8th October 2014

To all Fingal Community Groups,

Fingal County Council Community Development Office is writing to invite your organisation to register on the official Fingal Community County Register. Registered groups will automatically become a member of the Fingal Community Network. Registration is Free.

The Fingal Community Network (FCN) is Fingal’s Public Participation Network and is the new way for Fingal County Council to connect with the community, voluntary and environmental sectors within Fingal. The Network is fully supported by Fingal County Council.

Successful registration ensures your organisation has a vote in electing representatives to Fingal County Council’s decision making bodies, namely

- Fingal County Council Strategic Policy Committees for Economic Development & Enterprise, Housing, Planning & Strategic Infrastructure, Transportation, Water & Environment Services, Arts Culture Heritage and Community

- Local Community Development Committee\*

- Joint Policing Committees.

Other benefits include access to support & training, networking with your peers, access to information, representing views of your community and criteria for funding.

\*The Local Government Reform Act (2014) delegate’s significant responsibility to the recently established Fingal LCDC including primary responsibility for co-ordinating, planning and overseeing local and community development funding, whether spent by local authorities or on behalf of the state by other local development bodies. Links to the LCDCs guiding principles, purpose and functions along with its current membership are available on the web, search ‘Fingal LCDC’.

How to register (closing date 7th November)

To register and get involved, your organisation must be a Community and Voluntary group in Fingal. Your group can become a member by completing the enclosed Registration Form and returning in the FREEPOST envelop provided. Once registered, organisations will automatically become members of the Fingal Community Network and will receive an invitation to the first FCN Plenary meeting on the 29th November. The Plenary meeting will gather all registered members of the Network and facilitate elections to Linkage Groups and the Secretariat.

Voting & Elections

Two important elections will take place on 29th November to 1. elect community representatives to the decision making committees of Fingal County Council 2. elect people from the community to represent the community voice on FCN Secretariat.

(i) Decision Making Bodies (see above for list)

In order to vote or seek nominations to the Fingal County Council decision making bodies, your organisation must be registered by 7th November 2014 and become part of a linkage group. A linkage group is a mechanism within the Fingal Community Network where common interest groups will have the responsibility for electing the representative to a relevant decision making body and give direction and support to that representative.

Your organisation can become a member of a linkage group by completing Section 3 of the enclosed Registration Form, specifically; ticking √the box of which Linkage Group your organisation would like to be involved with. We encourage all groups to select a minimum of one group; the groups are as follows:

Transport Planning & Strategic Infrastructure

Housing Environment & Water

Arts Culture & Heritage Economic & Enterprise Development

Community Safety Fingal Local Community Development Committee - Community & Voluntary / Social Inclusion / Environment

(ii) Secretariat

The Secretariat election will take place on 29th November. The Secretariat will comprise of 9 FCN members and is tasked with the responsibility for ensuring the proper functioning of the Linkage Groups and the Network. The Secretariat will not be the vehicle for FCN members to be elected onto the decision making body. This will happen at Linkage Group level.

Nominations to the decision making bodies and the Secretariat will be sought in November with elections to take place at the County Plenary meeting on 29th November.

Your organisation must be registered to vote in these two very significant and important elections.

For more information on the Fingal Community Network, we have enclosed a FAQ Information Sheet or please contact Fingal County Council at 01 8905105 or email PPN@fingal.ie. Alternatively, 4 Public Information Workshops will be held throughout the county to provide information on the Network and to provide the opportunity to register, dates are as follows (7.00pm to 9.30pm)

- Monday 20th October: Dublin 15 Workshop, Crown Plaza Blanchardstown

- Wednesday 22nd October: East Fingal Workshop, Marine Hotel Sutton

- Tuesday 28th October: Swords/ Mid Fingal Workshop, Carnegie Court Hotel, Swords

- Wednesday 29th October: North Fingal Workshop, Bracken Court Hotel, Balbriggan.

The County Plenary will take place 29th November in the Carnegie Court Hotel.

All organisations are encouraged to attend.

Kind regards

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Pat Queenan

Principal Community Officer

Community Development Office

Fingal County Council