purchased		Lifetime Licences Purchased		Income from Licences	
	2024	2023	2024	2023	2024	2023
January	945	635	80	65	€30,200	€21,800
February	915	562	54	58	€25,860	€19,360
March		561		55	€	€18,900
April		451		41	€	€14,760
May		918		64	€	€27,320
June		516		41	€	€16,060
July		766		47	€	€21,900
August		838		51	€	€23,900
September		759		48	€	€21,900
October		670		30	€	€17,600
November		662		41	€	€18,980
December		626		37	€	€17,700

We will continue to advertise the requirement for dog owners to hold a licence for their dogs on social media platforms.



**Dog Shelter Service**

Dublin County Dog Shelter holds “Meet and Greet” visits for anyone looking to rehome a dog. Visits can be arranged by calling the shelter and arranging an appointment. These visits can be arranged from Monday – Friday from 11am to 1pm and from 2pm to 3.30pm. The shelter is also open on Saturday from 11am – 1pm. The shelter is closed to the public on Sundays. The dog shelter holds stray dogs picked up by the dog warden and dogs who have been surrendered by their owners either to the dog wardens or directly to the shelter. At the beginning of February there were 27 dogs in the shelter. During February 2024, 13 dogs were brought to the shelter by the dog wardens as stray or surrenders and 2 dogs was surrendered by a members of the public. Of these 27 dogs, 2 has been reclaimed by their owner, 10 dogs have been rehomed to rescue, 3 have been rehomed to members of the public and 6 were PTS. At the end of February there are 21 dogs remaining in the shelter. The shelter has a **Facebook page Dublin County Dog Shelter** and **Instagram Account @dublincountydogshelter** which they actively update with strays and dogs wishing to be rehomed.

Dogs in Shelter at the start of February 2023	9	Dogs in Shelter at the start of February 2024	27
Stray/Seized dogs brought to Shelter	14	Stray/Seized dogs brought to Shelter	13
Surrendered by owners	4	Surrendered by owners	2
Reclaimed	7	Reclaimed	2
Rehomed to Rescue	3	Rehomed to Rescue	10
Rehomed to Public	2	Rehomed to Public	3
PTS	3	PTS	6
Dogs in Shelter end of February 2023	12	Dogs in shelter end of February 2024	21



Contact the shelter on 0873914008, WhatsApp or Facebook to make an appointment to see the dogs available for rehoming.



Raja has been adopted from the shelter and is happy in her new home





Bootsy is a jack Russell X chihuahua approximately 1 and a half years old!  
Bootsy is a very lovable boy! He loves his cuddles and is always jumping up for love!



Hero is possibly a beagle X terrier approximately 3 years old!  
She came into the shelter very shy and nervous and took a while to come around! She would stay in her bed and not want to come out!

If you are interested in adopting hero and feel you have a suitable home contact the shelter on 0873914008, WhatsApp or Facebook!

Please share Hero to help find her a new home!

## How to be a responsible dog owner

### Responsible Sourcing

- Consider adopting from a local authority dog shelter or animal welfare charity.
- If you decide to buy a dog, consult your vet for advice.
- Never agree to collect a dog without seeing the dog in its home environment.
- Reputable breeders have waiting lists so, please be prepared to wait.
- If sourcing your dog from a Dog Breeding Establishment (DBE) check the premises is registered with the local City/ County Council.
- A registered DBE will have a registration certificate on display in the premises.

### Microchipping

- In Ireland, if you keep, sell, purchase or rehome a dog, your dog must be microchipped and registered on a database approved by the Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine.
- If your dog goes missing, there is a greater chance of being reunited if your dog is microchipped.
- Please contact your vet for information on microchipping.

The Control of Dogs Section has launched a campaign to circulate leaflets on Responsible Dog Ownership throughout the Fingal area. The leaflet has been shared on our website and has been circulated on social media and will also be distributed to all vets in the Fingal area. The leaflet will also be circulated by our dog wardens where they see a need to issue further information to dog owners. In addition, it has been issued to our Housing Department to give to new tenants with dogs. We will also provide a link in our emails to the public as it covers all aspects of responsible dog ownership.



## Responsible Dog Ownership



## Horses

Weekly welfare inspections continue on Dunsink Landfill to monitor the numbers and welfare of the horses onsite. There are 15 hay feeders being filled by the Operations Department on a weekly basis to ensure adequate forage for the horses on the landfill. Two horses which were removed from the landfill and were returned to their owner at a registered equine premises.



## Environmental Inspection Plan 2023 & 2024 (RMCEI)

An Inspection Plan under the Recommended Minimum Criteria for Environmental Investigations (RMCEI) for 2024 is currently being prepared with input from the litter management, environmental awareness, water pollution, air & noise and waste enforcement sections. The 2024 plan sets out targets for the year ahead, taking into account the National Enforcement Priorities agreed by the EPA and other relevant stakeholders for the period 2022-2024.

The plan was due to be submitted to the EPA by the end of February 2024, but a late notification from the EPA to the Local Authorities of the number of farm inspections allocated to each Local Authority in 2024 and 2025 under the National Agricultural Inspection Programme meant that the deadline was extended to facilitate the planning and incorporation of this work into the 2024 inspection plan.

Statistics on environmental complaints and inspections carried out in 2023 have been submitted online to the EPA. A summary of which is produced in Appendix XX.

In addition, a 2023 progress report on the National Enforcement Priorities was prepared by the Water Pollution, Air & Noise and Waste Enforcement & Regulations sections, and submitted to the EPA by the 29<sup>th</sup> February 2024 deadline. The progress report details the work carried out by each of the sections towards each of the National Enforcement Priorities.

The combination of these 3 reports is used by the EPA every year to carry out an evaluation of each local authority performance under the Local Authority Performance Framework. This evaluation for 2023 will be published by the EPA towards the end of the year 2024.

## Waste Management Planning

The chief executives of the 31 local authorities have made the national waste management plan for a circular waste management plan 2024-2030 in accordance with national waste policy "A waste action plan for a circular economy" published by the government in 2020. A briefing meeting was held on February 27<sup>th</sup> for members to inform them of the steps in making the plan and the contents of the plan. The making of a waste management plan is an executive function (Waste Management Act 1996- 2011 section 22(10)d)

## Waste Enforcement - CCTV

The commencement orders referred to in last month CE report have now been signed by the Minister.

**Waste Complaints** - A total of 18 waste complaints were recorded for the month of February. Waste complaints investigated primarily related to the illegal backyard storage of waste and the backyard burning of waste. Awareness and education around the management of domestic waste in a sustainable and environmentally safe manner is crucial to ensure all households participate in a waste collection service as per the waste presentation bye-laws and use the three-bin system (black, green and brown) to manage their waste. Any information in relation to unauthorised sites/collectors can be forwarded to [environment@fingal.ie](mailto:environment@fingal.ie)

2023 Complaint data is contained in Appendix 4



Waste Prosecutions

In January 2024, Fingal County Council's Waste Environment and Regulation Section successfully prosecuted an individual for the illegal storage of waste in the Dublin District Court. The individual was prosecuted under Section 14 and Section 32 of the Waste Management Act 1996, as amended for failing to comply with a direction to cease storing waste and for illegally holding waste in a manner that was likely to cause environmental pollution.

Additionally, the individual was prosecuted under Section 205(1) of The Local Government Act 2001 for breaches in The Fingal County Councils Segregation, Storage and Presentation of Household and Commercial Waste Bye-Laws 2020.

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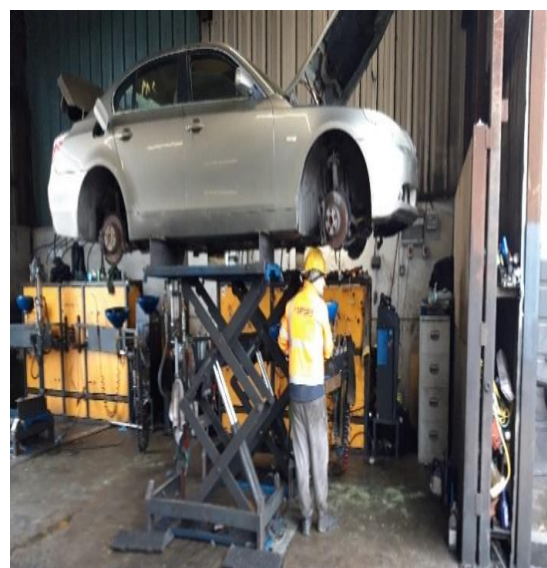
This was for not having a contract in place with an authorised waste collector for the removal of household waste or providing documentary evidence of how they managed their waste in compliance with this bye-law.

It was a successful prosecution for Fingal County Council as the individual was convicted on all 3 counts and given a global fine of €1,500 and costs of €2,720.

**Waste Facility Permits** - Below is a summary of the activity on waste facility permits in the first 2 months of the year.

A new Waste Facility Permit WFP-FG-23-0002-01 was granted to J. Ryan Haulage Limited for soil recovery at the Barnhill-Ongar Distributor Road. The permit allows for the importation of 25,000 tonnes of waste soil and stone, to be used to raise ground levels to enable the installation of a bridge over the railway line in the construction of the new distributor road.

A reviewed Waste Facility Permit WFP-FG-18-0001-02 was granted to Gannons City Recovery & Recycling Services Limited for the continued operation of their Authorised Treatment Facility at Unit 7 Roseville Industrial Park, Turvey Avenue, Donabate Co Dublin.



Vehicle depollution at Gannons City Recovery

Applications are currently being processed for

- Certificate of Registration COR-FG-24-0001-01 for a privately run Civic Amenity Site by Irish Packaging Recycling on the Cappagh Road, Dublin11
- Transfer of Waste Facility Permit WFP-FG-20-0001-01 from Cloughwater Plastics Ireland Ltd to Starrus Eco Holdings Limited

## Air & Noise Section

### Complaints

There have been several complaints regarding noise from drone deliveries in Dublin 15 following the licensing of Manna to undertake drone deliveries. Fingal County Council do not regulate the drones (outside of parks where the park by-laws apply) which are a matter for the Irish Aviation Authority

### Noise Action Planning

The preparation of a replacement noise action plan for the Dublin Agglomeration is underway, updated noise maps are available on the Fingal website [here](https://www.fingal.ie/environment/noise-action-plan)

<https://www.fingal.ie/environment/noise-action-plan>

## Landfill Aftercare:



Works in relation to the decommissioning of the on-site leachate tanks and reconditioning of the leachate balancing tank and pump works are ongoing with an estimated completion date of 3 months. Pictures above detail the new pumpset and electrical kiosk that will service the new pumping arrangements.

## EU Water Framework Directive (WFD):

Fingal County Council carried out 2 GAP inspections on two farms in the River Delvin and Palmerstown Catchment. The results of the inspections are under review to determine whether the inspected farms are fully compliant with the GAP.



## Environmental Inspections for Water

Water Quality Complaints and Inspections are detailed in the attached Appendix 4.

Inspections of Farmyards: 20 GAP Inspections carried out in farmyards within the functional area of Fingal resulting in enforcement notices and cross reports to the DAFM for non-compliances.

Fingal County Council also carried out reconnaissance land spreading surveys during the land spreading closed season with non-compliant farm operators cross reported to DAFM.

Domestic Wastewater Treatment Systems (DWWTS): The National Inspection Plan sets out a requirement to carry out assessments of 63 DWWTS under the National Inspection Plan 2022-2026.

Fingal County Council assessed 13 DWWTS in 2023 which resulted in the issue of an advisory notice to 1 non-compliant property owner who is required to rectify all non-compliant matters by April 2024.

Section 4 Trade Effluent Discharge Licences: Fingal County Council carried out 64 inspections of the 18 Section 4 licensed facilities in 2023. Non-compliant operators were notified of the exceedance and directed to have each exceedance investigated and resolved. Fingal County Council also initiated a review of 3 Section 4 licences where a licence review is required to ensure the licence addresses the requirements of latest surface water and groundwater regulations.

### Bathing Water:

In preparation for the 2024 Fingal County Council has drafted and submitted Beach Management Plans for the Balbriggan and Loughshinny designated bathing areas. The Beach Management Plans sets out a list of measures which Fingal intends to carry out to protect bathing water quality during the bathing water season.

In addition to the beach management plans Investigative monitoring and sampling of the Bracken River continues as part of the out of season management of bathing water at Balbriggan.

### Sports Office Area Based Development Officers

**Comhairle Contae  
Fhine Gall  
Fingal County  
Council**

**SPORTS OFFICE TEAM**

 <b>Gerard Reardon</b> Principal Sport Officer gerard.reardon@fingal.ie County Wide	 <b>Chloe Farrell</b> Senior Sport Officer chloe.farrell@fingal.ie Balbriggan - Skerries	 <b>Ian Farrell</b> Active Cities Coordinator ian.farrell@fingal.ie County Wide
 <b>Noel McManus</b> Sport Dev. Officer noel.mcmanus@fingal.ie Dublin 15	 <b>Robbie Corr</b> Sport Dev. Officer robbie.corr@fingal.ie Swords	 <b>Owen McGrath</b> Sport Dev. Officer owen.mcgrath@fingal.ie Rush - Lusk
 <b>Nuala Casey</b> Sport Dev. Officer nuala.casey@fingal.ie Malahide - Howth	 <b>Caitriona Geraghty</b> Sport Dev. Officer caitriona.geraghty@fingal.ie Older Adult County Wide	 <b>Administration Team</b> sports@fingal.ie Administrator County Wide

Following the Fingal Sports Office Strategy launch Fingal Sports Officers have gone area based and now have a development officer in each Local Electoral Area while also concentrating on areas in Fingal based on the Pobal Deprivation Index on key areas to target. Fingal Sports Office have also launched a monthly newsletter to Councillors and stakeholders to communicate what is going on in each area programme and event wise. Please find newsletter here - <https://bit.ly/FingalSportUpdate>

### Sports First Aid

The Sports Office were delighted to organise a highly informative and practical Sports First Aid workshop with Velo Club Balrothery and St. Peters GAA Club an underage amalgamation of Ballyboughal, Clann Mhuire and Garristown GAA Clubs.

The tutor on the evening was Brian Pentony and participants went through a wide range of First Aid scenarios that impact cyclists and coaches. Many of the 15 participants now hope to complete the Accredited Defibrillator Training also organised by the Sports Office in the coming months.



### SportsCon Teacher Training

The Sports Office PDP Training for teachers continued with another workshop in St. Francis Xavier SNS Coolmine. 20 teachers took part in the training which complemented the recent MarathonKids, Sports Con and Try Track and Field Programmes delivered in the school. The staff and students now have the skillset to participate and mentor in club and community-based activity programmes in the area.



### Fingal Athletics League

This year's Fingal Athletics League launched in February with 62 primary schools and over 2,700 students participating in the cross-country running programme. Schools have been training over the past 6 weeks in preparation for the race meets and the first meet for Dublin 15 schools took place in Porterstown Park on 27th February with 3rd, 4th, 5th & 6th class students from 26 local schools coming together to compete. The first race meet for North County schools took place in Newbridge House on 29th February with students representing 36 schools. The second round of race meets is scheduled for 19th & 21st March followed by the grand finale at ALSAA Sports Complex on 24th April.



### Revive and Thrive

Revive and Thrive back to exercise programme is nearing it's end and there is huge feedback coming in from all participants. Due to the success of the programme, the local community are taking ownership of the programme and are keeping it going themselves, without direct support from Fingal making this a sustainable community based programme run by local people. Mayor Henchy, Cllr. Guireann and Cllr. Healy came to visit the programme and are keen to see it spread to more area's of Fingal next year



### Parent and Toddler - Baldoyle

Parent and Toddler Yoga started in Baldoyle Community Centre in February, due to the collaboration between the community centre and the sport office, the programme filled within days of registration and maintained a big attendance throughout. This was a pilot programme running for 4 weeks and will continue after the Easter break indefinitely due to its success and the demand for the programme. This programme is unique as it gets both adults and toddlers active together.



### Boccia Blitz

The Fingal Sport Office host a monthly Boccia Blitz aimed at older adults and adults with intellectual disabilities. Over 70 people attended the event with participants coming from all over Fingal. This event has been hugely successful and maintained large numbers and will continue as a staple monthly event in the Fingal Sport calendar. Sports Hub - Balbriggan



### Parent & Toddler - Holywell

Another initiative run in conjunction with the local residents association in Holywell the new Parent & Toddler programme started on the Tuesday morning the 20th of February in Holywell Community Centre. The programme incorporates fundamental movement and games for both parent and toddler. The initial eight-week programme is led by a Fingal funded coach qualified in fundamental movement and yoga. The programme received a big uptake from the local residents with over twenty parents their toddlers registered for the initial eight weeks. Showing the demand in the area for activities for this each group.



### Inclusive Dance - Baldoyle

Fingal Sport Office have started a block of inclusive dance classes for children with additional needs to attend two primary schools. The sessions are in Baldoyle community hall and fully funded by Fingal Sport. Approximately 15 children between the age of 7 and 10 years are taking part, each supported by their teachers and SNA's. This class will run for 4 weeks.



### Coastal CDNT

The Sport Inclusion Officer for Fingal Sport attended the Parents Forum for the Coastal Area Childrens Disability Network Team. They have a presentation about the SPort Office and the work done by Fingal in the area of Sport Inclusion as well as signposting parents of children with disabilities to the various activities going on locally they may not be aware of. There was a very good response from parents who were delighted to be presented with the information.

### Ultimate Frisbee Blitz

Fingal Sport Office supported Dublin Youth Ultimate with their Girls Cup Ultimate Frisbee Blitz. 150 secondary school girls attended the blitz. As it was an all-girls event, there was a workshop on exercise through your menstrual cycle which each school attended individually. This offered an excellent opportunity for girls to ask questions to a qualified physiotherapist and athlete who could share her experiences of taking part in sport and physical activity throughout various stages of your menstrual cycle.



### Yoga For Newbies in Balbriggan

Fingal Sports Office launched an eight-week programme targeting men and women who had never ventured into yoga before, inviting them to join and experience it for the first time alongside peers in similar circumstances. With 18 participants, feedback has been very positive for yoga first timers.



### Fingal HomeFit Yoga

The 6-week Fingal HomeFit Yoga programme concluded on February 27th. Between 50 and 150 participants logged on every Tuesday evening and hundreds watched the recordings through our YouTube channel. Participants logged in to learn about the benefits of yoga through breath work, yoga postures, and relaxation.

'Really enjoyed it. It's just the right level of challenge for me. Not too difficult and I get a lot of benefit from all the breathing exercises at the start of the class. I liked the encouragement to connect with the recordings too.' Lara (Programme participant)





### **Badminton for Baleskin**

The Badminton programme for adults living in direct provision in partnership with Badminton Ireland drew to a close at the end of February. 15 - 25 adults from Baleskin direct provision centre attended each week during the 6-week programme in Mountview Community Centre. Thanks to the enthusiastic coach, Sumesh, for making the programme fun and enjoyable while helping the participants learn the basic skills.



## ARCHITECTS DEPARTMENT

### Contents

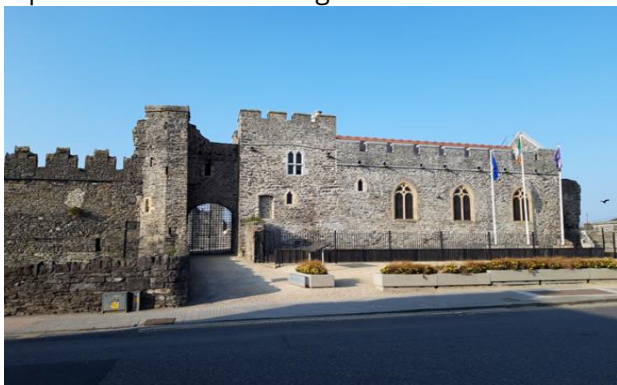
#### Swords Castle Conservation Works Overview - 2015 to Present

### Swords Castle Conservation - Presentation to BLFI

At a recent event hosted by Building Limes Forum Ireland (BLFI), Fingal Architects Department presented an overview of the conservation works completed at Swords Castle from 2015-2023. The presentation was made to the BLFI in the context of traditional building methods and materials employed in the conservation process.

### Building Limes Forum Ireland, BLFI

The Building Limes Forum Ireland, BLFI, brings together all those involved in the use of natural lime in the building industry from built heritage to sustainable new build. The BLFI provides information on all aspects of lime and its uses and offers a platform for discussion, sharing experiences and knowledge.



### Swords Castle

The works completed in the period from 2015 to 2023 were a culmination of several projects starting in 1985 when Dublin County Council obtained the lands from the Cobbe family. The presentation commenced with a synopsis of the castle history, conservation works completed prior to 2015 as well as the Swords Castle Conservation Plan 2014. It was also outlined how the castle was an integral part of the Sword Cultural Quarter.

### The Project - 2015 To Present

Our presenter at the BLFI event, Brian O'Connor, Executive Architect went on to detail the works completed over the period from 2015 to 2023.

### 2015 - Activities

Enabling Works started in 2015 with the first removal of vegetation. The grounds were opened to the public in March of that year and public access was maintained throughout the works. Archaeological digs and mortar sampling were conducted in order that subsequent works were conducted responsibly and in sympathy with the structures' original construction and materials. The National Monuments Service were consulted during this phase as part of the process to get approval on the planned building materials and processes.



Exploratory Dig at Swords Castle

### 2016 Activities - Phase 1

In 2016 there was further vegetation removal on the site and the main areas focussed on were:

- The consolidation of the gatehouse to provide access & protection.
- Old workshop was demolished to provide a new area as a reception/ interpretation pavilion.
- Landscaping & site lighting works completed to facilitate public access to the grounds.
- North Street demolitions & creation of access to the East Wall.
- East tower temporary bracing installed.



Gate House - During and after Works



East Tower - Temporary Bracing

Throughout 2016, archaeological digs continued and the NMS [National Monuments Service] were consulted. All works were subject to ministerial consent.

### 2017 Activities - Phase 1a

The main project in this year involved works on the chapel. The works included:

- An upgrade of the chapel fire safety compliance:
- Widening of a historic doorway.
- Alteration of both doors to open outwards.
- Emergency lighting & fire alarm installation.



Chapel Door - Before and After Alteration

### 2018-2019 Phase 2 conservation & enabling works.

The Phase 2 project continued with more digs. The main works consisted of:

- North street demolitions.
- North street fence installation – a transparent cordon & offsite parking.

East wall and tower consolidation & repairs. Restoration work on the East tower was recognised with an award from Engineers Ireland - 'Heritage and Conservation Award 2019'.



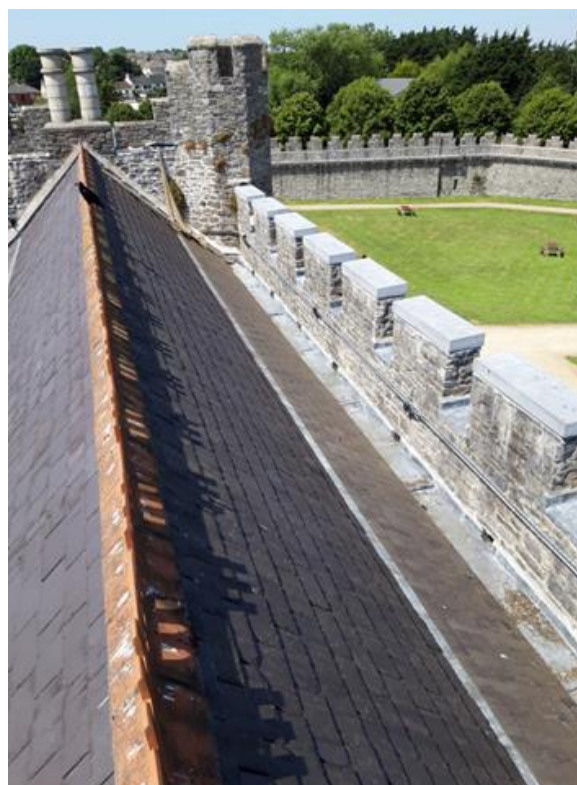
East Tower External and Internal Views after Consolidation and Repair

- Constables Tower drainage attenuation.
- The replacement of the wall-walk along the perimeter walls.



Wall Walk Being Installed

- Chapel roof - new lead, copings and access.



Chapel Roof After Replacement of Lead and Copings

### 2020-2021 - Phase 2 Perimeter Works

Works were completed around the perimeter as a temporary solution to comply with public realm requirements in the area outside the castle walls.

- Public benches installed.
- A consistent surface treatment of pathways and walkway.
- The extension of floodlighting to cover the castle perimeter.
- Installation of works interpretation signage to provide information for the public.
- Measures to control access to the castle.
- Provision of a builders' compound for the next works phase.
- Provision of offsite parking for contractors.

Much of the work in 2021-2022 was completed whilst operating under Covid-19 restrictions thus limiting progress. Work in 2022 consisted primarily of tender preparations for Phase 3.

### 2023 Phase 3A Conservation & Enabling Works

Phase 3A of the project got underway in 2023 with:

- Knights & Squires Chamber consolidation & repairs
- South wall consolidation & repairs
- South-west tower consolidation & repairs
- North-east tower consolidation & repairs
- Installation of new path kerbs, fixed benches and path lighting



Knights and Squires Wall Consolidation and Repair



Knights and Squires Chamber and Wall After Repair

### 2024 - Phase 3b - Projected Works

- Knights & Squires chimney consolidation and repair.
- Electricity & CCTV upgrade for the entire site.
- Provision of public access to the Knights and Squires chamber.

## FINANCE

Contents	
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<b>Payroll</b>	
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Contracts Awarded year to date	Contracts Awarded year to date

The tables below outlines key financial statics at the end of February.

### Rates

Overall Commercial Rates collection to the end of February 2024 is running at **28%**.

Rates Collection	
Rates collected €M	45.4
Rates Collection %	28%

### Development Levy Income

Development levy income collected to the end of February is €2.7m this is c.47% of the overall collection for same period in 2023.

Development Levy Income	
Levies Received €M	2.7
Levies collected as % of 2023	7%

### Payroll

Overall payroll spend to the end of February is €14.2m which is c. **97.3%** of the budget year to date.

Payroll	
Salaries & Wages €M	14.2
Percentage of budget YTD	97%

### Procurement

Outlined below is a summary of the overall procurement activity at end of February

No. of contracts awarded (details below) for year to date	43	
Value €m	10.25m	
<b>Procurements ongoing at end of February</b>		
No. of procurements awaiting tender responses	16	(i)
Value €m	99.84m	
No. of procurements under evaluation	43	(ii)
Value €m	127.52m	
No. of procurements at approved	10	(iii)
Value €m	3.76m	

#### Notes:

- (i) Procurements awaiting tender responses – tender responses awaited at end of February.
- (ii) Procurements under evaluation – tender responses submitted and being evaluated at end of the February.
- (iii) Procurements at approved – Tender responses have been evaluated and approved. Pre- contract award processes ongoing at end of February.

## Appendix 1 (a)

### REVENUE ACCOUNT INCOME & EXPENDITURE SUMMARY BY SERVICE DIVISION AT 29 FEB 2024

	EXPENDITURE			INCOME			NET
	Expenditure €	Adopted Full Year Budget €	% Budget Spent to date	Income €	Adopted Full year Budget €	% Budget Raised	€
Housing & Building	15,769,079	105,932,600	15%	16,124,591	108,268,800	15%	-355,512
Road Transport & Safety	6,618,817	36,130,600	18%	1,467,090	9,056,100	16%	5,151,727
Water Services	3,082,460	14,369,700	21%	2,990,332	17,039,600	18%	92,128
Development Management	3,801,884	20,845,600	18%	1,198,595	6,574,000	18%	2,603,290
Environmental Services	8,261,051	48,453,500	17%	1,672,644	10,947,500	15%	6,588,407
Recreation & Amenity	8,845,526	56,603,300	16%	727,683	4,841,800	15%	8,117,843
Agriculture, Education, Health & Welfare	250,545	1,513,800	17%	57,733	409,700	14%	192,813
Miscellaneous Services	3,198,862	21,972,500	15%	4,260,102	29,279,600	15%	-1,061,240
Central Management Charge	8,332,539	56,075,600	15%	562,580	3,969,700	14%	7,769,959
Local Property Tax / GPG				2,061,050	12,366,300	17%	-2,061,050
Rates				26,524,017	159,144,100	17%	-26,524,017
	<b>58,160,764</b>	<b>361,897,200</b>	<b>16%</b>	<b>57,646,416</b>	<b>361,897,200</b>	<b>16%</b>	<b>514,348</b>

## Appendix 1 (b)

<b>CAPITAL ACCOUNT</b>						
<b>INCOME &amp; EXPENDITURE SUMMARY BY SERVICE DIVISION TO 29/02/2024</b>						
	Balance at 0/01/2024 €		Expenditure YTD €		Income YTD €	Balance at 29/02/2024 €
Housing & Building	-19,705,839		34,079,429		-2,846,971	11,526,619
Road Transport & Safety	11,744,746		6,473,374		-595,334	17,622,786
Water Services	-11,306,102		385,492		-177,808	-11,098,418
Development Management	-149,245,428		6,724,102		-7,049,491	-149,570,817
Environmental Services	-14,090,477		304,590		0	-13,785,887
Recreation & Amenity	-15,666,274		768,401		-65,274	-14,963,147
Miscellaneous Services	-52,682,662		1,812,905		74,193	-50,795,564
<b>Total</b>	<b>-250,952,036</b>		<b>50,548,293</b>		<b>-10,660,685</b>	<b>-211,064,428</b>
NB***						
The Opening Balance for 2024 is subject to change as the AFS 2023 is not finalised						



### Appendix 1 (c)

<b>SUMMARY OF CORPORATE DEBTORS TO 29/02/2024</b>				
	<b>Balance at 01/01/2024*</b>	<b>Balance at 29/02/2024</b>	<b>Current debt</b>	<b>&gt; 1 Year</b>
	€	€	€	€
<b>RATES**</b>	<b>€2,579,384</b>	<b>€117,652,870</b>	<b>€115,154,432</b>	<b>€2,498,439</b>
<b>LOANS</b>	<b>€2,130,037</b>	<b>€2,135,546</b>	<b>€241,260</b>	<b>€1,894,286</b>
<b>RENTS</b>	<b>€10,216,580</b>	<b>€10,019,784</b>	<b>€4,692,503</b>	<b>€5,327,281</b>

*Figures for rents and loans are unadjusted by credits/prepayments*

\*Note: Balances at 1/1/2024 are only provisional and will be finalised on completion 2023 AFS.

\*\* value of debit at 31/12/2023 was €3.2m with a credit of €653,644.

## Appendix 2 Number of Contracts Awarded for year to date

Dept	Description of Procurement	Supplier Name	Current Value of Contract (excl. VAT)	Contract Start Date (actual)	Contract End Date (actual)	Contract Award Date	Original Duration (months)
Planning and Strategic Infrastructure	Engineering Consultancy Services for the Bremore Recreational Hub Access Upgrade Works	Design ID Consulting Ltd	€ 56,334.00	26/02/2024	28/06/2024	26/02/2024	4
Planning and Strategic Infrastructure	Undertake a Strategic Environmental Assessment, Appropriate Assessment (AA) Screening and Appropriate Assessment, if required for LAP at Flemington	Brady, Shipman Martin	€ 28,120.00	17/11/2023	17/11/2024	26/02/2024	12
Housing	Civil & Structural Engineering Services for proposed housing developments at North Street, Swords and Rathmore Road, Lusk, Co. Dublin	Tobin Consulting Engineers	€ 73,000.00	01/12/2023	31/12/2026	23/02/2024	37
Digital Services	Provision of Web Based Applications for Housing Application	Interform Limited	€ 90,000.00	17/02/2024	31/12/2024	16/02/2024	12
Digital Services	Renewal of Licencing of AutoDESK Suites of Software	Diatec Group	€ 60,113.00	01/03/2024	28/02/2025	16/02/2024	12
Digital Services	Managed Print Services	Datapac Ireland	€ 70,000.00	27/08/2024	26/08/2025	15/02/2024	12
EETCD	Upgrade of fire alarm system at Ardgillen Castle	Securitas Technology	€ 30,830.00	01/03/2024	31/03/2024	12/02/2024	1
Planning and Strategic Infrastructure	Woodland Management Services	Redwood Tree Services Ltd	€ 45,500.00	10/02/2024	10/05/2024	09/02/2024	3
Operations	Hire of Excavator & Operator at the Former Dunsink Landfill & Environs	Anthony Patton Plant Hire Ltd	€ 82,000.00	16/01/2024	15/01/2025	08/02/2024	12
Operations	Fingal Bridge Repair and Rehabilitation	Triur Construction	€ 268,762.00	01/02/2024	01/05/2024	08/02/2024	3
Libraries	Demolition and Enabling Works at Former St. Michaels House Bungalow, Seatown Road	Hegarty Demolition Ltd.	€ 120,243.00	12/02/2024	29/03/2025	08/02/2024	14
Operations	Installation of Traffic Signals 2024	Traffic Solutions Ltd	€ 731,606.00	12/02/2024	31/12/2024	08/02/2024	11
Corporate Affairs	Mobile Voice & Data Communications and Associated Products & Services	Vodafone	€ 1,008,052	01/11/2023	31/10/2027	07/02/2024	48
Operations	Tree Works in the Dublin 15 Area	Redwood Tree Services Ltd	€ 64,880.00	04/02/2024	29/02/2024	06/02/2024	1

Housing	Integrated Design Team Services to provide design, planning Consultancy Services to establish a design framework plan and achieve planning approval for c.300 Units at Mooretown, Swords, Co. Dublin	Brady, Shipman Martin	€ 510,963.00	01/11/2023	31/12/2024	01/02/2024	56
Operations	Requirement for Road Lining Contract for the Fingal Swords, Balbriggan Areas Including PSCS	MacLochlainn (Roadmarkings) Limited	€ 58,796.60	24/01/2024	31/12/2024	31/01/2024	12
Operations	Disposal of Marine Wrecks located in Balbriggan Harbour	Shanowen Plant Hire Ltd	€ 154,450.00	01/03/2024	30/04/2024	29/01/2024	2
Operations	Supply & Delivery of Macadam to various locations in Fingal	Roadstone Ltd	€ 97,630.00	01/01/2024	31/12/2024	29/01/2024	12
Digital Services	Supply of Broadband to Malahide 9Avoca), Ardgillan House & Ballycoolin Training Centre	Viatel Ireland Ltd	€ 26,160.00	01/03/2024	28/02/2026	26/01/2024	24
Planning and Strategic Infrastructure	Landscape Architect Led Integrated Design Team Services Consultancy Services at Naul Village Park, the Naul	Dermot Foley Landscape Architects	€ 316,577.00	06/11/2023	05/09/2027	25/01/2024	46
EETCD	Tradfest	TASCQ CLG t/a The Temple Bar Company	€ 120,000.00	01/01/2024	31/12/2024	25/01/2024	12
Planning and Strategic Infrastructure	Supply of Pleached Lime Trees and Yew Hedging	Annaveigh Plants Ltd	€ 29,895.00	30/10/2023	29/10/2024	19/01/2024	12
Planning and Strategic Infrastructure	Topographical and Underwater Survey at Ward River Park, Swords	Murphy Geospatial Ltd	€ 25,980.00	30/01/2024	30/03/2024	18/01/2024	2
Digital Services	Supply an ICT Managed Service for Fingal County Council	ATOS IT Solutions & Services Ltd	€ 594,114.00	28/02/2024	27/08/2024	17/01/2024	6
EETCD	Programme Development Manager for Carnegie Library Swords	Linda Shevlin	€ 56,000.00	15/01/2024	14/01/2025	15/01/2024	12
Planning and Strategic Infrastructure	Works for Naul Village Park Site Investigation	IGSL Ltd	€ 40,125.00	15/01/2024	20/02/2024	15/01/2024	1
Digital Services	Departmental access to Lawlink	Dye & Durham Ltd	€ 43,944.00	16/01/2024	31/12/2024	15/01/2024	12
Corporate Affairs	Integrated Design Team Services for Workplace Strategy Project	MCO Projects Limited	€ 325,663.00	15/01/2024	14/12/2025	15/01/2024	23
Corporate Affairs	Post Collection Service	Print Post Ltd	€ 36,250.00	01/01/2024	31/03/2024	11/01/2024	3
Operations	Resurfacing of Section of Bath Avenue, Malahide	John McQuillan Contracts Ltd	€ 52,957.00	05/02/2024	01/03/2024	11/01/2024	3 weeks
People Services	Occupational Health Services	Dr. Ted Murphy	€ 111,600.00	01/01/2024	31/12/2025	02/01/2024	24
Operations	Provision of Maintenance of Earth Moving Equipment	Equipment Company of Ireland Ltd	€ 32,230.00	01/12/2023	30/11/2025	02/01/2024	24
Planning and Strategic Infrastructure	Provision of Services for Independent Agronomist for the Fingal Coastal Way	Hackett Agricultural Consultants	€ 39,700.00	02/01/2024	31/12/2024	02/01/2024	14
Digital Services	Requirement for Support in the Development of an Investment Concept for FC EUFC Grant Funded Project	BABLE Smart Cities GmbH	€ 50,000.00	01/01/2024	31/12/2024	01/01/2024	12
Housing	Inspections on Private Rented Dwellings located in the Admin Area of Fingal County Council	Arthurstown Construction Limited	€ 165,000.00	01/01/2024	31/03/2024	01/01/2024	3
Operations	Provision of Vehicle and Plant Inspection Services	Truck & Trailer works Ireland	€ 79,600.00	01/01/2024	31/12/2025	01/01/2024	24

### Appendix 3

Active Travel Investment Grants: Allocations		
Project Code:	Project Name & Funding Allocation 2023	Comments
FCC/19/0005	Schools Streets non SRTS €100,000	Small improvements at schools (not in SRTS programme) which can be delivered through numerous departments.
FCC/20/0004	Bicycle Parking (Covid) €150,000	Contractor is gearing up to complete bike parking stands in various locations across the county. Further work packages are being developed by the team for Swords and Dublin 15 areas. Ongoing liaison with Operations and Parks to agree suitable locations for bike parking.
FCC/21/0001	Snugborough Road – NAC to Ongar €220,000	Gateway 2 Report has been issued to the NTA to gain approval to proceed to preliminary design phase of the project.
FCC/21/0002	Baldoyle to Howth €300,000	Phase One of the project has reached substantial completion.
FCC/21/0006	Clonee to Blanchardstown Shopping Centre €235,000	Data collection for the options stage of the project has been completed i.e. topographical, traffic surveys, tree surveys. This data will feed into development of the options report for the project. A second Draft options report has been submitted by consultant and been reviewed by Active Travel.
FCC/22/0001	Castleknock to Dunsink Lane €185,000	The options report and relevant drawings for Auburn Ave and Dunsinea Lane have been submitted to the NTA in compliance to the Gateway 2-5 Hold Point requirements. A Draft options report has been submitted by consultant for Dunsink Lane and currently been reviewed by Active Travel.
FCC/22/0004	Hartstown/Huntstown/Mountview Rd D1 €100,000	The phase 2b junction designs have been completed by the cycle design office (CDO). These designs are being reviewed by FCC before tendering for construction.
FCC/22/0005	St. Cronan's Ave & Brackenstown Rd €1,387,711	The Project was officially opened in November. The Contractor has completed most of the snags at this stage. The Contractor is due back to site in early 2024 to carry out works on the Murrough Road / Rathbeale Road junction

FCC/22/0006	Rathingle/Rivervalley Rd. Swords €176,000	Design works for phase 2b the modification of the existing roundabout is currently being discussed with the NTA.
FCC/22/0007	Balbriggan Road Mill Street and Drogheda Street €100,000	Active Travel have been working closely with the Our Balbriggan Project Team. The Active Travel Team are working to Procure an Integrated Design Team for Towns & Village Projects. We have recently completed stage 1 of the process and will be commencing with stage 2 in early 2024, to secure an Integrated Design Team by mid 2024.
FCC/22/0009	Permeability Links North County €465,000	Several projects are still being identified and assessed via multi criteria analysis. We are also in ongoing discussions with Operations to incorporate other works in order to get best value for money when we go to delivery of these works. Active Travel are progressing with some of these projects and tenders are currently out to the market to secure a works contractor to complete some of these works on the ground.
FCC/22/0010	R132 Ministers Rd to Blakes Cross + Kilhedge Lane €300,000	The Contractor commenced on site during September 2023. The majority of the main civil works and junction upgrades are now complete including approximately 90% of the surfacing works.
FCC/22/0011	Skerries – Harbour Road (footpath build outs) €905,000	Engineering consultants have finalised concept designs and options report. The proposed project has been lodged with the Planning Authority for Pre-Planning consent. The outcome of this will establish the governance and planning route for the project. The decision on this is expected in early 2024.
FCC/22/0012	Seatown Roundabout to Estuary Rd (Swords to Malahide) €140,000	Engineering consulting are finalising the Non-Statutory Public Consultation Report is due to be released in early January. Works to complete the screening reports and detailed drawings are well underway and it is anticipated to go to the market for a works contractor in Q1 2024
FCC/22/0014	Balbriggan – Coney Hill from Devlin Bridge to Bremore Cottages €140,000	Consultant is finalising concept drawings and options report which is expected to be submitted to the project team.

FCC/22/0015	Rush South Beach (Bawn Rd across carpark and out to South Shore. €500,000	We are continuing engagement with Property Section about acquisition of lands in this area. Works are also ongoing to look at options in this area that will serve not only this project but that will benefit the Fingal Coastal way route options. further discussions with landowner in early January.
FCC/22/0016	New Street Public Realm Project €583,899	The Chief Executive's report was presented to the meeting of the County Council in January 2024, and voted on by the elected members to accept the recommendations of the Chief Executive report. The project tender documents are being prepared for detailed design and tender preparation at is expected to go to tender for consultants in Q1 2024.
FCC/22/0018	Data collection for Active Travel Projects €60,000	Traffic, air, noise etc
FCC/22/0019	Skerries Active Travel Plan €655,000	Tender competition is completed for Stage 1 of the process. Stage 2 to commence early 2024.
FCC/22/0020	Balrothery Active Travel Review €282,500	The design Consultant is in the process of information gathering and have presented their initial findings to the Active Travel team. The consultant will conduct data collection and initial surveys in Q1, 2024, an initial public engagement was held in Balrothery Heritage Centre on the 20 <sup>th</sup> of February 2024 and was very successful, the consultant are summarising the outcome of that consultation at present and due to present their findings to FCC in the coming weeks.
FCC/22/0021	Seamount Heights to Old Golf Links Park €300,000	A brief, and tender documents are currently being prepared by the Active Travel Unit to progress this project from the design phases through to completion as soon as possible.  The design will incorporate feedback from internal FCC stakeholders and the local Resident's Association.
FCC/22/0022	Broomfield to Paddy's Hill via Naomh Mearnog GAA €350,000	The design brief for 'Concept Development and Options Selection' has been finalised for this connectivity project. Internal consultation with other FCC departments has taken place. The remaining tender documents are being finalised by the Active Travel Unit.
FCC/22/0026	Fingal County Council Active Travel Office – Staff Costs €1,100,000	
FCC/22/0028	FCC Castleknock to Blanchardstown via Farmleigh €90,000	Stage 2 of the tendering process complete and tender assessment has taken place. Contract documents to be signed in coming weeks.

FCC/22/0030	Station Road Portmarnock Footpaths and Cycleway €150,000	Works have reached substantial completion.
FCC/ 23/XXX	Scoil an Duinnigh to Waterside footpath and cycleway €220,000	Planning permission has been granted for the school and the Department of Education is to engage with Fingal County Council in relation to pedestrian access as a condition of the granted Planning Permission. In the interim, a footpath, dropped kerbs with tactile paving have been provided on the route to/from the school and the Feltrim Road.
FCC/ 23/XXX	Feltrim Road cycle infrastructure €120,000	A design brief has been completed to bring this project from the 'Concept Development and Options Stage' to completion.  The remaining tender documents are substantially complete and are under review. It is expected that the works will go to tender for a design consultant early in Q1, 2024.
FCC/ 23/XXX	Active Travel Pathfinder – Swords to Airport quick build €200,000	Project team have engaged an Integrated Design Team to work on the project. Preferred Options report has been completed and is due for discussion and consultation with the Statutory stakeholder in early January.
FCC/23/XXX	Donabate to Portrane (R126) - Distributor Road to Portrane Avenue €40,000	Consultant is finalising concept drawings and options report. Discussion and negotiations ongoing with Property Section and landowners to acquire lands where required.
FCC/23/XXX	SRTS (R1) – Scoil Mhuire & Iosef, Sinsear – Bayside Senior National School €200,000	Works are now completed at the school site. The contractor has carried out minor snagging and maintenance on rain gardens. The Stage 3 Road Safety Audit has been completed by an independent auditor. It is anticipated that the Belisha beacons at the zebra crossing will be connected in Q1, 2024.
FCC/23/XXX	SRTS (R1) – Scoil Ghrainne CNS €200,000	Detailed design nearing completion to enable procurement of works contractor. Contract documents are being finalised to engage a contractor for the works.
FCC/23/XXX	SRTS (R1) – Bayside Junior School €200,000	Works are now completed at the school site. The contractor has carried out minor snagging and maintenance on rain gardens. The Stage 3 Road Safety Audit has been completed by an independent auditor. It is anticipated that the Belisha beacons at the zebra crossing will be connected in Q1, 2024.

FCC/23/XXX	SRTS (R1) – Scoil Choilm CNS €200,000	Installation of flexible bollards on Porterstown Rd. outside the school entrance is complete. Detailed design nearing completion to enable procurement of works contractor. Contract documents are being finalised to engage a contractor for the works.
FCC/23/XXX	SRTS (R1) – Rush & Lusk ETNS €200,000	Construction work is now complete and final snagging works has been completed.
FCC/23/XXX	SRTS (R1) – Pope John Paul II NS, Malahide €200,000	Detailed Design complete for the Tranche 2 schools (4 no.), including Pope John Paul II NS. It is envisaged that this work package will go to construction in Q1 2024, and Pope John Paul II NS is currently scheduled to be the final Safe Routes to School scheme implemented in this package. Contract appointment is due to take place in Q1 2024
FCC/23/XXX	SRTS (R1) – Castaheany ETNS €200,000	Works have been substantially completed by contractor. Minor snag works ongoing.
FCC/23/XXX	SRTS (R1) – St. Benedict's NS €200,000	Works have been substantially completed by contractor. Minor snag works ongoing.
FCC/23/XXX	SRTS (R1) – Ladyswell National School €200,000	Detailed design nearing completion to enable procurement of works contractor. Contract documents are being finalised to engage a contractor for the works.



## Appendix 4

### 2023 Summary of Environmental Complaints, Inspections and Enforcement Actions

		<b>2023</b>
<b>Complaints investigated</b>	Litter	389
	Waste (non C&D)	638
	C&D Waste	9
	Water and Wastewater	101
	Air & Odour	37
	Noise	99
	<b>TOTAL COMPLAINTS</b>	<b>1,273</b>
<b>Inspections</b>	Routine Waste Inspections	1124
	Non-Routine Waste Inspections	416
	Litter Patrols & investigations	3232
	Routine Water & Wastewater Inspections	720
	Non-Routine Water & Wastewater Inspections	133
	Routine Air & Noise Inspections	61
	Non-Routine Air & Noise Inspections	134
	Planning Inspections	416
	<b>TOTAL INSPECTIONS</b>	<b>6,236</b>
<b>Enforcement Actions</b>	Litter Fines	463
	Waste Warning Letters	96
	Directions under S14 of WMA	101
	Other waste enforcement	52
	Water & Wastewater	29
	Air Enforcement Action	0
	Noise Enforcement Action	10
	<b>TOTAL ENFORCEMENT</b>	<b>751</b>
<b>Prosecutions initiated</b>	Litter	62
	Waste	16
	<b>TOTAL PROSECUTIONS</b>	<b>78</b>

**Appendix 5**  
**Housing Delivery Construction Programme**  
**Schemes on Site**

Area Committee	Provider	Funding Stream	Site Name	No. Units	Status Detail	On-Site Date	Handover (estimated)
Balbriggan/Rush-Lusk/Swords	FCC	Social	Bowden Court, Swords <a href="https://www.google.com/maps/place/Bowden+Court,+Swords/@53.478125,-6.233333,15z">53°27'52.7"N 6°14'04.1"W - Google Maps</a>	<b>11</b> 4 x 1 Bed 4 x 2 Bed 3 x 3 Bed	On-Site	Q4 2022	Q3 2024
Balbriggan/Rush-Lusk/Swords	Tuath Housing	Social - Elderly	Kilhedge Lane, Lusk <a href="https://www.google.com/maps/place/Kilhedge+Lane,+Lusk/@53.317244,-6.10303,15z">53°31'24.4"N 6°10'30.3"W - Google Maps</a>	<b>31</b> 13 x 1 Bed 18 x 2 Bed	On-Site	Q1 2023	Q1 2024
Balbriggan/Rush-Lusk/Swords	FCC	Social	Ballough Place, Lusk <a href="https://www.google.com/maps/place/Ballough+Place,+Lusk/@53.317244,-6.10303,15z">https://goo.gl/maps/8u6BiRWzuLSTtmjk8</a>	<b>10</b> 9 x 2 Bed 1 x 1 Bed	On-Site	Q1 2023	Q3 2024
Balbriggan/Rush-Lusk/Swords	FCC	Social	Monastery Court, Church Road, Lusk <a href="https://www.google.com/maps/place/Monastery+Court,+Church+Road,+Lusk/@53.317244,-6.10303,15z">https://goo.gl/maps/vqRAVUw8ZqhM75w66</a>	<b>5</b> 5 x 2 Bed	On-Site	Q1 2023	Q2 2024
Balbriggan/Rush-Lusk/Swords	FCC	Mixed Tenure	Hayestown, Rush <a href="https://www.google.com/maps/place/Hayestown,+Rush/@53.31241,-6.06421,15z">53°31'24.1"N 6°06'42.1"W - Google Maps</a>	<b>62</b> 17 x 2 Bed 45 x 3 Bed	On-Site	Q2 2023	Q3 2024
Balbriggan/Rush - Lusk/Swords	FCC	Social	St. Ita's, Portrane <a href="https://www.google.com/maps/place/Portrane+Ave,+Portrane/@53.31241,-6.06421,15z">Portrane Ave - Google Maps</a>	<b>5</b> Restoration of existing cottages.	On-Site	Q4 2022	Q3 2024
Balbriggan/Rush-Lusk/Swords	Glenveagh Living Ltd	Mixed Tenure	Balmoston Ph1., Donabate 53°29'21.2"N 6°07'58.1"W	<b>172</b> 432 units, of which 20% are social and 20% affordable	On-Site	Q3 2023	Q2 2025
Blanchardstown/Mulhuddart/Castleknock/ Ongar	FCC	Mixed Tenure	Church Fields 3A <a href="https://www.google.com/maps/place/Church+Fields+3A,+Ongar/@53.24447,-6.23390,15z">53°24'44.7"N 6°23'39.0"W - Google</a>	<b>120</b>	On-Site	Q4 2023	Q3 2025

**Appendix 5- continued**  
**Schemes with Planning Approval and at Tender Stage**

Area Committee	Provider	Funding Stream	Site Name	No. Units	Status Detail	On-Site Date	Handover (Est.)
Balbriggan/Rush-Lusk/Swords	FCC	Social - Elderly	North Street, Swords <a href="#">53°27'38.6"N 6°13'06.7"W - Google Maps</a>	<b>13</b> 6 x 1 Bed 7 x 2 Bed	Enabling works complete.	Q4 2023	Q3 2025
Balbriggan/Rush-Lusk/Swords	FCC	Social -	Seatown Swords <a href="#">53°27'35.4"N 6°13'04.7"W Google Maps</a>	<b>36</b> 36 x 2 Bed	Tender package to be completed.	Q1 2024	TBC
Balbriggan/Rush-Lusk/Swords	North and East Housing Association	Social – Elderly	Garristown <a href="#">53°34'03.7"N 6°22'42.1"W - Google Maps</a>	<b>6</b> 3 x 2-bed 3 x 1-bed	Planning granted.	TBC	TBC
Blanchardstown/Mulhuddart/Castleknock/Ongar	FCC	Social – Elderly TBC	Blakestown Cross, Mulhuddart <a href="#">53.399869, -6.401776 Google Maps</a>	<b>30</b> 16 x 1 Bed 14 x 2 Bed	Conveyancing completed with planning permission.	Q4 2024	TBC
Howth/Malahide	FCC	TBC	Tuckets Lane <a href="#">53.385248, -6.066128 Google Maps</a>	<b>8</b> 4x 1 Bed 4x 2 Bed	Boundary issues being resolved.	TBC	TBC
Balbriggan/Rush-Lusk/Swords	FCC	Social	Holywell, Swords  53°26'48.1"N 6°12'42.8"W	<b>57</b> 20 x 1-bed 29 x 2-bed 8 x 3-bed	Tender package to be completed.	Q2 2024	Q4 2025

Blanchardstown-Mulhuddart/ Castleknock/ Ongar	FCC	Mixed Tenure	Church Fields 3B <a href="#">53°24'44.7"N 6°23'39.0"W - Google Maps</a>	<b>217</b>	ABP approved planning Q4 2023.	Q1 2025	Q2 2026
Blanchardstown- Mulhuddart/Castleknock / Ongar	FCC	Mixed Tenure	Mayeston, Dublin 11 <a href="#">53°24'28.4"N 6°17'02.1"W - Google Maps</a>	<b>119</b> 39 x 1 Bed 68 x 2 Bed 12 x 3 Bed	S179a planning process underway.	Q2 2024	Q4 2025
Balbriggan/Rush- Lusk/Swords	FCC	Social	Mourne View, Skerries. <a href="#">53.580404, -6.122225</a>	<b>14</b> 11x2Bed 3x3Bed 1x4Bed	S179a planning process underway.	TBC	Q4 2025

**Appendix 5 - continued**  
**Schemes at the Pre-Planning Stage**

Area Committee	Provider	Funding Stream	Site Name	No. Units	Status Detail	On-Site Date	Handover (estimated)
Balbriggan/Rush-Lusk/Swords	FCC	Social	Rathmore, Remount, Lusk <a href="https://www.google.com/maps/place/53.521033026946974,-6.161600488074793">53.521033026946974, -6.161600488074793</a>	<b>18</b> 2 x 1 Bed 11 x 2 Bed 5 x 3 Bed	S179a planning process underway.	TBC	Q3 2025
Balbriggan/Rush-Lusk/Swords	FCC	Mixed Tenure	New Road, Donabate <a href="https://www.google.com/maps/place/53.2902616,6.08275">53°29'02.6"N 6°08'27.5"W</a>	<b>160</b>  All Houses	At pre-planning stage.	TBC	TBC
Balbriggan/Rush-Lusk/Swords	FCC	TBC	O' Dwyers, Balbriggan. <a href="https://maps.app.goo.gl/inSEC4Qg3QSBHQHp8">https://maps.app.goo.gl/inSEC4Qg3QSBHQHp8</a>	<b>80-120</b>	Surveys progressing.	TBC	TBC
Balbriggan/Rush-Lusk/Swords	FCC	Social	Woodside, Swords. <a href="https://www.google.com/maps/place/53.453901,-6.210574">53.453901, -6.210574 Google Maps</a>	<b>34</b>	Design team have been appointed.	TBC	TBC
Balbriggan/Rush-Lusk/Swords	FCC	TBC	Mooretown Phase 1, Swords. <a href="https://maps.app.goo.gl/R8eAG1aoLXh1nL2J9">https://maps.app.goo.gl/R8eAG1aoLXh1nL2J9</a>	<b>200</b>	Design Masterplan to be completed.	Q1 2025	Q1 2026

Balbriggan/Rush-Lusk/Swords	FCC	Social	Kenure, Rush. <a href="#">53.532278, -6.102176 Google Maps</a>	<b>32</b>	Design ongoing.	TBC	TBC
Howth/Malahide	FCC	Social	Fingerpost, Malahide	<b>4</b>	Design ongoing.	TBC	Q4 2026
Balbriggan/Rush-Lusk/Swords	FCC	Mixed Tenure	Balmoston Ph2, Donabate  53°29'21.2"N 6°07'58.1"W	<b>172</b>	At pre-planning stage.	TBC	TBC

\*The above-estimated timelines are indicative and subject to a successful planning and procurement process.

**Appendix 5 - continued**  
**Long Term Leasing**

Area Committee	Lessor	Funding Stream	Site Name	No. Units	Status Detail	Handover (estimated)
Blanchardstown-Mulhuddart/Castleknock/Ongar	Glenveagh Homes	Enhanced Leasing	Balroy House	82	On-site	Q2 2024