



# Chief Executive's Management Report

14<sup>th</sup> of December, 2020

Item 35

# CHIEF EXECUTIVE'S MANAGEMENT REPORT – DECEMBER 2020

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## **Chief Executive's Foreword**

As we reach the end of 2020 we can look back on what has been the most unprecedented year. The difficulties presented by Covid-19 and the need to safeguard the health and safety of staff and the citizen while simultaneously ensuring the continuation of our essential services proved to be challenging at times.

Since March, the situation with the pandemic has been ever changing and we have not only adapted to these changes but have excelled in our demonstration of hard work, innovation and collaboration. Together, we have ensured staff could work safely and efficiently. We have supported local businesses and stakeholders and we have delivered our suite of services to the highest standard.

Never before has the local authority been faced with a situation which required such a comprehensive response from all departments and I am very pleased that through the tireless efforts of all staff coupled with the invaluable contribution from the Elected Members, we have demonstrated our ongoing commitment to the county of Fingal and the citizens we serve at a most difficult time.

Looking forward we have a budget which stands us in good stead to meeting the needs of community and business next year. It allows for the continued provision of key services whilst also allowing for a level of enhancement in a number of key areas.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank the Mayor, Councillor David Healy, as well as his predecessor as Mayor, Councillor Eoghan O'Brien, and all of the Elected Members for your support throughout this time. I would also like to acknowledge and thank the staff of Fingal County Council for their dedication and tireless efforts in

navigating the challenges of a truly exceptional year.

Wishing you all a happy and peaceful Christmas and with every good wish for the New Year.

**AnnMarie Farrelly**  
**Chief Executive**

# HR, CORPORATE AND GOVERNANCE

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Customer Services	

## Meetings with Elected Members

Following the designation of local authorities under Section 29 of the Civil Law and Criminal Law (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 2020, the first meeting in a remote setting which allowed the Members to carry out their statutory duties on behalf of the citizens of Fingal was held on Monday 9<sup>th</sup> November 2020. This was followed by the Area Committee meetings throughout November and the Budget meeting which was held on 24<sup>th</sup> November 2020.

## Major Emergency Management



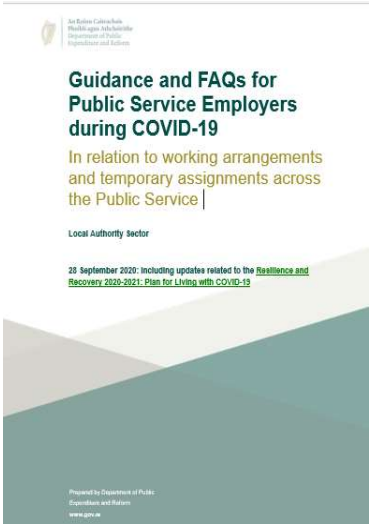
The **Major Emergency Planning** structures in place within the Council continue to provide the framework within which the Council's Departments adapt and update business continuity plans.

The **Major Emergency Eastern Region Steering Group**, chaired by the Chief Executive, held weekly meetings throughout November in light of the Level 5 restrictions which were in place. The group continues to co-ordinate services on a regional

basis and ensure that activities are in line with the national measures.

Locally, Fingal County Council's **Management Team** continues to meet regularly to ensure continuity of services whilst adhering to the Governments National Framework for Living with Covid-19.

## HUMAN RESOURCES



The Human Resource Department continues to plan for and respond to the challenges brought by Covid19. In line with Government guidelines for level 3 restrictions, staff who can work from home are encouraged to do so. Staff continue to be kept up to date on relevant Government directives and are provided with useful information through text alerts and a dedicated staff information webpage.

Training and development of our staff, including statutory Health & Safety training, has continued throughout the pandemic ensuring that critical

services are not adversely affected. Many of the Council’s structured training programmes have now moved to online platforms and courses are well underway with over 630 staff trained in 35 courses in November.

The Council’s Recruitment processes which had been held in abeyance for a period of time during the initial stages of the pandemic are now back up and running. The Human Resource Department conducted over 600 virtual preliminary interviews as part of its recruitment campaign in November.

**Health & Safety Unit (HSU)**

The HSU’s ongoing monitoring of Covid-19 compliance throughout the organisation along with monitoring for outbreaks / clusters of Covid-19 disease in the workforce especially in essential training settings continues. The corporate safety statement has been published on Grapevine taking account of the changes in the directorships.

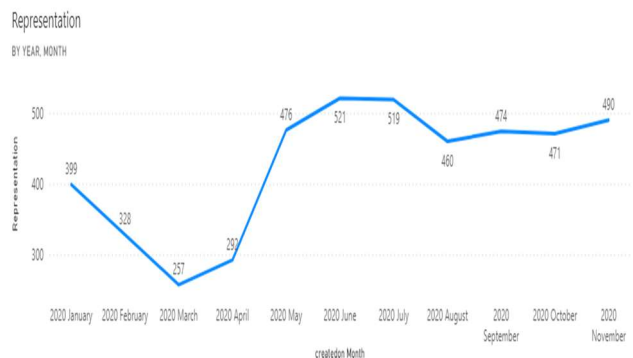
**Customer Services**

During the month of November our Customer Care Agents dealt with a total of

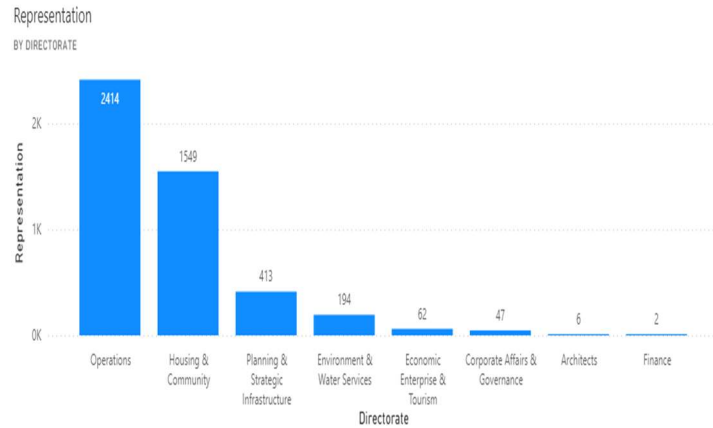
- 13,348 phone calls
- 1,304 emails.

**CRM**

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



The month of November had a total of 490 representations. The table below shows the number of Councillor’s representations assigned to each Department to date this year.



**Information Technology**

**Remote Working**

Staff continued to work remotely during the month of November. The use of cloud-based Office365 and Teams levelled out this month as illustrated in the graph below, indicating that the systems are bedded in and that this is now the default way of working in the Council. There were 3,116 Teams meetings held – a significant increase from the previous month.



### Customer Contact Software

New Customer Contact software was implemented for the Customer Care Unit in October, providing a comprehensive solution for managing calls from the public. The solution works alongside Teams Telephony and provides for a high level of deployment flexibility, including the ability for Customer Care Agents to work remotely.

### Document Management System

The rollout to Departments of the new “FinDocs” system is underway. This corporate records and document management system is based on Sharepoint Online and, as a cloud-based system, provides increased usage flexibility including facilitating remote working. The Corporate Affairs and Governance Department is now up and running on the new system. Preparatory work is currently underway in Housing, IT and Economic Development for implementation of the system in those Departments.

## COMMUNICATIONS

### Podcasts

The second episode of our new [podcast](#) channel, Inside Fingal, featured Emer O’Gorman, Director of Economic, Enterprise, Tourism and Cultural Development, giving an overview on how the Council is supporting Fingal businesses during the current Covid-19 pandemic and the range of initiatives being carried out by Fingal County Council in the build up to Christmas.



The Inside Fingal Podcast can be downloaded from platforms like iTunes, Spotify, Stitcher, Castbox and Google Podcasts, and subscribers to Fingal County Council on Facebook, Instagram, Twitter and LinkedIn will be notified of each new episode. All podcasts will also be posted to [www.fingal.ie/podcast](http://www.fingal.ie/podcast) so you can listen to past podcasts.

### Website

Our website [fingal.ie](http://fingal.ie) continued to draw large numbers during November. Figures show there were 72,100 unique visitors and 215,200 page views.

Among the most popular pages during November were View/Search Planning Applications, Job Opportunities and Results, Civic Amenities, Christmas page and Street Parking Enforcement.

As part of Fingal County Council’s drive to support businesses around Christmas time, a dedicated online shopping page [fingal.ie/christmas](http://fingal.ie/christmas), featuring a custom-built search feature for local businesses to promote themselves, has been developed and is being promoted through a digital and local media advertising campaign.



Looking for that perfect Christmas gift? Well look no further than our directory of local craft and small artisan businesses where you will find exactly what you are looking for this festive season.

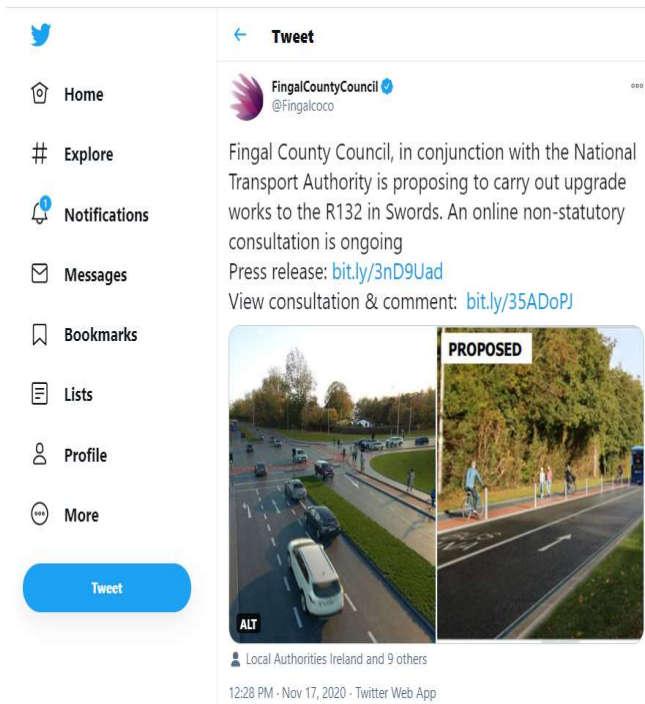
Services & Community Support during Covid-19. Click here!

## Social Media

Figures remained strong on our social media accounts during November with followers on both Twitter and Facebook continuing to grow.

On Twitter, we passed through the 19,000 mark and we now have 19,077 followers. Our 267 posts received 817,000 impressions, an average of 27,200 per day, with a 1.2% engagement rate. That brought our total impressions for 2020 through the 10 million barrier to 10,759,500.

Our most popular post was a tweet about the launch of the public consultation on the upgrade works to the R132.



We now have 21,537 followers on Facebook and during the month of November our 271 posts had a reach of over 773,000.

Our most popular post was in relation to the first edition of our Inside Fingal podcast.



Our Instagram account continues to grow and now has 3,094 followers. A six month study from May to October, 2020, by the Public Sector Marketing Institute showed that the Council's Instagram account had the third highest Page Performance Index (PPI) among the 518 public sector bodies surveyed. The PPI is a combination of engagement and growth figures to provide an estimated value for a page's success.

## Fingal News

The Communications Unit published the 16<sup>th</sup> edition of our Fingal News ezine in both English and Irish.



## Videos

The Communications Unit produced its third video in the Fingal Heritage from Above series for the Heritage section. The latest instalment featured Newbridge House.



## Press Releases

A total of 30 press releases were issued by the Communications Unit during November.

A video was also produced as part of the visit by Minister for Housing, Local Government on Heritage following his visit to County Hall in Swords to discuss housing delivery targets for 2021 and the response to the Covid-19 pandemic



A video was also produced in advance of a tree works programme being carried out at Newbridge Demesne. The purpose of the video was to explain and show why the works were necessary.



# ECONOMIC, ENTERPRISE, TOURISM & CULTURAL DEVELOPMENT

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Events	Balbriggan Socio-Economic Strategy
Tourism	LEADER Programme
Heritage Properties	Local Community Development Committee
	Enterprise Centres
<b>Cultural Development</b>	
Arts	Local Enterprise Development
Libraries	

## EVENTS

### FINGAL CHRISTMAS HOUSE DECORATING COMPETITION



Following on from the successful decorate your home competition for Halloween we have now decided to run a Decorate your Home for Christmas.

Closing date for entries is Friday 11<sup>th</sup> December.

### FIT AND FUN IN FINGAL



115,000 magazines in Irish/ English have been distributed that promote the importance of mental health and wellbeing.

The Fit & Fun has been compiled by the Economic, Enterprise, Tourism and Cultural Development and Corporate Departments with further contributions across the Authority.

### IRELANDS FIRST EVER DRIVE IN BIG SCREEN PANTO



Ireland's first ever drive in big screen panto runs is set to delight 1000s over the holiday period at Malahide Demesne. An extensive Event Plan addressing areas such as traffic management and Covid compliance has been submitted and reviewed by the relevant statutory agencies.

## WATCH SANTA LIVE



Santa Live is our creative solution to many children missing out on a Santa visit. This show airs on Saturday 12<sup>th</sup> December and is fully interactive via the Events in Fingal Facebook page.

## HERITAGE PROPERTIES

### RE-OPENING OF SERVICES ACROSS HERITAGE PROPERTIES



Following the lifting of Level 5 restrictions of the Government's Resilience and Recovery 2020-2021 Plan on 1<sup>st</sup> December, the following changes now apply under Level 3 guidelines across our heritage properties:

- Re-opening of the Casino Model Railway Museum.
- Re-opening of Swords Castle to the public.
- Cafés across the properties open with restrictive measures in place.

- The farm at Newbridge House and botanic gardens at Malahide Castle are now re-opened.

### UPDATES ACROSS THE HERITAGE PROPERTIES:



- Improvement works to the perimeter of Swords Castle to include improved lighting and street furniture has now commenced.
- A temporary licence will be signed with Brambles Café Ltd to provide a new catering facility at the upper car park, Ardgillan Castle offering hot drinks and light refreshments.
- The new tourist office in the Howth Courthouse has now opened.
- Tenders have been received for the interpretation exhibition on the history of the Martello Towers that is planned for the Skerries Martello Tower and are currently being evaluated.
- Tenders has been received in relation the Conservation Plan for Shackleton's Mills and are currently being evaluated.



## **TOURISM**

### **DUBLIN COASTAL TRAIL DESTINATION DEVELOPMENT PLAN**

Next steps in the roll out of the plan include workshops to define actions and create saleable experiences around the themes of water-based activities, heritage and culture, UNESCO Dublin Bay Biosphere, Dublin Garden Trail, Luxury/Golf, food and Greenways/infrastructure.

### **TOURIST INFORMATION OFFICES**

The tourist offices in Howth Courthouse and Swords Castle re-opened this month.

The Tourist Offices have re-commenced the collection of visitor data to the county via the conducting of visitor surveys.

### **FINGAL FOOD NETWORK**

The steering group with the assistance of the Fáilte Ireland mentor have worked on developing a communications plan for the network, communicating both to local food stakeholders, to the media, to relevant agencies and to the public, utilising online and social media. , creating and enhancing experiences for visitors, lengthening the tourist season, increasing bed nights and making experiences bookable and buyable online.

In order to formalise the food network an AGM was held on December 7th, during which a committee was elected to spearhead the development of network and the promotion of the brand Dublin's Coast & Fields.

The committee will now implement the action plan created in 2020 under the Fáilte Ireland Food Networks Programme.

### **RE-START GRANT**

Fingal County Council has paid out €7.6 m to 1,578 businesses in the Fingal area for the Restart Grant which gives direct grant aid to micro and small

businesses to help them with the costs associated with either staying open or reopening and reemploying workers following COVID-19 closures.

This scheme closed on the 22nd July and the Restart Grant Plus Scheme was subsequently launched. The Council has paid out a further €19.9m to 1985 businesses under this scheme which includes: -

- 30% top-up for Level 3 restrictions in the Dublin Region - €3.2m was paid.
- 20% top-up grant for Dublin businesses following the announcement on the 7th October for a Level 3 lockdown for the whole country – a further €2.4m was paid to the eligible businesses on 2nd November.

## **ARTS**

### **Professional Coaching for the Arts and Creative Sector**

Following the success of the one-hour coaching sessions offered to artists and arts professionals in June of this year, the Arts Office offered a follow-up session to all participants in October. This second session reviewed the actions and decisions each person made and which were set out, alongside other information and ideas from the coach, in individual coaching reports. They used the second session to reflect on how the coachee was getting on, what s/he has achieved or what is getting in the way of their progression, and to support their thinking and practice as they consider 2021. The session offered both practical support e.g. funding advice and motivational encouragement i.e. building confidence and clarifying focus, as required. About 40 hours.

## Youth & Education: A Space for Learning

Fingal Arts Office is working with curator Rayne Booth and Blakestown Community School to realise two arts-in-education projects that have adapted to comply with public health & safety measures.

### *Flourish with artist Fiona Hallinan*

Using technology artist Fiona Hallinan will remotely connect with transition year students to explore table manners and rituals in different families and cultures. The school will be sent an art pack in advance which contains text and a questionnaire focused on food rituals, as well as materials for making objects in response to the ideas generated.

### *Micro-forest with artist Gareth Kennedy*

The transition year group will then work with artist Gareth Kennedy to establish an outdoor 'hedge school' within which they will explore wood culture and ecological relationships. They will establish a 'micro forest' around this improvised space of learning over the coming months. This micro forest will enable the students to learn about connections between our ways of living and the natural world.

## Musician-in-Residence Programme

A return to practical in-school delivery is eagerly sought by many schools involved in the MIR which was severely impacted by the advent of Covid-19. Since schools reopened communication has centred on revising programme content and delivery to trial a safe return to music lessons in the classroom in line with Government public safety measures. Currently twelve schools have successfully resumed musical activity with their professional musicians. Communication is ongoing with the remaining schools and alternative virtual options are being considered for some. Projects are located in twenty-five primary schools throughout the county, with an estimated 2,000 children benefiting annually.

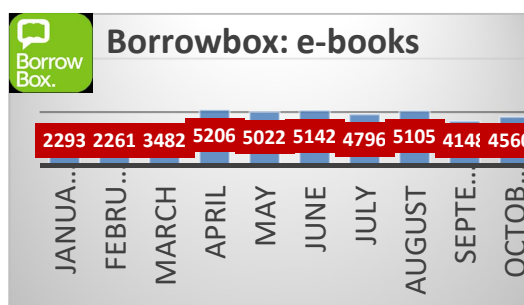
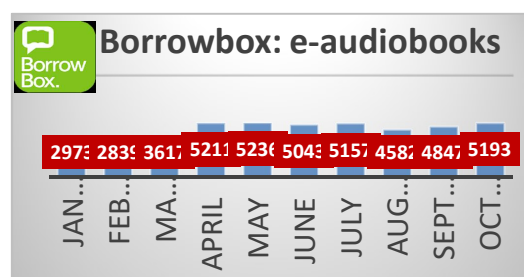
## Once Upon a Sound at The Hide Sculpture, Rogerstown Park Lusk

As part of our ongoing public engagement at the Hide Sculpture we have developed a music focused online series titled *Once Upon a Sound* radio broadcaster Donal Dineen has selected and interviewed a number of outstanding Irish musicians who have performed with their chosen instrument or song especially for the Hide Sculpture Context. The recordings will be available to the public on Fingal arts Vimeo site this month's guest is Singer/Songwriter Anna Mieke Bishop, Anna Mieke was featured recently as part of the Other Voices/RTE Courage series who's music featured as the backdrop to this year's popular series Normal People. *(The recordings were carried out in line with Covid 19 guidelines).*



## LIBRARIES

### Use of e-services in Fingal Libraries



Although the doors to our libraries have been closed for much of 2020, due to COVID 19, readers are still able to access books through our e-books service Borrowbox. This service offers an excellent range of adult and junior titles and as with our other e-services it is free of charge. There has been a 66.3% increase in the use of e-books from January to October 2020 and an 54.4% increase in the use of e-audio books for the same period

### New Digital Services on the way

Fingal Libraries has embarked on a programme that will see the acquisition of a new suite of digital services to add to the already excellent e-services that we offer. The new digital licences are mainly aimed at the younger members of our community and will allow skill building in the area of literacy, coding and innovation/making skills. All the licences are for a 2-year period and will be offered free to library members and users.

The licences are expected to be set up in December with staff training ongoing. This programme came about to address the huge surge in interest in online learning that we have seen since the beginning of Covid-19 and particularly with the age group who were unable to attend school and other community-based clubs. The appetite for this access to digital learning has continued and on foot of funding received from the Dormant Accounts Fund, Fingal Libraries has acquired the following digital online learning services:



Coding licences for teachers/parents and children from Coding Ireland.

Coding fosters creativity and helps in the learning process by allowing coders to learn through doing and experimentation. It allows learners to make mistakes and therefore strengthens problem solving skills. Thirty teacher licences, which can also be used by parents and 400 student licences have been purchased.



Lexia is one of the foremost literacy teaching software. Lexia provides explicit practice and instruction in all the skills that make a successful reader. Programs have been proven to accelerate progress and close the reading gap. Due to its computer-led nature, Lexia is easy to manage and browser-based delivery enables learners to use Lexia at library sites and in the home setting. 150 Lexia licences have been acquired.



The aim of the MyPlace project teacher resources is to illustrate how making and creating can be linked to STEAM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts and Maths) curriculum (where applicable) in primary education, in addition to Engineering, SPHE, Geography and Computational Thinking. 100 licenses have been purchased.

## Wellbeing supports for schools and parents

This project is funded through the Dormant Accounts Fund and the pilot phase will run from September to December 2020. Activities include:

- A programme of wellbeing supports including online talks in the area of helping your child with school related anxiety, wellbeing for parents and other specific mental health topics
- Yoga workshops online
- Sensory friendly online workshops
- Creative writing programme
- Participants will also receive a book bag

## Blanchardstown Library refurbishment

This project started on 16<sup>th</sup> of November and is scheduled to be complete by mid-February. When completed this project will include meeting pods, mini conference facilities, hand-held borrowable technology, a suite of iMacs and refurbished meeting and study facilities. The project will also include a maker space facility which will allow the community access to makers and innovation by providing access to technology such as 3d printers, a laser cutter and more. As well as investment by the Council, the project is also benefiting from funding of €100,000 from the Small Scale Capital Works Programme and a technology grant from the Dept of Rural and Community Development.

## Christmas Events



AVAILABLE TO VIEW ON FINGAL LIBRARIES YOUTUBE CHANNEL

# Nollaig Shona Merry Christmas

## Christmas Crafts

with Aoife Munn

Learn how to make your own **Scandinavian style wreath** in this easy to follow video. This is made mostly from natural materials and will look incredible on the door or as a centrepiece for your table.

This **Christmas crafts video** will get the kids in the house all Christmas ready and excited. From festive bunting to Christmas wreath and much more this video will encourage everyone to get creative. All crafts are created with easily accessible materials.

**Family Time at Your Library**

Watch out for free events and activities for families during the month of December. These will take place online this year. Families can also access the large collections of children's books, eBooks and eAudiobooks. Please contact your local library for details.

Right to Read at your Library

## ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

### FINGAL IN IT TOGETHER

The Fingal In It Together initiative continues to support businesses and the Council's business directory currently has 253 businesses listed. The initiative has been expanded with Fingal In It Together for Christmas with a special website [www.fingal.ie/christmas](http://www.fingal.ie/christmas) designed to support artisan and craft producers and small businesses who would normally trade at the Council's Christmas Markets, 121 businesses are currently listed.



The Council has updated and produced a Christmas Shop Local Brochure featuring the business listings which were in the individual leaflets promoting local businesses in towns and villages across the county over the last number of months. The brochure is also available on the Council's website.



Shop in Fingal

25th Anniversary

This Christmas and Support our Local Businesses

Nollaig Shona | Merry Christmas

Shop Fingal THE ESSENTIAL CHRISTMAS SHOP FINGAL GUIDE

O'Neill Healthcare Ltd

BECKING AWESOME GAMES

INVIZBOX LTD

GRANT DESIGNS

ROCKAWAY Cleaners & Dryers

Deep cleaning services (one-off/regular)

The Council is promoting local businesses and the Shop Local concept through digital advertising,

local media and radio advertising, bus shelter advertising, signage, social media and the Council's website.

Christmas themed social distancing and public health notices are being rolled out on the main shopping streets of towns and villages along with Christmas mood music on selected streets, Christmas themed projections on selected public buildings and the installation of 36 Christmas trees, 14 of which are lit by the Council.

The Council is providing free car-parking in pay & display areas across Fingal to encourage citizens to park & stride, encourage active travel and drive foot-fall on main shopping streets.

### **Parklet Partners**

The Council is rolling out the "Parklet Partners" initiative with parklet installations already complete or in progress across the county following an assessment of applications received. The parklets will be themed for Christmas.

### **Fingal Main Street Shopfronts & Residences Improvement Grant**

The Council has completed the evaluation of the applications received under this Scheme. Notifications regarding funding are in the process of issuing to applicants.

### **Sustainable Business**

The Council in collaboration with The Socratic Consulting Ltd. in Balbriggan sought funding for the development of a technology platform to reduce food waste in Fingal under the EPA's Green Business Projects to fund projects demonstrating innovation in the Circular Economy. The application was not successful.

### **Social Enterprise Supports**

The Local Development Section continues to support the new shoplocal.irish website initiative, a social enterprise which provides an online service to the community highlighting businesses

that provide delivery services locally. Almost 450 businesses ranging from arts & crafts, health & beauty and food & drink feature which provide products and services locally are registered on the website and the site has 900 instagram followers. This project was the winner for the Chambers Ireland Supporting Sustainable Communities Category on the 26<sup>th</sup> November 2020



## **BALBRIGGAN SOCIO-ECONOMIC STRATEGY**

### **Balbriggan Rejuvenation Strategy 2019 – 2025**



Following recent acquisitions in the town, Project Management Consultants have been appointed, and work is commencing on the preliminary surveys and studies required to advance projects. Of the several projects listed in the plan – reimagination of the Harbour area, re-development of Quay Street and the conversion of 2 – 4 Dublin Street to develop and strengthen a Civic, Creative Digital Town Quarter are commencing.

As part of the Local Economy Pillar and in conjunction with the Fingal In It Together & Shop Local initiatives, the Our Balbriggan team developed and promoted a series of short videos (8 no.) in November and December, profiling small

business owners in the town which reached substantial audiences across social media platforms.

The Our Balbriggan Placemaking Fund launched in October received 17 applications. The fund was established to make Balbriggan an even better place to live, work and play by encouraging groups, businesses, clubs, artists and individuals who operate within Balbriggan with a good idea on transforming a space, large or small. Offers of allocations will issue shortly.



The EU URBACT IPlace 2nd Transnational Meeting took place (online), hosted by Kočevje, Slovenia. Under the leadership of the Kočevje Business Incubator, partner cities, which include Balbriggan, participated in discussions on Local Economic development, competitiveness and co-operation. Participants learned how to prepare and implement an online hackathon which will be rolled out in Balbriggan in 2021.

Work to progress plans across the Pillars of Local Economy, Public Realm, Education, Training & Employment & Community Affairs & Integration continue. Programme Office Staff support pillar chairs and continue to liaise with a wide range of stakeholders to ascertain new and emerging needs in light of Covid 19 restrictions and to formulate any new responses arising from these. The establishment of a further pillar on matters to do

with community policing and safety is in the process of being established and meeting in December 2020.

The Our Balbriggan project is one of 10 finalists for a top European award by The Innovation in Politics Institute, a Vienna-based organisation, Our Balbriggan have been shortlisted in the Democracy Category which honours political work that increases participation of citizens in opinion forming and decision making and enables politicians from different countries to share best practice, to network and to build bridges.

### LOCAL COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE

The 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 is also represented on the Fingal Community Call Forum and is supporting many of the LCDC member agencies that are also members or the Community Call in the delivery of their programmes. The LCDC is also supporting the work of the Community Call through the Healthy Ireland Initiative, the Community Resilience Fund and Keepwell Campaign, and the many projects up and running under those funding streams.

### SICAP

As a result of COVID-19, the LCDC supported and endorsed a new SICAP Response Plan to deal with COVID-19, which has been implemented by Empower and has been central in responding to emerging challenges in the community. The Fingal LCDC had its annual SICAP meeting with Pobal during October. The meeting was extremely positive and the strong performance of the Fingal SICAP Programme during 2020 and its role in the Fingal Community Call was highlighted and recognised. The Fingal LCDC SICAP Programme going forward is also strategically aware of an increasing unemployment rate locally and the



implications this will have on service provision through the programme into the future. The LCDC will be working with Empower and Pobal during December in devising the Fingal SICAP Annual Plan for 2021. The KPIs for 2021 have been approved by Pobal and by the LCDC at its November meeting.



## LEADER PROGRAMME



The Fingal LEADER Programme continues to accelerate the funding of eligible projects in the administrative areas of Fingal, Dun Laoghaire Rathdown and South Dublin.

The Programme's overall budget for supporting projects is €4.77 million. The most recent Dublin Rural LAG meeting was held in October 2020 where €1.1.4 million in final approvals were made over 11 new projects in Rural Dublin.

The current LEADER Programme concludes on the 31st December 2020. It is expected that Dublin Rural LEADER will approve its entire approved programme budget by that time. The pipeline of new projects is extremely strong with €3.5 million worth of applications currently in the pipeline. The final LAG Approvals Meeting in this programme will

be held in December where all available funds will be allocated to new projects.

Completed project claims continue to be paid out to promoters and priority has been given to getting this funding out to provide stimulus in rural areas.

Fingal County Council continues to deliver the financial and administrative oversight responsibilities for the approval and drawdown of LEADER funded projects following the national transfer of the LEADER Article 48 Administrative Checks from Pobal to the Local Authority Sector. There has been no interruption to the delivery of the LEADER Programme or the Article 48 Checks as a result of Covid-19.

## TOWN AND VILLAGE RENEWAL SCHEME

Fingal County Council submitted 6 applications for the Standard Town and Village Renewal Scheme 2020 for the following villages and awaits a decision on funding:

1. Rush
2. St. Margaret's
3. Donabate
4. Rolestown & Lusk
5. Balrothery
6. Naul

## ENTERPRISE CENTRES

Occupancy rates at the Council's three enterprise centres at the end of November were Drinan 84%, BASE 88% and Beat 88%. The three Enterprise Centres currently support 62 businesses and 320 direct jobs. A number of businesses in the Centres had been accommodated with rent moratoriums to help them through lockdown cashflow difficulties but all businesses have now returned to normal rental arrangements. All tenant businesses are being assisted in accessing financial and non-financial supports currently available through COVID-19 support measures. There has been a net loss of two businesses across the centres since the

beginning of the COVID-19 crisis but enquiry levels continue to be strong and a number of new start-up businesses are currently being evaluated for provisional approval for units in the centres.

The Beat Centre was happy to announce in November the start of centre renovation works to the sum of €250,000 which is substantially funded by the Dublin Rural Leader Programme. This funding will allow Beat to expand its offering in the areas of remote working and flexible start-up workspace.

The BASE Centre in Mulhuddart has also secured funding of over €80,000 in facilities upgrades from Enterprise Ireland. These works will begin shortly and will include new remote working options and I.T. infrastructure upgrades among others.



Local Enterprise Office Fingal



LEO Fingal continues to help small businesses and start-ups through the impact of COVID-19 and Brexit, with a broad suite of practical support services. The LEO continues to adapt its services to the rapidly changing needs of Fingal businesses and start-ups rolling out a substantial programme of new and revised activities and initiatives to a vastly increased volume of individuals and businesses that are geared at ensuring the survival of local businesses and start-ups. Some of the current highlights for November are as follows:

### “Look for Local - Shop Fingal”



The Chief Executive of Fingal County Council, Ms. AnnMarie Farrelly and Head of Enterprise in Fingal, Oisín Geoghegan attended the Launch of the “*Look for Local*” National campaign accompanied by an Tánaiste Leo Varadkar on Wednesday 25<sup>th</sup> November 2020. *The ‘Look for Local’* campaign will showcase and celebrate local enterprise. The campaign will be promoted by LEOs across the country along with Enterprise Ireland and the local authorities. It will be supported by national and local advertising and marketing

In addition to this a new initiative called “*Shop Fingal*” was launched to help Fingal local businesses in the run up to Christmas during the current difficult trading period. This unique initiative was Launched by the Mayor of Fingal, Cllr. David Healy; Chief Executive of Fingal County Council, Ms AnnMarie Farrelly; Chair of EETDC SPC, Cllr. Tony Murphy, Head of Enterprise in Fingal, Oisín Geoghegan and Mr James Stewart of Celtic Candles and provides a boost to Fingal businesses by helping them to promote themselves in three ways:

**Print media:** LEO Fingal has teamed up with Local media to provide advertisement spaces to Fingal B2C businesses free of charge.

**Radio:** 20 eligible B2C businesses selected for an opportunity to promote their business on Dublin radio stations.

**Digital media:** LEO Fingal is actively promoting the shop Fingal initiative providing a digital platform for local businesses to promote themselves.

### Fingal Business Connect



The Fingal Business Connect Initiative was launched on Friday 6<sup>th</sup> November by the Mayor of Fingal, Cllr. David Healy. The Fingal Business Connect series features six episodes to help business owner/managers to stay connected and learn key lessons about building resilience into your business during the current difficult times.”

Over 400 Fingal participants have attended the first four episodes which featured excellent speakers including Declan Coyle (author of the Green Platform), Gavin Duffy of Dragon’s Den, and Noel Davidson of Entrepreneurs Academy. The final instalment, on Friday 11<sup>th</sup> December, will feature a very special guest Bernard Brogan who will give us some insights into his success in both sports and business.

### Client Stimulus Fund

The new Client Stimulus fund initiative was launched on November 11<sup>th</sup>. The purpose of the Stimulus scheme funded through the July Stimulus is to help sustain eligible businesses. 31 Fingal eligible business have been identified for funding with an estimated value of €292,000 through the provision of a cash stimulus to support operational costs and enhanced engagement with LEO Fingal, the funding will be administered to clients in the coming weeks.

### Student Enterprise Programme

The Fingal Student Enterprise Programme (SEP) is Ireland’s biggest student competition. The new programme features new enterprise requirements for the COVID-19 era. 25 Second level Fingal schools have registered for the 2020/21 programme.



The winning student enterprises of the 2019/2020 programme: Loreto Secondary School in Balbriggan for the junior category, Edmund Rice College in Blanchardstown for the intermediate category and senior category winners Castleknock Community College feature in the launch of the 2020/2021 programme.

### Micro-Enterprise Assistance Fund



The “COVID-19 Micro-Enterprise Assistance” Scheme was launched on 25<sup>th</sup> September. The scheme offers a once-off grant of up to €1,000 towards the costs of reopening or keeping a business operational and re-connecting with employees and customers. This grant is valid only to clients who are ineligible for other financial supports such as the Restart Grant Plus. 25 Fingal Applications for the Micro-Enterprise Assistance

Funding have been approved to date, totalling €20,449.

### Irish Business Design Challenge

The “Irish Business Design Challenge” awards event was held online on Thursday 26<sup>th</sup> November. Two of the six winners nationally were Fingal based businesses: Le Pâtissier in Dublin 15 and Nuffield’s in Howth.



### Trading Online Voucher (TOV) scheme

Funded by DCCAE as part of the National Digital Strategy, the TOV scheme supports small businesses to enhance their online offering by providing a grant of up to €2,500 for ecommerce and digital marketing activities.

The 90% match-funding element of the TOV scheme has been temporarily extended. A TOV information webinar was held on November 10<sup>th</sup> with a further TOV information webinar scheduled to take place on Friday 4<sup>th</sup> November.

To date in 2020, LEO Fingal has approved 722 TOV applications; compared to 64 in the whole of 2019. The total value of TOV applications approved year to date is €1,687,580.



### Start Your Own Business (SYOB)



The 10-module SYOB programme is delivered online. Two SYOB courses with 31 participants commenced in November, bringing the total year-to-date to 243.

### BREXIT – Change is Coming



The Local Enterprise Offices are actively helping small businesses to prepare for the impact of Brexit by providing information, customs training, advice and mentoring. Weekly Prepare Your Business for Customs workshops are taking place during Quarter four with 165 clients attending the Customs Training during this period with four further workshops scheduled to take place in December.

### Business Advice Clinics and Mentoring

Clinics and mentoring continue to be offered over the phone and online to help business owner/managers respond to the disruptive impact of COVID-19.

In November 2020, 10 business clinic days were held, offering advice to 93 Fingal businesses. This brings the cumulative figures for 2020 to date to 118 days clinics and 981 attendees.


In addition, 12 businesses were assigned a Business mentor in November, this brings the cumulative figure to 297 individual Mentoring assignments delivered year to date.

### Fingal Enterprising Women Network

The Fingal Enterprising Women Network (FEWN) continues to provide online learning and networking opportunities for women in business and enterprise hosting a monthly online networking event. The FEWN hosted an event on Tuesday 10<sup>th</sup> November, with 186 female entrepreneurs in attendance.

The December FEWN networking event will take place on Tuesday the 8<sup>th</sup> December with Special Guest Katherine Lynch, Actress TV personality and Entertainer.







PR 101: How to Gain Valuable PR for Your Business

Tuesday 10th November, 11:00 - 12:15

Featuring Leading PR Expert and Author

Ellen Gunning

### LEO Fingal COVID-19 Training Update

LEO Fingal continues its delivery of Training programmes to support SME and Micro Enterprise clients through the current challenges. To date, 4,994 clients have availed of COVID-19 training and networking supports. Programmes currently on offer include Management Development workshops, Prepare Your Business for Customs Business and Digital and Social Media Training.

### Dublin Breakthrough Innovation Programme



Five Fingal Businesses are currently participating on the Breakthrough Business Innovation Programme which brings established businesses through a disciplined framework to discover where the innovation potential lies in their enterprise and how they can capitalise on those opportunities.

### LEAN Dublin Programme

The Lean Business Programme is designed to encourage clients to adopt LEAN business principles in their organisations to increase competitiveness. Ten Fingal businesses have participated in the LEAN programme in 2020.

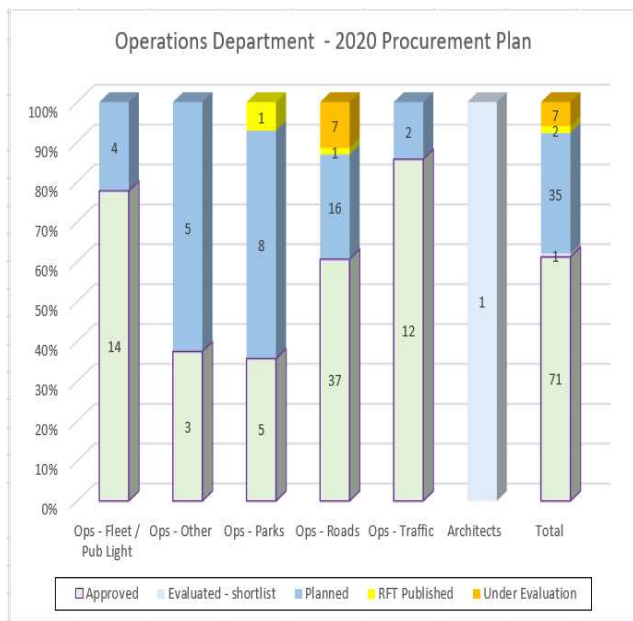
# OPERATIONS & WATER SERVICES

Contents	
Works Programme	Water Services
Fleet Management & Plant Hire Unit	
Street Lighting LED Programme	
Traffic Section	
Road Opening Licences	
Bridge Rehabilitation Project	
Managed Car Parking Services	
Public Conveniences	

## Works Programme – Procurement

Status	Ops - Fleet /	Ops - Other	Ops - Parks	Ops - Roads	Ops - Traffic	Architects	Total
Approved	14	3	5	37	12		71
Evaluated - shortlist						1	1
Under Evaluation				7			7
RFT Published			1	1			2
Planned	4	5	8	16	2		35
<b>Total</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>61</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>116</b>

of the south of the Demesne. The Council has engaged the services of an external Ecologist, National Parks and Wildlife, and Fingal's Biodiversity Officer as part of this process. The arboriculture works, including the felling, pruning and replacement planting are being carried out in line with Fingal's Tree Management Policy, Fingal's Biodiversity Plan and the British Standards for Arboriculture. All the trees that are removed will be replaced by suitable species within the woodland.



## Woodland Management Works Newbridge Demesne

Removal, remediation and replacement tree works are will take place in the coming weeks long the Turvey Avenue section of the woodland in Newbridge Demesne. These works are to remove dangerous trees and to improve the general safety



### Swords Town Park Bridge Modification

Alterations to the bridge in Swords town Park were carried out recently in order to increase security at the adjoining pharmaceutical facility.



### Improvement Works at Flemington Community Centre 2020

As part of the 2020 Parks programme of Works projects, an area was identified for improvement in front of Balbriggan Educate Together and Flemington Community Centre. It was originally a wide left-over development strip that was overgrown and weedy that eventually was incorporated into our grass maintenance schedule. It was agreed for inclusion in the 2020 programme of Works for a more permanent landscaping scheme was required. The area was planted with 6 evergreen oaks and surface treated with cobble edging and resin buff surfacing.

### Improvement Works at Castlelands Roundabout 2020

New Landscaping Scheme for Castlelands Roundabout as part of 2020 Parks Programme of Works. This previously overgrown roundabout centre now planted with specimen white stemmed Birch trees and underplanted with selected shrubs and perennials within a beach cobble and ornamental pebble coastal themed design.



## Upgrade of woodland pathways -Ardgillan Demesne

Recently completed resurfacing of 1000m of woodland paths in Ardgillan Demesne between upper car park and playground.



## Harbour Works at Rush

Works in relation to the Annual Fishery Harbour and Coastal Infrastructure Capital Programme are continuing with the Rush Slipway/Sea Defence reconditioned after been significantly damaged by storms in 2019/2020. Harbour works are also still on going at Loughshinny which are expected to be completed by year end 2020.



## Harbour Health & Safety Audits

Following the commissioning of the Malachy Walsh and Partners (MWP) Harbour Review report earlier in 2020, MWP have been contracted to conduct a site specific health and safety audit at each of the 4 Harbours namely Balbriggan, Skerries, Loughshinny and Rush. Following the completion of the audits emergency health and safety works will be carried out as required in order to protect the integrity and safety of the 4 harbours.

## R108 Sillogue

Significant road improvement works were completed as part of the July Stimulus Package Programme on the R108 commencing from the NCT test Centre Sillogue to the Horizon DAA Junction. Works were carried out to at night so as to minimise traffic disruption along this busy section. The R108 was reconditioned with HRA and approximately 400 metres of exiting footpath were also reconditioned and repaved as part of this project.





## Castleknock/Mulhuddart

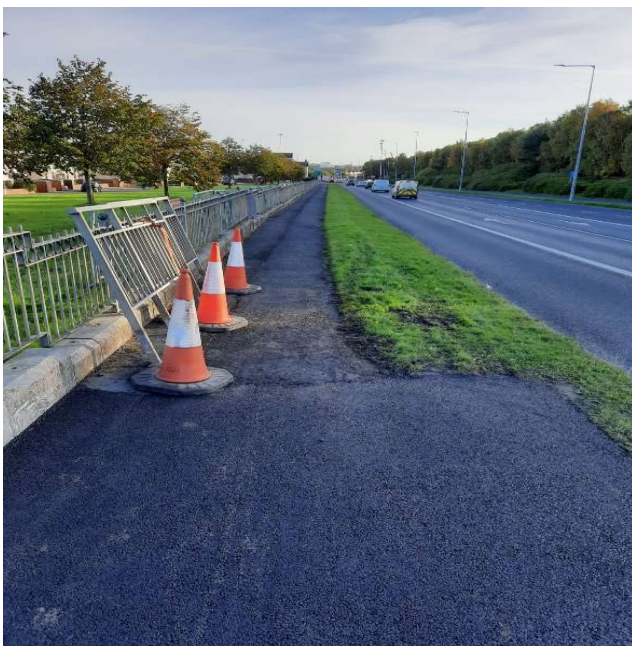
The Operations Department recently installed Contactless Bottle Refill Station in St. Catherine's Park, Lucan.



Resurfacing of Grove Road, Blanchardstown



New cycle path and footpath on R121 Blanchardstown Road South



Preparation works are being carried out by the Operations Department for Christmas Tree and lighting in the Dublin 15 area.



**Blanchardstown Village**

**Solar Bins Project**

The roll out of Phase 2 in the Dublin 15 area has commenced with additional bins installed at the following locations:



**St. Margaret's Road**

**Charlestown**

(Meakstown)



**Clonsilla Road (outside Aldemere/Windemere Estate)**

**Drainage Works**

Drainage works continue across the County in order to try and prevent surface water collecting on carriageways and also to protect the carriageway weathering as a consequence of surface water ponding. The Operations Department recently undertook significant footpath and drainage works at the entrance to Barnageervagh Cove where surface water from the R127 is now collected by the new drainage infrastructure and now directed in a controlled manner to a receiving watercourse.



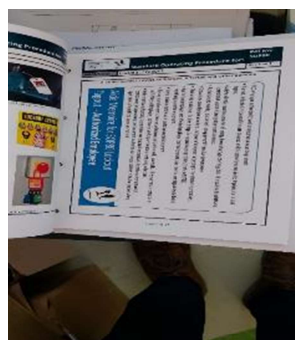
## Winter Maintenance

Following the recent adoption of the Winter Maintenance Plan, Fingal County Council fully restocked its depots with salt supplies in preparation for gritting during the Winter season. To date due to mild weather conditions the crews have only been deployed on a few occasions but the depots are fully stocked and ready for call out as required in the coming months.



## Health & Safety Operational Manuals

Following a health and safety review of the Standard Operational Procedures (SOPs) which apply to the numerous tasks undertaken by the outdoor crews serving the Area's, the Operations Department recently adopted new health and safety folders which each of the crews will be equipped with whilst operating in the field. The new Health & Safety folders also include a new Health and Safety Matrix which clearly identifies which SOPs are relevant to each work task.



## KN Project Dublin-Drogheda Fibre Cable Network

KN Networks have continued reinstating footpaths and carriageways as required as per the applicant's road opening licence conditions for the various licences associated with the Dublin-Drogheda Fibre Cable Network Project. To date approximately 5 kilometres of carriageway along the R108 from the Naul due south towards Ballyboughal have been completed. However due to decreasing ground and air temperatures KN are about to postpone reinstating the remainder of the required carriageway until the required temperatures for resurfacing works return in Q1 2021.



### Covid Friendly Walkway - Harbour Road, Skerries

The widened pathway along Harbour Road, Skerries for Covid friendly walkway edged with floral planters has been a great success. It not only looks fantastic, but it has also made a huge impact on Covid safety for pedestrians in this busy pathway.



After:



### Lusk Square Landscaping Scheme

Lusk Square Landscaping Scheme completed as part of our 2020 programme of works.

Before:



### Howth Malahide

Staff from the Operations Department recently removed a dangerous tree on St Fintans Road Howth



Mini Road Sweeper carrying out daily footpath sweeping in Malahide



**2020 Works Programme – Footpath Works Update**

Footpath replacement works presently under construction in Biscayne Malahide



Parks crews preparing flower beds for planting on Coast Road Malahide



Operations crews dealing with a sink hole that appeared in the green area of the Milford Estate in Malahide.



Howth/Malahide Area - Appendices to Programme of Work 2020		
Footpath Improvements 2020		
Item	Location	
	<b>Howth/Sutton</b>	
1	Offington	Formac awaiting programme -
2	Bayside/Sutton Downs	Formac awaiting programme -
3	Dublin Road Sutton	Complete John Browne
4	Laneway St Peters Terrace to St Nessans Terrace	Complete DM MORRIS
5	Abbey Street Howth	Complete John Browne
6	Rosbeg Court Sutton	Complete OPSCrews -
7	Shielmartin Park	Complete OPSCrews -
	<b>Sub Total</b>	
	<b>Baldoye</b>	
8	Georgian Hamlet	Formac awaiting programme -
9	Seagrang/Seacliff/ Abbey Park	Formac awaiting programme -
10	Brookstone Road	Complete - John Browne
11	Grange Park/Stapolin nr 4	Formac awaiting programme -
12	Dublin Street	Complete Direct Labour
13	Baldoye industrial estate	Complete - John Browne
	<b>Sub Total</b>	

Portmarnock/Kinsealy		
14	St Annes Sq, St Patricks Ave, Church Ave	Formac awaiting programme -
15	Balgriffin Cottages to Malahide Road	Complete DMMORRIS
16	Ashley Rise, Kelvin Close Limetree Avenue	Formac awaiting programme -
17	Carrickhill Road	Complete - John Browne
18	Kinsealy Lane/ Malahide Road Kinsealy	
19	Baskin Cottages/Ashgrove	DM MORRIS - Awaiting programme
<b>Sub Total</b>		
<b>Malahide</b>		
20	Ard Na Mara	Complete OPSCrews -
21	The Rise	Complete John Browne
22	Yellow Walls Road	Complete John Browne
23	Millview Lawns	Complete John Browne
24	McCarrons Lane	Complete DM MORRIS
25	Biscayne	OPS to Commence 11/11/2020
26	Broomfield	Complete OPSCrews -

Works update Howth Malahide Footpath Programme

## 2020 Works Programme – Roads Programme Update

Nr.	Year	Road Name	PCI	Width	Approx Length	Status
1	2020	The Rise Malahide	4	7	500	Complete
2	2020	R124 The Grange/Broomfield	5	6.5	950	98% Complete - Remedial works to be completed Remedial works completed by week end
3	2020	Seaview Terrace	4-6	3	125	Complete
4	2020	Carrickrack Road	4	5	550	Complete
5	2020	R106 Strand Road Portmarnock near golf club	6	8	300	98% Complete - Anti Skid to complete
6	2020	R106 Malahide Road Robswalls towards Portmarnock	5	8	700	98% Complete - Anti Skid to complete
7	2020	Estuary Road Malahide – Seestown East	4	6	750	Complete



Recent anti-skid placement on the R106 Coast Road Malahide as part of the Road resurfacing Programme

Fleet Management & Plant Hire Unit

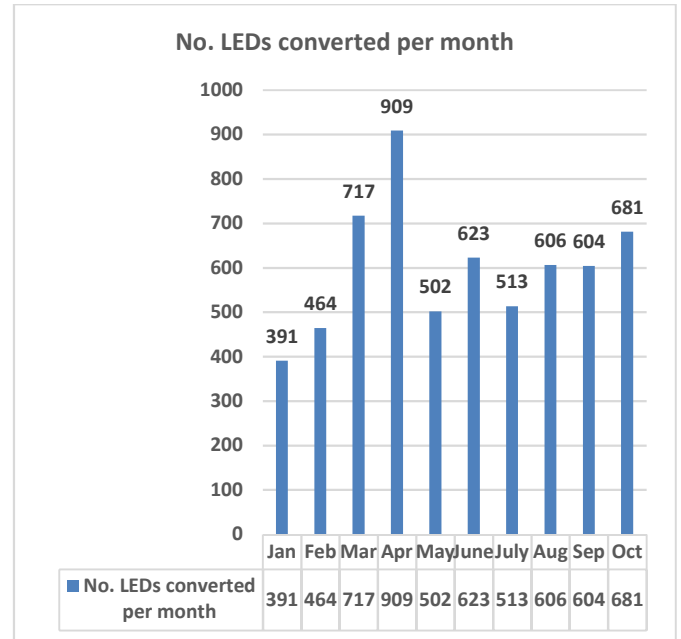
There were 93 hires put in place from 1<sup>st</sup> November – 27<sup>th</sup> November, engaging 20 suppliers.

Hires include:

- Teleporter/ Front Loading Shovel for the management of Salt Barn (Watery Lane)



- Large Road Sweeper, Castleknock/Mullhuddart (Leaf cleaning Programme)



**Street Lighting LED Programme:**

In October the LED Upgrade Program saw 681 LED Upgrade works carried out in the following locations:-

- Premier Business Park...Ballycoolin
- Sillogue Road R108...Ballymun
- Blanchardstown Road North, Broadway Drive/Grove/Park/Road, Church Avenue, Clonsilla Close/Park, St Patricks Park, Woodview Grove...Blanchardstown
- Carpenterstown Road, Hawthorn Lawn, Pecks Lane...Castleknock
- Donabate Community Centre entrance road, Newbridge Avenue...Donabate
- R122 Baleskin Centre, St Margarets Road...Finglas
- Ministers Road...Lusk
- Chalfont Avenue/Place/Road, Grove Avenue/Road, Seamount Road...Malahide
- Skerries Road...Rush
- Skerries Harbour, South Strand, The Haven, The Stables...Skerries
- Boraimhe estate, Boru Court, Nevinstown Lane, Ridgewood estate, Swords Enterprise Park entrance road, The Cedars, The Elms, Southbank, The Willows...Swords

**Street Lighting Works Programme:** Works continue installing new lighting on Cappagh Road in Finglas, bridging a gap between Heathfield estate and the M50 overpass. 6 existing columns with collision damage at the location are replaced at the same time.

In Balbriggan new street lighting is installed on Flemington Lane linking Flemington Park with existing lit roads/footpaths.



Cappagh Road Finglas

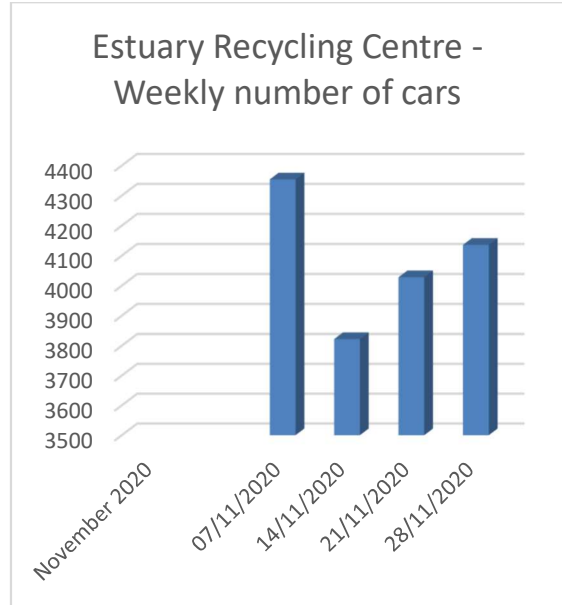


Flemington Lane Balbriggan

**Column Replacement:** Column replacement works take place on the R132 at Ballough Cross. 3 badly corroded columns are replaced with both contractors and ESB Networks on site.



R132 Ballough Cross



### Traffic Section

#### Speed Limits Project

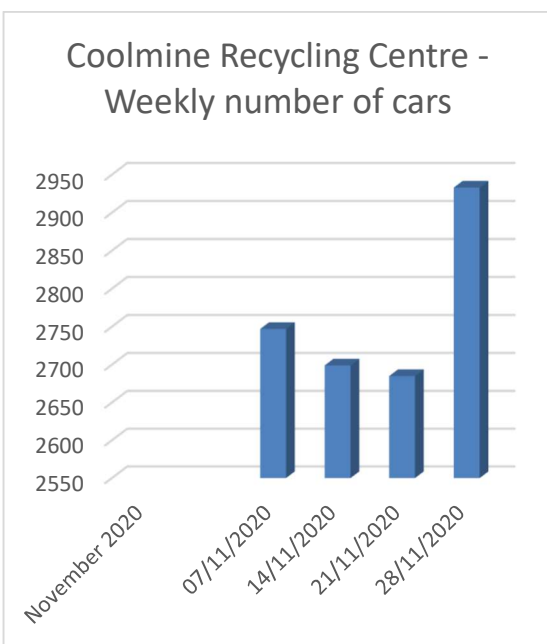
It is intended to bring the Speed Limit Bye-Laws to the Full Council meeting in January 2021.

#### Expansion of Fingal County Councils Duct infrastructure

Discussions are ongoing on various projects, both internally and through 3<sup>rd</sup> parties, throughout the county, to identify strategic locations where ducting can be provided to add to FCC's ducting assets in order to provide Fibre Optic connectivity to remote locations, and interconnectivity of Fingal's assets. Mapping of this infrastructure is also ongoing on G.I.S. so that it is recorded for future use.

#### Traffic Control Centre Project

Detailed design drawings, specification and bill of quantities are being developed at present. Works have commenced to relocate drawings cabinets





and the cleaning room to facilitate the construction of the traffic control room.

Files storage units are being assessed for retention/removal to provide space for the traffic control room.



## Ramps

The 2020 Ramps Contract (FCC/279/20) is now complete except for one ramp and build out on the Back Road/Castlefield junction, Malahide which has been postponed until February 2021 when Irish Water works are complete.

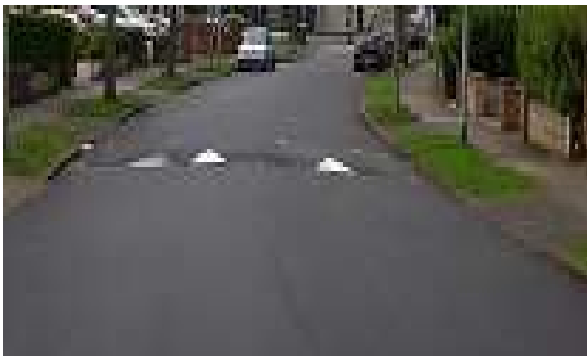
Traffic Calming Ramps as follows:

Ramps Scheme 2020	No.	Progress
<b>Baldoyle/Sutton/Malahide</b>		
New Ramps		

Ramps Scheme 2020	No.	Progress
Strand Road, Howth - Bus friendly flat top ramps x 1	1	Installed 2020
Strand Road, Howth at St Fintans Road - Asphalt Speed cushions x 2 (1 set)	1	Installed
Strand Road, Portmarnock - Asphalt Speed cushions x 4 (2 sets)	2	Installed 2020
Back Road/Castlefield junction, Malahide, Table ramp, buildout and new drainage	1	Postponed to 2021 to allow completion of Irish Water
<b>Castleknock/Mulhuddart</b>		
New Ramps		
Castleknock Drive - Standard round top ramp x 2	2	To be completed 2020
Allendale to Ravenwood estate - Asphalt Speed cushions x 4 (2 sets)	2	Scheduled for November
Glenville Road - Standard round top ramp x 3	3	Installed
Repair Ramps		
Hollystown & Tyrellstown - Asphalt Speed cushions x 14 (7 sets)	7	Installed
<b>Swords/Balbriggan</b>		
New Ramps		
Donabate - Carrs Mill/ Rahillion - Standard round top ramp x 3	3	Installed
Swords - Brackenstown Road - Standard round top ramp x 2	2	Installed
Donabate - Junction of Portrane Rd, Beaverstown Rd & Ballisk Lane - Raised Table Junction Ramp	1	Installed
The Avenue, Rush, at St Catherine's National School - Standard round top ramp x 2	2	Installed
Total Number of Ramps	30	



Newly installed Ramp - Carr's Mill, Donabate



Newly installed Ramp - The Avenue, Rush, at St Catherine's National School



New ramp installed - Strand Road Sutton



New Speed cushions on Strand Road approaching St Fintans Road

### New Signals Installation (county-wide)

The 2020 New Signals Installation Contract commenced on the 7<sup>th</sup> September. The contract consists of the supply and installation of 5 No. Signalised Pedestrian Crossings, 2 No. Signalised Toucan Crossings and 2 No. Zebra Crossings within the administrative area of Fingal. The Contract includes both the civil and the electronic/electrical works for the project.

The schemes include the provision of traffic lights, traffic calming ramps, appropriate road signage and road markings. Pedestrian Crossings are at the following locations:

Traffic Signals for 2020		
Description and Locations		
Baldoyle/Sutton/Malahide	Type of Crossing	<b>Progress</b>
Near St Sabina, Sutton, Dublin 13	Signalised Pedestrian Crossing	Civils work commenced
Castleknock/Mulhuddart	Type of Crossing	
Barnwell Road, Hansfield, Dublin 15	Zebra Crossing	Civils work commenced
St. Margaret's Road, Ballymun, Dublin 11	Signalised Toucan Crossing	Civils work complete
Diswellstown Road, Castleknock, Dublin 15	Zebra Crossing	Civils work complete
Swords/Balbriggan	Type of Crossing	
R127, Link at Racecourse Common, Lusk	Signalised Pedestrian Crossing	Civils work complete
Fancourt Road, Balbriggan	Signalised Pedestrian Crossing	Civils work Started
Balbriggan Road, Skerries	Signalised Pedestrian Crossing	Scheduled for November
St Cronans Avenue, Swords	Signalised Toucan Crossing	Completed - Awaiting ESB supply



Newly installed Toucan Crossing – St. Cronan’s Avenue, Swords - Awaiting ESB supply



Newly installed Signalised Zebra Crossing – Diswellstown, Dublin 15 -- Awaiting ESB supply



Fancourt Road, Balbriggan - New Controlled Pedestrian Crossing -- Awaiting ESB supply



Civil works in progress near St Sabinas School- Greenfields Road, Sutton Including upgrade to footpath section

**VAS Contract (County wide)**

The 2020 Vehicle Activated Signs (VAS) Contract works commenced in mid-September. The Swords/Balbriggan VAS locations have been reviewed and agreed on site by Fingal’s Engineers and the appointed contractor. The signs installation started in Mid-October and are now 90% complete of the original Vehicle Activated Signs (VAS) Contract works. It’s envisaged the remaining works will be completed in December. Extra works has been included into the contract and these additional Vehicle Activated Signs (VAS) are ordered with installation in December 2020 and January 2021.

Vehicle Activated Signs are located at the following location:

Vehicle Activated Sign 2020
Description and Locations
<b>Baldoyle/Sutton/Malahide</b>
Feltrim Rd, Streamstown Wood, Co. Dublin - Left turn warning sign
7-9 Malahide Rd, Streamstown Wood, Malahide, Co. Dublin - Speed sign
72-76 Balglass Rd, Howth, Dublin - Flashing right bend ahead sign
Railway Cottage, Back Rd, Broomfield, Malahide, Co. Dublin - Flashing pedestrians ahead sign

Rob's wall heading to Malahide - Cycle sign
Thormanby Road from Howth - Cycle sign
Malahide road heading to Malahide - Cycle sign
<b>Castleknock/Mulhuddart</b>
Clonsilla Road (Between Coolmine & Roselawn) - Speed sign
Lower Road, Lucan - Speed sign
Carpenterstown Road/Burnell Park - Cycle sign
Lucan - Clonee Road (outside St. Catherine's Park) - Cycle sign
Castlecurragh Road - Mulhuddart - Cycle sign
<b>Swords/Balbriggan</b>
Garristown - Speed sign
Man O War - Speed sign
Old Road, Rush - Speed sign
R122 at intersection L5085 - Speed sign
Fieldstown R125/R122 Junction approach- Speed sign
Donabate, Portrane Road - Speed Sign
Hearse Road - Donabate bound - Cycle sign
Balheary Road - Cycle sign
R122 - Balbriggan to Naul Westbound - Cycle sign
R108 - Ballyboughal to Naul Northbound - Cycle sign

**VAS Signs Contract 2020**



**Newly installed Speed Reader sign – Portrane Road at Entrance to Portrane Village**



**Newly installed Vehicle Activated Sign – Fieldstown R125/R122 Junction approach- Speed sign installed in November**



**(A)**

**(B)**

**Footpath Build Outs**

As part of the 2020 programme of works, areas were identified within the Cas-Mul area that could improve road safety for both pedestrians and motorists alike, by reconfiguring the existing footpaths. The junction of Clonsilla Road and Blanchardstown Main street was one such area identified that had safety concerns and would benefit from reconfigured footpaths.



New tactile paving installed at Blanchardstown Main Street/Clonsilla Road junction completed in November.



Footpath widened at Blanchardstown Main Street/Clonsilla Road junction completed in November.

### Road Lining Contract

As part of the 2020 programme of works, areas were identified where new Lining could improve road safety.



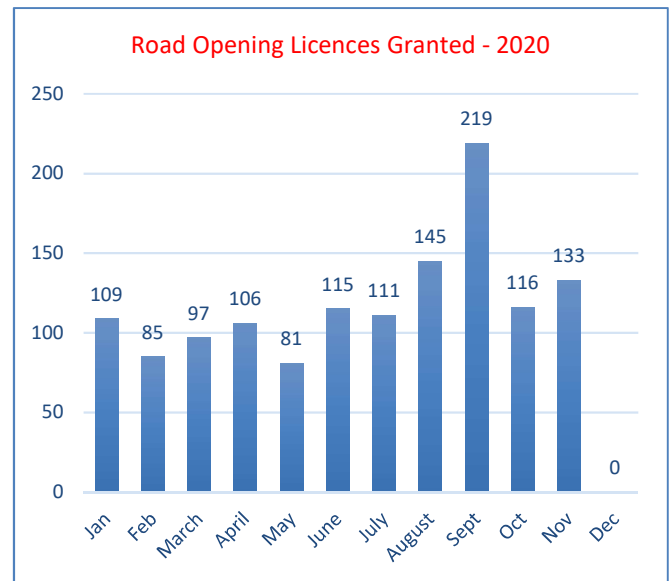
Balscadden - St Benignus NS, - New School Road Lining.

### Blanchardstown Shopping Centre Traffic Management Plans

The Traffic section installed extra signage and VMS's on the 26<sup>th</sup> of November in conjunction with the Blanchardstown Shopping Centres Traffic Management Plans for Black Friday and Christmas shopping period to ensure efficient traffic movements in and around the shopping centre during this period.

### Road Opening Licences

Licensing unit continues to process and manage the licensing system for the County, licences are allocated to areas for conditioning including review of temporary traffic management plans. Road Opening licences are a cross functional process for the department and is essential for the asset management of Fingal County Council Road network.



- **Drumnigh Road/Chapel Road Irish Water – BSG Contractors - Road Closures**  
Irish Water, working in partnership with BSG Contractors are undertaking the Kinsealy Local Network Reinforcement Project, a major wastewater project in the Kinsealy area. To facilitate installation of a new sewer rising main on the Drumnigh Road, BSG Civil Engineering Ltd was granted a road closure from Monday 26<sup>th</sup> October to Tuesday 17<sup>th</sup> November. The closed section of Drumnigh Road allowed the installation of a new sewer rising main beneath the Road. The 1.35 km section of pipe, from the junction of Chapel Road to the junction of Moyne Road is now complete. Normal vehicular access to Station Road was maintained over the works duration. The second phase of works is continuing with the closure of Chapel Road from Wednesday 18<sup>th</sup> of November to Monday 30<sup>th</sup> of November.

- **Swords Pipeline – Irish Water/John Craddock – Road Closures**  
Major infrastructure works remain scheduled for January 11<sup>th</sup> through April 1<sup>st</sup> 2021 affecting Swords Main Street junction with the R106 and the R106/Malahide Road up to Mountgorry roundabout (Applegreen). Road Closures will be in effect for 3 months in sections along this route. Following this finishing works (i.e Swabbing, Testing, Chlorination, Commissioning and handover to IrishWater/FCC Operations) are scheduled for April 2021 and will include lane closures with traffic management in place.

- **Stamullen to Balbriggan (on the R132) Foul Sewer Rising Main Pipeline**  
Fingal County Council road engineers are in ongoing discussions with Irish Water on programme of works for the 2.1Km Installation of Twin Rising Mains on the R132 from Delvin Bridge to Cardy Rock, Balbriggan. Works are due to commence in Q1 2021.

- **Loughshinny Foul Sewer Rising Mains.**

Irish Water 1.5Km Installation of a Rising Mains on Harbour road and Mine Road is ongoing. Road closure required on Harbour Road which was Submitted in September for November and December. Works has begun on Phase 1 in Loughshinny Car park. Road closure required on Mine Road for January 2021 as part of Phase 2 was received in November and TMP's was agreed with Irish Water.



**Loughshinny Foul Sewer Rising Mains progressing well.**

- National Broadband Ireland – Non-intrusive survey works which began in September in the Skerries and Balbriggan area (as per map below) as part of the Government's National Broadband Project is proceeding well with Map Road Licences currently been issued for the survey works. This will inform the civil works which will be required to roll out the Broadband Project. National Broadband Ireland envisages that a T1 for the Civil Works in the Skerries and Balbriggan Area will be submitted in December 2020 or in January 2021 with works starting in early 2021.



National Broadband Ireland Survey Area

## Bridge Rehabilitation Project

### Procurement Process for the Provision of Consultancy Services for Fingal Bridges Section 2021-2023

The Council's bridge repair programme for the next 3 years will require procurement of a Consultant. The initial purpose is to identify the bridges that will require repairs as per the

successful Consultant's technical report, EI's, MI's, PI's, SI's, condition ratings of each bridge.

### Procurement Process for the Provision of Consultancy Services to carry out Principle Inspections for 60 number of Fingal Bridges

The Consultant shall provide technical, engineering and supervisory services associated with the execution of 60 no. Principal Inspection and the preparation of an Inspection Report on each bridge with an Executive Summary.

### Rehabilitation of Curragh, Curragh West & Clonshaugh Bridges

The Engineering Consultant carried out the design of the bridge rehabilitations and prepared the tender documents on 14th May 2020. FCC advertised the tender on 15th May 2020 in Etenders with a queries deadline of 1st of June and Closing date 15th of June 2020. Tender Assessment meeting held on 3<sup>rd</sup> of July 2020.

Contractor namely Cumnor Construction Ltd commenced works on 18<sup>th</sup> July 2020. This was a significant milestone in terms of commencement of works to meet the in-stream fisheries requirement in order to have all work complete in 2020.

Contractor completed all instream works in the available window in 2020. Works ongoing for the rest of the works.

### Rehabilitation of Church Road Bridge, Blanchardstown, Wyanstown Bridge & Wimbletown Bridge

Successful / unsuccessful letters sent to the tenderers on 13<sup>th</sup> May 2020, two weeks stand still period, post tender meeting, letter of acceptance followed. Contractor have sent FCC the programme of works and methodology.

Due to the requirements to work within the Regional Fisheries requirements from July to end of September for all instream works Contractor namely Cumnor Construction Ltd commenced works on first week of July 2020 and completed all instream works in the available window in 2020. Works ongoing for the rest of the works.

Emergency bridge repairs (4 bridges- One contract) at Rallekaystown, Old Yellow Walls bridge Malahide, Ratharten, Rowlestown  
 Advertised in QQ Etenders on 6<sup>th</sup> November 2020. Closing date 16<sup>th</sup> November 2020 Monday 12:00. Contract awarded to the successful contractor end of November 2020. Works expected to be complete by end of January 2021.

**Managed Car Parking Services**

**New Electronic Residents Parking Permits**

A tender has been awarded to Tazbell Ltd. to provide electronic residential parking permits to the citizens of Fingal. Parking Permits are now electronic and can be enforced using a handheld scanning device which recognises the vehicle registration, rather than a physical printed paper version. This will result in more efficient delivery of the service to citizens, a reduction in paper usage, and a reduction in cost to the Council as there will no longer be a requirement to post out physical residential permits.

**Free Christmas Parking Initiative**



The Fingal Car Parking Services Section offer free parking in Pay and Display Areas (Balbriggan, Skerries, Rush, Malahide and Swords) in the run up to Christmas. The purpose of the free Christmas parking initiative is to support local enterprise and businesses in the lead up to Christmas.

The dates are as follows: Saturday 5<sup>th</sup>, Saturday 12<sup>th</sup> and Saturday 19<sup>th</sup> of December, and the message will be promoted to the public through the “Fingal in it Together for Christmas” campaign and the Fingal Communications Section.

**Additional Parking Enforcement**

Fingal Parking Services have employed an additional two Parking Wardens who have commenced the enforcement of illegal parking on a countywide basis. This initiative aims to protect vulnerable road users such as children walking or cycling to school, cyclists or citizens with reduced mobility by enforcing illegal parking – for example, parking on footpaths, parking in blue permit parking bays, parking on double yellow lines, parking on school crossing points or in cycle tracks.

**Pay and Display Meter Replacement Programme**

Ten Pay and Display parking meters in Quay Street Car Park in Balbriggan, Bridgefield Car Park Malahide, and the Malahide Area, have been upgraded as part of the annual Meter Replacement Programme. The new meters are solar powered and include the option to pay via chip and pin or contactless payment.



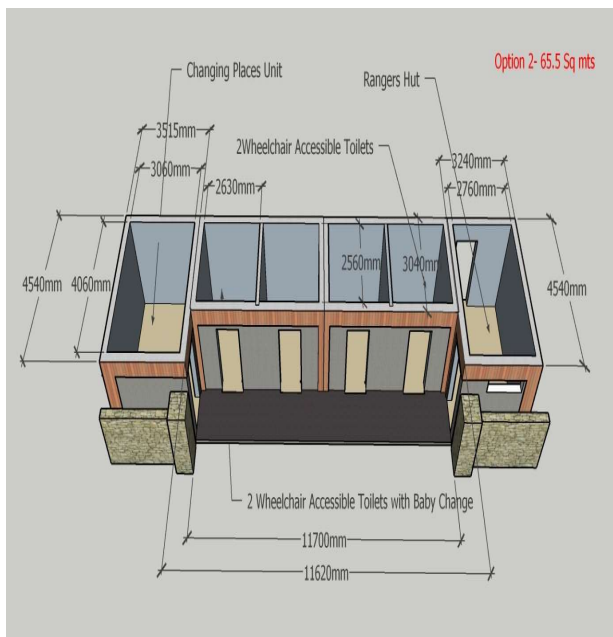
Newly installed Solar Power Contactless P&D Meter, Bridgefield Car Park, Malahide



## Regional Parks – Public Conveniences

Work is due to commence for the replacement of 4 of the Council's Playground Toilets. Following procurement the contract was awarded to Lidan Innovations Ltd. in respect of the supply, delivery, construction and fitting out of 4 Welfare Facility Buildings at Newbridge, Millenium, Santry and Ardgillan. Total costs €687,650.00.

### *Example of design for Millenium Park*



## WATER SERVICES

### Operations

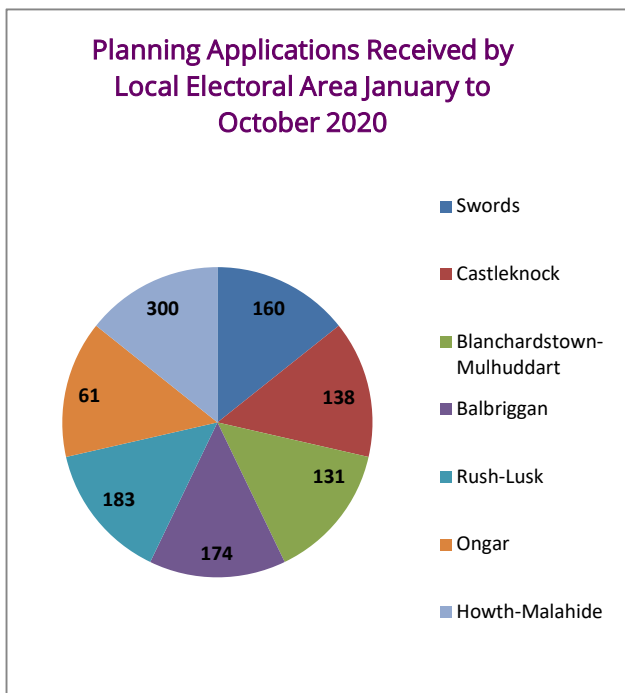
Water and Drainage Services continue to be provided as agreed in the Service Level Agreement with Irish Water.

## PLANNING AND STRATEGIC INFRASTRUCTURE (PSI)

Contents
Planning Applications
Building Control Admin
Heritage Office
Parks and Green Infrastructure Division
Development Management/Forward Planning (Water Services)
Transportation Planning

There have been 1,147 planning applications received to the end of October 2020, 173 of these applications were invalid leaving a total of 974 valid applications. The volume of applications received by Local Electoral Area (LEA) is detailed in the table below.

To date in 2020, 5 Strategic Housing Development (SHD) application (for 906 units) were made to An Bord Pleanála. The Board granted permission for 12 SHD's (2469) units); 3 in January, 5 in March, 2 in April and 2 in August. The Board refused permission for 2 SHD (531 units) in February and July. There is a total of 1 SHDs (488 units) currently in the formal application process.



### Planning Decisions

A total of 900 planning decisions have been made to the end of October 2020. There have been 718 decisions to grant permission (80%) and 182 refusals of permission (20%). There have been 65 grants of permissions in respect of single house construction, 393 grants of permission for domestic extensions, 200 commercial/retail grants of permission and 43 grants of permission in respect of housing developments - 22 of which related to development 2 - 20 housing units, 4 of which related to development 20 - 50 housing units, 5 of which related to development 50 - 100 housing units and 12 of which related to developments of 100 + housing units.

### Building Control Admin

There were 138 Disability Access Certificates submitted up to the end of October 2020, of these 120 have been granted and 6 had extensions of time applied. There were 205 Fire Safety Certificates submitted up to the end of October 2020, of these 112 have been granted, 5 were invalidated and 68 had extensions of time applied.

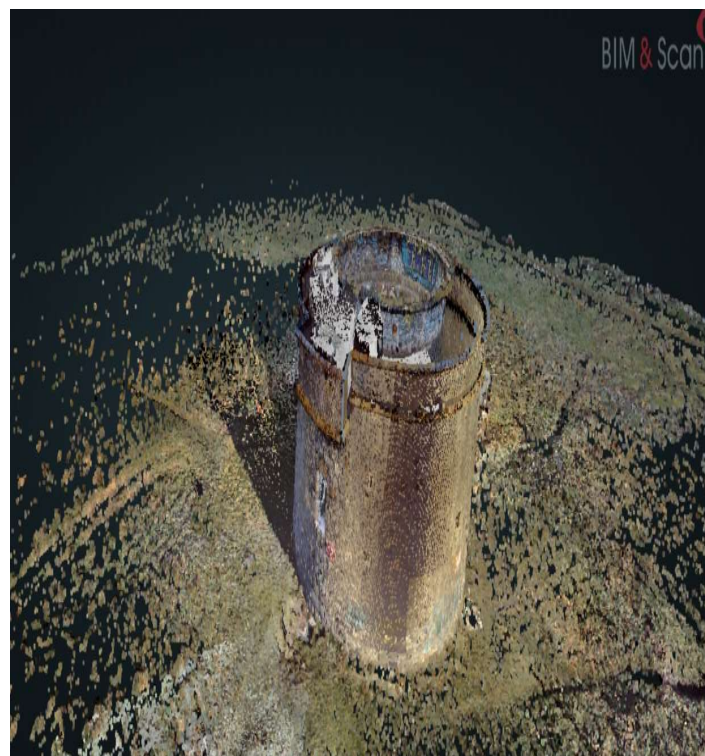
There were 13 Regularisation (FSC) Certificates submitted up to the end of October, of these 1 was granted and 10 had extensions of time applied. There were 4 Dispensation/Relaxation Certificates submitted up to the end of October, all 4 have been granted.

A total of 843 building control decisions were made up to the end of October, this includes decisions that were made on applications submitted pre 2020 in addition to the decisions that were made on applications submitted this year. There were 333 decisions to grant, 1 refusal, 4 invalids and 505 extensions of time.

Building Control Fire Safety, Disability Access, Regularisation and Dispensation/Relaxation Certificate applications can be submitted online via the new BCMS applications module. We are also still accepting hard copy applications directly into the office until such time as the legislation is signed into effect.

### Heritage Office

Fingal County Council was allocated €39,000 under the Community Monuments Fund 2020. The Community Monuments Fund was established by the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage as part of additional capital under the Stimulus Plan and its core objective is to support the conservation, maintenance, protection and promotion of local monuments and historic sites. Surveys which will inform future conservation works were undertaken at the medieval churches of St Marnock's, Portmarnock and St Catherine's, Rush. Survey and 3D scanning was undertaken at Skerries and Drumanagh Martello towers and Drumanagh privy was consolidated removing a health and safety hazard. The latter fulfil actions of the *Drumanagh Conservation & Management Plan 2018-2023*. The Heritage Officer thanks the Architects Department and the Planning Department's administrative section for their assistance in administering these grants in the short timeframe allowed.



Drumanagh 3D scan available to view on <https://www.fingal.ie/digging-drumanagh>

### Parks and Green Infrastructure Division Updates

#### **Bremore Regional Park Development Project**

The internal consultation phase of the Part 8 application for the above proposal has commenced. The project includes the key works required for the park to function as a Regional Park and to serve the community for the long term in the context of population growth and increasing levels of participation in active leisure. The proposals have been formulated to achieve the best fit between the visual, historic and ecological attributes of the site and provision of active recreation and linkages to Bremore Castle and surrounding residential areas. (see attached image)

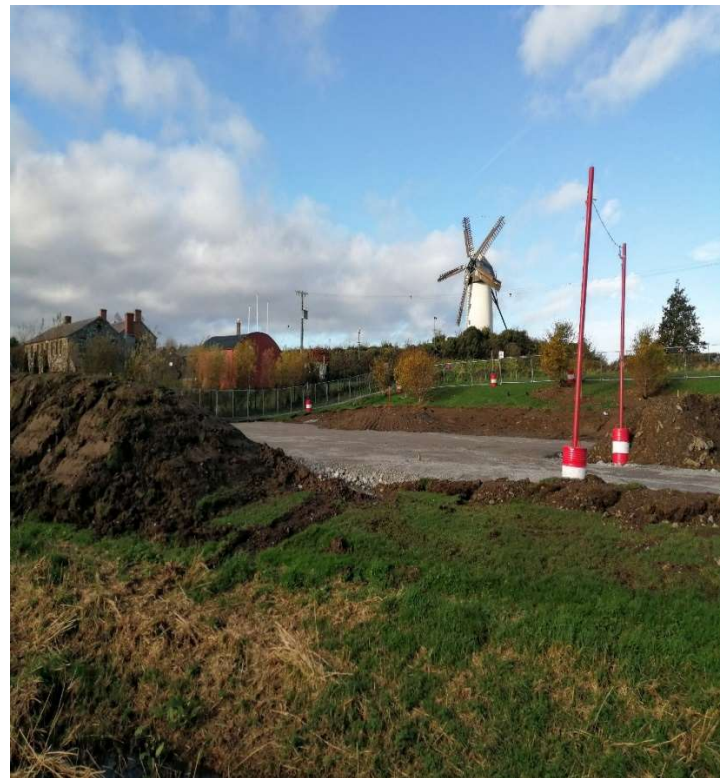


**Natural themed playground in Skerries Town Park**

Construction has started on a new natural themed playground in Skerries Town Park. The project will provide an inclusive space for all the children of Skerries and beyond to enjoy. The unique playground design takes inspiration from the setting of the adjacent mills and is being constructed by Creative Play Solutions. (see plan and site images attached)



Clós Súgartha Pháirc Bhaile na Sceirí - Skerries Town Park Playground



## Development Management/Forward Planning (Water Services)

- Flood Risk Assessments and Drainage Strategies to inform Local Area Plans and County Development Plan - FCC staff are currently managing the preparation of the surface water management plan to inform Belcamp LAP. FCC staff have engaged consultants for the preparation of surface water management plan in Balbriggan. Reviewing draft SFRA for Lissenhall LAP. Work is currently underway preparing the brief for the Strategic Flood Risk Assessment to inform both Dunsink LAP and the next County Development Plan.
- Pre-planning consultations – During October staff from Planning (Water Services) have engaged in discussions with developers at pre-planning stage to discuss issues related to the provision of water services and to ensure the implementation of flood risk management and sustainable drainage systems on site. These meetings have also included discussions on drainage and flood risk management relating to economic development, including pharma and logistics development and also to strategic infrastructure project, such as Metrolink, R132 upgrade, Dart+.
- SHDs – staff are engaged as internal consultees in discussion on approx. 12no. SHD applications
- CDS – staff continue to provide planning review of water/wastewater connection applications on behalf of Irish Water with 23 no. applications processed during October. Staff have remote access to IW's network and as such this process continues as normal.
- CPD – we continue to promote a culture of learning in this division, albeit in an online forum. Knowledge sharing with our neighbours on green roofs:
  - Engaging presentation and discussion from our colleagues in DLRCC on the implementation of

their green roofs development plan objective

- Article by FCC's Building Control staff in the National Building Control Office quarterly newsletter on managing out the conflict between green roofs and photovoltaic panels.

## Building Control/Taking in Charge

- Building Control Inspections are currently being carried out on a business-as-usual basis within the guidelines from the HSE, CIF and FCC's Corporate safety systems, with 16 first-time inspections completed in November. Inspectors and engineers continue to engage with developers by other means to deal with building control.
- BCMS expansion – FCC staff continue to engage collaboratively with the National Building Control Office following the implementation of the final module of the BCMS (Building Control Management System – an online forum for Building Control documentation).
- Construction Products Regulations – FCC are reviewing our obligation as Market Surveillance Authority for construction products in the county, especially in the context of BREXIT.
- Dangerous Structure/Places inspections – each complaint continues to be assessed on a case by case basis. During November we have received 2 notifications and we have conducted 3 site visits. Enforcement has commenced in some instances.
- Dangerous Structure/Places Policy & Procedure – During 2019 a review was conducted of our procedures relating to the performance of our duties under the Sanitary Services Act 1964. A Dangerous Structures/Places Policy & Procedure was implemented from the start of 2020. Building Control staff are now engaged in a yearly review of the efficiency of its implementation. The revised document will be ready for implementation from the start of 2021.
- Taking in Charge of Legacy Developments – Bond claims have been submitted and

verified by IBRC through 2019/2020. FCC have had significant success in sequestering bonds, with approx. €2M secured to date. As such FCC are progressing works contracts to tender in line with public procurement rules and covid compliances for the construction sector. This work will lead to the Taking in Charge Statutory process.

- Construction Products Directive – FCC staff and engaging with relevant stakeholders in the context of Brexit and its implication on construction products on the market. An awareness campaign for developers was instigated through BCMS and planning processes. Training has been conducted for FCC staff and a member of staff is on a senior working group on the establishment of the NBCO as the national market surveillance authority.

## Transportation Planning

### **Snugborough Interchange**

The assessment of tenders for a main contractor to construct the Snugborough Interchange Upgrade is now complete and letters of intent to the preferred tenderer issued last week. Pending provision of various documentation such as insurances and bonds, the contractor will be appointed in January in order to allow construction to commence in Spring 2021. The project, which will take two years to complete, is a joint project between Fingal County Council and the NTA and will deliver significant improvements for all road users, including new reduced congestion, improved safety, and new cycle lanes, pedestrian crossings and bus lanes.



### **Dublin Airport Local Area Plan**

The Planning & Strategic Infrastructure Dept is currently leading a transport study to identify and assess the future provision of transportation infrastructure at Dublin Airport as set out as an objective of the Dublin Airport LAP that was adopted by Fingal County Council last year. Data collection and stakeholder consultation is currently underway between FCC, Transport Infrastructure Ireland, National Transport Authority and the DAA as part of the study.

### **Hole in the Wall Road Upgrade**

Construction works on site are progressing well for this LIHAF project that will support significant local development in this fast-growing area. The bridge foundations are complete and work is progressing on the northern abutment for the bridge over the Mayne River, which had to be temporarily diverted to facilitate construction. Roadworks at the Drumnigh Road junction are ongoing and the new road and upgraded junction in the DCC administrative area are programmed to commence in the new year with overall works due to be complete in Q2 2021.

FCC project engineers surveying the new bridge abutments under construction, with the diverted Mayne River in the foreground.



**Donabate Pedestrian Bridge**

Further to the grant of Part 8 planning permission in 2019, design work on the new pedestrian and cycle-bridge over the Dublin-Belfast railway line has been ongoing. There is a substantial amount of documentation required for Irish Rail and the Railway Safety Commission in relation to any new infrastructure across live railways, and this work is now well advanced. A tender for an engineering consultant to undertake site supervision duties during the construction stage and a tender for the main works contractor will be published in Q1 2021 with a view to construction on this NTA-funded project commencing later in the year.



**Portrane Road Enhancement Project**

The public consultation stage of the Part 8 planning process for the Portrane Road scheme finished on 28<sup>th</sup> October. The Chief Executives Report will be presented at the December Balbriggan/Swords/Rush/Lusk Area Committee Meeting, and at December’s Full Council where it can be accepted, amended or rejected by resolution. Subject to a successful grant of planning approval, detailed design and land acquisition will be undertaken in Q1 2021, with an objective to appoint a contractor by Q3 2021. It is intended that this project will be undertaken in tandem with the Turvey Avenue project, with one contractor appointed to undertake both projects under one contract.

**Park Road**

Works have been ongoing on the Park Road Upgrade Project and are now nearing substantial completion. Only some minor landscaping work outstanding, signage and road lining works remain at this stage. The completed scheme will provide a significantly safer environment for all modes including especially cyclists and pedestrians travelling to local schools and GAA clubs.



**R132 Connectivity Project**

This project is being developed in conjunction with the National Transport Authority. Its aim is to support the ongoing development of Swords, including the development of the various Swords MasterPlans and other developments around the town. It will also support the delivery of MetroLink, in terms of providing a more appropriate receiving environment for the thousands of passengers that will be travelling to and from the various proposed stations along the R132 corridor when the MetroLink begins operations. The non-statutory consultation process that is currently underway has included the publication of various materials including drawings, technical reports and photo montages. A detailed briefing was given to the area members in advance of the consultation and some 4,500 leaflets have been delivered in the Swords area. Discussions have taken place with local residents and elected members in the meantime also. It is intended to capture any amendments that are raised by the consultation process and proceed to a planning application to An Bord Pleanala in Q1 2021.

### Church Fields Link Road and Cycle Network

Since the granting of Part 8 planning for this project that will facilitate the delivery of critical housing in Dublin 15, design work and ground investigations have been ongoing. The prequalification process for the appointment of a contractor to complete the project has recently commenced. This will result in up to six contractors being shortlisted by Feb 2021, who will move forward to the more detailed tender pricing stage with a view to works commencing on site during the summer of 2021.





## HOUSING & COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

<b>Housing</b> Supply Asset Management Support Tenancy Services	<b>Community Development</b> Community Development Office Sports Office
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### Housing Supply Report

Fingal County Council continues to deliver social housing units and continues to provide housing solutions in accordance with the Rebuilding Ireland Action Plan through a range of delivery mechanisms including construction, Part V, acquisitions, leasing and Housing Assistance Payment Scheme (HAP).

### Construction Programme

The Council has an ambitious construction programme underway with 29 sites across the county and 318 homes already delivered.

The following table outlines the various stages that construction projects are currently at;

Project	Units	Status
St Cronan's x 2 schemes	15	Completed
Cappaghfinn I	14	Completed
Balrothery - North + East	9	Completed
Wellview, Dublin 15	20	Completed
Racecourse Common	74	Completed
Ballyboughal	8	Completed
Pinewood, Balbriggan	20	Completed
Estuary Road - V de Paul	8	Completed
Castlelands, Balbriggan	24	Completed

Ravenswood, Coldwinters, Peter McVerry Trust	8	Completed
Rivermeade	2	Completed
Pinewood CC, Balbriggan	2	Completed
Avondale, Dublin 15	42	Completed
Church Road, Dublin 15 - FCC	22	Completed
Rolestown Phase 1	26	Completed
Rathbeale Road, Swords	24	Completed
Church Road, Dublin 15 - Cluid Housing	65	On Site
College St. Baldoyle - Cluid Housing	4	On Site
Wellview Cul de Sacs, Wellview, D15	20	On Site
Tucketts Lane, Howth	8	Tendering Stage
Cappagh, Dublin 11	69	Tendering Stage
Outlands, Swords, Co Dublin	11	Tendering Stage
Church Fields Phase 2B, Mulhuddart, D15	70	Tendering Stage
Church Road, Lusk	5	Tendering Stage
Kilhedge Lane - Tuath Housing Association	TBC	Planning Stage
Former Leonards Garage, Lusk	10	Tendering Stage
Garristown - North and East Housing Association	6	Planning Stage

Hayestown, Rush	65	Planning Stage
Infill Site adjacent to 169 Clonsilla Road, D15	1	Planning Stage
	<b>652</b>	

### Church Fields, Dublin 15

On the 3<sup>rd</sup> December, the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage approved an increase in the Serviced Sites Funding for the provision of enabling infrastructure to facilitate the delivery of affordable homes at Church Fields. Approval in principle has now been granted for the revised amount of €24,654,578 (11% of which is to be funded by the Council from its own resources).

Detailed design and the pre-planning process have commenced in relation to 504 discounted purchase, discounted rental and social properties. Progress on delivering the housing potential of the site continues;

- An initial phase of the housing development of Church Fields has been approved and a contractor is on site.
- The next phase of development consisting of 70 social houses has been approved and a contractor will be on site Q1 2021.
- Part XI for the road link between Damastown Road and Wellview Avenue including the upgrade of the existing Wellview Avenue and a cycle way adjacent to Church Road was approved and construction is scheduled to commence in Q2 2021.
- The green infrastructure design is also underway as outlined in the Land Management Plan.
- 

The Area Committee will be briefed in relation to the housing design layout of the overall site shortly.

### Land Development Agency

The Council is working closely with the Land Development Agency (LDA) to bring forward land banks located in Fingal to unlock their potential to deliver mixed tenure housing.

### Hackettstown Lands:

- The LDA has lodged a planning application for the road infrastructure upgrade which is funded through the Serviced Sites Fund.
- Design of the housing is currently underway by the LDA and a planning application will be lodged shortly. They propose to deliver 346 housing units of mainly affordable/cost rental and dwellings available for affordable purchase. Housing will also be provided for families in need of social housing.
- Further information will be brought to the Area Committee when available.

### Part V Delivery

The Housing Department continues to work closely with developers to secure a steady delivery of social housing units through the Part V process. There have been 30 Part V dwellings delivered to date this year with a further 70 dwellings nearing completion.

### Other Development Opportunities

The Housing Department continue to meet with developers who are building across the county with a view to exploring opportunities to bring forward proposals to increase the supply of social housing. All opportunities and proposals to provide much needed additional turnkey housing are considered.

### Pilot Dun Emer Home Purchase Scheme

The Pilot Dun Emer Home Purchase Scheme was approved by Council last month and the Development Agreement is now with the contractor for signing. Once this is in place full details of the Dun Emer Development of 39 affordable dwellings will be available on the Council's website, including the eligibility criteria and all relevant supporting documents required in order to lodge a completed application. This will allow those wishing to apply for an affordable home the time to compile the necessary documents.

Details of the application process will be brought to Councillors in advance of the application process commencing. The date for receipt of

completed applications will then be advertised in the press, the Council’s website, social media, etc.

### Leasing Schemes

The Housing Department continues to operate the various leasing schemes to provide much needed properties for social housing. There has been a noticeable increase in the number of properties and leasing proposals being offered to the Council over the past few months. There have been 74 properties delivered to date this year with a further 32 properties being processed. This is to be welcomed and every effort is made to secure long term leases with interested property owners and developers.

### Covid19 Employment Loss

#### Rebuilding Ireland Home Loan

Number of applications received to date	1118
Number of applications approved	492
Value of the loans approved	€107,647,681
Number of loans drawn down	253
Value of loans drawn down	€54,546,749

Mortgage holders who have lost employment due to the Covid19 crisis and are experiencing difficulties making repayments should contact the Council immediately on [www.loans@fingal.ie](mailto:www.loans@fingal.ie)

Further to Circular 29/2020 which issued on Monday the 28<sup>th</sup> September, Central Government has extended by 3 months the payment break option for borrowers whose incomes are affected by Covid-19. However, Mortgage Protection Insurance payments must continue to be made so as not to break the continuity of cover. Fingal County Council will endeavour to find an individual solution with each borrower. Failure to make mortgage repayments without an agreement with Fingal County Council may affect credit ratings and limit ability to access credit in the future.

Further details are available on the Council’s website [www.fingal.ie](http://www.fingal.ie)

### Rent Payments – Council Tenants

The Rent Assessment Team are available to Council tenants who have temporarily lost employment due to Covid19 crisis. Tenants may have their rent temporarily re-assessed based on Social Welfare payments until their employment situation becomes clearer. Tenants should contact the Council immediately at email; [rent.assessment@fingal.ie](mailto:rent.assessment@fingal.ie) Further details are available on the Council’s website [www.fingal.ie](http://www.fingal.ie).

### Private Rented Inspections

In February 2018, all local authorities were issued with targets for the Inspection of Private Rented Properties by the DHPLG in conjunction with its Strategy for the Private Rental Sector – a key component of Rebuilding Ireland. The aim is to increase the national average inspection rate from 6% to 25% of registered rental properties by 2021. The targets are based on the percentage of tenancies registered with the RTB, which within the Fingal County Council administrative area was 21,034 at end of 2018.

The annual targets are as follows:

2018 (10%)	2019 (15%)	2020 (20%)	2021 (25%)
2,072	3,155	4,207	5,259

### Housing Asset Management Report

#### Returning Dwellings to Productive Use

Funding has been allocated to Fingal County Council by the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage under its 2020 Voids Stimulus funding. All properties must be tenanted or signed up for tenancy before year end. This will provide significant financial support to the Council in returning void properties to a lettable condition and work is underway to return a large number of properties to productive use in the coming weeks.

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

Voids for Re-letting	At 30 <sup>th</sup> November 2020
In letting process	47
Undergoing re-let repairs	26
With County Architect for procurement of pre-let repairs	36
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>109</b>

## Planned Maintenance Programmes

### Boiler Servicing

The Council provides an annual boiler servicing facility, including all maintenance and upgrade works, for a nominal fee of €3 per week to participating tenant. The 2020 servicing programme is underway and a total of 2,838 properties have been approved with 2,014 serviced to date. It is anticipated that any delays incurred during the Covid Lockdown period will be addressed during the remainder of 2020.

### Cyclical Maintenance

This programme provides for external painting and joinery repairs to council housing stock and this currently operates on a 6/7 year cycle. The contractors are finishing the remaining properties in Castlecurragh and Dromheath Estate. Painting works have now started in Parslickstown Estate and they will soon commence external painting in Church Road. The remaining estates to be completed as part of the current programme will be carried out between now and early summer of 2021. (listed below: Batch F & G)

Estate	
Dromheath	Dublin 15
Castlecurragh Heath/Vale	Dublin 15
St Patricks Park	Donabate
Shamrock Park	Oldtown
Windmill Estate	Skerries
Toberburr Avenue	St Margarets
The Bawn Grove/ The Hill	Malahide
Kirkfield Cottages	Clonsilla
Lambeecher Estate	Balbriggan

Estate	
Ladyswell Road	Dublin 15
Parslickstown Estate	Dublin 15
Castlegrange Estate	Swords
Wellview Estate	Dublin 15
Cardy Rock Estate	Balbriggan
Barnewall Avenue/Crescent	Donabate
Church Road	Dublin 15
Rockabill	Skerries
Bealing Avenue/Grove	Dubin 15

## Housing Tenancy Services Report

### Housing Support

#### STATUTORY HOUSING NEEDS ASSESSMENT 2020

The Housing Support Team is completing a Social Housing Assessment Summary in accordance with Section 21 of the Housing (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 2009. All Local Authorities are required by the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage to complete this assessment for all persons who have applied for social housing support.

The Housing Needs Assessment Project Team is working to ensure contact is established with all applicants who are required to have an assessment completed.

To date, an initial letter and assessment form has been issued to the identified group of applicants, followed up by a Reminder Letter to each applicant in October.

Since the beginning of November, a dedicated team have been following up to establish contact with those applicants who may not have received or returned their Housing Needs Assessment Form, to ensure that their needs are assessed, and are included in the statutory return to the Department.

The Council is continuing to accept completed assessment forms and the Housing Needs Assessment Project Team would encourage all applicants to complete and return the form. Details of the assessment are also available on Fingal's Website via <https://www.fingal.ie/council/service/housing-needs-assessment>

Following completion of the Statutory Social Housing Needs Assessment, the Housing Support Team will commence activity to prepare the yearly list position.

The Housing Support Team Contact Details	
Phone	01 890 5902 /01 890 5000
Email	<a href="mailto:Housing.allocations@fingal.ie">Housing.allocations@fingal.ie</a>
Website	<a href="http://www.fingal.ie">www.fingal.ie</a>

THE HOUSING UNIT CONTACT DETAILS	
Homeless Services	01 890 5090 <a href="mailto:homeless@fingal.ie">homeless@fingal.ie</a>
HAP	01 870 4515 <a href="mailto:HAP@fingal.ie">HAP@fingal.ie</a>
Estate Management (Maintenance, ASB & Special Projects)	01 890 5588 <a href="mailto:Estatemanagement@fingal.ie">Estatemanagement@fingal.ie</a>
Lettings	01 890 5380 <a href="mailto:Housing.allocations@fingal.ie">Housing.allocations@fingal.ie</a>

Housing Support	01 890 5902 <a href="mailto:Housing.allocations@fingal.ie">Housing.allocations@fingal.ie</a>
Customer Care Team	01 890 5000 <a href="mailto:CustomerCareUnit@fingal.ie">CustomerCareUnit@fingal.ie</a>

### Offers of Housing Support

The Lettings Team have continued to provide offers of social housing support right throughout the recent **COVID -19** Lockdown period and this is demonstrated in the table below. The supply of housing is continuing through a number of mechanisms, allowing Fingal County Council to continue to make offers of housing support across Approved Housing Bodies, Standard Social Housing as well as the provision of a number of transitional housing options.

Month	Offers of Housing Support 2020
January	117
February	103
March	137
April	114
May	97
June	90
July	72
August	144
September	91
October	87
November	137
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>1,189</b>

## Housing Assistance Payment (HAP)

The HAP Team in Fingal County Council continues to operate as normal with the public making contact through email and phone during **COVID-19** restrictions. Additional resources have been deployed to assist with the volume of calls/emails from those who have been affected by the current crisis (in relation to a change in income).

Since its inception in Fingal County Council in 2017, the HAP team have set up over 2,300 tenancies.

## Homeless Services

The Council's Homeless Team continue to engage with those experiencing homelessness to offer advice and support. Homeless Assessments were conducted over the phone during the Level 5 public health restrictions which ended on 30th November 2020. In November there were 47 new homeless presentations, 31 of which were families. 34 families exited homeless circumstances during November into various forms of social housing support including into private rented tenancies under Homeless HAP.

Since 1<sup>st</sup> January 2020, a total of 559 households have exited homelessness through the various means of housing support. Homeless HAP accounts for 390 of these tenancies.

## Cold Weather Strategy 2020/2021

The Dublin Region Homeless Executive (DRHE) has activated its Cold Weather Strategy 2020/2021 which will run from November 2020 to end of March 2021. This is in order to meet a likely increase in demand for homeless services and to have the appropriate contingency plan in place for cold weather conditions.

In the event of cold weather or any emergency event, the DRHE co-ordinates the response to homelessness on behalf of the four Dublin Local Authorities. Whilst services operate throughout the year to support people experiencing homelessness, during the winter period, services are increased and enhanced to mitigate against the health risks that the bad weather poses.

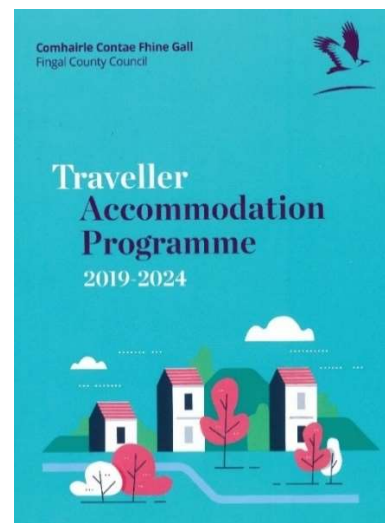
## Traveller Specific Supports

### Covid-19 Continued Support

Measures have continued within Fingal to ensure that Traveller families receive as much assistance as possible during these unprecedented times, and particularly having regard to the recent elevation of the Dublin area to Level 5 restrictions. Daily site visits by Housing Inspectorate and Senior Council Officials are continuing with due care to maintaining public health guidelines while checking on vulnerable tenants and advising on the continued supports available. In addition, the Council's designated Social Worker Service for Travellers continues to make regular contact with the most vulnerable, in order to assist with additional needs arising from the current circumstances.

## Traveller Accommodation

A programme of works in relation to the refurbishment and upgrading of existing accommodation on specific sites, is currently in development with the County Architect. Works are ongoing at St Mary's Halting Site, Cappagh and prepared for other locations. The provision of additional accommodation in accordance with the Traveller Accommodation Programme 2019-2024 is ongoing.

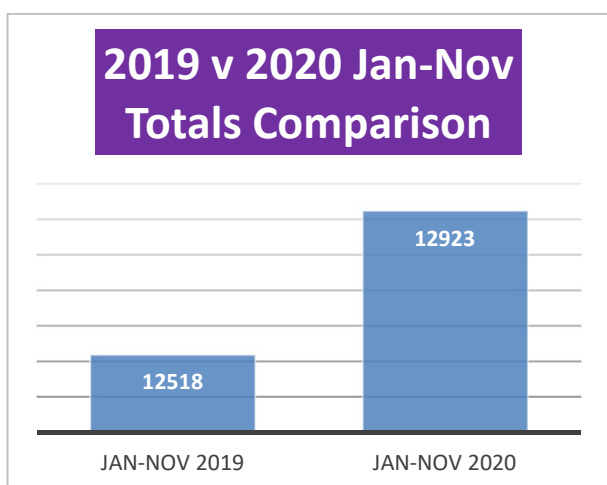
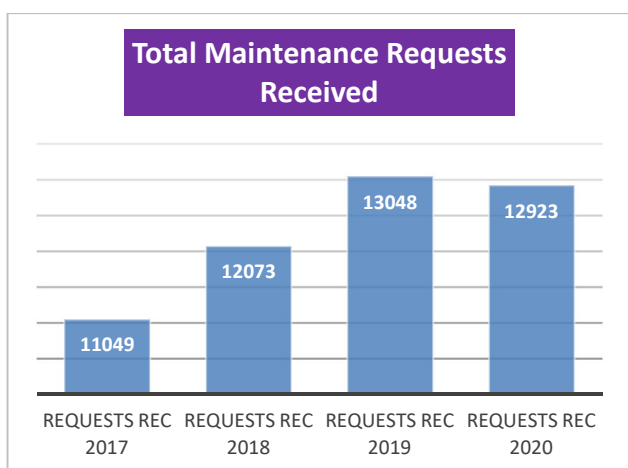


## Housing Welfare Service

The Social Workers attached to the Housing Department are available to support vulnerable tenancies and to work with housing applicants who have medical/welfare needs.

In response to **Covid-19**, the Housing Social Workers have been actively engaged with their most vulnerable cases at this time providing support, information and inter-agency linkages when and where required. Tenants were identified by the Social Workers and Housing Inspectors who may be considered particularly vulnerable during **Covid-19** and follow- on action has been initiated through a number of mechanisms including the Fingal Community Response Forum.

## Maintenance Requests



**3% increase in maintenance requests received for Jan-Nov period in 2020 in comparison to 2019**

## Anti-Social Behaviour/ Inspectorate /Stock Management

The ongoing management and sustainment with regard to social tenancies and good estate management falls within the remit of the ASB/Inspectorate Unit. Alleged breaches pertaining to tenancy agreements are investigated and pursued in accordance with housing legislative guidelines.

There are occasions when the vulnerabilities, complexities and health related issues associated with a tenancy require tenancy sustainment intervention and supports. Ongoing case management and review with a variety of external agencies, including Approved Housing Bodies, An Garda Síochána, Tusla and the HSE is a necessity to ensure all agencies work collaboratively with a view to achieving best outcomes.

## Stock Management

64 cases under review – 19 Downsizing, 10 Regularisation of Tenancy, 19 Breaches of Tenancy, 16 Miscellaneous (including cases of Family Breakdown/Illegal Occupants)

Surrenders on EM Grounds – 1 (Jan), 3 (Feb), 3 (March), 3 (April), 1 (May), 1 (June), 1 (Aug), 1 (Sep), 1 (Oct), 2 (Nov)

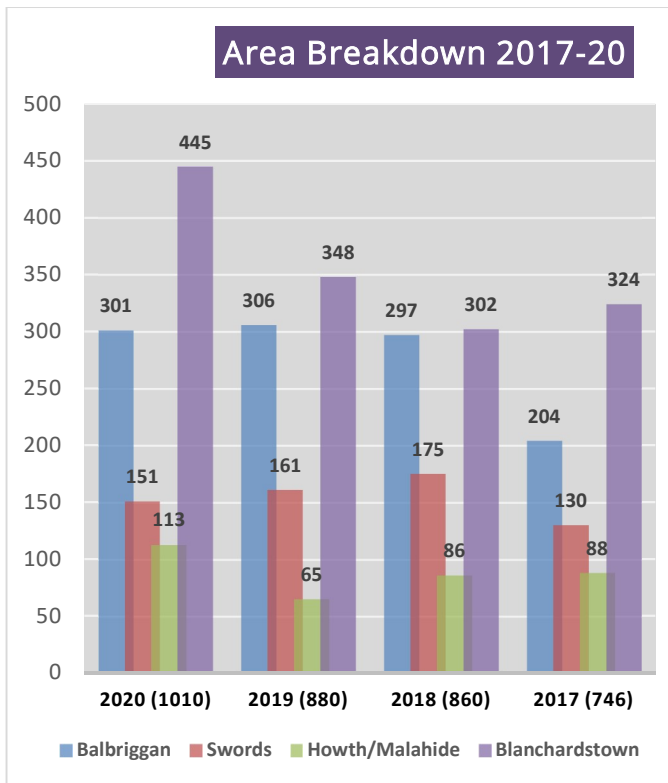
## Anti-Social Behaviour

November 2020	Active Investigation	Active Monitoring	Closed
Dublin 15	56	79	32
North County	35	12	04
<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>91</b>	<b>91</b>	<b>36</b>

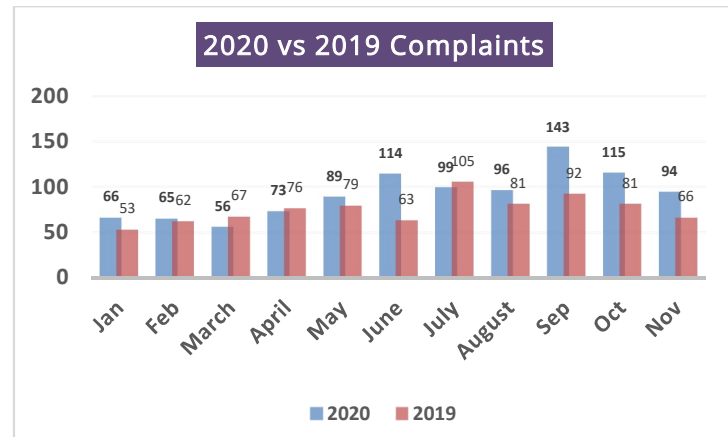
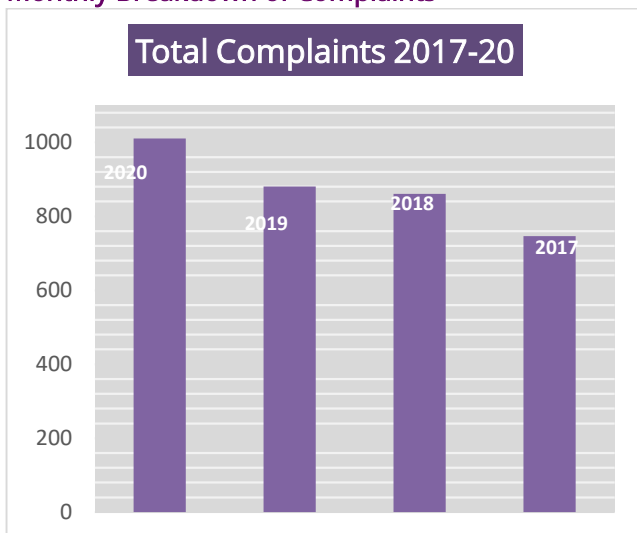
ASB complaints received are followed up and investigated and taking into consideration the current public health guidelines all efforts are made in this regard to achieve best outcomes. The

number of ASB complaints received YTD has exceeded the 2019 end of year figures which is reflective of current Covid-19 restrictions where citizens are at home more and possible more observant and less tolerant.

### Area Breakdown of Complaints



### Monthly Breakdown of Complaints



### Anti-Social Interventions

Interviews Held 2019	123
Interviews Held 2020	105
Tenancy Alerts 2019	30
Tenancy Alerts 2020	31
Tenancy Warnings 2019	4
Tenancy Warnings 2020	3

### Housing Inspections

Traveller Specific Inspections 2019	1818
Traveller Specific Inspections 2020	1611
Estate Inspections 2019	944
Estate Inspections 2020	552
EM/ASB Inspections 2019	3858
EM/ASB Inspections 2020	3153



## Community Development

Community Development Office:

### FPPN: Fingal Plenary & Inclusion Week 2020



Fingal PPN successfully held its Plenary Meeting and launched Social Inclusion week on 11<sup>th</sup> November 2020 via Zoom. 130 participants took part in the event.



Fingal's Mayor Cllr David Healy launched Social Inclusion Week at Plenary via a pre-recorded video.

Anne Marie Farrelly spoke about the relationship between FCC and FPPN and David Normoyle from the Social Inclusion, Rural Development, Youth and Enterprise Linkage group spoke about his experience on the steering committee for Social Inclusion week.

At the meeting, John Melvin, Todd Pocius and Robert Loughlin were nominated as secretariat members under the Community & Voluntary Pillar. Angela Rogers was nominated as secretariat member under the Environment pillar.

## Fingal PPN Membership/Fingal Community County Re-Registration

Fingal PPN has completed its first re-registration process. The re-registration of PPN membership is a requirement from the Department. It will be undertaken every two years.

After the re-registration process, membership now stands at 380. This number is down from 876 groups in September. However, it is important to bear in mind that the 876 figure includes the total of every group that has registered since 2014. Other PPNs who have undergone the re-registration process have experienced a similar drop in numbers.

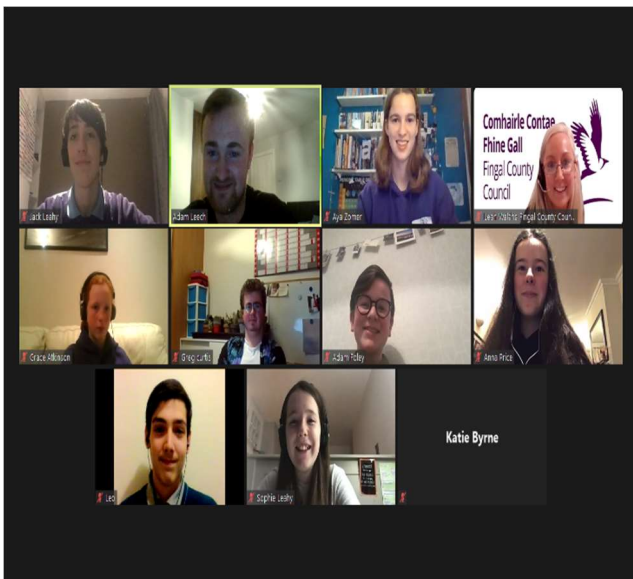
The Community Officers in the Community Department are currently linking in with key groups that have failed to re-register and numbers are expected to increase once this process has been completed.

In addition to this, the Community administrative team responsible for processing funding have been given a re-registration email template that can be sent to groups who are applying for funding but have failed to re-register which is a requirement of funding. This will also increase re-registration numbers.

## Fingal Comhairle na nÓg:

Fingal Comhairle na nÓg 's first full meeting took place virtually on Friday evening the 27<sup>th</sup> of November 2020. Eleven Comhairle members attended and were welcomed by Fingal County Council and Foróige Co-ordinators. During the meeting members put their names forward for officer roles in Comhairle na nÓg. The Chairperson, Vice-Chair, Secretary and PRO have all been assigned through consensus. Comhairle officer training will take place in 2021.

The new Comhairle members have had a busy month. Highlights include; EPA consultation, CYPSC Full meeting report, EU-PARES Conference as well as a consultation with members on the MIND YOUR MOOD Campaign on Monday the 30<sup>th</sup> of November.



### Tips and Tools Corduff Newsletter:

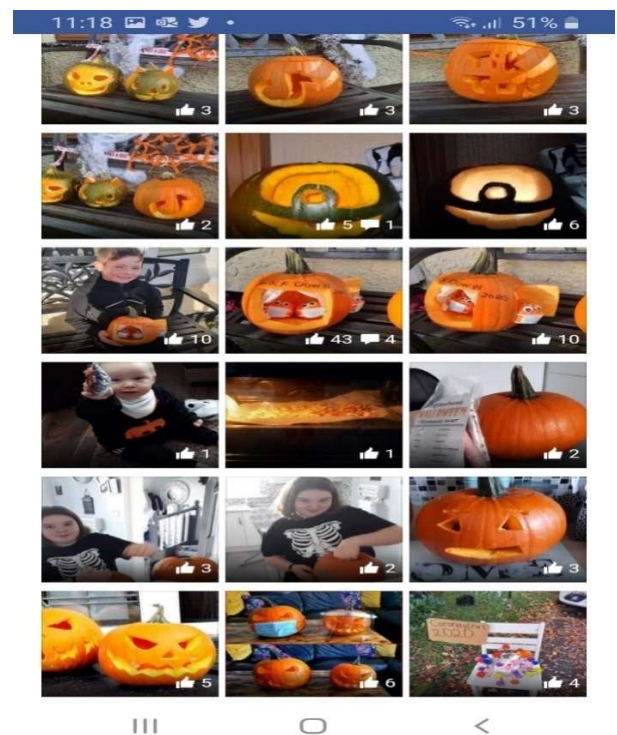
The Corduff Newsletter for Tips and Tools during lockdown was finalized on the 23rd of November 2020. The Corduff Task Group (a collaboration of Fingal County Council Community Office, Safe Blanchardstown, Empower, Foroige, TU Dublin and Corduff Community Centre) developed the initiative to offer information and practical suggestions to the community in Corduff during Covid 19 restrictions. It seeks to reach those who currently are excluded from digital access.



### Whitestown Estate Management Halloween Event 2020

Whitestown Estate Management Halloween Project 2020 took registration from 400 families in the Whitestown Estate, this year the families collected the pumpkins at a designated location adhering to safety guidelines which are outlined in the registration process, they also received chalk

packs to enable them to create artworks in their driveways and participated in a virtual scavenger hunt. This project reached out to 450 people of which were 200 young people.



### Minding your Mood:

Fingal Community Centres in Dublin 15 are currently running a four-week Introduction to Mindfulness Course. The course commenced on Monday Nov 23rd 7.30-9.00pm. This course is running as a pilot, it is free and will scope the need for a more in-depth course that the Community Development Office proposes for January with the ability to roll out in both virtual and physical mediums.



### Fingal Christmas Cards of Kindness Campaign



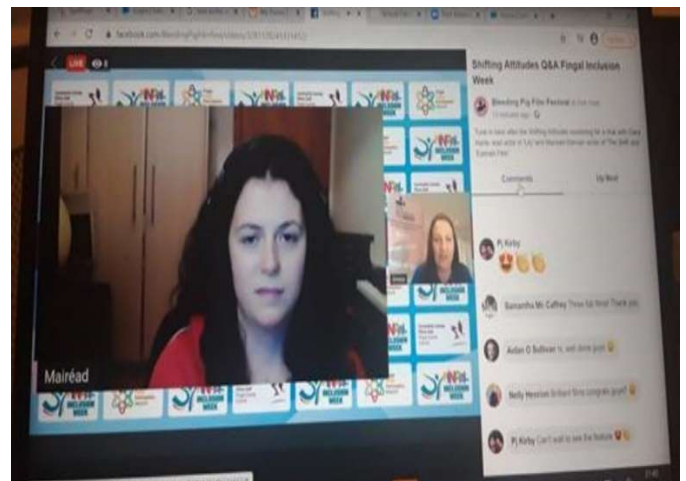
Fingal Christmas Cards of Kindness campaign is an initiative of the Community Development Office in association with Fingal Age Friendly. The campaign invites young people to make Handmade Christmas Cards and send kind wishes to nursing home residents and day care centre service users throughout Fingal. Fingal Christmas Cards of Kindness provides an opportunity for young people to reach out to seniors who may be isolated due to COVID-19 to feel connected in the lead up to Christmas. Over 20 community centres across Fingal are playing their part in promoting the

campaign and acting as the collection point. Closing date for receipt of cards is 9th December. A dedicated page has been set up on [fingal.ie/christmascardssofkindness](http://fingal.ie/christmascardssofkindness) providing information on the campaign, participating centres and advice on making the cards.

### Fingal Inclusion Week 2020



Fingal County Council Community Development Office in partnership with Fingal PPN, organised the 2020 Fingal Inclusion Week from the 16<sup>th</sup> to the 21<sup>st</sup> November. The week highlighted the positive work that communities, agencies and other organisations are involved in to reduce social exclusion. Due to COVID 19, all events took place virtually and a dedicated webpage was established to feature events and facilitate booking information [www.fingalinclusionweek.ie](http://www.fingalinclusionweek.ie) and [www.fingal.ie/fingalinclusion](http://www.fingal.ie/fingalinclusion) . Over 37 free events took place and approximately 550-600 people got involved throughout the week. The Community Development Office will be contacting the participating group to evaluate the week and gather suggestions for Fingal Inclusion Week 2021. See below Bleeding Pig Film Festival live interview as part of Shifting Attitude programme during Fingal Inclusion Week



## Fingal Digital Poverty Scheme 2020

Fingal Digital Poverty Scheme 2020 was established to enable organisations to purchase vital equipment such as laptops, dongles and access to online technology. The fund is being administered by Fingal County Council Community Development Office in association with the Fingal Community Call Forum. Max allocation is €3000 and eligible technology includes: Laptop – new or refurbished, Tablet – new or refurbished, Phones, Smart Phones, Wi-Fi devices, creation of online platforms and access to online platforms. Closing date for applications was the 27<sup>th</sup> November. A total of 10 applications have been received and are awaiting assessment /recommendation for funding.

## 2020 Halloween Workshops

Following on from our 2019 Halloween Programme and in line with COVID 19 restrictions, the Community Development Office organising 3 Virtual Mask making workshops on the 30<sup>th</sup> October. Participants were encouraged to use items found around the home, particularly in the recycling department which will encourage and promote reuse and upcycling. The workshop was facilitated through Zoom and places were booked on Eventbrite. Over 17 households were involved, and a total of 33 young people took part. See below an image of young people taking part in the online workshop



## Pride of Place Finals 2020

Huge congratulation to Swords Tidy towns who achieved the main runner up prize in the 2020 IPB Pride of Place Competition, held virtually last month. Swords Tidy Towns represented Fingal in the population of over five thousand category. This was the first time a Swords group has won a prize in the all-Ireland competition, which showcases the best in community development on the island of Ireland. Supported by the Community Development Office, three communities represented the council in the 2020 competition, with Swords Tidy Towns joined by the Ballyboughal Hedgerow Society and the Skerries Age Friendly initiative in the creative place and coastal communities categories respectively. Ballyboughal Hedgerow Society recently won the best leader project for 2020 in an online poll, so congrats there also.



## Flemington Men's Winter Programme

The Men's Winter Programme started on the 19<sup>th</sup> of November and is being run by the Flemington Community Centre in Balbriggan. The programme was designed by the Flemington Centre manager Marcos Mondeira and was funded through Healthy Ireland. The key elements of the programme are delivered via Zoom and include Mental Fitness Education, Nutrition, Yoga 4 Blokes and Mediation. There are currently 32 participants in the programme and the high uptake was due in part to the promotional video which was

produced, and which had over 8,000 views. Sessions on different topics take place throughout the week over the winter months. For people who can't attend the sessions due to time pressures etc., the sessions are being recorded and can be watched at any time. The programme is open to all men and anyone interested can join by contacting Marcos at [marcos.mondeira@acacia.ie](mailto:marcos.mondeira@acacia.ie)



### Remobilisation working group



As the country has moved to level 3 with variations on the 1<sup>st</sup> of December, the remobilisation working group continue to tease through the information set out in the guidelines. In order to ensure all FCC community facilities, remain consistent in their approach the remobilisation working group

continues to meet and has developed a template for each facility to complete. This enables them to look at all their user groups and place them in at the appropriate level on the framework. Information continues to be circulated to all facilities to advise them on new amendments and guidelines issued by government that may result in amendments to their local Covid response plans.

### Fingal Community Facilities Network

The final meeting of the year for the Fingal Community Facilities Network will take place on the 8<sup>th</sup> of Dec via zoom. There will be a packed agenda. The following will be key items for discussion

- Approval of the constitution for the network
- Presentation from FCC environmental officer to explore synergies
- Update on the network funding applications and development of training plan for 2021
- Presentation of the Community Development Office Community Facilities Funding Scheme for 2021
- Update on the remobilisation working group
- Presentation on the network's new web site
- Open forum for discussion / polls and breaks out rooms

### Age Friendly Fingal

Music Making Memories is a project funded through Creative Ireland and delivered by Stage2. This project delivers a performance to 5 nursing homes across the county, 2 hours of music and entertainment to brighten up the days of the residents. The nursing homes taking part in this initiative are: Talbot Lodge, Beechtree Oldtown and Rush and Lusk Community Nursing homes. Performances are carried out in adherence to the HSE rules and regulations regarding COVID-19. Feedback from families is that this initiative is bringing a ray of sunshine to their loved ones.



### Sports Office:

#### Fingal Home-Fit

The Fingal Home-Fit live exercise sessions are facilitated by Fingal County Council Sports Office and delivered by suitably qualified personal trainers and exercise professionals. There are 3 classes per week and the initial 3-week pilot has been extended to 6 weeks due to its success. To date 392 people of all ages and abilities have signed up to the programme.

#### Sports Conditioning Online 10@10

The Sports Office developed the 10@10 programme for schools; a series of 10 exercise videos which can be used by teachers for just 10 minutes every day to encourage and promote physical activity in the classroom. The Active

School Flag organisation have attached it to their Active School Programme, and to date we have had 318 schools nationwide sign up to the programme.

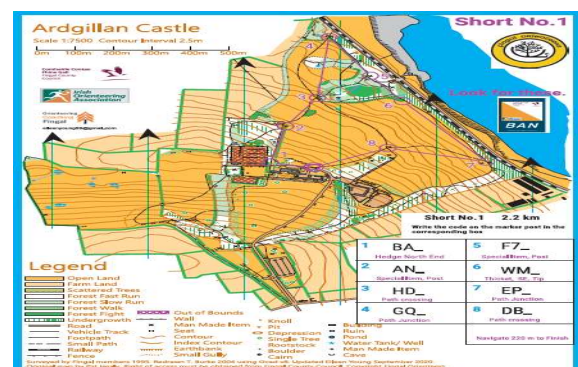
#### MarathonKids

The MarathonKids programme has seen over 3,000 students from 28 primary schools register for the programme which was adapted to comply with COVID restriction rules. The programme enters its final week and has been a major success with schools delighted with this year's programme as it has kept students active 4 times a week, while learning about the many benefits of sport as they complete a marathon.



#### Permanent Orienteering Course

The Sports Office in collaboration with Operations (Aileen O'Connor) have installed a permanent orienteering course in Ardgillan. The course can be availed of by schools, clubs or individuals with all details including maps available to download on the Fingal and Argillan websites.



## Women in Sport Coaching Series

The first Women in Sports Coaching Series took place on Thursday 26<sup>th</sup> November and featured Suzanne Maguire, Irish international basketball player and coach, in discussion with renowned sports journalist and presenter Cliona Foley. The aim of the series of discussions is to encourage more women to step forward with confidence into coaching roles in their local sports clubs. Basketball is the most popular sport in the Tyrrelstown area which is part of the Tyrrelstown/Mulhuddart Sports Hub. The local team, Dublin Sonics, have just started a girl's section in their club but are struggling to find female coaches to fill coaching roles. This series will be part of a strategy to encourage women to step forward and volunteer. This will be followed up with a practical session (when restrictions allow), when Suzanne will return to coach in Dublin Sonics and help the coaches



## ENVIRONMENT, CLIMATE ACTION & ACTIVE TRAVEL

Contents	
Climate Action	Landfill Aftercare
Environmental Awareness	Litter Management
Circular Economy	Waste Enforcement
Bring Centres	Flood Schemes
Water Quality Protection	Active Travel
Bathing Water Quality	

### Climate Action

The Fingal Climate Change Action Plan (CCAP) was launched in Sept 2019, and actions are ongoing. The Plan can be viewed at <https://www.fingal.ie/climate-change-action-plan-2019-2024>

The Climate Action, Biodiversity & Environment Strategic Policy Committee was presented with a one year progress update on the CCAP. This update was well received.

Here follows in summary a sample of progress under each CCAP action area:

#### Energy & Buildings:

FCC's Energy Management Team in collaboration with Codema have made energy efficiency improvements of 34.5% to date, effectively exceeding the 33% target set by government, 1 year ahead of target. FCC's Energy Review 2019 reports that FCC has improved its energy performance by 34.5%, compared to 2006 - 2008. This amounts to an absolute saving of 12.4 GWh of primary energy or 4,578 tonnes of CO<sub>2</sub>.

The Energy Management Team, in collaboration with Codema and the SEAI have developed an ISO 50001 compliant, energy management system, which enables improved oversight of energy accounts. As part of the management of energy usage, reports are now run on a monthly basis, ensuring oversight of every account and continuous improvement.

Though FCC is on course to exceed its 33% improvement in energy efficiency target by December 2020 and is currently ahead of its glidepath toward achieving a 40% CO<sub>2</sub> reduction by 2030; achieving the 2030 target of 50% improvement in energy efficiency as set out in the Governments Climate Action Plan 2019 will be a challenge. FCC will continue to work with Codema to identify and prioritise energy efficiency planning programmes which will enable the Council to meet its 2030 public sector targets.

Plans are in place to expedite the roll out of LED public lighting which is now 70% complete and on track for completion by the end 2021. (22570 streetlights have been converted to LED's to date out of a total stock of 32000).

Energy Performance Contracts (EPCs) for energy upgrades for Fingal County Hall and Civic Offices in Blanchardstown are progressing well. FCC and Codema are engaged in competitive dialogue with energy service companies and site visits and investment grade audits have been undertaken. Starting in 2021, the energy management team will examine the feasibility of a new EPC to cover libraries and depots, building on the learnings of the 1st EPC.

The Housing & Community Department replaced 354 boilers in 2019 and 274 to date in 2020 and provided these properties with upgraded heating controls. All social housing stock as of 31/12/15 are now insulated, and all buy-ins and long-term leases since that date have been provided with attic insulation with a programme for cavity wall



insulation, as necessary, under development. Single glazed window replacement is 100% complete for council owned social housing stock and acquisitions. On average 85% of stock has benefited from a Building Energy Rating uplift under the Energy Efficiency Retrofitting Programme funded by the Department of Housing, Planning and Local Government.

FCC computers shut down automatically afterhours, and lighting in Fingal County Hall is under the control of localised motion detection.

Home Energy Saving Kits have been developed by Codema and are available across FCC's libraries for use by the public to check the energy efficiency in homes and to inform home energy efficiency improvements. 15 kits are available across FCC libraries.

Codema have lodged an expression of interest to the Government Climate Action Fund (CAF) on behalf of the 4 Dublin Local Authorities for grant funding for an Urban Solar Farm across suitable LA rooftops potentially piloting Photovoltaics with Green Roofs. If successful, this will include certain FCC libraries and community centres. If the CAF submission is unsuccessful FCC will begin installing Photovoltaic panels on suitable Council roofs where viable in 2021.



*Holymount Estate, Rathbeale Road, Swords. Completed in 2020, all 24 units have a BER rating of A2 and achieved NZEB standards.*

## **Transport:**

Transitioning towards more sustainable transport systems is one of the major challenges facing Irish society as approximately 20 per cent of Ireland's greenhouse gas emissions come from transport and it accounts for the largest share of energy-related CO<sub>2</sub> emissions (40% in 2018). Transport in Ireland remains almost entirely dependent on fossil fuels; and private cars are responsible for the largest share of transport emissions at 40%, followed by aviation at 22%.

Fingal is the fastest growing region in Ireland and the Council is planning for the future by promoting the integration of transport and land use planning, through the Development Plan strategy and policies; with a focus on compact growth and infill development served by high quality public transport.

FCC is working with the National Transport Authority (NTA) & Transport Infrastructure Ireland (TII) to deliver BusConnects and Metrolink. FCC engages with the NTA and TII on public transport routes, reserves planned routes free from development, and allows high-density development along existing and planned public transport corridors. FCC also engages with TII on issues such as station design, route alignment, station integration with the surrounding environment, and environmental assessment. The TII expect to lodge the railway order for MetroLink mid-2021, with construction to commence in 2022 and the system operational in 2027. In advance of MetroLink commencing, FCC is upgrading and improving road junctions and pedestrian and cycle facilities, for example, it is proposed to upgrade the R132 roundabouts in Swords. Swords Masterplans have been developed and agreed in 2019. These plans set the vision for parcels of land located along the MetroLink route.

FCC is working to increase and improve the provision of active travel infrastructure across the county, to encourage the uptake of walking and cycling, through schemes which improve the safety

of pedestrians and cyclists, and by developing new improved infrastructural links. A number of projects incorporating high quality walking and cycling infrastructure are at various stages of design, planning and construction. The Harry Reynolds Road Cycle Route and the Royal Canal Urban Greenway are at preliminary design stage, Fingal Coastal Way is at route selection stage of prelim design. The Broadmeadow Way was granted planning approval in May 2020. The Sutton to Malahide Greenway is underway with the Baldoyle to Portmarnock section officially opened this year, (the main section is at preliminary design stage). The Donabate Distributor Road was also opened this year and includes footpaths and off-road cycle facilities. The Fingal Coastal way will be a 32km high-quality walking and cycling route stretching from Newbridge Demesne in Donabate to the county boundary, north of Balbriggan. It will link to the Broadmeadow Way - a 6km off-road cycling and walking route linking Malahide and Donabate across the scenic Broadmeadow Estuary. The Broadmeadow Way will link to the Sutton to Malahide Greenway.

FCC will commence the roll out of a programme of works in Q4 2020 aimed at improving the safety of pedestrian and cycling infrastructure across the county. 11 schemes have been identified and NTA Stimulus funding allocated. The schemes will include segregation, junction improvements and traffic calming measures which will give priority to pedestrians and cyclists. The first scheme to commence will be in Dublin 15 with the creation of a 2.5km segregated cycle track along Hartstown / Hunstown Road.

The number of bicycle stands provided at key locations across the county is increasing steadily. FCC's Operations Department have trailed "School streets" and "Gearing up for training" initiatives and have also offered bicycle stands to FCC schools free of charge (approx. 40 schools have availed of this offer). School streets initiative has been shortlisted by Chambers Ireland for the Excellence in Local Government Awards 2020. Bleeperbike

bike sharing scheme was piloted in Blanchardstown in 2018 and expanded to Swords, Malahide and Howth in 2019. There has been a significant increase in Bleeperbike usage throughout the COVID-19 pandemic. Bleeperbike report that monthly bike rides from April – September were approximately 4 times the number to March 2020.

The ESB have led in the provision of public electric vehicle (EV) chargers in the Dublin region to date and maintain a map of public EV chargers at <https://esb.ie/ecars/charge-point-map>. FCC have installed 6 public EV chargers to date in Blanchardstown, Howth, Skerries and Swords. FCC in collaboration with CARO, the DLA and Smart Dublin through the Dublin Regional EV Charge Point Strategy Group and CCMA EV Working Group, are considering appropriate funding models, locations, timing of phased installations, and management and maintenance contracts; considering a Dublin wide roll out of the recommended model by local authorities.

FCC is transitioning to an EV fleet and currently has 28 fully electric road vehicles, out of a fleet of 190, with 15 more on order. The EV ratio will increase steadily as most end of life vehicles will be replaced with EV where viable. EV charge points have been provided in staff carparks and in depots for operational vehicles. FCC is developing mobility hubs at Swords County Hall and Blanchardstown offices, and electric bicycles and an EV will be provided for staff to use to travel to in person, meetings and site visits. FCC have accelerated the role out of Office 365 across the organisation in response to the COVID-19 pandemic and its impact on working arrangements. Staff are now meeting virtually using Microsoft teams and this will have a lasting impact on reduced the need to travel to meetings.

The sum of these actions will encourage a modal shift away from private cars to more sustainable alternatives. This will ultimately result in a reduction in the number of journeys taken by car,

taking cars off the roads, reducing congestion and emissions across the County.



*FCC Chief Executive AnnMarie Farrelly, David Storey Director of Services Environment Climate Action and Active Travel Department, and FCC Mayor David Healy promoting active travel.*

### **Flood Resilience:**

FCC is active across all aspects of flood risk management, from prevention to emergency response, through to infrastructural investment following extreme weather events. This includes actions that consider flood risks arising from climate change through development policies, collaboration with the OPW on flood defence projects, own delivery of minor flood defence projects, use of nature-based solutions to manage flood risks, activation of flood emergency response plans; and rebuilding infrastructure in the aftermath of extreme weather events.

The Office of Public Works (OPW) is the lead state agency in relation to flood risk management in Ireland and has a coordination role across Government and chairs the interdepartmental flood policy group. A new National Coastal Change

Strategy Steering Group has also recently been set up to consider the development of an integrated, whole of Government coastal change strategy and report to Government within 6 months. FCC are represented on a technical sup group to this new national group. Local Authorities retain a Planning & Development Management function in relation to flood risk management and also have a flood emergency response role.

An Options Report for the Coastal Protection of Portrane, Rush & Rogerstown outer estuary has been completed by RPS Consulting Engineers and the preferred option was communicated to the community in September 2020 through a series of virtual information meetings. The installation of specially designed Y-shaped groynes structures combined with beach supplementation and flood embankments at the Burrow and a floodwall in Rush are considered the preferred coastal defence options. RPS consultants will now progress the Environmental Impact Assessment and Appropriate Assessment reports for this project and progress the planning documentation for submission to An Bord Pleanála in summer 2021.

Strategic flood risk assessments are undertaken by consultants managed by FCC Forward Planning division on an ongoing basis. 20 surface water management plans have been progressed for various Local Area Plans (LAPs), Masterplans and other study areas within the County since 2018.

Nature-based solutions such as integrated wetlands, green infrastructure and Sustainable urban Drainage Systems (SuDS), are being considered in response to flood risk. Measures that include nature can have multiple benefits beyond flood defence, such as providing new spaces for recreation and habitats for wildlife.

Planning & Strategic Infrastructure Department have, through a multidisciplinary team effort, drafted a Green / Blue Infrastructure (SuDS) Policy Document. The Policy is aimed at providing advice and guidance with regard to SuDS design, 'Taking

in charge' and maintenance requirements, to prospective planning applicants.

Planning & Strategic Infrastructure Department are also working to develop a case study of SuDS best practice at LAP level, through the development of Barnhill LAP. The LAP will include a variety of SuDS measures including planter gardens, downpipe planter gardens, swales, wetlands, using SUDS features as an artistic/public realm features through the "percent for Art" scheme. Also proposed are metrics for measuring effectiveness of implemented SUDS systems.

Climate change risk assessments of FCC's cultural heritage sites will commence this year. This project will map architectural and archaeological heritage sites across the county and risk assess the sites for impacts of climate change, informing follow-on monitoring programmes.

#### **Nature Based Solutions:**

Fingal is fortunate to have an abundance of high quality public open spaces. Ardgillan Demesne, Malahide Demesne, Millennium Park, Newbridge House & Farm, Santry Demesne, St Catherine's Park, and the Rock Garden Swords, all received green flags awards as sustainable green spaces in 2020. FCC is responsible for approximately 2,000 hectares of open space and manages these areas in a sustainable manner to ensure that future generations can enjoy the benefits of these amenities in terms of recreation, health and wellbeing. The acreage of wildflower meadows and long grasses in parks, open spaces and on roadside margins is increasing steadily, with an approximate increase of 10 hectares per year over the last 4 years.

FCC is currently drafting a revised Tree Strategy. The vision is to protect and enhance Fingal's trees, to maximise both the benefits they offer and the character they bring to the county, to ensure a greener and healthier Fingal for now and future generations. Woodland creation is part of a proposed targeted strategic annual tree planting

programme. This involves identifying and mapping priority locations within FCC's landbank suitable for woodland creation and expansion. The draft Tree Strategy has been presented to the Climate Action, Biodiversity, Environment Strategic Policy Committee in Sept 2020 and non-statutory consultative process will begin in Q4 2020. FCC is also represented on a new National working group led by the CARO to develop guidance on tree planting on LA lands.

Consultation for a new FCC Biodiversity Action Plan has started. The Plan will focus on the delivery of a climate change resilient ecological network throughout the county and will also identify strategic wildlife corridors and estuary sites where there is potential to make space for (flood) water through green infrastructure.

An internal working group has been established to identify sites where there may be an opportunity to retrofit green infrastructure to regional parks and estates. This working group consists of staff from Planning & Strategic Infrastructure, Operations and Environment Departments. The green infrastructure could potentially include tree pits, rain gardens, swales & ponds and could provide multiple benefits including water quality & water attenuation benefits, carbon sequestration, and new and improved habitats for wildlife. This work may inform future work programmes.

FCC provides and supports the use of allotments as a way by which communities can grow their own food, and reduce food waste. There are 800 allotments provided across four sites in the County.

Community support through the Tidy Towns programme, and through grant programmes is also ongoing, with an increasing focus on Biodiversity awareness. Numerous community initiatives supporting biodiversity and tree planting have been supported. Biodiversity awareness, including the "Bee positive" biodiversity social media, cinema and bus shelter advertising campaigns undertaken in 2020.

The Gardening for Biodiversity booklet has been produced by the Local Authority Heritage Officer Network to aid citizens in understanding, enhancing and improving wildlife in their own outdoor spaces. Author Juantia Browne gives practical advice on turning gardens into havens for wildlife. Its freely available to download at: <https://www.fingal.ie/gardening-biodiversity-create-haven-wildlife>



*FCC's gold medal winning Bee Positive Garden at Bloom 2019. The pollinator friendly theme reflected FCC's commitment as a Pollinator partner in the All Ireland Pollinator Plan.*

### **Resource Management:**

Ireland's National Waste Policy 2020 – 2025 was published in September 2020 and provides a roadmap to transition to a circular economy in the decade ahead. The plan includes the introduction of a deposit and return scheme for plastic bottles and cans, a ban on certain single use plastics from July 2021, a levy on disposable cups, a waste recovery levy to encourage recycling, and aims at ensuring all packaging is reusable or recyclable by 2030. This new policy will enable society to move

beyond a position of merely managing waste, to reducing waste generation and how we extend the productive life of the goods and products that we use.

FCC operates approximately 60 accessible bring centres (bottle banks), and 2 recycling centres for public use. The range of materials accepted has been expanded and bring centres have been exceptionally busy throughout the COVID-19 pandemic with tonnages equalling the Christmas peaks for bottle banks.

FCC's Play it Again Musical Instruments Project has been shortlisted by Chambers Ireland for the Excellence in Local Government Awards 2020. The initiative brings musical instruments which are delivered to recycling centres back to life and distributes them to community groups.

The public are increasingly informed in relation to the climate action challenges facing society and the leadership Fingal is taking in collaboration with the Dublin local authorities through the sum of our actions.

Climate change and environmental awareness campaigns have been implemented including workshops with transition year students, and through CARO with An Taisce Green Schools - both utilising the CCAP as a resource for teachers. Also, through presentations to schools, community groups and the public at FCC libraries, and through awareness tents at Flavours of Fingal and Zeminar, greening of competitions, cinema and bus shelter advert campaigns; along with a sustained social media campaign - including Bee Positive animated video highlighting the importance of Bees and relve fashion competition.

FCC's stop food waste master composter programme is ongoing – 11 community groups across Fingal were engaged this year and several composting projects undertaken.

A number of grant programmes increasingly have a Climate Action, Biodiversity and Sustainable

awareness focus, including Community Environment Fund and Anti-Litter & Anti-Graffiti Fund which are administered by FCC Environmental Department.

FCC's GAA club sustainability competition was held in 2019 and extended to soccer and rugby clubs in 2020. Clubs were encouraged to identify and commit to introducing three environmentally sustainable actions into their clubs; and guidance and support provided by our environmental awareness officer. FCC will also work with the Dublin CARO on the roll out of the new GAA Green Clubs programme.

FCC's Environmental Awareness Officer supported 23 schools in the county with applications and the roll-out of actions for An Taisce Green Flag Awards. The Officer is also providing on-going support to all other green schools in the implementation of their actions. The list of schools awarded flags is given at: <https://www.fingal.ie/green-schools>.

A network of public drinking water fountains is being established to help reduce plastic waste. Contactless drinking water fountains will be installed in the following regional parks in Q4 2020 - Newbridge Demesne, Santry Demesne, Ward River Valley, St. Catherines Park, Millennium Park, Hartstown Park, Ardgillan Demesne, and Malahide Demesne.

All FCC staff have been given a reusable cup. Recycling bins and signage are maintained throughout council offices. All single use items have been removed from Council canteens and managed print using recycled paper is in place.

FCC is increasingly implementing green procurement, where feasible, and has started with office consumables. All office equipment including stationary, print equipment etc is procured through the Office of Government Procurements' green office consumables contract list. FCC's events team are increasingly incorporating green procurement in Council supported events. Vendors are asked to minimise single use plastics

and use bio degradable serving products. FCC's Central Procurement Unit is investigating incorporation of green principles in major procurement processes and evaluation criteria.

FCC's social housing tenant induction programme has been expanded to include information and advice regarding environmental awareness, waste management and energy conservation. 265 households attended tenant inductions in 2019, and 220 in 2020 to date.

The CARO's will be rolling out a national programme of Climate Action Training for local authority staff at all levels and elected representatives in 2021 (see CARO update section of this report). The purpose of this training is to raise awareness of climate action across all sections of the local authority and to build capacity and knowledge within the sector.



*FCC Mayor David Healy testing Contactless Water Bottle Filling Station*

## Environmental Awareness

An environmental awareness presentation for Social Inclusion Week was engaging and well attended.

Thirty guitars have been refurbished recently as part of the Fingal Instrument Project. These will be given to people who will benefit from having an instrument.

As well as providing litter picking equipment to community groups, a number of Fingal schools are now organising litter picks as part of outdoor activities. The Council is facilitating schools by providing litter kit.

Four schools in Fingal have submitted entries for the ReLove Fashion Competition.

A free online Biodiversity Sustainable Gardening Course was offered to members of the public.

## Circular Economy

The annual report from Plastic Free Foundation has been released and details findings from around the world following the "Plastic Free July" campaign

In 2020 an estimated 326 million participants adopted new waste avoidance behaviours, saving hundreds of millions of kilograms of waste and resources. We asked participants 'What was the biggest change that you made this year?'. Examples of popular responses were:

- switching to bar soap and shampoo
- making my own nut milk
- learnt to make bread
- growing my own food
- organised a zero waste festival
- switching to reusable nappies
- became the recycling coordinator at work
- going back to Tupperware instead of freezer bags
- speaking out to retailers offering plastic bags and packaged products

- using a reusable face mask

For further details on the report see:

<https://www.plasticfreejuly.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/11/PFF-Impact-Report-2020-screen-1.pdf>

## Bring Centres

Fingal has a network of 57 Bring Centres spread throughout the county. 2020 saw a significant increase the tons of glass bottles collected.

The total tonnages collected per month under both contracts for 2020 are as follows: -

2020	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov
Tons	486	363	535	645	704	683	599	535	545	536	476

The overall tons of glass bottles collected in 2020 is greater than all previous years. Normally there are several peaks throughout the year which occur as would be expected around festivals i.e., Christmas, St Patrick's Day and the mid-summer holidays. 2020 saw a change in the traditional trend starting in March and continuing throughout the first lockdown. The tons of glass bottles collected from March through to September are significantly above previous years. The current rate is still above average but is settling down and stabilising. The busiest bring centre for bottle glass collection in Fingal is Watery Lane in Swords.

## Litter Management

From the 1<sup>st</sup> January 2020 to 30<sup>th</sup> November 2020 a total of 466 Litter Fines were issued under various sections of the Litter Pollutions Act, 1997. A total of 111 Warning Notices were issued. There were 31 court prosecutions instigated and 5 convictions. Work continues to prepare prosecution cases for submission to court before year end. Work on the county litter quantification surveys has been completed and results have been entered on the national database. The results will form part of the government litter report in 2021.

## Water Quality Protection

Ireland's Environment - An Integrated Assessment 2020 report provides an assessment of the overall quality of Ireland's environment; the pressures being placed on it and the societal responses to current and emerging environmental issues. See report [here](http://www.epa.ie/ebooks/soe2020/2/); <http://www.epa.ie/ebooks/soe2020/2/>

Overall, the quality of Ireland's surface water resources - rivers, lakes, estuaries and nearshore coastal waters is under severe pressure due to human activities.

Extremes in water temperatures and flows caused by more extreme weather as a result of climate change are likely to exacerbate the damage caused by underlying water pollution, the report says.

*Almost half of the surface water bodies in Ireland are failing to meet the water quality objectives set by the EU water framework directive, due to pollution and other human disturbances.*

The number of the most pristine rivers has also fallen from over 500 to just 20 over a 30-year period.

Groundwater, which is the source of drinking water for around one-quarter of people in Ireland, is described as being of good quality in general.

The top three big pressures on the health and quality of water in Ireland are:

- Agriculture
- Hydromorphology(physical changes)
- Urban wastewater

Some good news is the improvement in biological status in river bodies coinciding with the current cycle river basin management plans where an integrated approach was adopted to addressing issues to "At Risk" water bodies.

## Waste Enforcement

### Waste Collection Permits

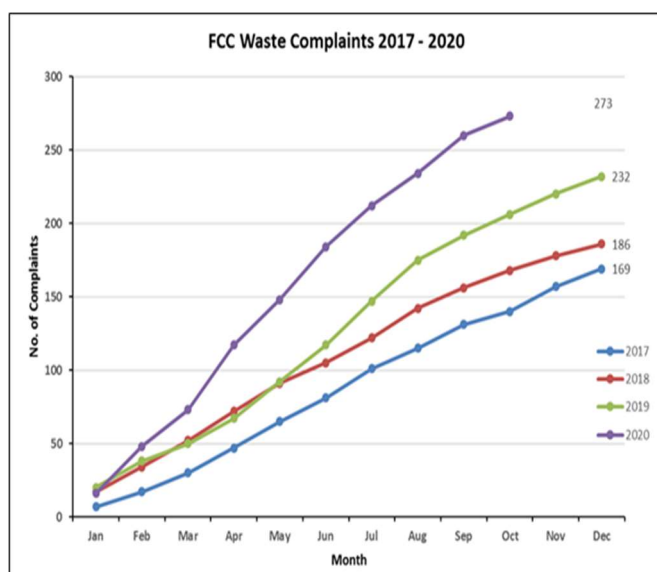
A total of 121 waste collection permit Annual Returns have been assessed by enforcement officers over the past few months. Each year annual returns are submitted to the National Waste Collection Permit Office with Local Authorities tasked with reviewing and validating the waste information provided. Permit holders are required to submit an Annual Return where they collected / processed waste in the reporting period. The desktop validation process is used to identify operators for site audit and to highlight unauthorised activities. Poor document management and reporting by operators is also examined which is crucial to providing a high quality waste dataset for local, regional and national reporting requirements. Significant follow up is required on a case by case basis with compliance inspections forming part of the process to ensure that permit conditions are adhered to and regulations followed.





## Waste Complaints

Complaints in relation to household waste and illegal dumping continue to be a serious issue within Fingal. 65% of all complaints received to date during 2020 relate to backyard storage and burning of waste while a further 20% relate to fly-tipping and illegal dumping. At present 1/3 of waste enforcement resources are focused on dealing with complaints. A significant increase in the number of complaints received has been noted since Covid restrictions were first introduced back in March i.e. a 65% increase YTD on 3 year average (2017 - 2019). A typical waste related complaint can take up to 1.5 days to investigate and fully close out.



## Producer Responsibility Initiative

40 Inspections have been carried out at retailers to check compliance with the European Union (Waste Electrical and Electronic Equipment) Regulations 2014 and the European Union (Batteries and Accumulators) Regulations 2014. WEEE is one of the fastest growing waste streams in the developed world. Previously a lot of WEEE was thrown into the bin and disposed of in landfill. Improved regulation around the collection,

recycling and disposal of WEEE has greatly improved the management of WEEE and inspection of retailers ensures that compliance rates remains high. Batteries can contain heavy metals (mercury, cadmium, lead), which are the main cause for environmental concern. If waste batteries are not disposed of correctly, heavy metals may leak when the battery corrodes, and so can contribute to soil and water pollution and endanger human health.



A total of 20 inspections in relation to tyres and hazardous waste have been carried out at commercial/industrial premises to ensure proper waste management and disposal methods are in place and accurate records are maintained. Garages are required to join a compliance scheme, Repak ELT (End of Life Tyres), to ensure that all tyres are accounted for and managed in a safe and sustainable manner. The management of waste oils are also assessed as part of these inspections with follow up visits to confirm that correct procedures are in place and authorised collectors and permitted facilities used for removal and disposal of these waste materials.



Packaging inspections of businesses are ongoing. Under the European Union (Packaging) Regulations 2014, Suspected Major Producers (producers who supply more than 10 tonnes of packaging to the Irish Market and have an annual turnover in excess of €1 million) can join Repak or register with a Local Authority and self-comply with the Regulations. At present there are 20 businesses registered in Fingal as self-compliers under the Packaging Regulations. Quarterly packaging reports are submitted for review and validation to ensure businesses are compliant with take-back obligations and achieving the required recycling and recovery targets on packaging. 36 inspections have been planned to verify information provided and to ensure that signage and take back facilities are appropriate.

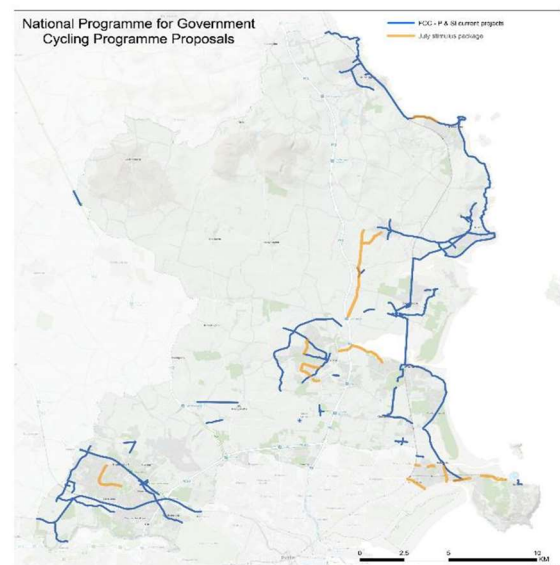
## Landfill Aftercare

### Balleally Landfill/Rogerstown Park (Páirc Roiseir)

The extending of public access in early November to a second route in Rogerstown Park (Balleally closed landfill) has been welcomed by many as numbers of visitors grow week on week. The mid-path route opens up spectacular new panoramas as can be seen in the photo of the estuary below



## Active Travel



# Fingal Capital Programme 2020-2022

## July Stimulus (Ops)

- €4m over 4 months
- 11 schemes, short-term implementation
- 35km total

The first of these projects is the Hartstown/Huntstown Road. This project was designed by the NTA's Cycle Design Office (CDO) in conjunction with FCC and works commenced on October 12<sup>th</sup> 2020 by GMC.

The cycle segregation will take the form of an extruded concrete kerb on the line of the existing cycle lanes.

It is intended to follow shortly after this project with the Swords Rivalley/Rathingle Road and St Cronan's (Ardcian) Road. Design is currently in progress with the contractor having carried out the surveys of the existing carriageway.

Design is currently underway for the R132 Ministers Road to Blakes Cross, and for Seatown Roundabout to Estuary Road by Aecom; and for Skerries Coast Road by Arup.

Topographical survey works have also commenced on the Baldoyle and Howth protected cycle schemes.

### Hartstown/Huntstown Road.

**Hartstown Road Protected Cycle Lanes**

**What is proposed?**  
Upgrading the existing cycle lanes on Hartstown Road and Mountview Road by providing a new kerb to protect cyclists from vehicular traffic.

**Why?**  
Now more than ever, we need more people to choose cycling and walking for local and commuting trips.  
Cycle tracks physically separated from traffic and pedestrians by kerbs is what people want to encourage them to cycle more and  
Recent surveys show 77% of residents in Fingal support building more protected on-road cycle lanes even if means less room for other road traffic.

**Scheme Benefits**

- Safer cycle facilities linking the area to schools and workplaces
- Safer pedestrian environment
- Improved air quality, reduced traffic speeds and associated noise
- Quick, efficient construction

**Where is the scheme?**  
Protected cycle facilities on both sides of Hartstown Road, Mountview Road and Huntstown Way from Blanchardstown Road South Junction to Huntstown Way/Blanchardstown Road Junction - a distance of 3.6 kilometres.

**How will it be built?**  
A raised concrete separator kerb will be installed between the traffic lanes and cycle lane on both sides of the carriageway.  
The kerbs will be dropped to carriageway level to allow for access to side roads, bus stops, and for drainage and during and after construction, access will be maintained to all properties and residences along the route.

**Commencement Date**  
Works will commence on the 12th of October 2020 for a period of 8 weeks.

**NTA**  
Óráidín Ní Shúilleabháin, Ceannairdín  
Táirgíocht, Seirbhísí agus Tacaíocht

GMC Utilities Ltd. were appointed by Fingal County Council (FCC) as Contractor for the Hartstown/Huntstown/Mountview Road scheme. The works extend from Blanchardstown Rd South / Mountview Rd junction to Huntstown Way/Blakestown Road junction. Works commenced on the 12th Of October 2020. Construction – Site progress

- 580m of extruded kerb installed. (CH 3240 to CH 2380)
- 58 no cycle friendly gullies installed throughout the scheme extents. (136 to be installed in total).
- 1 no chamber raised on Blanchardstown Rd / Mountview Rd. (CH 3190)
- All northbound carriageway resurfaced. (CH 0 to CH 3240)
- Southbound carriageway resurfacing to commence on the 2nd November 2020 (CH 0 to CH 3240)

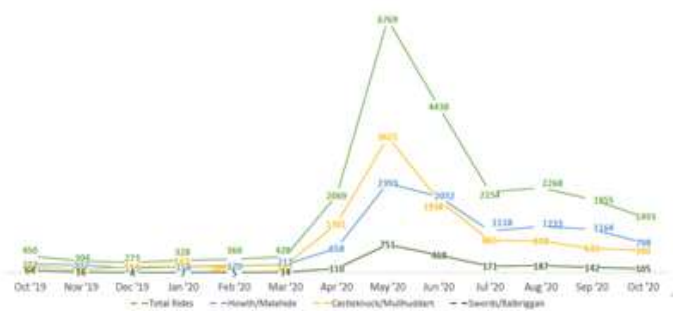
- Works to footways for the extents of the route completed by 30<sup>th</sup> October: footpaths and pavement breakout and reinstatement, top-soiling, new kerb upstands, crossings upgrades/repairs and tactile paving all completed.
- Rubber island kerbs (at speed cushions) removed for extents of scheme 24no
- Temporary keep right bollards installed across extents of scheme adjacent to speed cushions to replace island kerb units until extruded cycle lane kerb is installed.
- Excavated and reinstated concrete c/way at Willow Wood Downs junction to address drainage/ponding issue.
- Traffic management - Typically working in 300m sections.



### Bleeper Bike Share Scheme –

Bleperbike rides have decreased from 1955 in September to 1493 in October. Usage has reduced by 462 rides in the last month. However, this month's figures are still more than 14 times higher than usage of the same time last year which highlights the popularity of the bike share scheme. Fridays were the most popular day for Bleper with 18.28% of the total week's usage, followed by Saturday & Sunday which both account for 17.34% of rides. Bleper had 62 bikes operating in Fingal during October, 4 less than September.

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



Congratulations!

## BLEEPERbikers in Fingal

you travelled **4,013,253 metres**

IN THE MONTH OF OCTOBER

you saved **1,315,083 (g) carbon emissions**

you burned **1,095,899 calories**

- In October Bleper accumulated:
- 4,014,253 metres
  - 1,315,083 (g) of carbon emissions saved
  - 1,095,899 calories burned

### **Bike Racks**

Bike racks continue to be installed throughout the county and have recently been installed in Rivervalley Park beside the Covid station. It is hoped that this will encourage the children who took part in the "Gearing up for Training" programme to continue to cycle to training and home games rather than being driven.



### **Bike Racks for Schools initiative**

Schools have been invited to apply for bike racks by completing the online application form and submitting it to [Road.Safety@Fingal.ie](mailto:Road.Safety@Fingal.ie).

Bike racks have been delivered to Castleknock Educate Together and we expect to deliver to Hansfield Educate Together and Scoil Olibheir in

the coming weeks. Additional bike racks have been procured from Castit Ltd and BA Steel to meet the high demand of requests received. Bike racks will be funded by the NTA.



**Toast racks that will be gifted to schools who apply for "Bike Racks for Schools"**

### **School Wardens**

School Wardens continue to work during level 5 restrictions as schools remain open. Health and Safety are carrying out Covid 19 compliance checks at warden crossings and return their findings to the Road Safety Section.

Following road safety concerns and requests from parents, Councillors and the principal at Scoil Choilm, an additional school warden has been placed on the Diswellstown Road. This will be reviewed at the end of the school year.

### **Cycle Training**

Cycle training was provided to schools by the Cycle Right approved Irish Centre for Cycling and Dr. Bike prior to level 5 restrictions.

- 36 pupils at Powerstown Educate Together
- 27 pupils at St. Andrews NS
- 54 pupils at Donabate/Portrane Educate Together



## FINANCE

Contents
Financial Reports

### Finance

#### Financial Reports

Refer to Appendix 1 for the following reports:-

- Revenue Account Income & expenditure to 31<sup>st</sup> October, 2020
- Capital Account Income & Expenditure to 31<sup>st</sup> October, 2020
- Summary of Corporate Debtors to 31<sup>st</sup> October, 2020

## APPENDIX 1

### REVENUE ACCOUNT INCOME & EXPENDITURE SUMMARY BY SERVICE DIVISION AT 31ST OCTOBER 2020

	EXPENDITURE			INCOME			NET	Notes
	Expenditure €	Adopted Full Year Budget €	% Budget Spent to date	Income €	Adopted Full year Budget €	% Budget Raised	€	
Housing & Building	49,036,723	64,668,499	76%	53,188,604	67,692,700	79%	-4,151,881	
Road Transport & Safety	19,614,116	23,627,200	83%	5,761,183	6,609,400	87%	13,852,933	
Water Services	14,671,753	13,535,000	108%	14,502,727	17,109,500	85%	169,025	
Development Management	35,615,462	15,538,700	229%	29,839,847	4,285,700	696%	5,775,614	1
Environmental Services	36,123,616	42,952,600	84%	6,027,612	6,679,000	90%	30,096,004	
Recreation & Amenity	27,824,525	34,225,501	81%	1,159,370	1,691,300	69%	26,665,155	
Agriculture, Education, Health & Welfare	628,387	900,300	70%	207,608	210,100	99%	420,779	
Miscellaneous Services	73,833,036	29,041,500	254%	54,281,783	6,282,400	864%	19,551,253	2
Central Management Charge	35,719,169	45,480,800	79%	2,398,946	3,031,800	79%	33,320,223	
Local Property Tax / GPG				6,273,750	7,528,500	83%	-6,273,750	
Rates				124,041,417	148,849,700	83%	-124,041,417	
	<b>293,066,787</b>	<b>269,970,099</b>	<b>109%</b>	<b>297,682,847</b>	<b>269,970,099</b>	<b>110%</b>	<b>-4,616,060</b>	

Notes

(1) Increase due to the Restart Grant. (2) Increase due to the Rates Wavier.

## CAPITAL ACCOUNT

		Balance at 01/01/2020 €	Expenditure YTD €	Income YTD €	Balance at 31/10/2020 €
A	Housing & Building	-36,816,097	81,726,268	-62,636,574	-17,726,403
B	Road Transport & Safety	23,162,527	27,122,719	-10,480,204	39,805,042
C	Water Services	-14,803,701	1,142,077	282,940	-13,378,684
D	Development Managemer	-109,842,777	11,515,986	-7,437,660	-105,764,451
E	Environmental Services	-12,699,108	6,331,173	-5,391,418	-11,759,353
F	Recreation & Amenity	-1,575,613	9,776,546	-7,828,920	372,013
H	Miscellaneous Services	-43,171,040	4,152,175	-28,103,255	-67,122,120
	<b>Total</b>	<b>-195,745,809</b>	<b>141,766,944</b>	<b>-121,595,091</b>	<b>-175,573,956</b>



<b>SUMMARY OF CORPORATE DEBTORS TO 31/10/20</b>				
	<b>Balance at 01/01/2020</b>	<b>Balance at 31/10/20</b>	<b>Current debt</b>	<b>&gt; 1 Year</b>
	<b>€</b>	<b>€</b>	<b>€</b>	<b>€</b>
<b>RATES</b>	4,906,810	12,323,240	10,661,535	1,661,705
<b>LOANS</b>	1,363,067	1,610,501	333,162	1,277,339
<b>RENTS</b>	5,100,489	6,460,832	3,397,788	3,063,044

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