

Comhairle Contae Fhine Gall
Fingal County Council



Chief Executive's Management Report

8th of February, 2021

Item 32

CHIEF EXECUTIVE'S MANAGEMENT REPORT – FEBRUARY 2021

Contents		Page No.
<u>Chief Executive Foreword</u>	2	<u>Planning and Strategic Infrastructure</u> 34 to 37
<u>HR, Corporate & Governance</u>	3 to 7	Planning Applications Planning Decisions Building Control Admin Forward Planning Kellystown Local Area Plan Development Management/Forward Planning (Water Services) Building Control/Taking in Charge Transportation Planning Donabate Pedestrian Bridge Church Fields Link Road
Major Emergency Management Human Resources Health and Safety Unit Customer Services CRM Information Technology Communications		
<u>Economic, Enterprise, Tourism & Cultural Development</u>	8 to 21	<u>Housing and Community Development</u> 38 to 52
Tourism Development		Housing (P38-45)
Events		Supply
Tourism		Asset Management
Heritage Properties		Support
		Tenancy Services
Cultural Development		Community Development (P46-52)
Arts		Community Development Office
Libraries		Strategic Unit
		Fingal Comhairle na nÓg
Economic Development		Community Facilities Unit
Balbriggan Socio-Economic Strategy		Age Friendly Fingal
LEADER Programme		Sports Section
Local Community Development Committee		
Enterprise Centres		
Local Enterprise Development		
<u>Operations & Water Services</u>	22 to 33	<u>Environment, Climate Action & Active Travel</u> 53 to 59
Works Programme		Climate Action
Fleet Management & Plant Hire Unit		Environmental Awareness
Street Lighting LED Programme		Bring Centres
Recycling Centre Update		Water Quality Protection
Traffic Operations County-wide		Landfill Aftercare
Road Opening Licences		Litter Management
Bridge Rehabilitation		Animal Welfare Services
		Waste Enforcement
Water Services		Flood Schemes
		Active Travel
		Finance 60
		Rates Waiver Scheme for first quarter of 2021
		Making of the Rate
		Financial Reports

Chief Executive's Foreword

I hope this report finds you all in good health as we navigate through another month in Level 5. On a positive note our staffing levels are good which is testament to the robust measures which were put in place early on in this pandemic by our building facilities team and Health & Safety Unit to ensure our places of work are safe where it is essential for staff to attend and the comprehensive roll out of laptops and MS Teams by our IT department has facilitated up to 90% of office staff working remotely at any given time. This will stand us in good stead to meet objective's set out in the Government's National Remote Work Strategy.

On the ground our Operational and Water crews continue to provide essential services in accordance with the restrictions in place and in line with public health guidelines. Our public open spaces, parks and streets are a priority as we plan around our essential works. Delays to the 2020/2021 Winter Works Programme will be kept under review with preparations in place for works delayed to resume as soon as restrictions are lifted. Our Emergency crews are prepared and ready to address the forthcoming bad weather forecast for next week. Plans are underway for the forthcoming summer holiday period as the public seek alternatives to travelling and stay local.

The following capital projects have ceased in line with new health regulations which were issued by the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage and came into effect on the 8th of January-

- Broadmeadow – NTA grant
- Snugborough – FCC and NTA grant
- Bremore Castle Restoration
- Skerries Playground Development
- Shackleton's Gardens Restoration
- The Green Malahide / Minor Defects Resolution
- Band Stand/Quay Street Playgrounds

Balbriggan / Defects Resolution

- Provision of Firebreaks on Howth Head
- Blanchardstown Library
- Stella's Castle
- St. Catherine's, Portrane

Capital projects deemed to be essential include –

- Hole in the Wall – LIHAF and FCC
- Donabate Distributor Road – LIHAF and FCC
- Park Road – FCC

Work has continued on 8 designated essential sites for social housing where works can be completed by the 28th of February 2021 and there is a further review underway having regard to the most recent public health regulations.

- Riverside Court, Old Corduff Road, Dublin 15
- Riverwood Square, Dublin 15
- Bellingsmore, Kilmartin, Dublin 15
- Drynam Heath, Feltrim
- Doulagh's Oaks, Carrs Lane, Balgriffin
- Stockhole Lane, Cloghran
- Charlestown Centre Phase 2B, Dublin 11
- Millers Glen, Oldtown, Swords

Work also continued on a number of active travel projects which were deemed essential. I am pleased to advise Sinéad Murphy has been appointed as Senior Engineer in the Active Travel Section with Colin Gallagher appointed as A/Senior Engineer in the Built Environment Division. 2021 is set to be a busy year with ambitious projects at various stages of planning and design. The Seniors group has been meeting weekly during level 5 restrictions and all line managers have been meeting with their teams regularly to ensure that we continue to deliver our capital and operational projects, that all essential services are delivered and we are ready to deliver and catch up on any delayed work programmes as soon as restrictions are eased.

AnnMarie Farrelly
Chief Executive

HR, CORPORATE AND GOVERNANCE

Contents	
Major Emergency Management Human Resources Health & Safety Unit Customer Services	CRM Information Technology Communications

Major Emergency Management

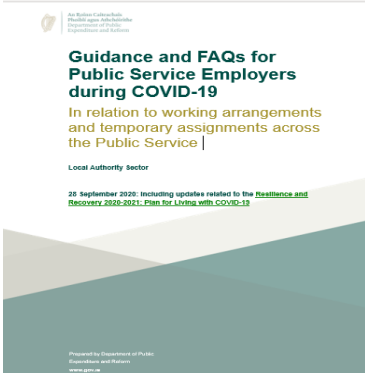


The **Major Emergency Planning** structures in place within the Council continue to provide the framework within which the Council's Departments adapt and update business continuity plans.

The **Major Emergency Eastern Region Steering Group**, chaired by the Chief Executive, held weekly meetings in January and will meet regularly in February in light of the Level 5 restrictions which remain in place until the 5th of March. 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 5 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 are continuing remotely.

The Council's Recruitment processes continued with virtual interviews in January and remote virtual interviews will continue for the foreseeable future.

Health & Safety Unit (HSU)

The HSU continued to monitor Covid-19 compliance during the month of January 2021 for FCC staff and contractors engaged in essential works. In addition incident investigation was carried out for recent accidents, safety statements reviewed, procedures prepared for evolving occupational safety and health situations and advice issued to staff. The HSU carried out testing of its new Share Point platform where it will migrate its safety management system and document control to. This online platform will replace the existing Grapevine page where staff currently draw down safety documents.

Customer Services

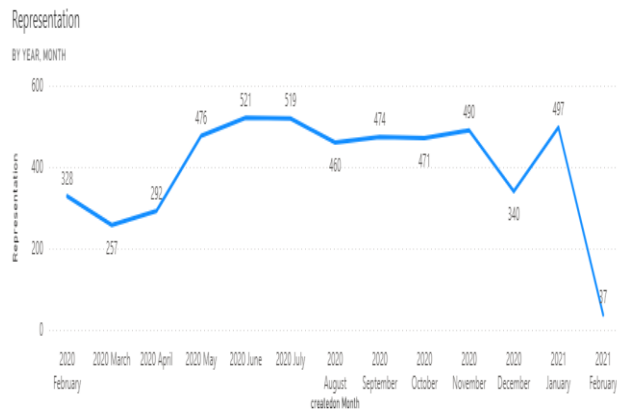
For the month of January, the Council's Customer Care Agents dealt with a total of

- 14,670 telephone calls
- 990 emails.

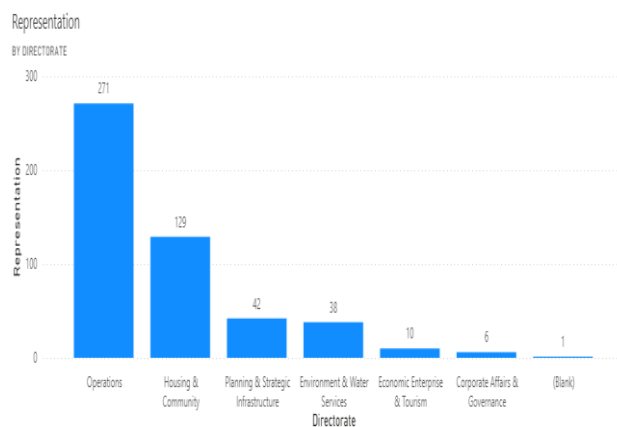
CRM

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 January had a total of 497 representations.



The table below shows the number of Councillor's representations assigned to each Department for the month of January 2021.



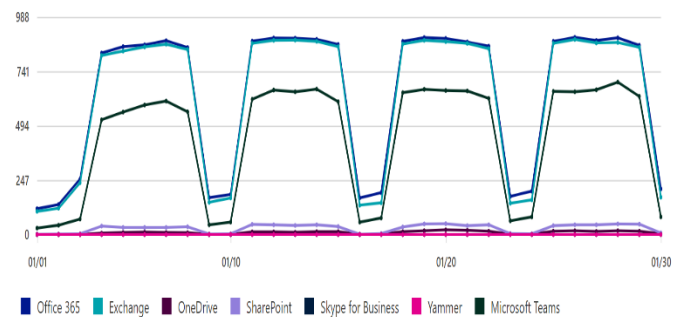
Information Technology

- Remote Working
- National Broadband Plan

Remote Working

There has been a significant increase in remote working during January, with 6,035 Teams meetings held during the month. Usage of the enabling Office365 technologies is now at the highest level since their introduction last year.

Active users



National Broadband Plan

National Broadband Ireland (NBI) are the company undertaking the fibre network roll-out to enable high speed internet connectivity for 544,000 premises across the country. NBI will attend Fingal County Council Area Committee Services B Meetings to provide an update on the National Broadband Plan as follows –



- 3rd February – Howth Malahide Area Committee
- 4th February – Blanchardstown-Mulhuddart/Castleknock/Ongar Area Committee
- 11th February – Balbriggan/Rush-Lusk/Swords Area Committee

Surveying and design work for the National Broadband Plan (NBP) rollout continues in Fingal from week commencing 25th of January. NBI would like the public to know that contractors will be on the ground inspecting and recording pictures of infrastructure such as poles, cables and

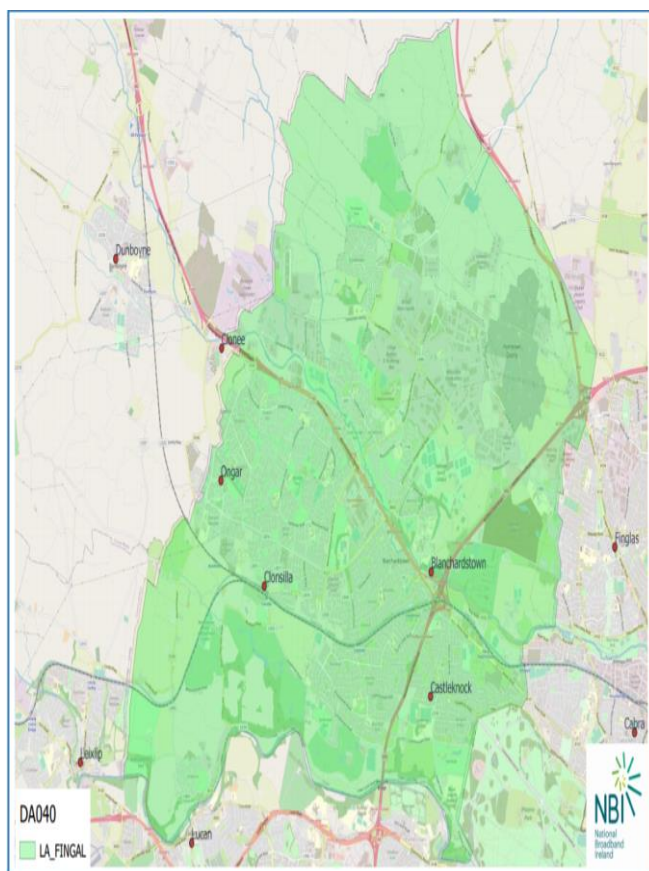
underground ducts. The teams have been fully trained in physical distancing practices, hygiene, appropriate use of personal protective equipment and how to engage with the public in a safe manner if and when required.

In Fingal, the surveys will be taking place in the following areas:

- Blanchardstown
- Castleknock
- Clonsilla
- Ongar

Actavo are the contracting company carrying out this work and they will have vehicles and signage with both their own and NBI logos. Employees will also wear hard hats and high visibility vests featuring the NBI logo. All contractors will also carry official ID cards & essential worker letters.

The NBI customer call centre number is 0818 624 624 (local call rate) or email contactus@nbi.ie for any queries. For further information on the NBP see www.nbi.ie.



COMMUNICATIONS

Podcasts

Episode 4 of Inside Fingal features an interview with Ronan O'Reilly, Climate Change Co-ordinator with Fingal County Council, on the Council's Climate Change Action Plan and how individuals can take their own steps to help tackle this global problem

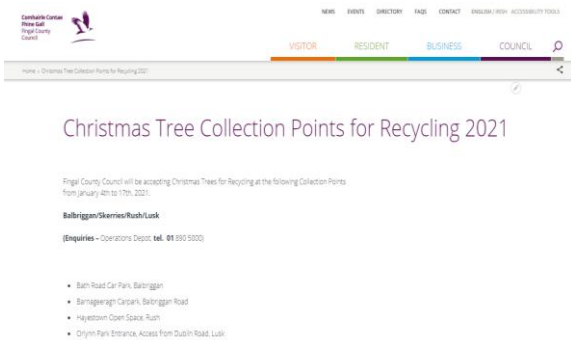


The Inside Fingal Podcast can be found on iTunes, Spotify, Stitcher, Castbox and Google Podcasts, as well as at www.fingal.ie/podcast.

Website

During the month of January, there were 208,900 site views with 74,300 unique visitors.

Among the most popular pages during the month were View/Search Planning Applications, Recycling Centres, Job Opportunities and Results, Weekly Planning List and Christmas Tree Recycling.



Social Media

January saw continued growth on our Twitter, Facebook and Instagram social media accounts.

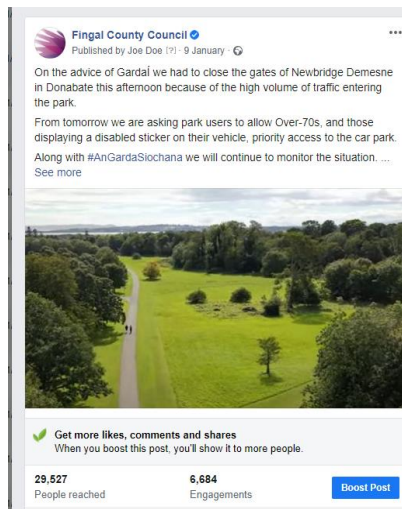
On Twitter, we now have 19,260 followers including 124 new followers. Our 274 posts received 1 million impressions, with a 1.1% engagement rate.

Our Top Tweet related to the closure of gates at Newbridge House on Garda advice due to large traffic volumes, receiving 22,222 impressions and 986 engagements.

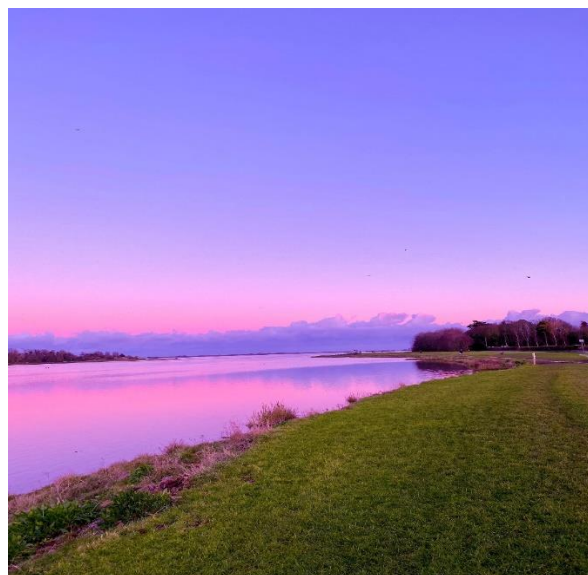


We now have 22,135 followers on Facebook and during the month of January our 268 posts had a reach of 785,729.

Our most popular post was also a post related to the closure of gates at Newbridge House on Garda advice due to large traffic volumes. It had a reach of 29,500.



Our Instagram account continues to grow and now has 3,281 followers. Our most popular post was this stunning photo of the first sunset of 2021 across Broadmeadow Estuary.



Irish Language

The Consultation on Fingal County Council's Fourth Irish Language Scheme is open for submissions now on consult.fingal.ie until March 5th 2021.

A meeting of the Fingal County Council Coiste Gaeilge took place on February 1st and discussions included the review of the Scheme and plans for Seachtain na Gaeilge.

Seachtain na Gaeilge will take place from March 1st to 17th where the Irish language will be promoted.

A number of events and activities are planned by the Irish Office, Libraries, Sports Section and the Seamus Ennis Centre. Full details will be made available on the Fingal Website and Social Media.

Planning: 44
Environment: 37
Housing: 36

Irish Language Classes will commence this month initially with six members of Staff and will be offered to others.

International Women's Day

International Women's Day takes place on Monday, March 8, and celebrates the social, economic, cultural and political achievements of women. Fingal County Council will mark the occasion by posting short videos throughout the day on our social media channels with contributions from our female Councillors, Chief Executive AnnMarie Farrelly and members of the Executive Management Team.

Engagement

The Communications department is working with various departments on communications and engagement strategies for a number of projects including the upcoming Development Plan and the Keep Well campaign.

Press Releases

A total of 17 press releases and media invitations were issued by the Communications Unit during January.

Media Queries

In 2020 the Communications Unit received a total of 234 media queries of which 27 (11.5%) were interview requests. Out of the 234 queries submitted we were given deadlines for 107 (45%) and the deadline was met for 86% of those queries.

The main departments we received queries for were:

Operations: 61

ECONOMIC, ENTERPRISE, TOURISM & CULTURAL DEVELOPMENT

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

EVENTS

EVENTS AND FESTIVALS 2021

Comhairle Contae
Fhine Gail
Fingal County
Council

EVENTS & Festivals 2021

Fingal County Council's Events Unit is pleased to announce that it is accepting applications for financial assistance for Festivals and Events taking place in 2021.

Applications will be accepted for existing and/or new events or festivals which utilize public spaces in creative and innovative ways and which are focused on developing measurable tourism impacts in the County.

All applications should include a Covid compliance plan in adherence with current government guidelines.

For more information and an application form, please email events@fingal.ie or visit www.fingal.ie/festivalandevents2021

The deadline for completed applications is **EXTENDED UNTIL 2ND OF FEBRUARY 2021**

The Festival and Events Funding Scheme for 2021 has currently received over 40 applications.

The scheme is open to groups or organisations that are organising Events and Festivals and ideally include the following;

- Have a general audience appeal and be socially inclusive.
- Demonstrate potential to generate economic, social and/or cultural Benefits in addition focused on developing demonstrable, measurable tourism impacts in the County.
- Meet the Events Unit's objective of compiling a varied programme of events throughout the

year including content, seasonal and geographical, cultural spread.

- Animate public spaces in creative and innovative ways within the County.
- Demonstrate financial and Environmental sustainability and the capacity to develop the event.

FUNDING FINGAL

Funding Fingal
EMPOWERING CITIZENS



FUNDING GUIDE 2021

For funding to groups, ward organisations, clubs, sports clubs, local organisations, local businesses and more...



A 'Funding in Fingal' magazine is currently being collated. The intention is to create a one stop shop for the funding programmes and supports that are available to Communities and Businesses in Fingal.

ST. PATRICK'S DAY



A series of on-line virtual events for St Patrick's Day are being rolled out. This includes a call on social media to all Fingal parades to request video or photographic footage from previous events with the intention of creating a Fingal Virtual Parade 2021.

It is intended to record a Trad Fest Poetry event in Newbridge House. It will celebrate the life of Derek Mahon, considered one of Irelands greatest poets who recently passed away. His poem *'Everything is going to be alright'* became a global anthem in the face of COVID-19.

FOOD TOURISM

On formally establishing the Fingal Food Tourism Network in December 2020 the group has:

- Conducted an audit of all existing and upcoming saleable food experiences in the area.

- Conducted a survey of food businesses in the area
- Agreed and commenced rolling out a communications plan
- Agreed an action plan for the Network for 2021
- Set up a membership section on the www.coastandfields.ie website

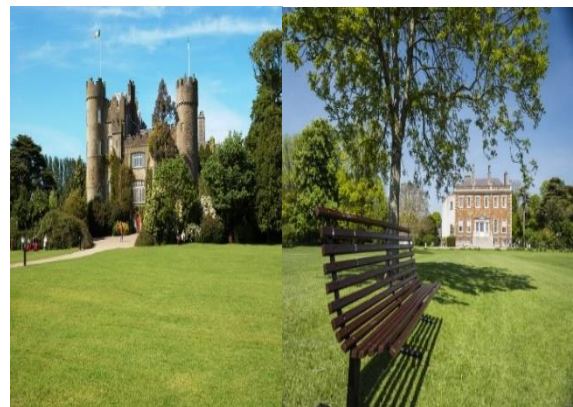
TOURISM DEVELOPMENT GROUP

- Many of the groups now meet weekly to discuss planning for the future and in particular tourism recovery post Covid.
- All groups are also focussing on the Fáilte Ireland Saleable Experiences Programme, planning on creating new packages and upgrading / changing existing experiences.
- Social media content plans being created

TOURISM RECOVERY

As the restrictions in Ireland continue, a fortnightly content plan is agreed and rolled out on social media. We continue to work with Fáilte Ireland and Tourism Ireland on various plans. In the meantime, planning is underway for the eventual easing of restrictions by working on developing potential campaigns which could be rolled out at short notice aimed at the domestic market.

HERITAGE PROPERTIES



UPDATES ACROSS THE HERITAGE PROPERTIES:

As Covid 19 Level Five restrictions have been extended to March 5th, the following changes to service will continue to apply across our heritage properties:

- No tours of the heritage properties permitted
- Closure of Casino Model Railway Museum
- Closure of Swords Castle to the public but weddings will be facilitated during this period subject to the necessary restrictions.
- Cafés across the properties open for takeaway only.
- Demesnes, including playgrounds, remain open but the farm at Newbridge House and botanic gardens at Malahide Castle are both closed.

UPDATES ACROSS THE HERITAGE PROPERTIES INCLUDE:



- Works to the perimeter of Swords Castle to include improved lighting and street furniture will continue following the easing of current Covid restrictions on non-essential construction works. It is envisaged that works will be completed within two weeks of restrictions being lifted.
- An initial meeting with the company awarded the contract for the interpretation exhibition and design on the history of the Martello Towers for the Skerries Martello Tower will take place this month.
- An extensive refurbishment has commenced on the Great Hall at Malahide Castle. The works include full re-plastering and installation of a water based heating system and will take a number of months to complete.

- A tender has issued under the Heritage Contractors Framework for the painting of the lower ground rooms in Ardgillan Castle.

CREATIVE FINGAL PROGRAMME 2021



Fingal County Council's Creative & Cultural team is pleased to announce that it is now accepting applications as part of Fingal's Creative Ireland Programme 2021.

The fund will provide support to individuals and/or local groups, operating on a not for profit basis, for projects which creatively address the themes of Community Wellbeing and Culture, Heritage, Music, STEAM (science, technology, engineering, arts and mathematics) and the Irish Language.

Closing date for applications is Friday, 5th March 2021.

Further information can be obtained by emailing creativefingal@fingal.ie or at

www.fingal.ie/council/service/creative-ireland

CULTURAL DEVELOPMENT

ARTS



Launch of Artist Support Scheme

Fingal County Council has invited applications for the Artists' Support Scheme 2021. This strand of funding allows professional artists to avail of an award up to €4,000 towards travel /professional development opportunities, a residency or towards the development of work. The objective of the Artists' Support Scheme is to support individual professional career artists from Fingal to develop their artistic practice. The award, with a total combined fund of €100,000, is open to practising artists at all stages in their professional careers working in music, visual art, drama, literature & dance. To be eligible to apply, applicants must have been born, have studied, or currently reside in the Fingal administrative area.

PLATFORM

Platform 31- Artist Bursary Scheme

This is a nationwide artist development scheme by the 31 Local Authority Arts Offices, in collaboration with the Arts Council.

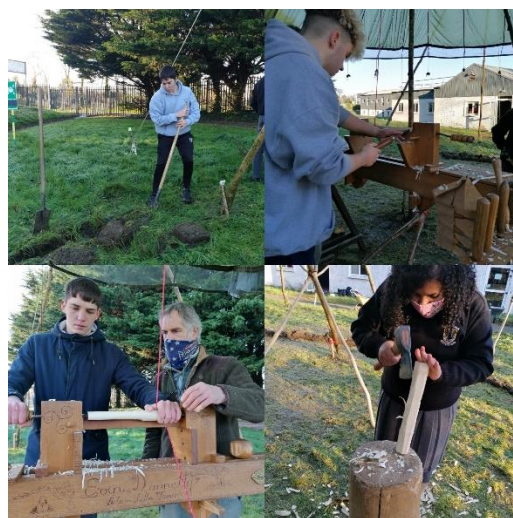
The Association of Local Authority Arts Offices, in collaboration with the Arts Council, present PLATFORM 31: a national opportunity for artists to develop their practice and test new ideas of collaboration, research, audience development, place-making and sharing their work. One Artist in each County will receive an award of €4,000. Results will be released in late February.

Public Art – Declan Gorman – The Green Belt



Local artist and theatre maker Declan Gorman are currently co-creating a new theatre work with residents in the communities of Rush & Lusk. The project is part of our countywide public art programme *Infrastructure*. Declan has been adapting the delivery of his workshop format online to great success and participants have been enjoying sharing their own stories past and present about living in these towns while forming friendships which will last post lockdown. A series of live events is currently being planned for the later part of 2021.

Youth & Education - Micro-forest with artist Gareth Kennedy



Students from Blakestown Community School began working with artist Gareth Kennedy in December to establish an outdoor 'hedge school'

for exploring wood culture and ecological relationships. They will establish a 'micro forest' on site in 2021 by planting 450 native trees. They are learning about connections between our ways of living and the natural world from artist Gareth and craftsman Eoin Donnelly as the project unfolds. School closures have altered project plans this month and Gareth will work on site until the students can return to school safely and begin planting.

LIBRARIES

Sack of Balbriggan Exhibition Donation

Fingal County Libraries recently donated a replica of the Sack of Balbriggan Exhibition (comprising of 6 panels) to the Balbriggan and District Historical Society. The official donation took place in front of Fingal Libraries, Local Studies and Archives Service on 46 North St. Swords. In attendance were Cllr Grainne Maguire representing the Mayor of Fingal, Chief Executive of Fingal County Council AnnMarie Farrelly, Director of Services Emer O’Gorman, County Librarian Betty Boardman, Chairperson of the Balbriggan and District Historical Society and Committee member, Brian Howley with May McKeon and Jim Walsh of the Society, Local Studies Senior Librarian Catherine Keane with Library Assistant Brian Kavanagh.



Fingal Libraries launch new eServices to support lockdown learning

Home schooling and online learning can be extremely tricky, especially under the current circumstances. However, Fingal Libraries is lending a hand, with the launch in January of two brand new eServices which support literacy and STEAM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts and Maths) education.



The first of the new additions, Lexia, works on fluency, vocabulary, and comprehension, allowing users of all ages to practice the crucial skills that make a successful reader. Well suited to personalised learning, the programme is easy to use, with one facility for primary school pupils (Lexia Core 5) and another (Lexia Power Up literacy programme) for secondary school students and adults. Best of all, it can be accessed at school, at home, or at the library, when our doors re-open. To date 70 students and 5 teachers have enrolled to use Lexia.



Coding is an increasingly important and popular

skill to have, and it allows children to become digitally literate in a fun, exciting way. Fingal Libraries' new Coding Clubs with Coding Ireland will provide easily accessible and practical lessons and experiments for parents, teachers, and children. There are four clubs currently open for membership for ages 6 – 7; 8 – 10; 11-13 and 14+. While the younger age groups will require parental assistance, the classes are set up to allow the older age groups to work independently at their own pace. To date, 138 children have been signed up for the clubs and classes.

These new eServices are available free of charge to library members, and can be accessed at <https://www.fingal.ie/council/service/fingal-library-eservices-and-eresources-online>

For further information on Fingal Libraries' eServices, visit the above link, or email library.eservices@fingal.ie

Events for Spring



Level 5 Covid 19 restrictions may still be in place but libraries can help us to get through these difficult times. Fingal Libraries spring brochure, which can be accessed at <https://www.fingal.ie/fingallibraries> is full of events and activities for all ages. Online talks and workshops under the Healthy Ireland Programme

include sustainable gardening, children's mental health, eating well and feeding young children.

Seachtain Na Gaeilge events feature bi-lingual storytelling with Seanchaí, Niall de Búrca and family coding classes as Gaeilge. There is also a whole series of talks for anyone interested in genealogy and family history. Delivered by Fiona Fitzsimons from Eneclann, these online talks cover among other topics, searching civil, census and burial records.

We will also host a series of online live poetry readings, with eight exciting Irish poets, on the last Thursday of each month from February to May.

'Don't be afraid of the Opera' will introduce the history and development of the art form and examine the personal and professional lives of its most noted composers. Finally, as part of the *Work Matters at the Library* programme, there will be a series of videos on working lives – diversifying your career, job hunting during COVID and working from home during the pandemic.

A reminder re the Cocooning Library service

We are continuing to operate a delivery service to cocooners, the housebound, to residential services and to anyone with health issues in the Fingal area. The service can be contacted at 01 890 6719 / 01 822 1564 or at cocooning.library@fingal.ie Once we receive a request, library staff will put together a box of books and/or DVDs as required. They will do their best to supply specifically requested authors and titles. We require contact details, including a full postal address and an Eircode. People can arrange to have a box of books/DVDs delivered at a time that suits them and our library drivers will deliver it directly to the door. When one box is finished, simply give us a call and the drivers will collect it and supply another if required. All our deliveries are carried out in line with Fingal County Council Covid-19 regulations.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

FINGAL IN IT TOGETHER

The Fingal In It Together initiative continues to support businesses with an online business directory.



Parklet Partners

The Council is monitoring the “Parklet Partners” areas which have been installed across the county and which comprise outdoor seating areas to support businesses.



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 continues work on its objective under the Council's Climate Change Action Plan to promote sustainable business practices and is developing a campaign aimed at engaging with the

business community on sustainable business initiatives.

BALBRIGGAN SOCIO-ECONOMIC STRATEGY

Balbriggan Rejuvenation Strategy 2019 – 2025

The Our Balbriggan programme office continue to support the Chair of the Leadership Group and its four pillars to progress work across a range of economic and social measures including: Local Economy, Public Realm, Education, Skills & Employment & Community Affairs & Integration.

The establishment of a fifth pillar focused on improving community safety is progressing with the parameters of a work programme currently being scoped and wider membership identified. The Balbriggan Leadership group is scheduled to meet on the 17th February 2021.

The programme office continues to support chairs and the multiple range of public, private and community partners involved in each Pillar Group and to implement the priorities of each pillar work programme. Pillar Groups will meet on average 4 - 5 times each throughout the year.



The Our Balbriggan programme office is working closely with Turner & Townsend, project management consultants on the development and issuing of tenders for the public realm projects i.e. Master Planning Consultant, Traffic & Active Travel

Study. Learnings from these processes will be applied to future projects to ensure that social and economic

opportunities are leveraged and that a strategic, sustainable approach is taken to the sequencing of the physical elements of the projects and that these elements work with the wider town and its immediate environs.

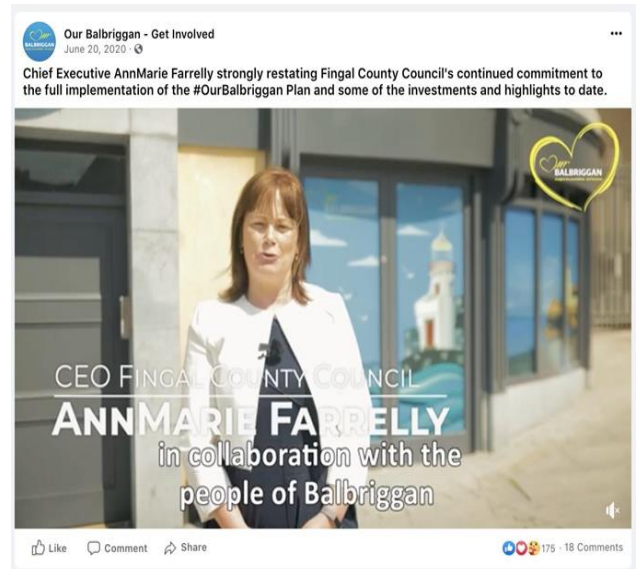
Funding of over €33,000 was approved under the Our Balbriggan Placemaking Fund. 17 applications were received, and 11 projects received funding. Projects which received funding include initiatives to support opportunities for social connection, new activities in public places, to strengthen the community through learning new skills and creating opportunities for healthier lifestyles.



A synopsis of Our Balbriggan Communications during 2020:

- Total of 87 articles.
- 64 Print Press Articles (2 Nationals).
- Total Kendall value €324,494.49. AVE (Advertising Value Equivalency).
- 11 new videos, 6 profiling local business #ShopLocal #FingalIntTogether.

- 734,000 number of people reached on Facebook.
- 445 new twitter followers.
- 196,000 views on Instagram.
- 3,037 Subscribers to the Our Balbriggan E-mail list (x 11 direct newsletters).



LOCAL COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE

The Fingal LCDC continues to oversee and administer the key areas of LEADER and SICAP and the various Local Development and Community Development funding programmes under its remit. The LCDC 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.



Emergency Funding available for Community and Voluntary Groups in Fingal

The Fingal Local Community Development Committee (LCDC) invites applications from community, not-for-profit and voluntary groups for funding under the COVID-19 Emergency Fund. The COVID-19 Emergency Fund is funded by the Department of Rural and Community Development and administered by the Local Community Development Committees (LCDCs) in each Local Authority area. The 1st round of the COVID-19 Emergency Fund was launched in April 2020. This is the 2nd round of the COVID-19 Emergency Fund and has funding of €1.7m nationally with €59,820 allocated to Fingal County Council. Under the scheme, 30% of available funds have been ring-fenced to provide small grants of €1,000 or less.

The new fund which is available for applications from 26th January will provide grants to community groups to assist them:

- Adapt their services and operations to fit the new COVID-19 reality. Examples of measures supported could be adapting premises to allow for social distancing; offering on-line activities; providing social supports and friendly calls by phone etc.
- Become more involved in the Government's 'Keep Well' campaign. The grants are aimed at assisting participation in the campaign, in particular with the three themes: staying connected, switching off and being creative, and minding your mood.
- In exceptional cases the grants may also be provided to supporting groups (including those involved in the community call) with day to day running costs.

The type of expenditure that might be supported could include

- Adapting facilities to safely accommodate people
- Adapting services to increase virtual participation
- Positive impacts on the environment such as a reduction in energy consumption;
- Collaboration with the local authority or other relevant bodies in Fingal
- The creation of a sense of place within the community;
- Technology investment which will be accessed by individuals and communities

The online application form and guidelines are available on the Fingal County Council Website <https://submit.link/8vh4j> and any enquiries should be directed to lcdc@fingal.ie

Closing date for receipt of completed online applications is 12.00 noon Friday 26th February 2021.

SICAP



As a result of COVID-19, the LCDC supported and endorsed a new SICAP Response Plan in 2020 to deal with COVID-19, which has been implemented by Empower and has been central in responding to emerging challenges in the community. There was a strong performance by the Fingal SICAP Programme during 2020 and its role in the Fingal Community Call was highlighted and recognised by Pobal and the Department of Rural and Community Development. 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 has worked with Empower and Pobal during December and January in devising the Fingal SICAP Annual Plan for 2021. The KPIs for 2021 have been approved by Pobal and by the LCDC with the €1.24m draft 2021 SICAP Plan due to be approved by the LCDC in February.



LEADER PROGRAMME



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

Two meetings of the Dublin Rural LEADER LAG were held during December 2020 where the final projects in the current LEADER Programme (Dublin Rural LEADER Local Development Strategy 2014-2020) were approved. The LEADER Programme's entire projects budget of €4.77 million has now been approved supporting 86 Projects. Of these projects, 63 are in Fingal, 6 in DLR and 17 in South

Dublin. In total €3.1m in Project Funding was approved for Fingal in this programme.

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. €1.55m in project claims have been paid out to completed/part-completed projects to date.

Going forward there is currently €3 million in the new LEADER projects pipeline of which over €1 million is for Rural Enterprise.

The LEADER Programme reverts to EU Transitional Rules for the period 2021-22 with a new Dublin Rural LEADER Local Development Strategy to be put in place for 2023. Under the Transitional Arrangements the Dublin Rural LEADER LAG and the LEADER Programme will continue to be funded in line with the completed LDS and under the same eligibility and LEADER implementation rules. LEADER will continue to approve and fund new projects as normal.

A call for project applications was issued during January under the LEADER Food Initiative Grants Programme. The initiative supports new and existing food and beverage producers located in the LEADER Geographical Area to address emerging challenges through investment in areas such as Market Development, Competitiveness and Innovation. Grants can be applied for, ranging in scale between €5,000 - €200,000. Projects are approved on a first come first served basis.

Areas of funding include:

Artisan, Micro, and Small food producers, including those with a focus on collaborative proposals aimed at production quality and market issues.

Regional product development including a focus on marketing distinctive local foodstuffs.

Marketing and processing for strategically identified sectors, including honey and apple processors.

Improved marketing, product quality, and business skills through support for innovative collaborative processes and so address challenges to co-operation identified in studies on facilitating short supply chains e.g. entry barriers, the need for shared understanding, skills/training, marketing, and business skills deficits.

Eligible costs include:

The construction or improvement of immovable property

The purchase of new machinery and equipment

Intangible investment such as the development of computer software and the acquisition of patents, licences, copyrights or trademarks.

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.



**An Roinn Forbartha
Tuaithe agus Pobail**
Department of Rural and
Community Development

TOWN AND VILLAGE RENEWAL SCHEME

Fingal County Council has been successful in 3 application under the Standard Town and Village Renewal Scheme 2020 with a total of €190,125 approved. The three successful projects are located in:

St. Margarets which was approved for €69,525 in funding for the enhancement of the physical environment of five locations in St. Margaret's.

Balrothery which was approved for €99,000 for the development of new walking and cycling facilities and streetscape enhancement measures

Rolestown and Lusk (joint project) which was approved for €21,600 for the interior upgrade of Broadband Connection Points at venues in the villages of Rolestown and Lusk

SHOPLOCAL.IRISH

EETCD continues to support the Shoplocal.irish website resource, as a COVID 19 response measure.

ENTERPRISE CENTRES

Occupancy rates at the Council's three enterprise centres at the end of January 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. All three enterprise centres have limited common area access at present in line with national Covid 19 guidelines and centre risk assessments. All staff in the centres are currently working from remote.

The Drinan enterprise centre is currently seeking interest from businesses and remote workers who may wish to avail of remote working options and facilities at the centre. Bespoke options or generic office fit-out options can be considered.

The renovation works in the Beat Centre are temporarily suspended due to the Covid 19 lockdown but will resume as soon as national restrictions allow. €250,000 of the total budget for these renovations is funded by the Dublin Rural LEADER Programme. When completed, the renovations will allow Beat to expand its offering in

the areas of remote working hub space and flexible start-up workspace.

The BASE Centre in Mullhuddart has received confirmation of over €80,000 in facilities upgrades from Enterprise Ireland. These works will begin shortly when national restrictions allow and will include new remote working hub 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. Some of the LEO Fingal highlights for January 2021 are as follows:

Local Enterprise Week 2021



Work is currently underway for Local Enterprise Week 2021. This year, LEW will occur from the 1st to the 5th March, and will feature a packed series of events to help businesses and start-ups to access supports, training and networking. These events will take place right virtually across the county.

BREXIT – Meeting the Challenge

Our trading relationship with the UK has changed and recognising that the UK is still an important market for Fingal exporters, LEO Fingal is actively helping small businesses to prepare for the impact of Brexit by providing information, customs training, advice and mentoring.

A series of Customs Workshops have been planned for Q1 2021 covering the following areas: *Importing/Exporting, Customs Impact, Classification Codes, Classification Examples, Transport & Trade Documents, Understanding Customs Declarations, Customs Procedures.*

Over 60 Fingal businesses have registered to attend the workshops to date.



Local Enterprise Showcase 2021



Showcase Ireland, Ireland's Creative Expo will pivot new innovative Virtual Showroom format. LEO clients can now launch new collections and arrange meetings with buyers from around the globe, direct from their studio or workshop. The Fingal participating businesses are Studio Elke Westen in Donabate, and Berry Be Beauty in Balbriggan.

National Enterprise Awards



One of Fingal's most impressive businesses, Kianda Technologies, have been announced as a finalist for this year's National Enterprise Award. The awards, an initiative of the LEOs, will take place virtually on Thursday, 11th February at 18:00 and can be viewed live here:

<https://www.localenterprise.ie/awards>

Student Enterprise Programme



Preparations are under way for the Fingal Student Enterprise Programme (SEP) Virtual County Fingal which is scheduled to take place on Tuesday 16th of March. The new programme features new enterprise requirements for the COVID-19 era. 25 Second level Fingal schools are participating in the 2020/21 programme.

Trading Online Voucher (TOV) scheme

An initiative under the Government's National Digital Strategy, the TOV Scheme helps small businesses trade online to boost their sales and reach new markets. This scheme is a matched-funding opportunity with up to €2,500 available, with further supports provided by the LEOs.

In January 2021, 28 TOV applications were received for Evaluation, 107 applications were approved (including applications received in 2020) in the amount of €226,271.

The first monthly TOV information webinar will take on Thursday 4th February 2021, with 164 business already booked.



Fingal Enterprising Women Network



The Fingal Enterprising Women Network (FEWN) provides online learning and networking opportunities for Fingal women in business and enterprise hosting a monthly online networking event. The First event of 2021; "The Ultimate Guide To Starting Your Podcast" took place on Tuesday 12th January with 208 attendees. The February networking event will take place on Tuesday the 9th with guest speaker Social Media Consultant Sharon Credon who will be discussing the topic "Making Instagram Work for your Business"

Start Your Own Business (SYOB)

The 10-module SYOB programme is now delivered online. 21 Fingal participants took part in the January programme, with 25 registered so far for the February dates.

Business Development Workshops

LEO Fingal continues its delivery of Training programmes to support SME and Micro Enterprise clients through the current challenges. In January, 345 clients availed of online training and networking supports.

The H1 2021 Training programme has been rolled out and includes additional programmes organised to meet client demand, including the following new workshops, which are currently being piloted:

- Instagram for Food businesses
- Shopify – Build your online store

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 January 2021, 8 business clinic days were held, offering advice to 78 Fingal businesses. In addition, 10 companies received general and COVID-19 related mentoring.

Food Sector Programme 2021

In keeping with the Fingal Agri food strategy, the Local Enterprise Office will continue to provide the following sector specific supports to food businesses during 2021:

- Digital School of Food
- Dublin Food Chain
- Food Academy
- Food Starter

The 'Food Sector' Programme 2021 has already commenced. This is a short intensive programme designed to help those with a food idea or those at a very early stage of starting up a food business (typically the first 24 months).

The next programme is scheduled for March and is already generating interest from "Fingal Foodies".

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.

Client Stimulus Scheme – Training

The LEO Client Stimulus scheme funded through the July Stimulus helped sustain eligible businesses through the provision of a cash stimulus to support operational costs and enhanced engagement with their LEO. The funding provided businesses with a platform from which they can sustain and grow thereby contributing to the recovery of the Irish economy.

The Local Enterprise Office identified 31 eligible clients for funding under this scheme and approved grant assistance totalling €283,863, all of which has been drawn-down by the 31 beneficiaries. The funding is also conditional upon eligible businesses agreeing to complete a project focused on driving key themes such as Competitiveness both Operationally and Green, Capability across Leadership, Innovation, Strategic Finance and New Market Development which will support the mitigation of the effects of the COVID-19 and Brexit crises.

New Mentor Panel

LEO Fingal has concluded the appointment of a new mentor panel enabling Fingal businesses to access a wide range of highly valuable business skills to deploy to small businesses in the following areas: *Finance, Business Management, Social Media, Sales and Marketing, HR, Food & Drink, Social Enterprise, Design & Craft, IP & Legal Services, Technology, Green, Sustainable & Circular Economy.*

The Mentor programme is designed to match the knowledge, skills, insights and entrepreneurial capability of experienced business practitioners, with managers/owners of small businesses who need practical and strategic one-to-one advice and guidance.

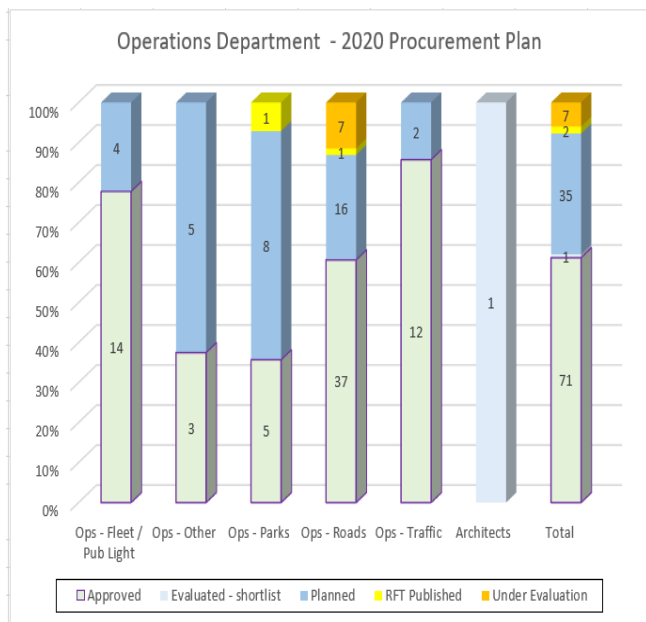
OPERATIONS & WATER SERVICES

Contents	
1.	Works Programme
2.	Fleet Management & Plant Hire Unit
3.	Street Lighting LED Programme
4.	Recycling Centre Update
5.	Traffic Operations County-wide
6.	Road Opening Licences
7.	Bridge Rehabilitation
8.	Water Services

1. Works Programmes

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
Total	18	8	14	61	14	1	116



Swords/Balbriggan/Rush Lusk Area

Road Works Programme 2021

The Operations Department has recently completed a review of the 2020 PSCI road survey rating. A comprehensive draft Programme of Works for 2021 is almost complete which will be presented to the Elected Members in February for their review and consideration.

Depot Works 2021

The Swords/Balbriggan Area has been busy tendering and restocking the depots with the required materials for the various 2021 works programmes. Rates have been attained for the Clause 808, Pea gravel, washed sand, delay set macadam, quarry fines and batched gravel with works to progress once as soon as the latest restrictions are lifted. Emergency works are continuing as normal.

Drainage Works

The Operations Department is in the course of constructing a new drainage network serving Flemington Lane Balbriggan.



Widening of footpath in Kenure Woods, Rush

This is a 2020 works programme project which was almost completed until Covid restrictions stopped all works.



Mechanical Bulb Planting at Hastings Estate Balbriggan

The Bulb Planting Contract amounts to a total of 12,942 metres of long flowering pollinator friendly bulb mixes planted across the whole Fingal area. Flowers will be appearing soon and are very well received particularly as people walk through their neighbourhoods during periods of restricted travel.

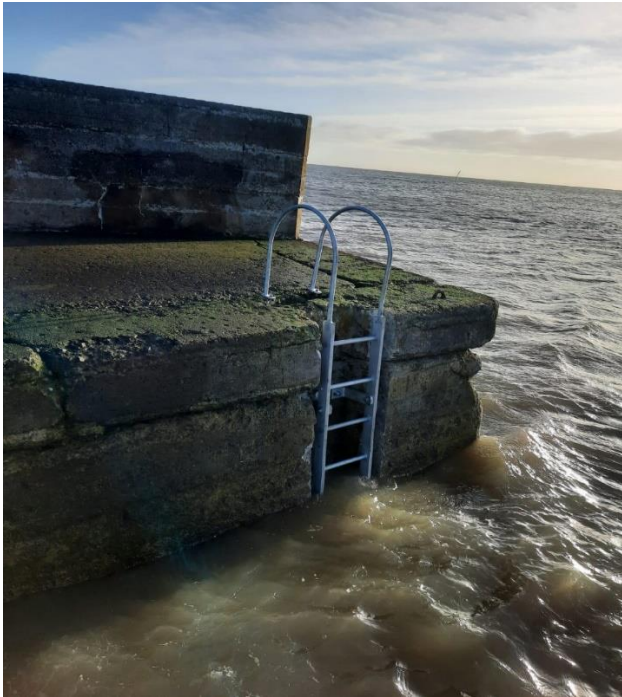


Newly installed Calisthenic outdoor adult exercise equipment in Newbridge Demesne.



Harbour Works Loughshinny 2021

New Year Swimmers made good use of the two new recessed ladders recently added to the outer Pier Loughshinny. The new ladders have revitalised the use of the outer pier and have also increased the berthing capacity of the Harbour for local fishermen.



Castleknock/Mulhuddart Area

Programme of Works

Works on the 2020 Programme have been completed with mechanical bulb planting completed across a number of open spaces in the Dublin 15 area. Over 200,000 bulbs of two pollinator friendly mixes have been planted along the central median of St Margaret's Road, Finglas



Bulb planting in Dublin 15, Beechpark Lawn, Castleknock

Sports Capital Grants

A new round of grants have been announced by the Department of Transport, Tourism and Sport. The purpose of the grants is to financially assist sports organisations and clubs with both small and large projects and equipment.

Update on Hartstown Park Master Plan

The Hartstown Park Master Plan is progressing, and the Operations Department recently completed the installation of new callisthenics units and outdoor fitness equipment in the park. Each unit has been chosen with accessibility in mind ensuring access by all members of the local community

New Callisthenics Units Hartstown Park



Exercise equipment



Howth Malahide Area

Programme of Works 2021

The Operations Department staff have been preparing the 2021 draft Programme of Works for 2021. The comprehensive and wide-ranging draft Programme will be presented to the Elected members in February 2021 for their deliberation. As part of these preparation works, the staff have undertaken the review of the 2020 PSCI road survey ratings to compile the Roads Works part of the programme. Staff have also completed reviews to enable the following special works to be prepared: Traffic, Drainage, Public Lighting, Parks & Open Spaces.

Depot Works 2021

Emergency works are continuing as normal in the Depots with regular works to progress once the latest Level 5 restrictions have been rescinded. The staff have been tendering and purchasing materials for the 2021 works programmes.

Howth Road R105, Howth, Access Improvement Work

The large green area, located as people enter Howth, has been upgraded to improve its appearance and its contribution to biodiversity. Pedestrians are now guided away from walking along the road edge to improve their safety. Cars can no longer mount the green areas to park or obstruct the several entrances bisecting the green. A mix of pollinator friendly bulbs and wild flowers replace the original daffodil planting, which had little pollinator value.



Completed Upgrade works on Howth Road R105

Managed Car Parking Services

Fingal County Council Parking Control Bye Laws were adopted in 2020 and provide for additional parking enforcement of illegal parking throughout the County. This initiative aims to protect vulnerable road users and to facilitate safer routes to school, for example, a child walking, scooting or cycling to school.

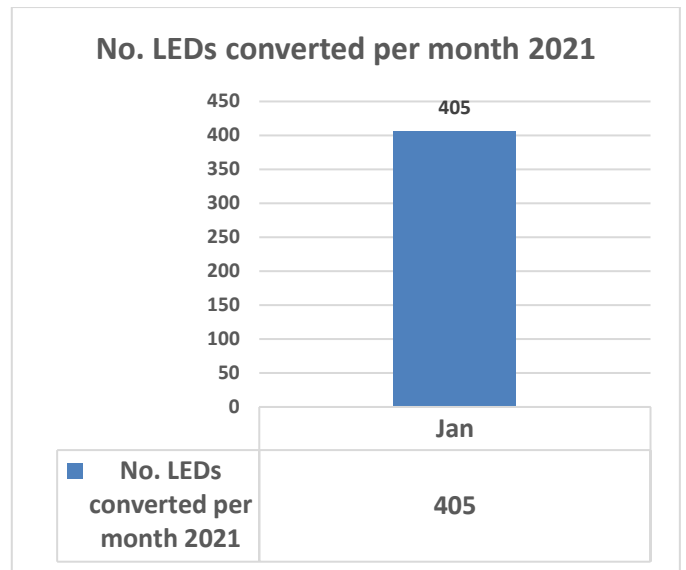
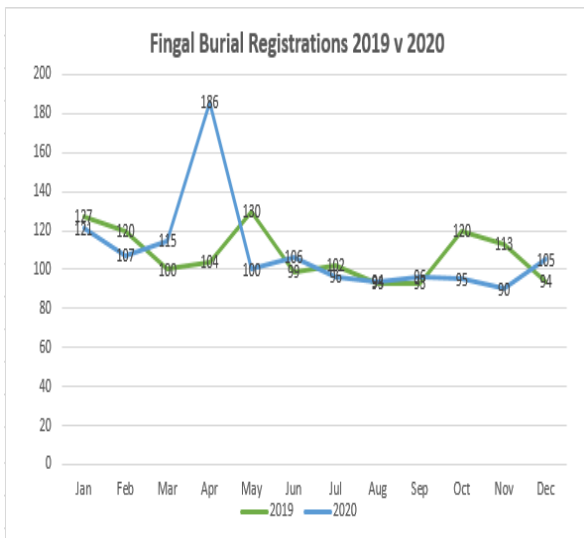
Fingal Parking Wardens will be enforcing illegal parking, such as parking at a school warden crossing point, on double yellow lines, parking on footpaths, cycle lanes, blocking access, or parking in a blue permit parking space without a valid permit, etc.

Illegal and dangerous parking is a road safety risk, and is enforceable by both Fingal Parking Wardens and An Garda Síochána at any time. Fingal Parking Wardens are issuing advance warning notices as a courtesy to alert motorists and parents of the increased enforcement over the coming weeks.

Parking Wardens have issued a total of 580 warning notices since December 2020 to date and have patrolled school zones and other reported problematic parking locations in Dublin 15, Malahide, Baldoyle and Portmarnock.

Burial Grounds Service

Month	2019	2020
Jan	127	121
Feb	120	107
Mar	100	115
Apr	104	186
May	130	100
Jun	99	106
Jul	102	96
Aug	93	94
Sep	93	96
Oct	120	95
Nov	113	90
Dec	94	105
Total	1295	1311



2. Fleet Management & Plant Hire Unit

There were 95 hires put in place from 1st January – 31st January 2021, engaging 22 suppliers.

Hires include:

- Hire of Pipe jetting and suction machine with recycler and CCTV to Swords and Coolmine for ongoing Inspection and Preventative Maintenance

3. Street Lighting LED Programme

In January the LED Upgrade Program saw 405 LED Upgrade works carried out in the following locations: -

- Balbriggan Outer Relief Road, Clonard Street, Georges Hill, Mill Street, Rowans Road...Balbriggan
- Snugborough Road...Blanchardstown
- Hollystown Road...Hollystown
- Dublin Road...Lusk
- Malahide Road, Old Street, Railway Avenue...Malahide
- Malahide Road, Watery Lane...Swords
- R135 Ward Cross

Column Replacement:

Column replacement works continue in River Valley in Swords in January with both contractors and ESB Networks on site.



Hilltown Park Swords

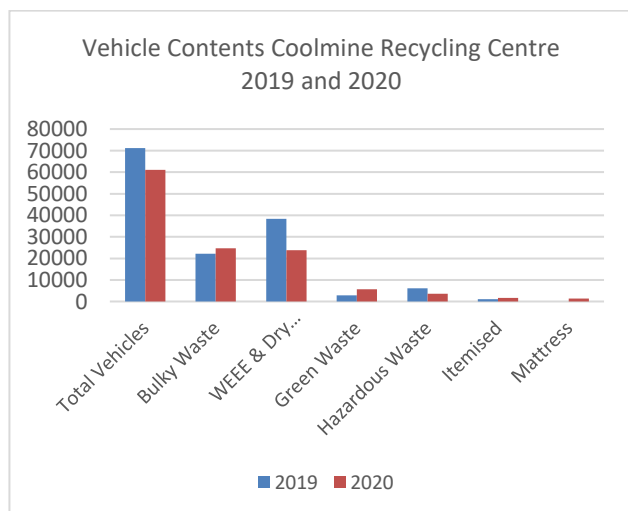
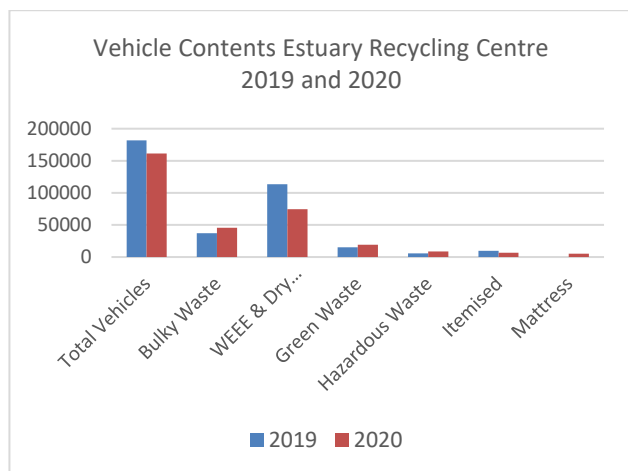
4. Recycling Centre – Update

Coolmine and Estuary Recycling Centres remained open during the various lockdowns implemented to minimise the spread of the Covid-19 virus in 2020. Both Centres remained busy throughout the year as many people took the opportunity, during restrictions, to clear out their garden sheds or tidy up their attics.

Data from the Retail Management Systems in both Recycling Centres showed that 222,546 vehicles visited the centres in 2020, a drop from 252,903 in 2019. The charts below show a breakdown of the waste streams delivered during the year. 98,262 vehicles visited the centre with deliveries of mixed dry recyclables, waste electrical and electronic equipment, for which there is no charge. There was a considerable increase in the number of cars, i.e. 69,858 delivering bulky waste to the centres in 2020. This category includes old furniture, floor coverings and scrap metal.

Longer queues at both centres were a result of restrictions on the number of vehicles allowed on site at any stage in line with social distancing guidelines.

Householders in Fingal using both centres to safely dispose of their unwanted items continue to provide very positive feedback about their experience at both facilities.



5. Traffic Operations (County-wide)

Speed Limits Project

The Draft Speed Limit Bye-Laws for the County are before the full Council for approval in February 2021.

Expansion of Fingal County Councils Duct infrastructure

Work is ongoing, both internally and through 3rd parties, throughout the county, to progress strategic locations where ducting can be installed to add to FCC's Fibre Optic network allowing interconnectivity of Fingal's assets.

Traffic Contract Work 2021 (County-wide)

Preparation of contracts including but not limited to the following will be prepared and undertaken by the Section in 2021:

- Ramps Contract (County Wide)
- New Signals Installation (County-wide)
- Vehicle Activated Signs Contract

Traffic Contract Work 2020 (County-wide)

Here are some of the final photograph's of 2020 works completed by the Section in January 2021



Barnwell Road, Ongar, Dublin 15. New Signalised Zebra Crossing



Section of footpath restored (Jan 21) in Bitumen by new signals (to be commissioned) on Greenfields Road Sutton by St Fintans Church.



Traffic Signals by Red Arches Roundabout before Baldoyle built as part of the Baldoyle Greenway are now functioning



Recently completed upgrade at Carrickhill Road Lower, adjacent to the Portmarnock Community School



The Pedestrian Crossing in Naul Co. Dublin on the R108 at Naul GAA ground. Civil Works are now completed onsite. This was funded as part of the NTA Stimulus Plan

Update on Manorfields Roundabout raised Zebra Crossings

It was identified in April 2020, that there were safety concerns with Manorfields roundabout due to each arm having an uncontrolled raised crossing. Upon inspection it was determined to reconfigure each arm into a raised zebra crossing giving priority to pedestrians and footpath users, endorsing safety for both pedestrians and motorists alike.

The Councils contractor started the civils work in July and completed the civil works in August. The electrical wiring certificate was submitted to the ESB in late August. The ESB arrived at site in late October to pull cables but upon inspected noticed the ESB mini-pillar was in the incorrect location.

Fingal's contractor went to site and reinstalled the mini pillar in the correct position in late November. The ESB then revisited site on the 14th December and found that the draw ropes were not properly installed. Fingal's contractor attended site and installed the draw cords in mid-January 2021. The ESB are due back to pull the cables in the coming weeks.

However, Covid-19 is having a detrimental impact on the ESB's connection capabilities. It is anticipated that the signalised roundabout will be commissioned by the end of February.

Newly Installed Low Bridge signage



Newly installed Low Bridge sign – Blakestown Road (M3 Bridge), Dublin 15

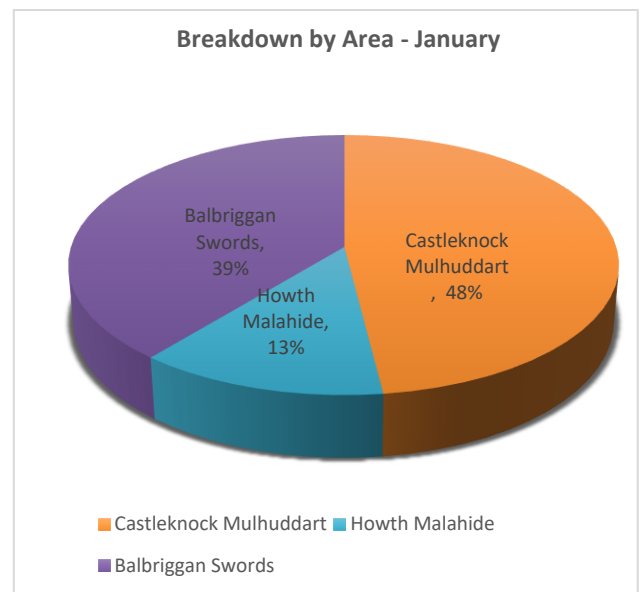
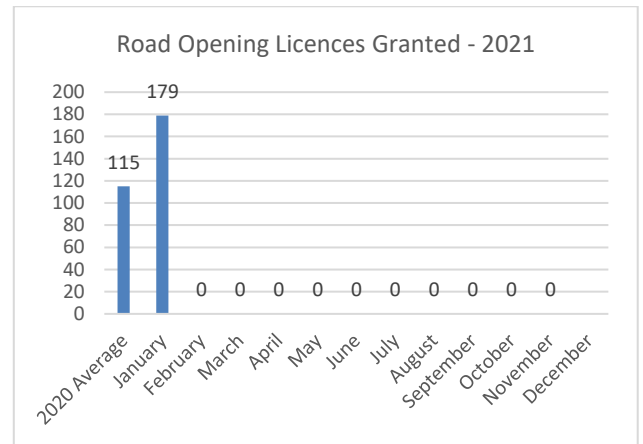
Two new flashing signs were installed in early January on each approach to the M3 bridge, on the Blakestown Road. The signs are only activated by vehicles which are a height of 2.6 metres or greater. An infrared laser is approximately 70 metres before the sign and when the beam is broken by a vehicle of 2.6 metres or greater, the flashing sign is activated, showing TURN BACK. These new advisory signs will aid in preventing motorists from impacting the bridge.

6. Road Opening Licences

The Licensing unit continues to process and manage the licensing system for the County, licences are allocated to each area for examination and conditioning including reviews of temporary traffic management plans and grass verge and tree inspections were necessary. Road Opening licences are a cross functional process for the department and is essential for the asset

management of Fingal County Council Road network.

260 applications have been received for licences during January 2021 and 179 granted.



- Warrenhouse Road Closure Jan/Feb 2021

A new water main is being constructed along R809 Warrenhouse Road in Baldoyle. Works commenced on the section of this new pipeline beneath the railway crossing on 18th January 2021, with works scheduled for completion on 05th February 2021. This phase of works is complex and in order to complete the works safely, the southbound lane of the

R809 Warrenhouse Road is required to be closed for 3 weeks.

- Swords Pipeline – Irish Water/John Craddock – Road Closures

Major infrastructure works remain scheduled for January 11th through April 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) 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 March of 2021. A T2 licence has been applied and granted for a section of the works in January.

- Loughshinny Foul Sewer Rising Mains.

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

The 150mm Ductile Iron Foul Sewer rising main installation on Harbour Road is now Completed.

In February Irish Water will start works on the R128 at Mine Road and travel north for 700meters. There will be Stop/Go Traffic Management for the duration of the works.



Loughshinny Foul Sewer Rising Mains progressing well.



Loughshinny Foul Sewer Rising Mains on Mine Road progressing well.

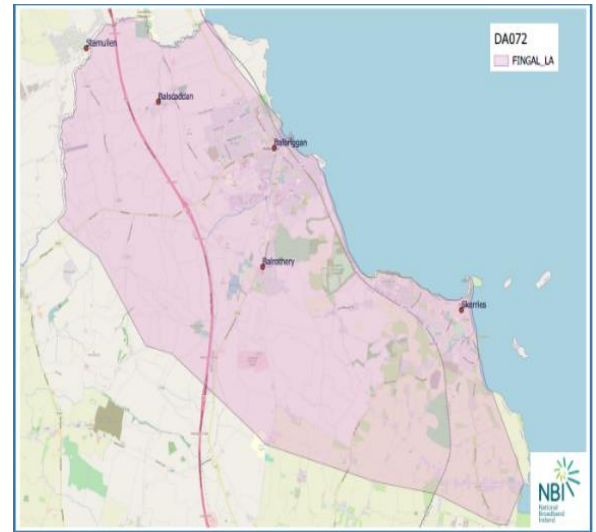
Skerries Water Mains – Irish water has now completed the water rehab works on the Dublin Road and Millers Lane with resurfacing works completed in Mid-December.



Millers Lane Road Re-surfacing works completed in Early December.

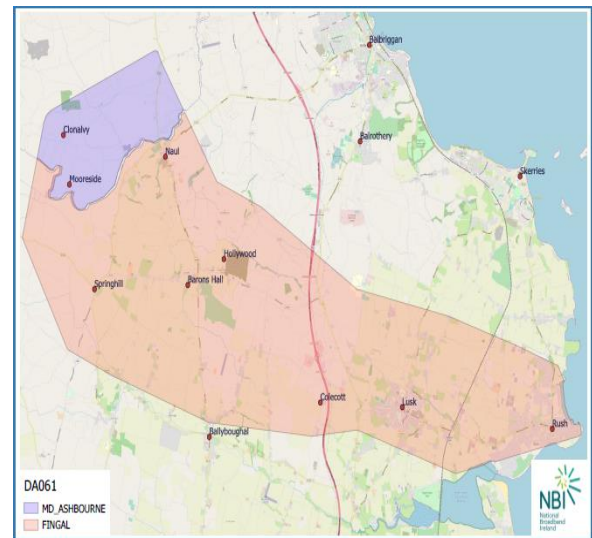
- National Broadband Ireland – Non-intrusive survey works which began in September in the Skerries and Balbriggan area (as per map below) as part of the Governments National Broadband Project is proceeding well with Map Road Licences currently been issued for the survey works. This will inform the civil 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 Early 2021 with civil works starting soon after.



National Broadband Ireland Survey Area for Skerries and Balbriggan

Discussions in relation to non-intrusive survey works for the Naul Rush Lusk area (as per map below) as part of the Governments National Broadband Project is currently taking place with Map Road Licences been applied 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 Naul Rush Lusk Area will be submitted in Early Q1 2021 with civil works starting soon after.



National Broadband Ireland Survey Area for Naul, Rush and Lusk

7. Bridge Rehabilitation

Fingal Bridges Rehabilitation Programme 2021-2023

A Single party Framework Tender was advertised in Etenders on 22nd of January 2021 for the procurement of consultants for the 2021 – 2023 FCC bridge stock repair programme.

Principal Inspections at 60 of Fingal Bridges

Work was on going for the procurement of Consulting Engineers to provide technical, engineering and supervisory services to carry out 60 no. Principal Inspections on Fingal Bridges. Following the advertising on eTenders, the tenders submitted on 11th December were evaluated on 17th December 2020. The Consultant started carrying out the Principal inspections on 25th of January 2021.

Rehabilitation of Curragh, Curragh West & Clonsaugh, Church Road Bridge, Blanchardstown, Wyanstown Bridge & Wimbletown Bridge

Snagging is underway at the completed bridge works.

Emergency bridge repairs (4 bridges- One contract) at Rallekaystown, Old Yellow Walls bridge Malahide, Ratharten, Rowlestown

These four emergency bridge repairs were previously advertised and awarded to the successful contractor in November 2020. Works to be completed by end of March 2021.

Royal Oak Santry Footbridge, Effelstown and Ratharten Bridges Rehabilitation

The contractor is due to complete the works including snagging by end of February 2021.

8. Water Services

Water production and distribution, waste water collection, treatment & disposal continue to be provided as agreed in the Service Level Agreement with Irish Water.

The Council continue to have responsibility for the Storm Water Network

Storm Water Network – Operations

Operation and maintenance of the stormwater network is ongoing, in line with Covid 19 restrictions.

Storm Water Network – Projects

A number of storm water projects are currently being progressed:

- Burrow Beach Surface Water Outfall Pipeline Repair
Scope: This project is to replace the damaged anchor system for the pipeline
Status: Currently at design stage
- Beaverstown Storm Water Pumping Station Upgrade
Scope: Upgrade the existing pumping station
Status: Initialising project and establishing project objectives
- Howth Surface Water Culvert Replacement
Scope: Prepare a design to replace the existing surface water culvert
Status: Preparing tender documents for consultancy services

Communication with Irish Water for Elected Representatives

The Local Representative Support Desk

- Make contact at localrepsupport@water.ie or by phone at **1890 178 178**. Staff are available Monday – Friday from 9am to 5.30pm to deal with queries from elected

representatives about any topic related to Irish Water.

- Outside these hours, the 24/7 customer care line is available for urgent queries at **1850 278 278**
- Irish Water Planned Works - Irish Water Regional Communications team provide regular updates concerning upcoming projects in the area and planned works which may cause disruption to customers. Regularly updates on the website at <https://www.water.ie/water-supply/supply-and-service-update/#>

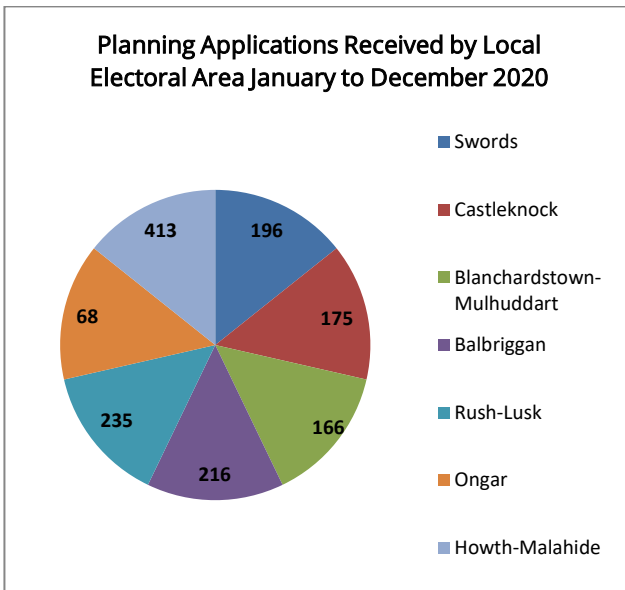
PLANNING AND STRATEGIC INFRASTRUCTURE (PSI)

Contents	
Planning Applications	Transportation Planning
Planning Decisions	Donabate Pedestrian Bridge
Building Control Admin	Church Fields Link Road
Forward Planning	
Kellystown Local Area Plan	
Development Management/Forward Planning (Water Services)	
Building Control/Taking in Charge	

Planning Applications

There have been 1,469 planning applications received to the end of December 2020, 205 of these applications were invalid leaving a total of 1,264 valid applications. The volume of applications received by Local Electoral Area (LEA) is detailed in the table below.

In 2020, 6 Strategic Housing Development (SHD) applications (for 1,266 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 3 SHDs (848 units) currently in the formal application process.



Planning Decisions

A total of 1,083 planning decisions have been made to the end of December 2020. There have been 867 decisions to grant permission (80%) and 216 refusals of permission (20%). There have been 74 grants of permissions in respect of single house construction, 482 grants of permission for domestic extensions, 235 commercial/retail grants of permission and 51 grants of permission in respect of housing developments - 29 of which related to development 2 - 20 housing units, 5 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

In 2020, there were 159 Disability Access Certificates applications submitted, of these 138 have been granted and 2 currently have extensions of time applied.

There were 6 Revised Disability Access Certificates applications submitted, all 6 have been granted. There were 14 Dispensation Relaxation Certificate applications submitted, 5 have been granted.

There were 210 Fire Safety Certificates applications submitted, of these 140 have been granted, 7 were invalidated and 41 currently have extensions of time applied. There were 33 Revised Fire Safety Certificates applications submitted, 27 were

granted, 1 was invalidated and 4 currently have extensions of time applied. There were 15 Regularisation Certificate applications submitted, of these 1 has been granted and 13 currently have extensions of time applied.

A total of 1,059 building control decisions were made up to the end of December, this includes decisions that were made on applications submitted pre 2020 in addition to the decisions that were made on applications submitted throughout 2020. This is made up of 414 decisions to grant, 1 refusal, 8 invalids, 1 amendment and 635 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, at which point all applications will have to be submitted via BCMS.

Fingal Development Plan

The Development Plan is a statutory document and, as per the Planning & Development Acts, Fingal County Council must review the existing Development Plan and prepare a new one. This process will begin with the first round of public consultation in March 2021. The Development Plan is a document that guides the future growth and development of the County. The Plan is strategic in nature and contains a core strategy together with objectives and policies to deliver the overall strategy for the proper planning and sustainable development of Fingal. A Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) will be prepared as part of the review of the existing Development Plan and preparation of a new Development Plan. An Environmental Report of the likely significant effects on the environment of implementing the new Plan will be prepared. A Stage One Appropriate Assessment (AA) will be carried out as

part of the overall process and subsequent stages of AA shall be carried out, if required.

The Plan will set out the strategic spatial vision and future direction for the county over a six-year period from 2023 to 2029. The Development Plan will build on our previous successes and investment and our strategic advantages as a County. We will maximise the strengths of our citizens, communities, built and natural heritage, infrastructure and tourism to their full potential. The first stage seeks to engage with the citizens of Fingal to get their views on how the County should develop and grow over the next six years and how we solve the challenges that arise in providing a better quality of life for all. The details of this first stage of consultation will follow next month.

Forward Planning

Kellystown Local Area Plan

The Kellystown Local Area Plan was passed at the full Council Meeting of Fingal County Council held on 11th January 2021.

Kellystown adjoins the Dublin- Maynooth railway line and is an important development area for growth in South Fingal. The Local Area Plan, catering for between 1000 and 1500 new homes, includes three different character areas set around existing natural features and extensive green spaces to provide for a range of high-quality housing solutions, local employment and public realm features.



A focal point of the LAP is a civic space centrally located for schools, community facilities and businesses, together with a new neighbourhood park that will include a range of linked play areas and passive recreation areas.

The Plan places strong emphasis on green and blue infrastructure, universal design and best practice in promoting active travel, street design and permeability. In particular, the LAP seeks to deliver an exemplar in sustainable transport that provides future residents with a range of choices, including an extensive network of pedestrian and cyclist routes and links.

The LAP proposes a series of proactive measures to assist in addressing climate change. This includes promotion of electric vehicle charging points and e-bike infrastructure, reduced energy consumption in the design, construction and operation of new developments and provision of Sustainable Development Systems (SuDS) to reflect natural surface water systems- an important element of climate change mitigation.

Development will be phased to ensure infrastructure required is provided in tandem with population growth.

Development Management/Forward Planning (Water Services)

- Development Management – our work as internal consultee on planning applications continues remotely and has resulted in 86 reports being prepared in December 2020.
- Pre-planning consultations – During December 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. All these meetings are being conducted online using Microsoft Teams.

- Flood Risk Assessments and Drainage Strategies to inform Local Area Plans (LAP) - FCC staff are currently managing the preparation of the surface water management plan to inform Belcamp LAP, Dunsink Masterplan, Balbriggan Masterplan. FCC staff are currently tendering for the engagement of consultants for the preparation of Strategic Flood Risk Assessment for the upcoming Country Development Plan.
- SHDs – staff are engaged as internal consultees in discussion on approx. 20no. SHD applications
- CDS – staff continue to provide planning review of water/wastewater connection applications on behalf of Irish Water with 42 no. applications processed during September. Staff have remote access to IW's network and as such this process continues as normal.
- Fingal's new Sustainable Urban Drainage Systems (SUDS) guidance document entitled "Green Blue Infrastructure Guidance Document Final Rev0, December 2020" was finalized in December following significant internal and external consultation. This document is available for developers and their agents and indeed Fingal County Council staff on the process and promotion of SUDS through the planning system. This document is in operation from 1st January 2021 and is available on our website.

Building Control/Taking in Charge

- Building Control Inspections - Under S.I. 4 of 2021 Health Act 1947 (Section 31A – Temporary Restrictions) (COVID-19) (NO.

10) (Amendment) Regulations 2021 construction has been defined into essential and non-essential categories. All non-essential construction is closed, with essential construction remaining open. As such building control inspections continue on the essential developments that remain under construction within the guidelines from the HSE, CIF and FCC's Corporate safety systems, with 12 first-time inspections completed in December 2021. 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). This new applications module has been in operation since July 2020 and has assisted greatly in our ability to provide a full service while working remotely. FCC continues to work with NBCO and Dublin Fire Brigade on any outstanding issues.
- Dangerous Structure/Places inspections – each complaint continues to be assessed on a case by case basis. During December 2020 we have received 3 notifications and we have conducted 3 site visits.
- Taking in Charge of Legacy Developments – FCC have been successful in securing all bonds claimed from IBRC. As such FCC are now 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.
- Taking in Charge – FCC's Taking in Charge Standards & Policy, Final Rev0, December 2020 was finalized in December 2020, following significant internal and external consultation. This document is available for developers and their agents and indeed Fingal County Council staff on the Taking in Charge process from planning all the way through to construction completion. This document is in operation from 1st January 2021 and is available on our website.

Construction Products Directive – FCC is engaging with National Building Control Office in the context of their establishment of a fifth pillar in that office to provide support to Market Surveillance Authorities for the purposes of implementing the construction products regulations. FCC staff are enhancing our CPD through the NSAI in the context of a standardised approach to the legal position following Brexit.

Transportation Planning

Donabate Pedestrian Bridge

Design work on the new pedestrian and cycle-bridge over the Dublin-Belfast railway line at Donabate has been ongoing and the sign-off process of the technical documentation for Irish Rail and the Railway Safety Commission is well advanced. A tender for an engineering consultant to undertake site supervision duties during the construction stage will be published in February 2021. A pre-qualification process for the main works contractor will be published in Q2 with a view to construction on this NTA-funded project commencing in Q4.

Church Fields Link Road

Tenders for a main works contractor for this project have now issued. This is the first step in a two-stage procurement which will target the appointment of a works contractor in June 2021, with works to start on site over the course of the summer. This is an important element in Fingal County Council's delivery of residential development land and is being developed in close partnership with FCC Architects and Housing Depts for the delivery of homes and amenities across the wider site. The project also includes significant cycling and walking infrastructure including, in particular, a high-quality segregated facility to serve the local school's campus.

HOUSING

Housing

Supply
Asset Management
Support
Tenancy Services

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).

The Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage have set the 2021 social housing delivery targets for Fingal via build and leasing as follows;

Delivery Mechanism	Target 2021
Build	431
Leasing	130

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 (Paused)
College St. Baldoyle - Cluid Housing	4	On Site (Paused)
Wellview Cul de Sacs, Wellview, D15	20	On Site (Paused)
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	67	Tendering Stage
Church Road, Lusk	5	Tendering Stage
Former Leonards Garage, Lusk	10	Tendering Stage
Infill Site adjacent to 169 Clonsilla Road, D15	1	Tendering Stage
Hayestown, Rush	62	Planning Stage
Garristown - North and East Housing Association	6	Planning Stage
Rivermeade CC, Rivermeade	2	Planning Stage
Kilhedge Lane - Tuath Housing Association	TBC	Planning Stage
	648	

Church Fields, Dublin 15

On the 3rd 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 is underway in relation to over 500 affordable purchase, cost 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. The Part V delivery remained strong during 2020 with over 100 Part V dwellings delivered 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 recently approved by Council 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 8 properties delivered to date this year with a further 30 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	1158
Number of applications approved	514
Value of the loans approved	€111,755,081
Number of loans drawn down	255
Value of loans drawn down	€54,847,749

Throughout 2020 Fingal County Council continued to lend to Rebuilding Ireland Home Loan applicants within the parameters of the credit policy, and following Government directions issued in September. In 2020 loans were approved to a total value of €15,863,550.

Circular 03/21 issued by the Department on 27th January has updated the position on Mortgage Payment Breaks for Covid-19 related changes to household income. Primarily the payment breaks are extended out to a new maximum of 12 months per borrower, and first claims for this relief can be processed up to the 31st March.

In all cases the Mortgage Protection Insurance Mortgage portion of the mortgage payment must continue, so as not to break the continuity of cover. Mortgage holders experiencing difficulties making repayments should contact the Council immediately on loans@fingal.ie and the Council will endeavour to find an individual solution with each borrower.

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 Further details are available on the Council's website www.fingal.ie.

Private Rented Inspections

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

Despite Covid-19 restrictions, there have been over 3,700 inspections of private rented properties carried out during 2020 of which over 2,400 were 1st inspections.

Housing Asset Management Report

Returning Dwellings to Productive Use

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 31 st January 2021
In letting process	52
Undergoing re-let repairs	17
With County Architect for procurement of pre-let repairs	12
TOTAL	81

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 2021 servicing programme has been suspended during current Level 5 Restrictions. This suspension is under review with the decision to extend or lift after a two-week period. It is anticipated that delays will occur in the overall servicing programme as a result of this suspension and Covid-19 restrictions however, contingencies have been put in place for the programme to continue once restrictions are lifted.

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 last few remaining properties in Castlecurragh and Dromheath Estate. Painting works have now started in Parslickstown Estate and Church Road. The remaining estates to be completed as part of the current programme will be carried out between now and the 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

Yearly List Position

The Housing Support Team are finalising the preparation of the yearly list position which is scheduled to issue in February.

In addition, the team in conjunction with IT and the Data Officer are continuing to examine mechanisms to facilitate applicants accessing housing services and information by on-line means, including accessing details of their yearly list position.

Appeals Mechanism

The Housing Support Team is actively engaging with applicants whose file records may have been closed following completion of the 2020 Housing Needs Assessment.

The Team is cognisant of those applicants' circumstances and is actively engaging to assist them currently.

Should an applicant wish to submit an Appeal with respect to their file closure, they can do so in writing to the Housing Support Team, and the Appeals Officer will examine and arrange engagement to assist.

Set out below are the Housing Support Team Contact details, and also those of the Tenancy Services Division:-

The Housing Support Team Contact Details	
Phone	01 890 5902 /01 890 5000
Email	Housing.allocations@fingal.ie
Website	www.fingal.ie

THE HOUSING UNIT CONTACT DETAILS	
Homeless Services	01 890 5090 homeless@fingal.ie
HAP	01 870 4515 HAP@fingal.ie
Estate Management (Maintenance, ASB & Special Projects)	01 890 5588 Estatemanagement@fingal.ie
Lettings	01 890 5380 Housing.allocations@fingal.ie
Housing Support	01 890 5902 Housing.allocations@fingal.ie
Customer Care Team	01 890 5000 CustomerCareUnit@fingal.ie

Offers of Housing Support

The Housing Allocations Team has continued to provide offers of social housing throughout the COVID-19 Lockdown period and this is demonstrated in the table below. The supply of

housing need is continuing through various mechanisms, allowing Fingal County Council to continue to make offers of housing support across Approved Housing Bodies, Standard Social Housing including the provision of several transitional housing options.

The total number of Offers of Housing Support in 2020 was 1,235.

Month	Offers of Housing Support 2021
January	94
TOTAL	94

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 2,500 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 were re-introduced on 1st December 2020.

In January 2021 there were 56 new homeless presentations, comprising 25 families and 31 singles/couples.

During January 2021, 45 households, comprising 29 families and 16 singles/couples, exited homeless circumstances into various forms of social housing support- including into private rented tenancies under Homeless HAP. Homeless HAP accounts for 34 of these tenancies.

Cold Weather Strategy 2020/2021

The Dublin Region Homeless Executive (DRHE) has activated its Cold Weather Strategy 2020/2021 which runs 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 relevant and current public health guidelines and restrictions levels.

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.

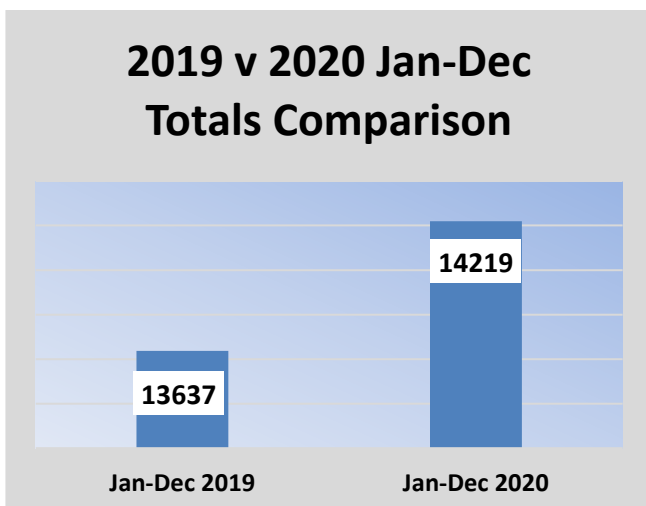
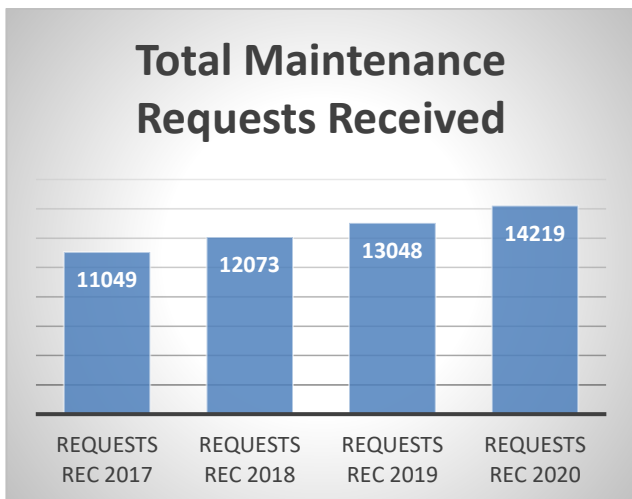


Housing Welfare Service

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 various mechanisms including the Fingal Community Response Forum.

Maintenance Requests



4% increase in maintenance requests received for Jan-Dec period in 2020 in comparison to 2019

Over the Christmas period 30 out of hour calls were received by our Clerk of Works. While the majority were minor heating related issues, there was also a variety of minor electrical, drainage, and plumbing issues.

Anti-Social Behaviour/Inspectorate Unit

The ongoing management and sustainment in 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

67 cases under review –

19 Downsizing, 10 Regularisation of Tenancy, 22 Breaches of Tenancy, 16 Miscellaneous (including cases of Family Breakdown/Illegal Occupants)

Surrenders on EM Grounds 2021 – 0 (Jan)

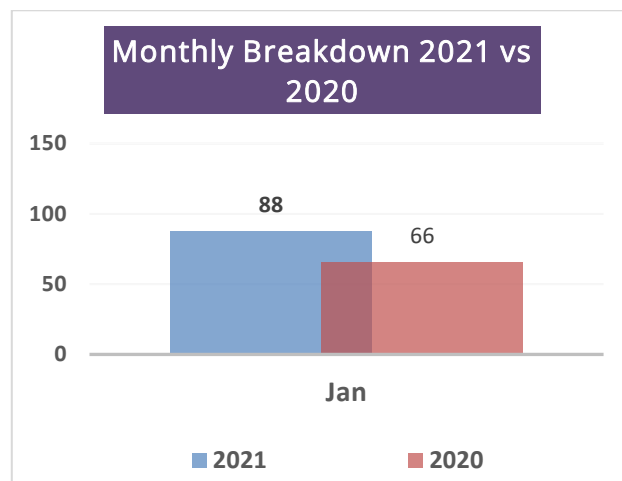
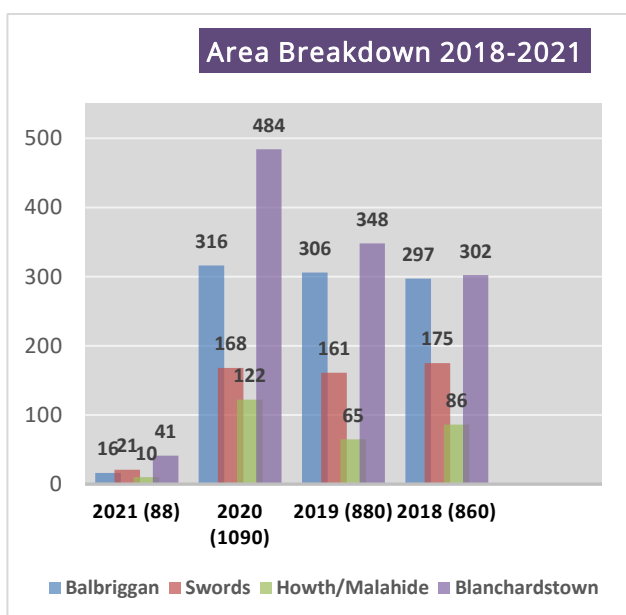
Surrenders on EM Grounds 2020 – 1 (Jan), 3 (Feb), 3 (March), 3 (April), 1 (May), 1 (June), 1 (Aug), 1 (Sep), 1 (Oct), 2 (Nov), 1 (Dec)

ASB Caseload Management

January 2021	Active Investigation	Active Monitoring	Closed
Dublin 15	22	9	7
North County	38	7	0
Total	60	16	7

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 end of year 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.

Breakdown of Complaints 2018-2021



Anti-Social Interventions

Interviews Held 2021	3
Interviews Held 2020	108
Tenancy Alerts 2021	1
Tenancy Alerts 2020	35
Tenancy Warnings 2021	0
Tenancy Warnings 2020	4

Inspectorate

Traveller Specific Inspections 2021	150
Traveller Specific Inspections 2020	1735
Estate Inspections 2021	79
Estate Inspections 2020	636
EM/ASB Inspections 2021	288
EM/ASB Inspections 2020	3610

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT OFFICE

Community Call Helpline
Keep Well: Staying Connected
Sub group Members and Actions
Flemington Men's Winter
Programme 2021
Community Office support for
Fingal Men's Sheds
Mindfulness-Based Stress
Reduction Free course in D15
#Aware Life Skills CBT Training

Strategic Unit

Community Activity Funding
Digital Poverty Grants
Fingal Public Participation
Network (PPN)

FINGAL COMHAIRLE NA nOG

First Meeting of 2021 Update

COMMUNITY FACILITIES UNIT

Governance Training
Management Assistance Funding

AGE FRIENDLY FINGAL

LMFM Radio Broadcast
Active Age for All AGM

SPORTS SECTION

Fingal Home-Fit
Live Sports Conditioning Online 10@10
Women in Sport Coaching Series
Live Hip-Hop Classes
Online Exercise Classes for People with Disabilities
Online Keep Well Nutrition Series

Community Development Office:

Community Call Helpline supported by the Community, Sports and Arts staff:

A roster of 26 Community, Sports and Arts staff provide support to the council's community call service by way of assigning Covid job requests received from the public to local community and voluntary organisations and support agencies. This support is provided Monday to Friday from 9am to 5pm and was also in place over Christmas and New Year.

Staff also provide daily follow up calls to clients to ensure that their request has been dealt with by a local volunteer.

Daily statistics reports on calls received are provided to Gov.ie and a weekly statistics report is provided to the HSE via the Major Emergency Management, Corporate Affairs and Governance Department.

Community Development staff continue to support local response groups in the development of their service, accessing funding and information on training opportunities. A bespoke training course specifically related to Befriending will be delivered to community response volunteers and will address safety of volunteers, setting boundaries and duty of care to the client. This will be piloted within Fingal and may be rolled out by the National Befriending Service nationwide.

Keep Well: Staying Connected (Community Call) subgroup

Keeping in touch with people and addressing isolation with person-to-person connection has never been as important as it is now.

Staying connected with people, supporting volunteerism and initiatives that support person-to-person connection is hugely important to our mental health and wellbeing. Building on the Community Call response earlier in the year, Local

Authorities are being supported to provide a local community helpline and befriending service. Working with partner organisations, including Fingal Age Friendly, Muintir na Tire, Alone, Empower, Foroige, Fingal Community Facilities Network and local befriending services there will be a particular emphasis on identifying and supporting those most at risk of isolation.

Fingal County Council's "Staying Connected" initiative will tap into local community spirit, encouraging neighbours to look out for each other and mobilise local volunteers to reach out to those who are lonely and isolated through a delivery of exciting and innovative initiatives across the county.

Subgroup members: HSE, FCYPSC, Healthy Ireland, Fingal Age Friendly, Community Facilities Network, Muintir na Tire, Alone, Befriending Service, Fingal Volunteer Centre, Foroige

High level actions and a budget breakdown was agreed by the subgroup members and submitted to POBAL 16th December and approved. POBAL has transferred €29,042 Community Resilience funding to the council under the Staying Connected theme and Partner Agreements have been agreed in order to transfer funding to the project stakeholders. The subgroup has agreed the following actions under the Staying Connected theme:

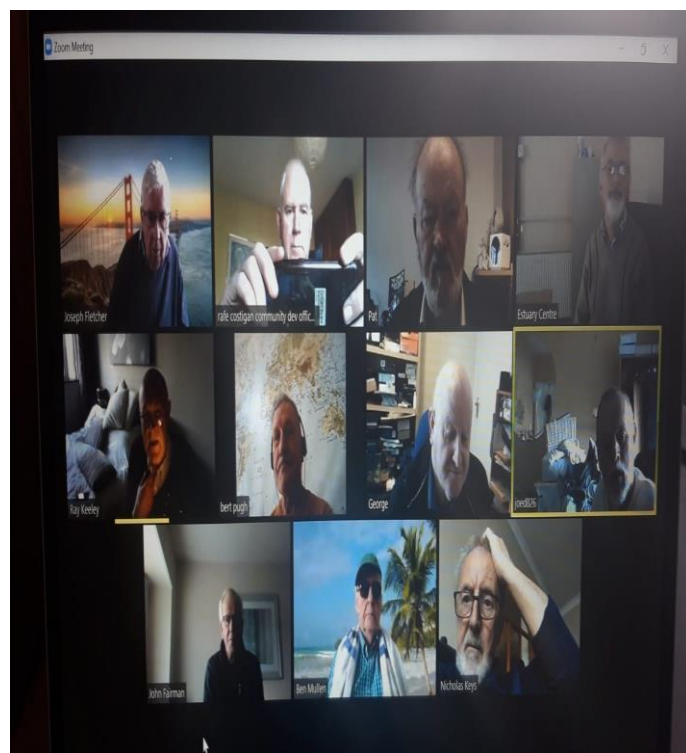
Action	Who
Connect & Include support will enable 10 Roma families to engage with the wider community through the provision of digital hardware. This will support them in attending English language lessons, supports to gain employment, access to evidence-based mental health supports (e.g. HSE Stress Control programme). It will also allow them to attend online medical support sessions and for children to attend schools in the event of school closures.	EMPOWER
Support Community Alert Groups and other community organisations to develop local Community Support Registers through local knowledge and by consent which may be shared with An Garda Síochána and also becomes the catalyst for the delivery of critical services to the most vulnerable.	Muintir na Tire
Cooking for Life Cookbook Activity Book	Alone
Support befriending services in Fingal in the following areas of need: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Technology Expansion of service delivery 	National Befriending Service (Fingal)
Befriending project & Staying Connected: Activity Centres for Seniors & Age Friendly Magazine- offering a variety of activities for older people across 33 community centres - e.g. exercise, singing, music, crafts. There is always room for new activities where older people can learn from each other and meet and make new friends	Fingal Age Friendly
Welloige programme focusing on befriending, improving mental health, fitness and overall wellbeing - helping young people aged between 12 - 18 to stay connected with their peers	Foroige



Flemington Men's Winter Programme 2021



The Flemington Men's Winter Programme is continuing in January and February. There are now over 70 men registered for the live webinars that are delivered throughout the week. The course has a number of elements including Mental Fitness Education, Nutrition, Yoga 4 Blokes and Mediation that are delivered online by experts. New to the Winter Programme for 2021 are webinars being delivered by Adrianna Mannix, a Cognitive Behavioural Therapist, Health and Life Coach. Using a combination of CBT therapies, mindfulness and nutritional techniques grounded in positive psychology Adrianna assists participants in increasing self-awareness and emotional intelligence. Attendance on the live zoom webinars is anonymous and, 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



Community Office support for Fingal Men's Sheds

The Community Office has teamed up with the Irish Men's Sheds Association (IMSA) to provide information and support to the many men's sheds operating in the county. A video call, led by IMSA was joined by Fingal Community Officers in the North, Mid and East county to provide crucial information on funding and other supports available for the 10 plus sheds operating in this part of the county. Since the pandemic struck, many of the Fingal Men's sheds have pivoted online, but some have struggled to keep in touch with all their members because of the digital divide. This new initiative will provide information on existing online courses on nutrition and mental health available from FCC Community Centres available to the shedders and will provide information on funding supports available to the sheds, including help with the costs associated with the renewal of annual public liability insurance.

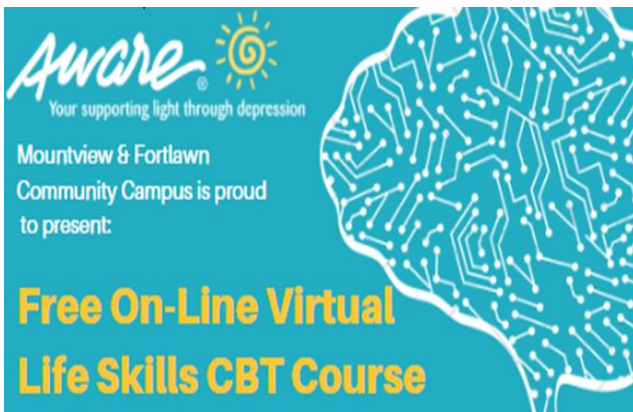
Mindfulness-Based Stress Reduction (MBSR) free course in D15 commenced 19th January.

1. The Community Development Office has funded a Mindfulness Course through Fingal Community Centres to residents in the Dublin 15 area which began on the 19th January – 9th March (8 weeks).
2. Mulhuddart, Huntstown, Hartstown, St Brigid's and Castleknock Community Centres will be running an eight-week virtual Mindfulness Course funded by the Community Development Office. The course will commence on Wednesday 10th of February and is running until the 31st of March.
3. These courses are in line with government Keep Well campaign and promotes wellbeing, a sense of community and encourages participation.



#Aware Life Skills CBT training commenced 25th January

Fingal Community Development Office co-funded a 6-week Virtual Life Skills CBT programme with Mountview FRC, with the course being organised by Mountview & Fortlawn Community Campus. The course is aimed at supporting local residents in the Mountview area with practical tools for how to manage stress, behaviour management and support wellbeing through CBT.

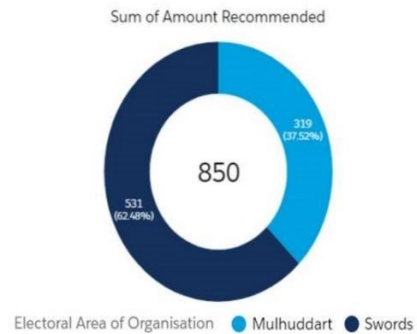


Strategic Unit:

Community Activity Funding

The following is a brief summary of Community Activity Funding Awarded in January 2021

2 applications approved - Total of €850 approved:



Digital Poverty Grants - Covid-19 Emergency Fund Scheme

This grant scheme was initiated after the Fingal Community Call Forum agreed to allocate funding from the Covid-19 Emergency Fund Scheme to the area of digital poverty. It is managed by the Community Development Office. A maximum grant of €3,000 was available per organisation/group for technology includes Laptops – new or refurbished, Tablets – new or refurbished, Phones, Smart Phones, WIFI devices, creation of online platforms and access to online platform. Applications were required to achieve an impact in one or more of the following: (1) Enabling on-line education, reskilling or training for disadvantaged groups, (2) Enabling online education and training for young people in post primary schools, (3) Combating isolation. An evaluation committee (sub group of Fingal Community Call) was established to consider all applications made under this scheme and awarded €21,811.97 across 10 projects in Fingal.

Fingal Public Participation Network (PPN)



Fingal PPN are currently working on the Implementation of National PPN Guideline set out by the Department of Rural and Community

Development. In addition, the current 2018 – 2021 Fingal PPN Strategic Plan is under review to inform a one year revised extended Strategic Plan. Both documents will be presented at the 12th May Plenary for ratification by the Fingal PPN members. Fingal PPN are also managing the re-registration (updating) of the Fingal Community County Register, a database of Community and Voluntary groups held in partnership with Fingal County Council Community and Sports Division. To date, 427 Community & Voluntary groups are registered. Fingal PPN in association with the FCC Community Development Office was awarded Dept of Children, Equality, Disability, Integration & Youth funding for the Fingal Migrant Integration Forum to the tune of €22,500 in Dec 2020.

Comhairle Na Nog

The new Comhairle had their first meeting on the 20th of January 2021 consisting of Twenty-One member participants. The discussions involved 2020s topic and the youth recommendations from the AGM, focus topic for 2021 and input into PPN Linkage group meeting for social inclusion, rural development and youth.



Community Facilities Unit:

Governance Training for Fingal Community Facilities Network

In response to an identified need, the Community Facilities Management and Support Unit, in conjunction with Fingal Community Facilities Network, has organised governance training sessions for the Boards of Directors, Management

and Staff of the community centres across Fingal. 30 participants will take part in this online training which is being provided by Carmichael House.

The training will cover:

- Understanding the six principles of governance which all charities should apply
- Understanding how to meet the core standards for each of the six principles
- Understanding the additional standards that reflect best practice for more complex charities
- Understanding how to report on compliance to the Charities Regulator.

Management Assistance Funding

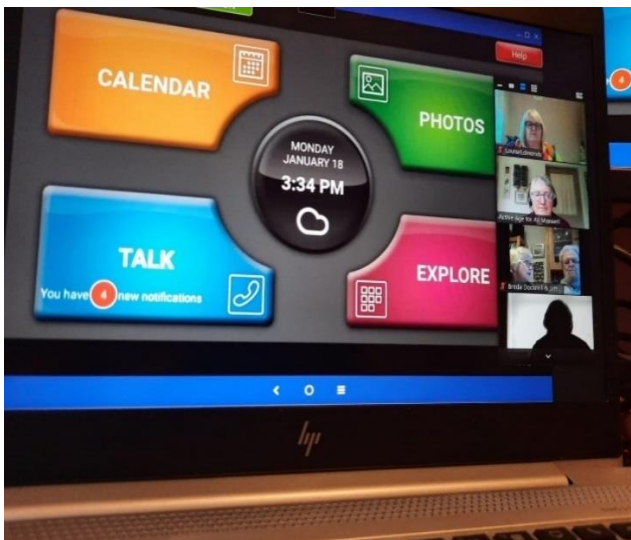
The 2021 Management Assistance Funding is currently open. Applicants from community centres (both owned and non-owned by Fingal County Council) can apply for this funding. There will be approx. 30 applicants. Closing date for applications is 30th January.

Age Friendly Fingal:

On 30th December 2020 Christmas in Fingal aired on LFMF with The Late Lunch host Gerry Kelly. This programme was also aired simultaneously on Phoenix and Near FM. The programme explored many of the Age Friendly services provided throughout Fingal and included interviews with the Chief Executive Anne Marie Farrelly, the Mayor Cllr. David Healy, Chair of the Age Friendly Alliance Jim Glennon, Chair of Fingal Older People's Council Bride O'Reilly, Pat Kelly from Lusk, Bridie O'Neill from Blanchardstown, Betty Boardman from Fingal Libraries, David Daly from Fingal Sports and Orla Horn, from the Forget-me-Not Choir Baldoyle and many more interview contributions. There was lots of information and details of Age Friendly initiatives across the county including the award-winning intergeneration project in Donabate – Kaleidoscope. See the attached Podcast link to listen to the programme. <https://media.acast.com/late-lunch-best-bits/christmasinfingal/media.mp3>



Active Age for All Annual General Meeting took place on Monday the 18th of January virtually over a Zoom call, this AGM was well attended with over 35 people attending. This strong committee must be commended for all their work and commitment over the past year in supporting older people across the Donabate & Portrane Peninsula – ensuring that opportunities to participate in numerous activities and stay active while remaining safe at home. There was a presentation by Cliffmun Media CEO Philip Hogan on the ACORN tablet and digital appliances suitable for members of our older generation starting off using information technology



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. Due to the success in the pilot classes held in late 2020 we are rolling out 3 classes per week again in January/February/March 2021.



Live 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. We are looking into the possibility of delivering a live 10@10 session for all school children across the country.

Women in Sport Coaching Series

The 2nd Women in Sports Coaching Series will take place on Thursday 28th January and will feature Cliona O'Connor, former Senior Ladies Dublin Footballer and current coach on the Senior Dublin Ladies time, 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. The GAA club in the Tyrrelstown area which is part of the Tyrrelstown/Mulhuddart Sports Hub has been in existence for approximately 10 years and the club looking to strengthen their girl's section but who 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).

and we would hope to replicate that for the upcoming classes.

Online Exercise Classes for People with Disabilities

As part of our commitment to working with people with disabilities we are rolling out online exercise classes for people with a disability. The programme is being run in collaboration with the Daughters of Charity and will be opened to other disability groups after this initial pilot programme which is due to start in February.

Online Keep Well Nutrition Series

The online nutrition series continues throughout February with Laura Keely, Bridge Nutrition, giving advise on how to keep well and the positive impact good nutrition habits can have on our health and wellbeing.

Comhairle Contae Fhine Gall Fingal County Council

Tyrrelstown / Mulhuddart Community Sports Hub

SPÓRT ÉIREANN SPORT IRELAND

Fingal Sports Office
&
Tyrrelstown / Mulhuddart Community Sports Hub
presents
Fingal WIS Coaching Series Online
Master Class 2
Cliona Foley
in conversation with **Clíodhna O'Connor,**
Former Dublin Footballer,
All-Ireland Winning All Star & Athlete
Development Coach
Thursday 28th January 2021 at 7pm- 8pm

Live Hip-Hop Classes

This will be the 2nd running of our Hip Hop & Zumba Classes, which will be broadcast live on Zoom in February & March 2021. The sessions will be led and choreographed by Donna Moran from Irish Hip Hop Master Champions & Fit Kids/Fit Teens Dance School. Participants from the secondary schools registered with our Exercise: Energise programme will be targeted. We had over 20 students register for the programme in 2020

ENVIRONMENT, CLIMATE ACTION & ACTIVE TRAVEL

Contents	
Climate Action	Litter Management
Environmental Awareness	Animal Welfare Services
Bring Centres	Waste Enforcement
Water Quality Protection	Flood Schemes
Landfill Aftercare	Active Travel

Climate Action

The Fingal Climate Change Action Plan 2019-2024 (CCAP) was launched in Sept 2019, and actions are ongoing.

A One Year Progress Report on the CCAP was presented to the Climate Action, Biodiversity & Environment Strategic Policy Committee in Dec 2020, and to Council in Jan 2021. A press release was also issued, and a Podcast recorded.

The CCAP and the One Year Progress Report can be viewed at <https://www.fingal.ie/climate-change-action-plan-2019-2024>

The Climate Action Regional Offices and Climate Ireland are developing Climate Action Training Programmes for local authority staff at all levels, and for elected representatives. The training will be delivered across 6 pillars. The 1st pillar "Raising Awareness" is being rolled out to all grade 7 staff at present, with grade 6 & 5's to follow. A Championing Leadership pillar will be delivered to senior staff and councillors in Q4 2021.

Environmental Awareness

The Environmental Awareness Officer has engaged with the Community Facilities Network Steering Group and Community Centre Managers and delivered online Waste Prevention presentations. The centres will be supported in sustainable management and waste prevention, initially focusing on:

- Sustainable Management Promotion and public display of a Sustainable Policy Statement
- Working through a Sustainable Action Plan and measuring progress.

The Community Environmental Action Fund 2019-2020 projects are being closed off at present, - with twenty out of the twenty-five projects delivered despite the challenges posed in 2020.

Online Sustainable Gardening workshops have been delivered to 60 participants including Tidy Towns, community and residents' groups and allotment holders. The courses were well received.

Adopt-a-Patch (litter kit) and Green Dog Walker (doggie dispensers) program is ongoing, with requests from the public daily for litter kit and doggie dispensers.

Continuing communications with Fingal Schools in the Green Schools Program, assessments will be held online/ remotely this year if possible.

Bring Centres

The total glass tonnage collected from the Bring Centres throughout Fingal for January 2021 was 608.73 tonnes.

The Environment Department continue to approach retail facilities and investigate any suitable locations on council owned site in order to expand our network of glass Bring Centres.

The Environment Department will shortly advertise for a service provider to provide a textile recycling service and textile banks for Fingal.

Litter Management

The Litter Wardens continue their twice daily route patrols to detect illegal dumping. Particular attention is being paid to the rural road network and recycling facilities across the county.

Dog Warden & Dog Sanctuary Service

The Environment Division published a Market Soundings request on the eTenders system on 27th January 2021, seeking information from the market for the provision of a Dog Warden service, Dog Sanctuary service and a combined Dog Warden and Dog Sanctuary service. This market sounding is conducted independently of the other Dublin authorities.

Horse Welfare Programme

An animal welfare programme supported by the Council and Department of Agriculture has commenced on the former Dunsink Landfill. The programme is facilitated by the DSPCA and assisted by the Veterinary Department of UCD. To date initial inspections and preliminary veterinary care has been provided to the horses on the landfill. When current level 5 restrictions are lifted, an ID clinic will take place, where the horses are identified and registered. A meeting with over 50 horse owners has taken place and a programme is being developed to chip, passport and castrate animals on the landfill, thus preventing indiscriminate breeding. Regular reports on the progress of the programme will be provided to members.

Water Quality Protection

Community Water Development Fund 2021

A last call for communities to get their applications in for the Community Water Development Fund 2021 launched by LAWPRO Communities Office on Saturday 28 November 2020 at the annual seminar of the Irish River Trusts and Catchment Community Groups – Communities Caring for Water. Demand for this fund has increased year on year since its inception in 2018 and it is exciting to announce that the fund has been increased to €360,000 in 2021, up from €225,000 in 2020.

Funding deadline for Community Development Waters Fund 2021 is Feb 9th

see <http://watersandcommunities.ie/community-water-development-fund/>

National Water Priorities 2021 'Maintaining and Improving Water Status in all waterbodies'

National Water Environmental Enforcement Priorities have been developed for 2021 and the following priorities have been agreed for action:

1. **Undertake WFD monitoring, bathing water monitoring, and investigative monitoring.**
2. **Monitor and enforce the drinking water standards in private water supplies**
3. **Undertake Farm inspections**
4. **Inspect septic tanks and other single house treatment systems in accordance with the National Inspection Plan**
5. **Monitor and enforce Section 4 licences with a focus on licensees identified as significant pressures**
6. **Engage with regional WFD committees**
7. **Address referrals from Local Authorities Waters Programme assessments**

8. Assist with public consultation on the draft River Basin Management Plan.

9. Respond to water quality complaints and incidents.

National water priorities and Fingal local enforcement activities will be incorporated into an environmental inspections plan for 2021 in line with the requirements of the Recommendation of the European Parliament and the Council providing for Minimum Criteria for Environmental Inspections in Member States (2001/331/EC).

A breakdown of inspections/monitoring carried out during 2020 is provided in the chart below. Enforcement actions took place when required to bring about compliance with the Local Government Water Pollution Acts 1977 and 1990. To report a suspected water pollution incident, please contact: Environment Department Phone: 01 890 5000 or Email: environment@fingal.ie



Waste Enforcement

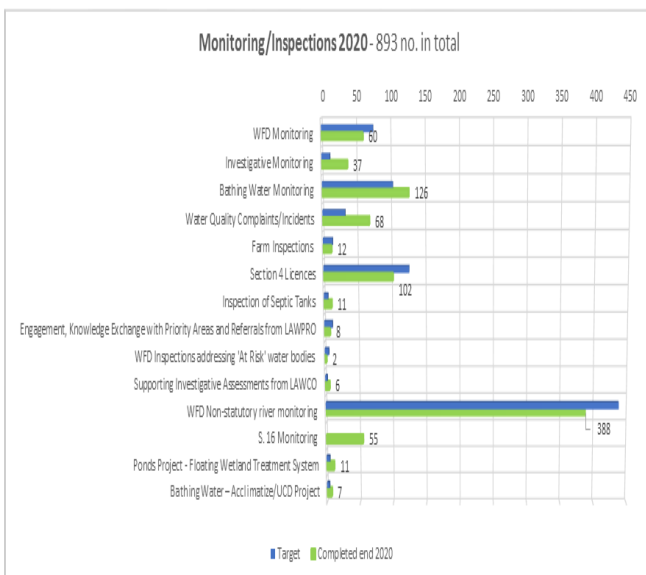
The National Waste Enforcement Priorities for 2021 have been issued by the Department of the Environment, Climate and Communications. The priorities remain similar to last year with some refinement to take account of current waste issues. The importance of tracking waste flows for effective waste enforcement has also been highlighted as has the importance of the producer responsibility initiative to effectively manage packaging, tyres, hazardous waste, vehicle producers/importers, WEEE and batteries. The National Waste Enforcement Priorities for 2021 are as follows:

1/ Tackling Significant Illegal Waste Activities

- Illegal Dumping and unauthorised collectors
- Compliance by the Authorised Industry
- Anti-Dumping Initiative

2/ Multi-Agency Site of Interest

- Unauthorised Waste Sites/Illegal Activity



3/ Construction and Demolition Activity

- Unauthorised Disposal of C & D waste
- Management Controls at Sources Sites/Construction Sites

4/ End of Life Vehicles and Waste Metal Sector

- Unauthorised ELV Sites
- Authorised Treatment Facilities (ATF's)
- Leakage of WEEE

5/ Waste Collectors – Household and Commercial

- Compliance with collection permits and roll-out of brown bins
- Awareness raising and inspection to promote segregation
- Compliance in segregation for commercial waste



The Waste Enforcement Inspection Plan or RMCEI Plan 2021 is currently being prepared to take account of all National Waste Enforcement Priorities plus a range of Local Fingal Waste Priorities.

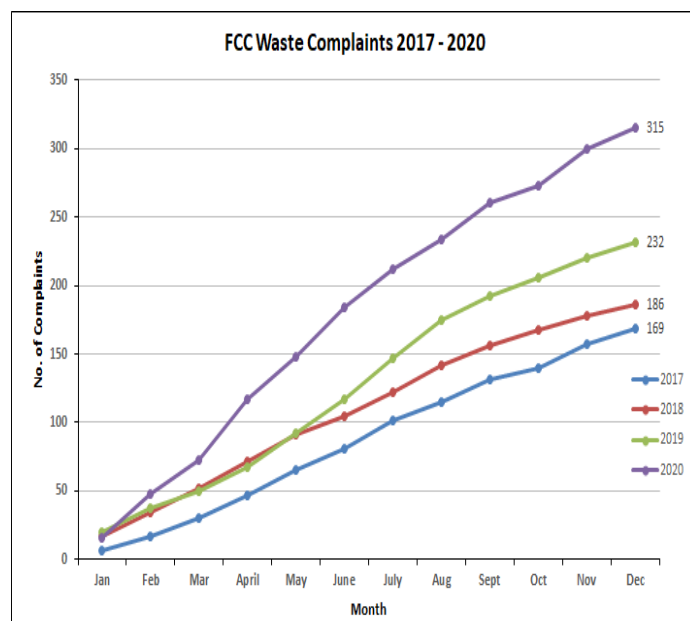
A detailed EPA Inspection Stats Return and RMCEI End of Year Report are also being finalised looking back at 2020 to capture all the waste enforcement work and associated inspections that were undertaken. A total of 1052 waste inspections were

undertaken during 2020 comprising 48 different areas of work. Similar inspections were completed for Water Pollution, Litter Management and Air & Noise Pollution as follows:

RMCEI: National + Local Enforcement Priorities - Inspections Completed 2020

Category	No. of Planned Inspections 2020	Inspections Undertaken 2020
Waste Enforcement	929	1052
Water Pollution	839	893
Litter Management	1853	1745
Air & Noise Pollution	452	473

A total of 315 waste related complaints were investigated and resolved during 2020 which represents a 60% increase compared to previous years (232 complaints in 2019, 186 in 2018 and 169 in 2017). An average waste complaint can take up to a day and a half to fully investigate and close out.



ELV Project

The Waste Enforcement Unit made considerable progress in relation to investigating and closing down illegal End of Life Vehicle sites during 2020. Difficult sites such as Dunsink Lane, St Christopher's, St Mary's and Sillogue Green were tackled using a multi-agency approach with significant support from An Garda Síochána.



For High Risk Sites a total of 13 out of 14 sites were inspected with 8 of these closed down and cleared. Enforcement action is ongoing with the remaining sites. For Low – Medium Risk sites a total of 26 out of 53 sites have been inspected with 21 sites closed and cleared to date and 5 sites actively clearing ELV's at present. If resources are available work will continue throughout 2021 to ensure that all unauthorised ELV sites are fully investigated and closed down. ELV's contain many hazardous materials such as lead acid batteries, fluids including lubricating oil, coolant, brake fluid, and catalytic converters, all of which must be disposed of safely in order to prevent pollution.

Landfill Aftercare

Restoration and Aftercare continues on three licensed landfills – Balleally, Dunsink and Nevitt, in accordance with EPA requirements.



1. Rogerstown Park/Balleally Landfill



2. Nevitt Historic Landfill - Former Fingal Landfill



3. Dunsink Landfill

Active Travel

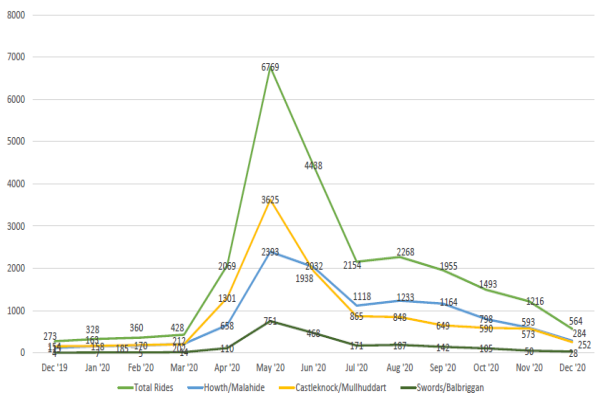
Bleper Bike Share Scheme –

Bleperbike usage for December was 564. This month's figures are 106% higher than usage of the same time last year. Tuesday's and Thursday's were the most popular day for Bleper's bikes with 18.44% and 15.42% of the weekly usage. Bleper had 69 bikes operating in Fingal during October, 2 less than October.

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

The hire of Bleper's bikes continue to be free for all Fingal staff.

The Active Travel Section are currently inviting Market Sounding from bike share and micro mobility companies to commence E bike share schemes & E Scooter throughout the County.



In December Bleper accumulated:

- 1,582,767 metres
- 307,053 (g) of carbon emissions saved
- 255,885 calories burned

Bike Racks

Bike racks continue to be installed throughout the County and recently have been installed at Balbriggan beach, Swords, Ballyboughal, Loughshinny Beach, the Skate Park in Swords, Martello Tower, Balbriggan, Donabate Beach, Quay Street Car Park, Balbriggan, Newbridge House, Harbour Road, Skerries and Strand Street in Skerries.



Bike Racks recently installed at Balbriggan beach

Sports Clubs and Community Centres have been invited to apply for free bike racks to encourage active travel.

Bike Racks for Schools initiative

All 43 schools that applied for bike racks under the bike racks for schools' initiative have now received their bike racks. If a school wishes to apply for bike racks they can do so by completing the online application form and submitting it to Road.Safety@Fingal.ie.

Congratulations!

BLEEPERbikers in Fingal

 you travelled
1,582,767 metres

IN THE MONTH OF DECEMBER



you saved
**307,053 (g)
carbon emissions**



you burned
**255,885
calories**



Low profile bike racks delivered to schools



Toast racks delivered to schools

Cycle Bus

A guide to setting up a 'Cycle Bus' within schools has now been electronically distributed to all primary schools in Fingal.

In particular we hope to work with the schools in the Rivervalley area in Swords and Huntstown/Hartstown area of Blanchardstown where segregated and safe cycle lanes have recently been installed.

The Active Travel Section will also provide support and high viz vests to schools who set up 'Cycle Buses'.

Information on the RSA's 'Seatbelt Sheriff' and 'Hi-glow Silver' campaigns have also been distributed to primary schools.



Safer Routes to Schools (School Streets and School Zones)

The Active Travel section have engaged with Systra, the consultancy company, to assess the potential for the expansion of Fingal's School Streets and School Zones throughout the County. By the end of the year we expect to have a number of additional School Streets and School Zones in operation.

FINANCE

Contents
Rates Waiver Scheme for first quarter of 2021
Making of the Rate
Financial Reports

Rates Waiver Scheme for first quarter of 2021

DHLGH have provided details of the rates waiver for the first Quarter of 2021. The main points are detailed below:

- €160m has been allocated nationally for the scheme.
- The scheme is modified from that rolled out in 2020 and on this basis is separate and stand alone.
- The scheme is much more prescriptive regarding categories of ratepayer included and excluded.
- All rateable properties categorised as “industrial” and “office” are now excluded.
- Vacant properties will now be excluded from the scheme.
- The full details of included and excluded categories is outlined in Circular Fin 01/2021.
- There will be an appeals process for those in excluded category but appellants will need to illustrate that they meet the criteria for CRSS i.e. turnover from the relevant business activity in the claim period does not exceed 25% of the average weekly turnover for the same period in 2019.
- Our initial assessment of the scheme indicates that c. 4100 rate accounts in Fingal will be excluded (vs. c.300 excluded in the 2020 scheme) before appeals.
- FCC will be communicating with all ratepayers over the next few weeks on their status i.e. eligible / ineligible and the clear steps the ineligible need to take if they wish to appeal.

Making of the Rate

Following determination of the rate by Members at the Annual Budget Meeting, the rate was made by the Chief Executive on 29th January 2021. The total amount of current rates assessed for 2021 is €149,407,393. Arrangements are in hand for the issuing of rate bills.

Financial Reports

Monthly financial reporting of the Revenue/Capital accounts and on Debtors will commence, as normal, from the period ending February 28, 2021 for the March Council meeting.