



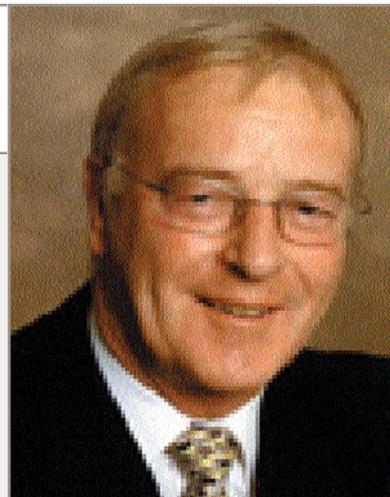
**Comhairle Contae Fhine Gall**  
Fingal County Council



# Contents

|  |    |
|--|----|
| Mayor's Introduction                           | 3  |
| Message from the County Manager                | 4  |
| Fingal County Council Electoral Map            | 5  |
| Corporate Affairs Department                   | 6  |
| Law Department                                 | 23 |
| Human Resources Department                     | 25 |
| Finance Department                             | 27 |
| Information Technology                         | 30 |
| Architects' Department                         | 32 |
| Water Services Department                      | 35 |
| Planning & Strategic Infrastructure Department | 44 |
| Housing Department                             | 50 |
| Community, Culture & Sport Division            | 54 |
| Libraries Division                             | 59 |
| Environment, Business & Enterprise             | 61 |
| Operations Department                          | 76 |

## Mayor's Introduction



In 2011 I have had the very pleasant duty of representing Fingal as Mayor. It has been another challenging year for all citizens and businesses, but as always, the community spirit and enthusiasm of the county continues to be evident through the many varied events that I have had the honour of officiating at.

In July I attended the opening of Fold Housing, a new sheltered housing facility at Cherryfields, Hartstown, Dublin 15, developed in partnership with Fingal County Council and the HSE, and funded by the Department of Environment Heritage and Local Government. The development provides independent living in a social housing scheme. It is a wonderful facility that Fingal citizens can avail of, which allows our elderly citizens to remain in their communities near friends and family.

In August, the Harmony Cup football tournament hosted 32 teams of young people of all ages and abilities. The essence of the Harmony Tournament is that it is not an 'elite based' football tournament but a community event providing a fun environment for young people to come together while enjoying their sport and an opportunity to meet people from different backgrounds, cultures and religious beliefs. This year we had 800 participants and were delighted to welcome back our Italian friends and the lads from Special Olympics, Cork. It is great to see the strong links between Fingal County Council and the FAI through the FAI Development Officers, who get behind the tournament every year and play an important role in the competition.

Local community spirit was very much apparent in September when Fingal collected a total of nine awards in the Tidy Towns Competition. Skerries, Malahide, Lusk, Rush, Balscadden, Donabate, Balbriggan, Swords, Rusheeny, Sutton & Howth all showed their continuing commitment and dedication to make a difference to their communities.

Skerries saw the launch of the New Ballast Pit Walkway in November, despite the difficult financial times the project was delivered by Fingal County Council on time and within budget, and was the culmination of years of campaigning by local groups and public representatives. The walkway greatly improved access to the train station, and includes both cycleway and footways, with easy access for all citizens.

Also in November, I was delighted to cut the ribbon at Tesco's latest store in Rush, Co Dublin. Around 90 jobs have been created in the store, the latest stage in Tesco's ?120 million investment programme which is to be welcomed. As well as direct employment, local suppliers will now be working with the company, along with Country Crest which supplies potatoes and onions to Tesco nationwide, further supporting the local economy.

There are many more events and openings over which I had the pleasure of officiating during my term, and I am sure that Fingal will continue to develop and grow over the coming years. I would like to thank my colleagues on the Council for their invaluable support during my term as Mayor of Fingal, and also to thank my Deputy Mayor, Cllr Ken Farrell. I would also like to extend my most sincere thanks to the County Manager, Mr David O'Connor, and of course the staff of Fingal County Council for their support throughout the year.

Gerry McGuire  
Mayor of Fingal

## Message from the County Manager



2011 has been a year of continuing challenges for the citizens and businesses of Fingal, with the local authority striving to continue to deliver an efficient and effective service to all. Census figures released for 2011 have illustrated Fingals' population now stands at 273,991, an increase of 14.2% since the last count. Whilst we have a young and thriving population, and our average age profile stands at 33, substantially below the national average, it remains particularly important to continue to engage with all members of the community, in order to plan effectively for the future.

In September Fingal became the first County in the Dublin Region to go Age Friendly. The initiative, launched by the Minister for Health, James Reilly TD, provides a new opportunity for all agencies, to discuss issues which concern older people, and to explore a collaborative approach to providing opportunities for the older citizen to be involved and influential in shaping their communities.

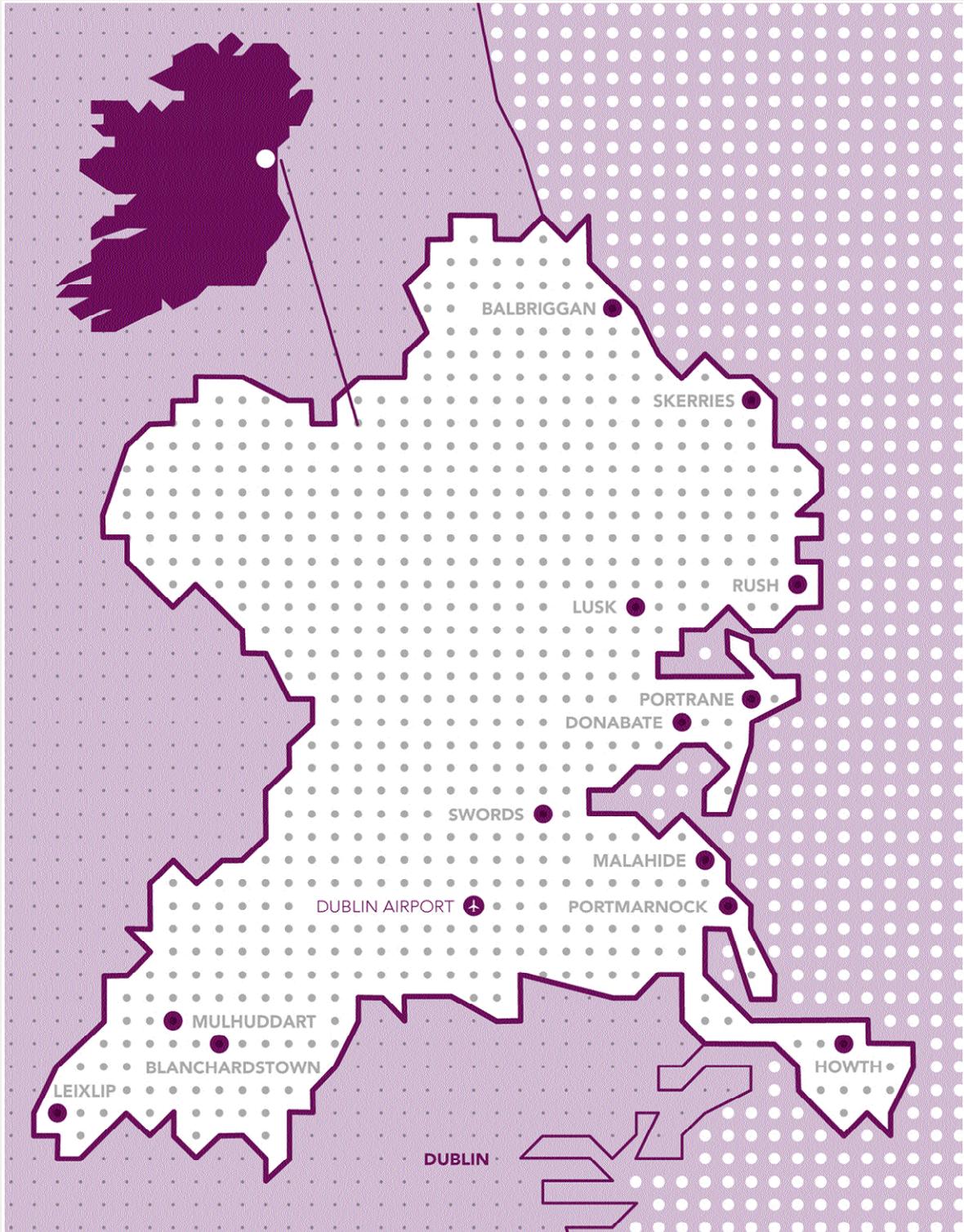
It is also crucially important that the young population of Fingal are catered for through the provision of educational and recreational facilities. The Applewood and Ongar Community Centres, along with the Ongar Primary School, St Benedict's N.S, opened its gates this year providing modern and exciting new community facilities. These provisions were made possible through the Fingal Schools Model, which was developed as a way of fast tracking the delivery of schools and community facilities throughout the county. Fingal County Council signed an agreement with the Department of Education and Skills whereby the Council identifies school sites and assists in their acquisition. This arrangement enables modern facilities to be provided to both the school and the local community.

I wish to thank the staff of Fingal for their continuing support and hard work over the last year. Despite reduced resources, we as a Council have continued to provide a professional service to all our Citizens.

I would like to thank the Mayor, Councillor Gerry McGuire and his predecessor Councillor Ken Farrell and each of the Members of the Council for their co-operation and support on so many issues during 2011. I look forward to us all working together for the future of Fingal in 2012.

David O'Connor, County Manager

# Fingal County Council Electoral Map



# Corporate Affairs Department

This Department comprises:

- Corporate Services Division
- Citizens Services Division
- Property Services Division
- Workplace Partnership
- Internal Audit Unit
- Events Unit
- Communications Unit



## **MAYOR**

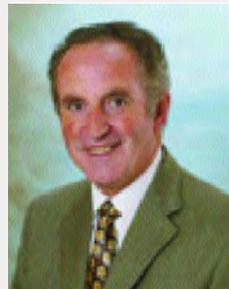
### **Ken Farrell**

Mayor  
January 2011-June 2011



### **Gerry McGuire**

Mayor  
June 2011-December 2011



## **DEPUTY MAYOR**

### **Peter Coyle**

Deputy Mayor  
January 2011-June 2011



### **Patrick Nulty**

Deputy Mayor  
June 2011-December 2011

### **Ken Farrell**

Deputy Mayor  
Nov 2011-Dec 2011

# Fingal County Council Elected Members

## BALBRIGGAN ELECTORAL AREA



**Ken Farrell**  
(Labour)

4 The Drive,  
Orlynn Park, Lusk,  
Co. Dublin  
Mobile: 087 755 1927  
Email: ken.farrell@  
fingalcoco.ie



**David O'Connor**  
(Non Party)

Meadowlands,  
Ballyboughal,  
Co. Dublin.  
Tel: 843 3691  
Mobile: 087 680 3860  
Email: davidj.oconnor@  
fingalcoco.ie



**Tom O'Leary**  
(Fine Gael)

19 Strand Street,  
Skerries, Co. Dublin  
Mobile: 087 241 1626  
Email: tom.oleary@  
fingalcoco.ie



**Ciaran Byrne**  
(Labour)

41 South Strand,  
Skerries, Co. Dublin.  
Tel: 849 1179  
Mobile: 087 227 3060  
Fax: 849 5361  
Email: ciaran.byrne@  
fingalcoco.ie



**May McKeon**  
(Non Party)

Sheemore,  
Market Green,  
Balbriggan, Co. Dublin.  
Tel: 841 3660  
Mobile: 087 785 2644  
Email: may.mckeon@  
fingalcoco.ie

## SWORDS ELECTORAL AREA



**Clare Daly**  
(Socialist Party)

21 Elmwood Drive,  
Swords, Co. Dublin.  
Tel: 840 8059  
Mobile: 087 241 5576  
Fax: 840 8059  
Email: clare.daly@  
fingalcoco.ie



**Gerry McGuire**  
(Labour)

1 The Strand,  
Donabate,  
Co. Dublin.  
Tel: 843 6014  
Mobile: 087 238 1980  
Email: gerry.mcguire@  
fingalcoco.ie



**Tom Kelleher**  
(Labour)

Kilsallaghan,  
Co Dublin.  
Mobile: 087 283 7165  
Email: tom.kelleher@  
fingalcoco.ie



**Darragh Butler**  
(Fianna Fail)

17 Highfield Close,  
Swords,  
Co Dublin.  
Mobile: 087 959 5378  
Email: darragh.butler@  
fingalcoco.ie



**Anne Devitt**  
(Fine Gael)

Lispopple,  
Swords,  
Co. Dublin.  
Tel: 840 9728  
Mobile: 086 812 3435  
Email: anne.devitt@  
fingalcoco.ie

Replaced by  
Eugene Coppinger  
March 2011

**Eugene Coppinger**  
(Socialist Party)

46 Forest Walk,  
Swords, Co. Dublin  
Mobile: 087 232 7412  
Email:  
eugene.coppinger@  
fingalcoco.ie

# Fingal County Council Elected Members

## HOWTH / MALAHIDE ELECTORAL AREA



**Peter Coyle**  
(Labour)

8 Burrow Court,  
Portmarnock,  
Co Dublin.  
Tel: 846 0327  
Mobile: 087 283 7160  
Email: peter.coyle@  
fingalcoco.ie



**Cian O'Callaghan**  
(Labour)

5 Campbell Court,  
Main Street,  
Howth, Dublin 13.  
Mobile: 086 286 6631  
Email: cian.ocallaghan@  
votelabour.ie



**Eoghan O'Brien**  
(Fianna Fail)

7 Seabury View,  
Malahide,  
Co. Dublin  
Mobile: 086 858 0562  
Email: eoghan.obrien@  
fingalcoco.ie



**Alan Farrell**  
(Fine Gael)

42 Biscayne,  
Malahide,  
Co. Dublin.  
Tel: 845 6500  
Mobile 086 820 3320  
Email: alan.farrell@  
fingalcoco.ie



**Joan Maher**  
(Fine Gael)

19 Bayside Square East,  
Sutton, Dublin 13.  
Tel: 832 4840  
Fax: 832 4840  
Mobile: 087 283 7169  
Email: joan.maher@  
fingalcoco.ie

Replaced by  
Anthony Lavin  
March 2011

**Anthony Lavin**  
(Fine Gael)

28 Chalfont Road,  
Malahide, Co. Dublin.  
Mobile: 087 993 1329  
Email: anthony.lavin@  
fingalcoco.ie

## MULHUDDART ELECTORAL AREA



**Ruth Coppinger**  
(Socialist Party)

159 Castlecurragh Heath,  
Mulhuddart,  
Dublin 15.  
Tel: 811 6174  
Mobile: 087 673 0187  
Email: ruth.coppinger@  
fingalcoco.ie



**Kieran Dennison**  
(Fine Gael)

1 Fernleigh Grange,  
Castleknock,  
Dublin 15.  
Mobile: 087 259 5949  
Email: kierandennison@  
gmail.com



**Patrick Nulty**  
(Labour)

5 Greenridge Court,  
Corduff,  
Blanchardstown,  
Dublin 15.  
Mobile: 087 968 8259  
Email: patricknulty@  
gmail.com



**David McGuinness**  
(Fianna Fáil)

40 Sheephill Park,  
Corduff,  
Blanchardstown,  
Dublin 15.  
Mobile: 087 641 5403  
Email: dmcuinn@  
tcd.ie



**Michael O'Donovan**  
(Labour)

70 Delwood Drive,  
Dublin 15  
Tel: 822 0030  
Mobile: 087 220 7798  
Email:  
michael.odonovan@  
fingalcoco.ie

Replaced by  
Mary McCamley  
December 2011

**Mary McCamley**  
(Labour)

147, Castlecurragh Vale,  
Mulhuddart, D.15.  
Mobile : 087 650 1441  
Email: mary.mccamley@  
fingalcoco.ie

# Fingal County Council Elected Members

## CASTLEKNOCK ELECTORAL AREA



**Eithne Loftus**

Fine Gael

6 Deerpark Avenue,  
Castleknock,  
Dublin 15.

Mobile: 087 622 3419

Email: eithne.loftus@  
fingalcoco.ie



**Peggy Hamill**

Labour

Back Lodge,  
Oatlands,  
Castleknock,  
Dublin 15.

Tel; 821 6100

Mobile: 087 993 0009

Email: cllrpeggy.hamill@  
fingalcoco.ie



**Mags Murray**

Fianna Fail

13 Lohunda Close,  
Parkview,  
Clonsilla,  
Dublin 15.

Mobile 086 065 1419

Email: mags.murray@  
fingalcoco.ie



**Matthew Waine**

Socialist Party

58 Woodview Grove,  
Blanchardstown,  
Dublin 15.

Mobile: 087 668 4616

Email: mattwaine@  
gmail.com

# Standing Committees

## AREA COMMITTEES

### Balbriggan/Swords

Members of Balbriggan and Swords Electoral Areas and Cathaoirleach of Balbriggan Town Council

### Castleknock/Mulhuddart

Members of Castleknock and Mulhuddart Electoral Areas

### Howth/Malahide

Members of Howth and Malahide Electoral Areas

## ORGANISATION AND PROCEDURE COMMITTEE

(All Members of Fingal County Council are Members of this Committee)

## CORPORATE POLICY GROUP

Ken Farrell (Mayor)  
January 2011 – June 2011

Gerry McGuire (Mayor)  
June 2011 – December 2012

May McKeon (Chairperson)  
Transportation S.P.C. Jan-June 2011

Mags Murray  
July - December 2011

Tom Kelleher (Chairperson)  
Planning & Development S.P.C.

Kieran Dennison (Chairperson)  
Environment S.P.C.

David O'Connor (Chairperson)  
Community and General S.P.C.

Clare Daly (Chairperson) Housing S.P.C.  
Replaced by Ruth Coppinger,  
March 2011

## MEMBERS OF COMMUNITY AND GENERAL STRATEGIC POLICY COMMITTEE

### Councillors

David O'Connor (Chairperson)  
Darragh Butler  
Peter Coyle  
Anne Devitt  
Peggy Hamill  
Patrick Nulty  
Cian O'Callaghan  
Matthew Waine

### Non Councillor Members

Aidan McGrath  
Dave Francis  
Gráinne Maguire  
Pdraig McMahon  
Brendan Sherlock  
Paul Holden  
Myles Caulfield  
Clodagh O'Donovan

## MEMBERS OF ENVIRONMENT STRATEGIC POLICY COMMITTEE

### Councillors

Kieran Dennison (Chairperson)  
Peter Coyle  
Eugene Coppinger  
Anthony Lavin  
Peggy Hamill  
Eithne Loftus  
Gerry McGuire  
May McKeon  
David O'Connor  
Eoghan O'Brien

### Non Councillor Members

Olive Byrne  
Valerie Henderson  
David Rogers  
Maire O'Brien  
Siobhan O'Sullivan  
Stephen Malone  
Ms. Terry Cummins

# Standing Committees

## MEMBERS OF HOUSING STRATEGIC POLICY COMMITTEE

### Councillors

Ruth Coppinger (Chairperson)  
Eugene Coppinger  
Kieran Dennison  
Ken Farrell  
Joan Maher  
Gerry McGuire  
David McGuinness  
Patrick Nulty  
Cian O'Callaghan  
Michael O'Donovan

### Non Councillor Members

Andrew McCann  
Sylvester Greally  
Kathleen McKillion  
Roderick O'Gorman  
John Cumisky  
Howard Mahony

## MEMBERS OF PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT STRATEGIC POLICY COMMITTEE

### Councillors

Tom Kelleher (Chairperson)  
Ciarán Byrne  
Anne Devitt  
Anthony Lavin  
Joan Maher  
David McGuinness  
Mags Murray  
Michael O'Donovan  
Tom O'Leary  
Matthew Waine

### Non Councillor Members

Rory Bannon  
Terry Kelleher  
Kieran O'Neill  
Terry Cummins  
Ciaran Corcoran  
Brian McKeon

## MEMBERS OF TRANSPORTATION STRATEGIC POLICY COMMITTEE

### Councillors

Mags Murray (Chairperson)  
Darragh Butler  
Ciarán Byrne  
Ruth Coppinger  
Ken Farrell  
Tom Kelleher  
Eithne Loftus  
Eoghan O'Brien  
Tom O'Leary  
May McKeon

### Non Councillor Members

Rory Bannon  
Brendan Doorley  
Raymond Ryan  
David Donnelly  
Jean Fay Brady  
Cathal Boland  
Bernadette O'Connell  
Humphrey Reen

## COUNCILLOR MEMBERSHIP OF OTHER BODIES

### MEMBERS OF BLANCHARDSTOWN COMMUNITY FORUM

#### Councillors

Patrick Nulty  
Eithne Loftus

### MEMBERS OF EASTERN RIVER BASIN DISTRICT ADVISORY COUNCIL

#### Councillors

Ken Farrell  
David O'Connor

### MEMBERS OF SWORDS COMMUNITY POLICING FORUM

#### Councillors

Darragh Butler  
Ann Devitt  
Gerry McGuire

# Standing Committees

## REPRESENTATIVES ON STATUTORY BODIES

Statutory Bodies, Committees and Organisations, to which Fingal County Council elects, nominates or appoints persons.

## AUDIT COMMITTEE

### Councillors

Peter Coyle  
Ciaran Byrne  
Joan Maher

### Non-Councillors

Dr. Philip Byrne  
Sean Carey  
Joe Harford  
Ashley Connolly

## COUNTY DUBLIN VOCATIONAL EDUCATION COMMITTEE

### Councillors

Ken Farrell  
David McGuinness  
Joan Maher  
Gerry McGuire  
Michael O'Donovan

### Non-Councillors

Deirdre Doherty Ryan  
Don Tipping  
Pat Ward  
Liz Kelly

## ASSOCIATION OF CITY AND COUNTY COUNCILS

### Councillors

Eithne Loftus  
Tom Kelleher  
Michael O'Donovan

## DUBLIN REGIONAL AUTHORITY

### Councillors

Peggy Hamill  
May McKeon  
Anne Devitt  
Ciarán Byrne  
Peter Coyle

## EU OPERATIONAL COMMITTEE OF THE DUBLIN REGIONAL AUTHORITY

### Councillors

Ken Farrell (Mayor)  
January 2011 - June 2011

Gerry McGuire (Mayor)  
June 2011 - December 2011

Anne Devitt

## SOUTHERN AND EASTERN REGIONAL ASSEMBLY

### Councillors

Ciarán Byrne  
Anne Devitt

## FINGAL COUNTY ENTERPRISE BOARD

### Councillors

Peter Coyle  
Kieran Dennison  
Gerry McGuire  
May McKeon

## IRISH PUBLIC BODIES MUTUAL INSURANCES LIMITED

### Councillor

Mags Murray

## Standing Committees

### LOCAL AUTHORITY MEMBERS ASSOCIATION

**Councillor**

Mags Murray

### DUBLIN TOURISM

**Councillor**

Peter Coyle

### FINGAL TOURISM LIMITED

**Councillors**

Ken Farrell (Mayor)  
January 2011 - June 2011

Gerry McGuire (Mayor)  
June 2011 - December 2011

Peter Coyle

### NORTH DUBLIN DEVELOPMENT COALITION (NORDUBCO)

**Councillors**

Ken Farrell (Mayor)  
January 2011 - June 2011

Gerry McGuire (Mayor)  
June 2011 - December 2011

Anne Devitt

### FINGAL LEADER PARTNERSHIP BOARD

**Councillors**

May McKeon  
Ciarán Byrne  
Anne Devitt  
Tom Kelleher

### DUBLIN EMPLOYMENT PACT – STRATEGIC POLICY GROUP

**Councillor**

Michael O'Donovan

### BLANCHARDSTOWN AREA PARTNERSHIP

**Councillors**

Kieran Dennison  
Peggy Hamill  
Matthew Waine

### LOCAL TRAVELLER ACCOMMODATION CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE

**Councillors**

Anne Devitt  
Eugene Coppinger  
Cian O'Callaghan

### BLANCHARDSTOWN DRUG TASK FORCE

**Councillors**

Patrick Nulty  
David McGuinness

### NORTHSIDE PARTNERSHIP

**Councillor**

Cian O'Callaghan

### JOINT FINGAL AND SOUTH DUBLIN LIFFEY VALLEY MANAGEMENT ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Ciarán Byrne (Mayor)  
January 2010 - June 2010

Ken Farrell (Mayor)  
June 2010 - December 2010

# Standing Committees

## **CASTLEKNOCK ELECTORAL AREA:**

### **Councillors**

Peggy Hamill  
Mags Murray  
Matthew Waine  
Eithne Loftus

## **MULHUDDART ELECTORAL AREA:**

### **Councillors**

Ruth Coppinger  
Michael O'Donovan  
Kieran Dennison  
Patrick Nulty  
David McGuinness

## **NATIONAL RURAL DEVELOPMENT FORUM**

### **Councillor**

Ciarán Byrne

## **BALLEALLY LANDFILL LIAISON COMMITTEE**

### **Councillor**

Ken Farrell  
May McKeon  
Anne Devitt  
Gerry McGuire

## **COUNTY HERITAGE FORUM**

### **Councillor**

David O'Connor  
Peter Coyle  
Kieran Dennison  
May McKeon  
Mags Murray

## **NORTH FRINGE AREA FORUM**

### **Councillors**

Cian O'Callaghan  
Joan Maher  
Peter Coyle  
Eoghan O'Brien  
Alan Farrell

## **REGIONAL HEALTH FORUM DUBLIN AND NORTH EAST**

### **Councillors**

May McKeon  
Mags Murray  
Eithne Loftus  
Gerry McGuire  
Anne Devitt  
Kieran Dennison

## **HANSFIELD SDZ STEERING GROUP**

### **Councillors**

Ruth Coppinger  
Michael O'Donovan  
Patrick Nulty  
David McGuinness  
Kieran Dennison

## **FINGAL INTEGRATED TRANSPORT GROUP**

### **Councillor**

Mags Murray

## **HEALTHY FINGAL**

### **Councillors**

Gerry McGuire  
Michael O'Donovan  
Peter Coyle  
Eithne Loftus  
Tom O'Leary

# Standing Committees

## JOINT POLICING COMMITTEE

### Councillors

Ken Farrell (Mayor)  
January 2011 - June 2011

Gerry McGuire (Mayor)  
June 2011 - December 2011

Mags Murray  
Peggy Hamill  
David O'Connor  
Eoghan O'Brien  
Eithne Loftus  
Kieran Dennison  
Matthew Waine  
Michael O'Donovan  
Ann Devitt  
Peter Coyle  
Anthony Lavin  
Eugene Coppinger

## FINGAL SPORTS PARTNERSHIP COMMITTEE

### Councillors

Anne Devitt  
Eoghan O'Brien  
David O'Connor

## DRINAN ENTERPRISE CENTRE

### Councillors

Gerry McGuire  
Anthony Lavin

## EDGE CITIES NETWORK

### Councillor

Ciaran Byrne

## BALBRIGGAN COMMUNITY POLICING FORUM

### Councillors

Ciarán Byrne  
May McKeon

## DRAÍOCHT

### Councillor

Peggy Hamill

## DUBLIN NORTH-EAST DRUGS TASK FORCE

### Councillor

Cian O'Callaghan

## FINGAL INTEGRATED TRANSPORT GROUP

### Councillor

May McKeon

## AIRPORT REGIONS CONFERENCE (ARC)

### Councillor

Anne Devitt

## NUCLEAR FREE LOCAL AUTHORITY

### Councillor

Michael O'Donovan

## LES RENCONTRES

### Councillor

Tom Kelleher

## GOVERNING AUTHORITY OF DCU

### Councillor

Ciaran Byrne

# Corporate Services Division

## REGISTER OF ELECTORS

The final Register of Electors for 2011/12 was published on 01/02/11.

The total number of Electors on the final register was 175,346.

A draft register of electors for 2012/2013 was published on the 01/11/2011.

The total number of electors on draft register was 176,195

## EDITED REGISTER OF ELECTORS

The edited register of electors published on the 1st February 2011 contained 17,050 names.

## SCHOOL MEALS SCHEME

Approximately 2,877 children in 10 primary schools in the Fingal area were catered for on a daily basis under this scheme.

## HIGHER EDUCATION GRANTS

The Higher Education Grants Scheme 2011 was adopted by Fingal County Council at its meeting on 11th July 2011.

|                                  |            |
|----------------------------------|------------|
| Number of new applications       | 553        |
| Number of new grants awarded     | 321        |
| Number of renewal applications   | 1,126      |
| Number of renewal grants awarded | 834        |
| Total expenditure for 2011       | €4,701,000 |

# Balbriggan Town Council

Balbriggan Town Council (Town Commissioners as it was prior to 2002) has a long history of service as a Local Authority, which began in 1860.

The Council has nine elected members who were elected for a term of five years following the local elections held on 5th June 2009:

Grainne Maguire (Cathaoirleach 2011 - 2012), Larry Dunne (Leas-Cathaoirleach 2011 - 2012), Sean Brown, Monica Harford, Dermot Murray, Grainne Kilmurry, Terry Kelleher, Frank Snowe and Peadar O'Kelly.

The Council provides civic leadership for the people of Balbriggan. It represents their concerns and needs with Fingal County Council, Government Departments and other Statutory Bodies and promotes the town as a good place to live, work and visit.

The town boundary was extended in February 2009 to reflect the growth of the town and provide an opportunity to the newer residents of Balbriggan to vote in the Town Council elections. The population of the new administrative areas is approximately 20,000.

During 2011, Balbriggan Town Council in partnership with Fingal County Council, the Heritage Council and Balbriggan Chamber of Commerce prepared a Public Realm Plan "the Heart of Balbriggan" which was launched by Minister for Health, Dr. James Reilly T.D. on Monday 3rd October 2011. The Public Realm Plan will act as a guide for future public space projects and proposals for Balbriggan. It will also be a resource for local groups and organisations to support their own plans and projects.

The Town Council Annual Awards are held in October each year which affords the Town Council the opportunity of paying tribute to the many people, individuals and groups, who by their actions demonstrate and promote pride and community life in the town. The selection of award winners is based on personal achievement or team effort in areas such as Sport, Art, Literature, Culture or Community Service.

The Town Council organises the St. Patrick's Day Parade in the town and plays an active role in the decoration of the town at Christmas in conjunction with the Balbriggan Chamber of Commerce. The Town Council also promotes and supports festivals / events in the town throughout the year.

The majority of the Council's income is provided by town charges included in the Annual Rate Bill paid by the town's business community.



The Town Manager and Town Clerk deal with the administrative affairs of Balbriggan Town Council along with administrative staff seconded from Fingal County Council. The Town Manager is Ms. Ide de Bairtiseíl. The Town Clerk is Mr. Brian Murray.

## Citizen Services Division

### FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUESTS

| <b>Applications received/processed in</b> | <b>2011</b> | <b>2010</b> | <b>2009</b> |
|---|-------------|-------------|-------------|
| Applications received during 2010         | 67          | 65          | 72          |
| Decisions made during 2010                | 63          | 67          | 76          |
| Applications on Hands at 31/12/ 2010      | 4           | 0           | 2           |

| <b>Nature of Information Sought</b> | <b>2011</b> | <b>2010</b> | <b>2009</b> |
|-------------------------------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|
| Personal (to applicant)             | 33          | 9           | 15          |
| Non-Personal                        | 34          | 56          | 57          |
| Mixed                               | 0           | 0           | 0           |
| Granted                             | 23          | 40          | 48          |
| Part-granted                        | 11          | 23          | 22          |
| Refused                             | 5           | 3           | 2           |
| Transferred                         | 0           | 0           | 0           |
| Withdrawn/Outside FOI               | 24          | 1           | 2           |

| <b>Appeals</b>                      | <b>2011</b> | <b>2010</b> | <b>2009</b> |
|-------------------------------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|
| Appeals to Information Commissioner | 0           | 2           | 3           |

| <b>Source of Requests</b>          | <b>2011</b> | <b>2010</b> | <b>2009</b> |
|------------------------------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|
| Journalists                        | 3           | 10          | 11          |
| Business                           | 2           | 11          | 6           |
| Oireachtas/Local Authority members | 0           | 0           | 0           |
| Other/General Public               | 62          | 44          | 54          |
| Staff                              | 0           | 0           | 1           |

## Citizen Services Division

| <b>Ombudsman Complaints</b> | <b>2011</b> | <b>2010</b> | <b>2009</b> |
|-----------------------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|
| Complaints received         | 4           | 14          | 13          |
| Complaints responded to     | 4           | 14          | 13          |

| <b>Subject of Complaints</b>      | <b>2011</b> | <b>2010</b> | <b>2009</b> |
|-----------------------------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|
| Planning                          | 1           | 2           | 2           |
| Transportation                    | 0           | 0           | 0           |
| Housing                           | 0           | 4           | 6           |
| Finance                           | 1           | 2           | 0           |
| Water & Drainage                  | 1           | 1           | 0           |
| Community, Recreation & Amenities | 0           | 2           | 2           |
| Environment                       | 0           | 3           | 2           |
| Property & Economic Development   | 0           | 0           | 1           |
| Corporate Affairs                 | 1           | 0           | 0           |

| <b>Citizen Charter Complaints</b> | <b>2011</b> | <b>2010</b> | <b>2009</b> |
|-----------------------------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|
| Complaints received               | 1           | 3           | 11          |
| Complaints responded to           | 1           | 3           | 11          |

| <b>Subject of Complaints</b>      | <b>2011</b> | <b>2010</b> | <b>2009</b> |
|-----------------------------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|
| Planning                          | 0           | 0           | 1           |
| Transportation                    | 0           | 0           | 0           |
| Housing                           | 1           | 0           | 1           |
| Finance                           | 0           | 0           | 0           |
| Water & Drainage                  | 0           | 0           | 0           |
| Community, Recreation & Amenities | 0           | 0           | 3           |
| Environment                       | 0           | 3           | 6           |
| Property & Economic Development   | 0           | 0           | 0           |
| Corporate Affairs                 | 0           | 0           | 0           |

# Property Services Division

The Council's Property Services Division acquires and disposes of property on behalf of Fingal County Council and manages properties and land owned by the Council.

## PROPERTY ACQUISITION

Lands, properties and wayleaves are acquired for the various statutory purposes of the Council in one of the following ways:

- Agreement. e.g. The Property Acquisition Section continued in 2010 to progress the acquisition and disposal of school sites in accordance with Memorandum of Agreement between the Department of Education and Skills and Fingal County Council.
- Compulsory Purchase Order. e.g. Fingal County Council Compulsory Purchase (Donabate Distributor Road) Order 2010 submitted to An Bord Pleanala.
- Motorway Order. Acquisitions in respect of the M50 Upgrade Scheme continued in 2011.
- Deed of Waiver. Lands acquired from the Minister for Finance where companies have been dissolved.
- Deed of Dedication. Open Space acquired from developers.

## PROPERTY MANAGEMENT

Holders of the Council's Property Register. Work on Phase 1 of the new Property Interest Register commenced in 2011.

Security and maintenance of Council land/properties.

Letting of Council lands for tillage and grazing by con-acre agreements - approx 800 acres let in 2011.

Caretaker's Agreements and Temporary Convenience lettings for properties and lands not required by the Council in the short term.

Collection of rents from the Council's residential shops.

Disposal of land or properties /grant of wayleaves etc.

Lease of Lands to Sporting Organisations and Utility companies.

# Property Services Division

## WORKPLACE PARTNERSHIP

The Fingal Workplace Partnership Committee was engaged in the following projects and initiatives during 2011.

- Launched Staff Guidelines to help deal with Grief in the Workplace for Fingal County Council and held the 1st Remembrance Ceremony for Fingal Staff who died in service.
- Revised the Business Continuity Plan to help Staff deal with the Flu Pandemic.
- Organised and managed events to help boost morale amongst staff which included Fingal County Council being represented in the Swords St. Patrick's Day Parade, designing and printing a staff calendar showcasing our staff at work and helped create a more positive image of Fingal County Council by advertising the good work that is done by our Staff.
- Organised and managed FETAC Level 4 Continued Learning Programme for Outdoor and Indoor Staff.
- Produced the Revised "Guidelines for the Protection of Children and Young People" Document for Staff.
- Organised the Health & Safety Week which incorporated 3 Sponsored Walks in aid of the New Blanchardstown Hospice, arranged for Corporate Wellbeing Stands to be set up, provided Health Checks for staff and ran a Step Challenge amongst staff. Also organised and held the Children's competitions and party.
- Organized and celebrated the Service and Loyalty of staff who have completed 25 years service in Fingal County Council.
- Supported the continuing production of the staff newsletter "The Raven".



The Committee also facilitated & supported Working Groups and Sub-Groups in the following activities throughout 2011:

- Bereavement Guidelines.
- Health and Safety.
- Staff Morale.
- Equality.
- Business Continuity Planning.

In addition to addressing the foregoing matters, the Workplace Partnership Committee continued to work on implementation of the objectives and goals set out in its action plan in accordance with the National Partnership Plan.

## INTERNAL AUDIT UNIT

During 2011, the Unit provided assurance to the County Manager on the existence, adequacy and effectiveness of the Council's Internal Control system. Internal Audit also assisted Departments through audits undertaken, by evaluating and reporting on the elements of the internal control systems and making recommendations for improvement where necessary. All these Reports included a "Risk Assessment" where appropriate.

As part of its core activity the Unit carried out Compliance checks in a number of Divisions. These also incorporated reports on Economy, Efficiency and Effectiveness within the organisation. In addition the Unit;-

- Completed a number of Special Investigations.
- Continued to promote the concept of Risk Management.
- Continued the process of "Contract Partnership" Audit checks.
- Liaised with the Local Government Auditor.
- Liaised with the Council's Audit Committee.

## EVENTS UNIT

Events Unit offers advice and assistance both for Council Departments and for non-Council organised events.

A sample of the events in 2011 included:

- Swords & Balbriggan St. Patricks Day Parades
- The Salute Show
- Sporting Events such as Triathlons, Road Races & Formula Fun
- Walking Events.
- Fingal Festival of Football
- Music Events
- Theatre in the Parks
- Family Fun Events

Community organisations have sought and received guidance on Safety at Events through the Event Unit in 2011.



## COMMUNICATIONS UNIT

The Communications Office is responsible for dealing with local and national media queries, managing advertising and overseeing corporate communications and internal communications on behalf of Fingal County Council. It advises staff on the responsibility of Fingal County Council as a public body under the Official Languages Act. It also manages the homepage of Fingal County Councils website [www.fingalcoco.ie](http://www.fingalcoco.ie) as well as the corporate Twitter and Facebook accounts. The Communication Team produced and distributed the Councils annual pocket diary to all staff.



In 2011 the Communications Team issued all press releases, and dealt with all media queries from local and national media. 4 Staff newsletters (The Raven) were produced and distributed to all Council staff. 4 issues of Fingal News, Fingal County Councils corporate newsletter were produced and distributed to 81,000 homes in Fingal. A bilingual schools calendar was produced and distributed to every school in Fingal. All queries from the Irish Language Commissioner were dealt with and responded to.

In response to the growing importance of social media as a means of communication a Social Media Policy for staff was drafted and approved by HR for roll out to staff in 2012. Use of corporate social media accounts has been developed to enhance and improve communication by the council in particular at times of service disruption or extreme weather events i.e. water supply disruptions or flooding. This will continue in 2012 and will be incorporated into the redevelopment of Fingal County Councils website.

## LAW DEPARTMENT

The Law Department provides a comprehensive in-house legal service to the County Manager and all of the Council's Departments relating to the broad and varied range of statutory functions. These services include:-

- Consultations with client departments in relation to delivery of Council initiatives and service delivery
- Advising departments in relation to any issues arising from case law and the regulatory framework governing local authorities
- Providing training to Council Departments.
- Representing the Council at arbitrations and oral hearings
- Dealing with acquisitions and disposal of Council properties including
  - clubs and community centres agreements/licences
  - commercial leases of the Council's industrial sites
  - dedications of open spaces
  - equity buy outs
  - first registrations
  - loans and mortgages
  - shared ownerships
  - tenant purchases under the sales schemes
  - voluntary housing schemes



- Initiating and defending cases in the District, Circuit, High Court including the Commercial Court and the Supreme Court including
  - breaches of contract,
  - disputes in relation to land,
  - debt collection including rates collection, judgments and judgment mortgages, injunctions,
  - employers liability claims
  - housing repossessions for non-payment of rent/mortgage and antisocial behaviour,
  - injunctions under section 160 Planning and Development Act
  - judicial review proceedings
  - District Court proceedings on a weekly basis in relation to matters such as litter offences, planning offences, control of dogs, air pollutions, intoxicating bye-laws, housing matters and rates summons
  - personal injury litigation
  - trespass and nuisance.

The current economic climate has seen a decrease in conveyancing transactions and an increase in litigation. Workloads are monitored to ensure the efficient provision of legal services and that litigation and claims are effectively managed. Review and implementation of the department's case management system continued in 2011, which has proved an effective tool in processing rates cases, debt collection and enforcement action. In 2011, PMDS was completed and ongoing training was provided to staff who attended a broad range of courses in the areas of professional development, legal knowledge, I.T., and Agresso.

# Human Resources Department

In 2011 considerable effort took place in amalgamating and consolidating staffing arrangements in departments and divisions to cope with reductions in staffing levels envisaged through the employment control framework and the efficiency review.

2011 also saw the Health and Safety Unit being awarded the Local Authority Sector Award in the National Irish Safety Organisations Annual Occupational Safety Awards. This achievement demonstrates our strong commitment to excellence and continuous improvement in our service provision.



## RECRUITMENT

Fingal County Council employed 1427 staff (FTE) at the 31/12/2011 as detailed in the following table:-

|                 | Permanent    | Temporary | Total        |
|-----------------|--------------|-----------|--------------|
| Administration  | 542          | 4         | 546          |
| Professional    | 136          | 8         | 144          |
| Technical       | 176          | 3         | 179          |
| Craft           | 82           | -         | 82           |
| General Workers | 470          | 6         | 476          |
| <b>Total</b>    | <b>1,406</b> | <b>21</b> | <b>1,427</b> |

# Human Resources Department

## RETIREES

50 staff retired in 2011.

## STAFF TRAINING

111 Training Courses were run in 2011 which provided a total of 1152 training places for staff.

35 employees availed of the Staff Education Scheme in 2011.

### Performance Indicator

Corporate Health - Percentage of days lost to sickness absence: 5.62%.

### Industrial Relations

Council maintained its good industrial relations record.

## HEALTH & SAFETY

The following activities were carried out during 2011;

- 176 safety inspections were carried out.
- 7 safety audits were conducted.

# Finance Department

The Finance Department deals with the short and long term financing of the Council's operations both of a Revenue and Capital nature.

This involves:-

- monitoring and controlling income and expenditure in all areas
- arranging borrowing and leasing requirements and
- treasury and cash flow management
- ensuring that statutory and financial accounting principles are complied with.

The Council's revenue or day-to-day expenditure is defrayed from sources such as:-

- Commercial Rates
- Government Grants
- Housing Rents
- Commercial Water charges
- Planning application fees
- Non principal private residence charges

The amount of money available for capital or infrastructural developments is dependent on State Grants, borrowing and/or development levies.

The main functions of the Finance Department include:-

- Preparation of the Annual Budget
- Preparation of Annual Financial Statement
- Financial Management and Control
- Revenue Collection – commercial rates, commercial water charges, entry year property levies, non principal residence charge
- Payment of accounts
- Payroll administration
- Insurance and claims administration
- Cash Office operations

# Finance Department

## Prompt Payment of Accounts Act 1997

The Prompt Payment of Accounts Act 1997 and the European Communities (Late Payment in Commercial Transactions) Regulations 2002 aims to ensure that all Public Bodies and Contractors on public sector contracts pay amounts due to suppliers promptly. In the event of a payment not being made within a 30 day period from the date of receipt of their valid invoice, there is an obligation to pay an interest penalty.

Constant monitoring of the level and nature of outstanding invoices was conducted throughout the year and action was taken where appropriate to ensure compliance with the Act.

In the course of the year 2011 no interest penalties were incurred by the Council.

| <b>Performance Indicators</b>  | <b>2011</b> | <b>2010</b> | <b>2009</b> |
|--|-------------|-------------|-------------|
| Commercial Rates<br>(Amount collected as % of amount due)                    | 84.99%      | 83.85%      | 88.52%      |
| Commercial Water/Wastewater Charges<br>(Amount collected as % of amount due) | 70.9%       | 71.7%       | 67.9%       |

# Finance Department

## REVENUE ACCOUNT STATEMENT

for year ended 31st December 2011

| <b>Expenditure</b>                          | <b>DRAFT 2011</b>  | <b>2010</b>        |
|---|--------------------|--------------------|
| Housing & Building                          | 36,335,126         | 33,720,849         |
| Roads Transportation & Safety               | 24,480,106         | 27,351,570         |
| Water & Sewerage                            | 41,405,132         | 41,088,150         |
| Development Incentives & Controls           | 14,040,214         | 14,285,351         |
| Environmental Protection                    | 46,015,459         | 46,189,059         |
| Recreation & Amenity                        | 30,125,270         | 31,194,419         |
| Agriculture, Education, Health & Safety     | 14,429,892         | 18,625,866         |
| Miscellaneous                               | 18,004,258         | 21,064,454         |
| <b>Total Gross Expenditure</b>              | <b>224,835,457</b> | <b>233,519,718</b> |
| <b>Income</b>                               |                    |                    |
| Housing & Building                          | 36,751,385         | 34,261,654         |
| Roads Transportation & Safety               | 10,200,697         | 11,415,655         |
| Water & Sewerage                            | 12,599,386         | 14,941,840         |
| Development Incentives & Controls           | 2,173,851          | 2,600,805          |
| Environmental Protection                    | 15,391,177         | 16,486,465         |
| Recreation & Amenity                        | 3,445,498          | 3,689,198          |
| Agriculture, Education, Health & Safety     | 13,164,898         | 17,387,224         |
| Miscellaneous                               | 6,776,676          | 5,758,335          |
| <b>Total Income</b>                         | <b>100,503,568</b> | <b>106,541,176</b> |
| <b>Net Expenditure</b>                      | <b>124,331,889</b> | <b>126,978,542</b> |
| Which is funded by:                         |                    |                    |
| County Rates                                | 116,394,656        | 118,535,544        |
| Local Government Fund                       | 22,660,895         | 24,835,290         |
| Pension Related Deduction                   | 3,606,123          | 3,787,063          |
| <b>TOTAL</b>                                | <b>142,661,674</b> | <b>147,157,897</b> |
| Surplus/(Deficit) for Year before Transfers | 18,329,785         | 20,179,355         |
| Transfers from/(to) Reserves                | (18,307,805)       | (19,977,331)       |
|   | 21,980             | 202,024            |
| Incoming Balance @ 1st January              | 17,650,810         | 17,448,786         |
| <b>Closing Balance @ 31st December</b>      | <b>17,672,790</b>  | <b>17,650,810</b>  |

# Information Technology

The Information Technology (IT) Department is responsible for the strategic use of information technologies in Fingal County Council to support business areas in delivering their objectives through improved efficiencies and effectiveness.

The IT Department enables the provision of services to citizens, staff and elected public representatives through multiple channels such as front desks, mobile devices, Internet and using multiple technologies such as GIS and Web 2.0.

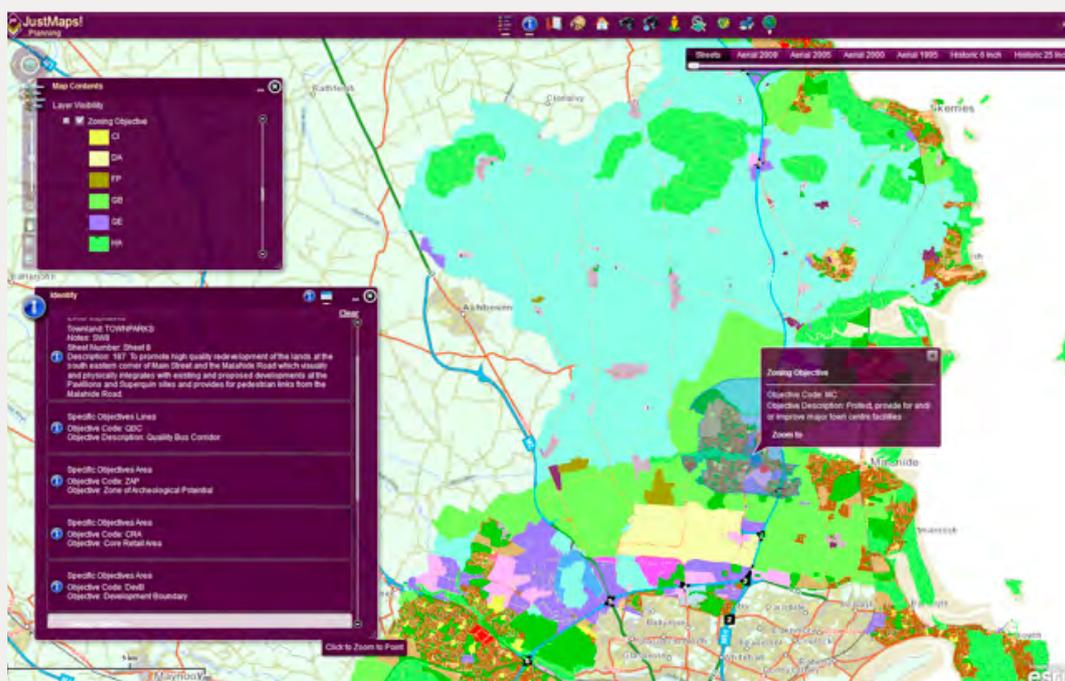
## Projects

The IT Department carried out a number of major projects in cooperation with various Council Departments during 2011, including –

- Implementation of Windows Platform consolidation and Virtualisation
- Completion of Wide Area Network upgrade
- Pilot of VOIP telephony system
- Increase in Public Value through
  - o Provision of WiFi access in Libraries
  - o Implementation of self-service facility in additional Libraries
  - o Launch of Apps4Fingal Open Data competition
  - o Implementation of Online Events System
  - o Launch of regional Dublinked innovation and data-sharing network in partnership with the other Dublin Local Authorities and NUI Maynooth
- Increase in Corporate Value through –
  - o Implementation of CRM in new Operations directorate
  - o Provision of Emergency Management Mapping System
  - o Implementation of Enterprise Collaboration System
  - o Commencement of Business Process Improvement project in Inspectorate Division
  - o Provision of Just Maps Corporate Mapping System

# Information Technology

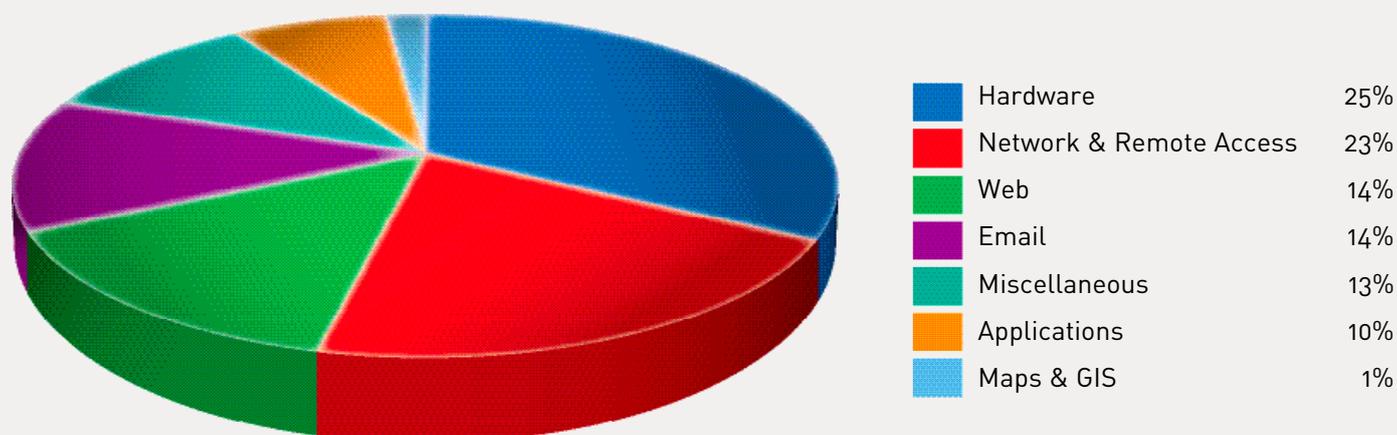
## JUST MAPS CORPORATE MAPPING SYSTEM



## SERVICE DESK

| Call Statistics           | 2011  | 2010  | 2009  |
|---------------------------|-------|-------|-------|
| Service Desk Calls Logged | 5,324 | 5,952 | 8,736 |
| Average calls per month   | 444   | 496   | 728   |
| Average calls per day     | 22    | 23    | 31    |
| Resolved with 24 hours    | 45%   | 57%   | -     |

## BREAKDOWN OF SERVICE DESK CALLS 2011



# Architects Department

The Architects' Department provided architectural design, conservation, urban design and building procurement and quantity surveying services to all departments of the Council during 2011.

## PROJECTS

### Civic Buildings

#### Schools Sites – Pilot projects – Enhanced facilities for Community usage. –

The Department continues to be involved in discussions and assessments with the Community Recreation and Amenities Department to advance the development of schools projects in the Fingal area in a more coherent way.

Two projects in the programme were handed over in 2011 at Applewood, Swords and Tyrellstown, Dublin 15.

#### Malahide Castle-

The development of this project for the redevelopment of the visitor facilities and gardens, continued in 2011. The project is a joint one with the Heritage Properties Section and Architects Department of the Council.

The first phase, the refurbishment of the Steward's House was completed in June 2011. The contract for the new courtyard building has commenced on site, with expected completion in Summer 2012.



#### Portmarnock Scout Den-

This was tendered in August 2011.

#### Martins Shop Rush-

Continuing consultation and design work for a multi-purpose youth facility were carried out in 2011

#### Consultancy Services-

The Architects Department continued to provide architectural consultancy services to Meath County Council, Louth County Council and Drogheda Town Council during 2011.

#### Fancourt and Watery Lane Depots-

The Department project-managed the design and procurement of works to consolidate and re-organise the Council's services depots at Fancourt, Balbriggan and Watery Lane, Swords.

#### Drinan Sports Centre

Design development was carried out on this project – comprising a large sports hall and ancillary accommodation – during 2011, culminating in a public consultation exhibition in December.

#### Flemington Grave Yard

This project – which comprises a memorial garden, a small services building, car park, repository niches and landscape works for a 200-plot cemetery – commenced on site in August 2011.

# Architects' Department

## HOUSING

The Architect's Department continued to offer professional services to the Housing Department in 2011.

### Housing Completions

The Department oversaw the completion of a further phase of the refurbishment of Mourné View Estate in Skerries and the completion of an infill house in Swords.

### Housing projects currently under construction

Work continued, on site, on the mixed tenure scheme at Avondale (with NABCO); a further two phases of the refurbishment of Mourné View; and commenced on an infill housing scheme at Fortlawn Estate.

### Schemes in Preparation

The continuing difficult economic circumstances and the apparent over-supply of housing nationally, mean that the Department of Environment, Heritage and Local Government continues to rely on solutions, other than new construction, as the principal means of provision of social housing.

The Architect's Department continues to concentrate on the provision of housing for the Travelling Community and infill housing as an estate management tool against anti-social behaviour.

### Part V Inspections-

Advice was given, inspections and repairs carried out as requested by the Housing Department.

### House adaptations, extensions and small works-

Programmes of adaptations and extensions of dwellings for people with special needs continued through the year.

### Housing Maintenance

The Department continued to manage the maintenance of the Council's stock of 4,508 dwellings; attending to over 8,000 requests for repair (including requests from the Traveller Accommodation Unit), as well as scheduled external maintenance and repair to over 300 dwellings; and heating maintenance to over 3,000 dwellings.

141 vacant houses were repaired prior to re-letting in 2010. Many of these houses were significantly upgraded to improve energy efficiency.

Tenant induction courses were held, for housing applicants moving into their new homes during 2010.

### Other Services

As well as the above, the Department offered services, advice or comment on radon testing; purchase mapping services; way leave applications; building energy rating; and permissions to carry out alterations by tenants. The Department continued to provide dangerous building inspections and reports, as required, in 2011.



# Architects' Department

## CONSERVATION

The Conservation Officer provided advice and reports to the Planning Department, on an ongoing basis, in relation to protected structures and planning applications, as well as planning enforcement issues.

The Conservation Grants Scheme was suspended for 2011 by the national government.

The Conservation Officer contributed to the review of the Development Plan 2011 – 2017, particularly the drafting of Chapter 6 Archaeology and Architectural Heritage.

The Conservation Office has worked with other Council Departments throughout the year in particular the Heritage Properties and Parks Section, through participation on the Heritage Advisory Committee. It has advised on the management of Historic and Protected Structures in the Council's ownership. It has also participated in the Heritage Forum for the review of the new Heritage Plan and steering group of a number of Heritage Plan Projects including:

- The Structural Assessment of Fingal-County-Council-Owned Monuments;
- The Martello Towers of Dublin exhibition

Consultants were appointed to prepare conservation plans for Bremore and Swords Castles.

The Conservation office participated in the Traditional Building Skills Show at Farmleigh in August, organised by the Irish Georgian Society.



## PLANNING AND URBAN DESIGN

### Architectural Reports -

The Department has written reports on architectural content in respect of significant private developments being proposed in the County and taken part in pre planning meetings on request from the Planning Department.

## PROJECTS OFFICE

The Projects Office is responsible for the delivery of the major water and wastewater infrastructural projects to meet the long term needs of the County and the Region.

- Leixlip Water Treatment Plant Extension – Contract awarded in 2011. Construction to commence January 2012.
- Balbriggan Skerries Network Contract – One Contract received approval to proceed to construction namely, Rush Road Pumping Station, Skerries. Planning permission approved and contract documents being prepared.
- Portrane, Donabate, Rush & Lusk Waste Water Treatment Scheme – DBO Contract – The Treatment Plant is nearing completion. To be completed Q2 - 2012
- Portrane, Donabate, Rush & Lusk Waste Water Treatment Scheme – Network Contracts – The first of 12 contracts was awarded in October 2011. This contract will upgrade the sewer along Channel Road & Sandy Road in Rush and should be complete by Q3 – 2012.
- Blanchardstown Regional Drainage Scheme – Procurement of Liffey Siphon refurbishment and permanent flow monitors will be completed in 2012.
- Swords WWTP Expansion – Tender Assessment for an extension to 90,000 P.E. was completed in Q4 – 2011. Contract not yet awarded
- Swords North Strengthening Scheme – Lissenhall to Jordanstown. Works on site complete. Fingal County Council Water Services are awaiting Final Account report from Nicholas O'Dwyer Consulting Engineers.
- Malahide Reservoir Scheme SLI – There have been ongoing delays with land transfer for the site into the Council's ownership. The contract documents are almost complete.
- Balbriggan Water Supply Scheme Phase 1 SLI – Works commenced on site on 28th November 2011. Jons Civil Engineering are the main contractor and O'Connor Sutton Cronin are the Consulting Engineers. The estimated completion date is the end of September 2012.
- Water Conservation PRV Project – Figure of €500,000 on the 2010-2012 WSIP. Funding of €215,000 for Stage 1 of the PRV approved by the DOECLG in mid 2011. It is hoped to commence installing PRV's in the 3rd Quarter of 2012 by a framework contractor employed by Dublin City Council. Fingal County Council Leakage section is compiling data for submission for stage 2 of the PRV programme.
- Water Conservation Hotspot programme – Figure of €4.667 million in 2010-2012 WSIP. Application for phases 1 and 2 of the Hotspot made in September 2011. Phase 1 to be carried out by a DCC framework contractor. Phase 2 being carried currently by Fingal County Council Operations staff as it is based on their current works programme. Works are 90% refundable.



# Water Services Department

- Kilshane - Glebe Watermain Replacement (3 separate contracts) – 95% complete by end 2011. Final contract for Ward Cross Roundabout commenced in November 2011 and should be complete in May 2012.
- Swords Watermain Rehabilitation Scheme – 5.3km of ex 30" prestressed concrete trunk main to be rehabilitated by slip lining or replacement. Preliminary design complete in 2011. PR was submitted to DOECLG along with Technical Justification and Budget for scheme. Expected commencement of construction in Q4/2012.
- Ballycoolen - Kingstown Watermain Duplication – 7km of 900mm main – Route Selection, Technical Report and Planning Budget submitted in 2011 to DOECLG for approval to proceed to WSIP Construction stage. A design brief and budget to Stage 3 to be submitted.
- Howth Water Supply Scheme (planning stages WSIP) – This scheme was included in the WSIP at the Review stage in 2011. Budget and Design Brief to be developed. Preliminary Design Review Report by NOD in 2001 identified works requirements. As there have been no substantial changes in the water supply regime no design review is envisaged.
- Ward Water Supply Scheme - Kilshane to Glebe WaterMain – This scheme, part of the Ward WSS Scheme is being delivered under different contracts with the Irish Prison Service. Two contracts have been completed, the third started in November 2011.

## DESIGN OFFICE

The Design Office is responsible for the design and delivery of water services infrastructure, including water supply, wastewater and surface water drainage schemes and flood relief, to meet the ongoing needs in the County.

### Current Projects

- Ballycoolen Trunk Main (Ballycoolen/Kingstown) – Route selection report and planning budget submitted to the DOEHLG for approval.
- Santry Pumpstation – The detailed design of the Santry pumpstation upgrade was completed in 2011. The change to the size and layout of the pumpstation following the detailed design requires a revised Part VIII application. An Appropriate Assessment screening is being prepared for the revised Part VIII and will be submitted to the relevant parties in Q1 – 2012.
- Cloghran Sewerage Scheme – Detailed design completed in 2011. Tender Documents are awaiting final ESB requirements and landowner approvals. Construction should start in Q3 – 2012 and be completed in 2013.
- Fingal East Meath Flood Risk Assessment and Management Study (FEMFRAMS) The final Technical Report, and the Draft Flood Risk Management Plan were finalised in 2011.

# Water Services Department

## OPERATIONS SECTION

The Operations Section is responsible for the management and maintenance of the water and wastewater networks and treatment plants in the County.

- Rolestown Sewerage Scheme – The second phase of this scheme was completed in 2010 and reinstatement works continued throughout 2011 and will be completed in Q1 – 2012.

### Water Supply:

Fingal County Council has two treatment facilities at Leixlip and Bog of the Ring which produce a combined total of 170 million litres of treated drinking water each day. The water network is managed via a regional telemetry system which relays information on reservoir levels, flows and pressures from remote sites. Together the Regional Geographical Information System (GIS) and the Telemetry System play a key role in the management of the water distribution network. Water is tested regularly at all stages of the treatment process and throughout the distribution system to ensure compliance with European and National drinking water standards.

### Burst and leaks for the year 2011

| Burst numbers                         | Area 1<br>Balbriggan/<br>Swords | Area 2<br>Mulhuddart/<br>Castleknock | Area 3<br>Malahide/<br>Swords | Total No.<br>of Bursts<br>in 2011 |
|---------------------------------------|---------------------------------|--------------------------------------|-------------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| Total no. of bursts this year         | 169                             | 15                                   | 31                            | 215                               |
| Total no. of leaks repaired this year | 283                             | 150                                  | 174                           | 607                               |

- Developed a system for the tracking of leaks within Estates not taken in Charge as well as private side leaks. Over 100 warning letters issued on leakage and 20 Section 54 Notices served. There has been a significant response to this initiative.

### Watermains and Sewers Constructed in 2011

| Section                  | Length (m)    |
|--------------------------|---------------|
| <b>Watermains</b>        |               |
| FCC Direct Labour        | 9600          |
| Network Build Frameworks | 9400          |
| Contractor               | 14770         |
| Rehab Project            | 3050          |
| <b>TOTAL</b>             | <b>36,820</b> |
| <b>Sewers</b>            |               |
| Foul Sewer in Skerries   |               |

# Water Services Department

- Developed Standard Details for Water Design.
- New Framework Agreement developed and will be ready for use by the end of Jan 2012.

## **Water Plant and Equipment**

- New pump station constructed at Cottrelstown Reservoir
- 80% of new pumping station at Kilshane constructed
- New Chlorine dosing stations installed at Kilsallaghan, Cottrelstown, Bayside, Lissenhall and Thomastown (80%complete)
- New Chlorine Analysers installed at Cottrelstown, Oldtown, Naul and Skerries
- OSEC plant repairs and a basic emergency chlorination system installed

## **Water Quality**

- Lead identification project has concluded that there are no lead service pipes back as far as 1950
- Water Quality Monitoring to feed on-line information back through telemetry
- DWIRP ready for adopting and DW Safety Plan underway

## **Health & Safety**

- H&S Work Force created to develop guidelines and risk assessments appropriate to the tasks within Water and Drainage Operations

# Water Services Department

## DRAINAGE SERVICES

The Council operates two large wastewater treatment facilities at Swords and Malahide with the Barnageeragh Plant serving the town of Balbriggan and Skerries operated on the Council's behalf by a private operator. In addition the Council operates a number of smaller treatment plants serving Portrane and the smaller villages.

Wastewater from the Blanchardstown area is treated at Dublin City Council's Wastewater Treatment Facility at Ringsend. The Drainage Section is responsible for the provision and maintenance of the wastewater treatment facilities and collection systems.



### Headlines 2011

- Preventative maintenance programme continued in 2011 targeting the Malahide network
- Discharge Licences for the agglomerations of Rush and Lusk received from the EPA.
- Certificates of Authorisation for the smaller agglomerations of Garristown and the Naul received from the EPA.
- A discharge Licence for the Malahide Agglomeration was issued by the EPA in 2011. A review of the Portrane Donabate Licence was applied for to the EPA to cater for the addition of Rush and Lusk to the agglomeration and the new WWTP under construction at Portrane
- Certificates of Authorisation were issued by the EPA in respect of the agglomerations of Oldtown, Ballyboghil, Newtown Cottages, Colecot Cottages and Turvey Cottages.

# Water Services Department

## DIRECT LABOUR SECTION

The Direct Labour Section is responsible for the provision of new or replacement infrastructure either directly or through the use of contractors from a Framework Agreement.

### Headlines 2011

- Approx. 12.75km of watermain replaced in the County in 2011 by combination of small water schemes carried out by FCC staff and larger schemes carried out by contractors from the Framework Agreement.
- Refurbishment of Cottrelstown Reservoir and reconstruction of Cottrelstown Pump Station was completed.
- Two Pressure Reducing Valve installations were constructed by the direct labour crew.
- The final leg of the pumped watermain from Jordanstown Reservoir to Hollywood Reservoir was replaced in 2010, meaning that all of this strategic main has now been renewed.
- The finishing-off works on the foul sewer on the Old Airport Road were completed. This involved the laying of new collector sewers and the provision of connections to households and one Industrial Estate.



# Water Services Department

## ADMINISTRATION SECTION

The Administration Section is responsible for the management of the Water Services communications protocol, for financial management in the department and administrative support to Operations and Projects of Water Services.

### Headlines 2011

- 120 applications for water and sewer connections were processed in 2011.
- A total number of 60 questions, 41 motions and 1 headed item were dealt with at Council/Committee meetings during 2011.
- During 2011 the use of the Fingal County Council Website and Aertel was enhanced to provide up to-date information regarding water outages on a 24/7 basis. A service is also available whereby an e-mail can be issued for planned or prolonged water outages i.e. over 4 hours duration. The Communications Office also issues water outage notifications to the press and radio media and via Twitter. As a result there has been a significant reduction in phone call traffic. A texting service was provided on a pilot basis to the residents of the Naul (those who signed up to receive texts) to provide up to-date information on water outages/pressure reductions during a period of watermain rehabilitation
- 4 formal press releases were sent out in 2011, primarily on the subjects of planned works and also highlighting the message of water conservation. The Communications Office issued many informal press releases during the course of the year.
- The Fingal News (4 issues during 2011) carried a total of 6 water related articles.
- Water Services produced a leaflet "A Guide to Water Services & Water Conservation" during 2011. This was/is available in hardcopy at all Council Offices and Libraries and also as a pdf on the Fingal County Council website.

# Water Services Department

## STRATEGIC POLICY COMMITTEE

The Environment Strategic Policy Committee (S.P.C.) met four times in 2011. The committee comprises Elected Members of the Council in addition to representatives from a range of Sectoral interests including I.B.E.C., I.F.A. and the Community and Voluntary Forum representative.

The principal role of the S.P.C. is the development and consideration of the impact of policy, which is then referred to a full County Council meeting for approval.

## KEY PERFORMANCE INDICATORS /NATIONAL SERVICE INDICATORS

### % of burst watermains repaired and water supply restored within

|                       | 2008 | 2009  | 2010 | 2011  |
|-----------------------|------|-------|------|-------|
| 12 Hours              | 95%  | 91.2% | 89%  | 98.5% |
| 24 Hours              | 4%   | 3.15% | 2.5% | 0%    |
| Greater than 24 Hours | 1%   | 5.65% | 8.5% | 1.5%  |

### % of water samples in compliance with Drinking Water Regulations

|                      | 2008 | 2009 | 2010 | 2011 |
|----------------------|------|------|------|------|
| Leixlip              | 100% | 100% | 100% | 100% |
| Bog of the Ring      | 100% | 100% | 100% | 100% |
| Distribution Network | 100% | 100% | 100% | 100% |

### Levels of Unaccounted for Water (UFW)

|     | 2008   | 2009   | 2010   | 2011  |
|-----|--------|--------|--------|-------|
| UFW | 21.62% | 27.35% | 31.98% | 33.76 |

### % compliance with Urban Wastewater Treatment Regulations

|                   | 2008   | 2009   | 2010   | 2011  |
|-------------------|--------|--------|--------|-------|
| Swords WWTP       | 71.80% | 77.30% | 79.48% | 95.4% |
| Malahide WWTP     | 78.85% | 81.76% | 94.5%  | 96.4% |
| Portrane WWTP     | 90.88% | 58.83% | 53.92% | 50.1% |
| Villages WWTP     | 91%    | 75.45% | 65.58% | 83.4% |
| Barnageeragh WWTP | N/A    | 100%   | 97.5%  | 98.6% |

## Water Services Department

|  | 2008 | 2009 | 2010 | 2011 |
|--|------|------|------|------|
| Sewage overflows<br>from Pump Stations | 25   | 58   | 39   | 25   |

### **Length of Watermain Replaced**

|                              | 2008   | 2009  | 2010   | 2011   |
|------------------------------|--------|-------|--------|--------|
| Metres of watermain replaced | 20,868 | 8,328 | 12,750 | 36,820 |

## **GREATER DUBLIN DRAINAGE (GDD)**

The Greater Dublin Drainage (GDD) project commenced officially on 14th March 2011.

The primary objective of the GDD project is to safely bring through the planning stage a long-term drainage solution that shall cater for existing and future development in the Greater Dublin Area. The Project is managed by Fingal on behalf of Meath, Kildare, Dun Laoghaire/Rathdown and South Dublin County Councils and Dublin City Council. The GDD is guided by a project Steering Committee, whose members are drawn from the 6 local authorities and the Department of the Environment Community and Local Government. The GDD will include:

- The provision of a regional wastewater treatment Plant (WWTP) and associated marine outfall and
- The provision of an Orbital Drainage System (ODS) linking the Regional WWTP to the existing regional sewer network and provision for future connections for identified development areas within the catchment

### **The project Consultants are:**

- Jacobs/Tobin – Technical Consultants and
- RPS Communications - Communications Consultants

### **The key outcomes in 2011 included:**

- Setting up a GDD website
- Initial public Constraints Consultation, which attracted 1,000 submissions (see report on project website)
- A comprehensive Data Collection programme
- Issuing of a Preliminary Screenings Report, which Identified 9 potential land parcels on which a regional WWTP could be located
- Public Consultation on the 9 land parcels, which attracted over 10,000 submissions
- Presentation of the GDD to Fingal County Council and meeting with various stakeholders – particularly landowners

## **ROADS DESIGN AND CONSTRUCTION AND PLANNING CONTROL**

During 2011, the following contracts for road construction were awarded:

- Porterstown Link Road
- Ward Cross Improvement Scheme
- M1 Widening Scheme, junction 3 to junction 4



# Planning & Strategic Infrastructure Department

- R132 Improvement Scheme
- N2-N3 Link Road Construction Scheme
- Mulhuddart Bridge construction

Funding was granted by the National Roads Authority, the National Transport Authority and the Office of Public Works towards the cost of the above schemes.

Part 8 planning approval was obtained for the upgrade of the Mulhuddart Interchange.

An Bord Pleanála granted approval for the construction of a distributor road and rail bridge at Donabate.

Assessing Transportation issues and providing recommendations for the County Development Plan and associated Local Area Plans.

Assessment of transport implications of planning applications.

## **DEVELOPMENT MANAGEMENT SECTION - WATER SERVICES**

The development management section advises on the water and drainage requirements for all planning applications lodged, including requests for additional information. In addition, the section approves compliances on planning conditions, assesses and certifies offsets and inspects new on site waste water treatment for single houses.

### **Headlines 2011**

- Processed 939 Planning Applications (including Additional information submissions and Extensions of time)
- Held 124 Preplanning meetings with prospective applicants
- Provided Water Services input to Local Area Plans in Rivermeade, Barrysparks, Ballyboughal, Oldtown/Mooretown and Dardistown
- Responded to An Bord Pleanála on appeals, as required
- Liaison on Strategic infrastructure Projects
- Implementation of 'The Planning System and Flood Risk Management' Guidelines for Local Authorities November 2009
- Implementation of the EPA Code of Practice for Wastewater Treatment and Disposal Systems Serving Single Dwellings (October 2009)
- Implementation of the "Regional Code of Practice for Drainage Works Version 6.0" FCC April 2006
- Implementation of the "Guidelines for Drinking Water Supply". FCC February 2009 Revision 1.

# Planning & Strategic Infrastructure Department

## PLANNING APPLICATIONS

The number of planning applications received was 958, (of which 102 were declared invalid). This represents a decrease of 8% on the 2010 figure of 1192.

## STRATEGIC INFRASTRUCTURE APPLICATIONS

During the course of the year three Strategic Infrastructure Applications were determined by An Bord Pleanála in Fingal.

### SID/03/10

Integrated Waste Management for Murphy Quarry – Granted 06/06/2011

### SID/01/11

Long Term Car Park, Harristown for Dublin Airport Authority – Granted 22/08/11

### SID/02/11

Continuation of use of long term car park for Quick Park – Granted 05/10/11

### SID/03/11

Dardistown Depot for Metro North – Granted 27/09/2011

## PERFORMANCE INDICATORS

| Performance Indicators            | 2011                    | 2010                     | 2009                     | 2008                     | 2007                     |
|-----------------------------------|-------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|
| New Applications Registered       | 958<br>(102<br>invalid) | 1192<br>(162<br>invalid) | 1340<br>(191<br>invalid) | 2235<br>(471<br>invalid) | 2584<br>(480<br>invalid) |
| Number of Applications Determined | 905                     | 1103                     | 1320                     | 2116                     | 2241                     |
| % of Grants                       | 88%                     | 83%                      | 80%                      | 75%                      | 82%                      |
| % of Refusals                     | 12%                     | 17%                      | 20%                      | 25%                      | 18%                      |
| % Determined within 2 months      | 67%                     | 70%                      | 72%                      | 75%                      | 73%                      |
| Number of A application received  | 605<br>(72<br>invalid)  | 747<br>(118<br>invalid)  | 1028<br>(139<br>invalid) | 1474<br>(326<br>invalid) | 1726<br>(336<br>invalid) |
| Number of B applications received | 353<br>(30<br>invalid)  | 445<br>(44<br>invalid)   | 312<br>(52<br>invalid)   | 761<br>(145<br>invalid)  | 858<br>(144<br>invalid)  |

# Planning & Strategic Infrastructure Department

## **Bonds & Contributions**

Section 48 Development Contribution Scheme – Planning & Development Act, 2000.

A sum of €4.5 million was collected under the Scheme in 2011. Payments and phased payment arrangements are constantly being monitored, agreed and reviewed. A total of 115 Warning Letters were issued in 2011 for non payment of development contributions which resulted in legal proceedings being instigated in 31 cases involving €1.54 million approximately.

## **Building Control**

A total of 142 applications for Fire Safety Certificates were received and dealt with during 2011. 43 Seven Day Notices, 8 Revised Fire Certificates and 8 Regularisation Certificates were also received. 141 Disabled Access Certificate applications were also received.

A total of 366 Commencement Notices were submitted, Road Naming & Numbering Schemes were approved in respect of 9 Schemes/projects.

## **DEVELOPMENT PLAN 2011-2017**

Preparation of the Fingal Development Plan is one of the most important functions of a County Council. The Development Plan

provides the strategic framework for all new development in the County over the period of the plan, for the protection and enhancement of the County's amenities, and for the co-ordination of infrastructural provision with existing and future land use.

During 2009 significant pre-draft public and stakeholder consultation took place in respect of the draft development plan, and 2010 saw a first draft of the Plan go on public display (2nd April 2010 to 14th June 2010), with the second draft, comprising the material amendments proposed during the October Council meetings placed on display on the 17th December 2010 up to and including the 24th January 2011.

275 no. submissions were received during the draft amendment stage, highlighting the continued and welcomed involvement and interest of the public in the plan making process. Following the public display period, a Manager Report summarising the issues raised in the submissions and giving recommendations in respect of these submissions was prepared. The Report was issued to the Elected Members.

Thereafter, the Members considered the draft Development Plan, material amendments made and the Manager's Report and following Council meetings held on 22nd and 23rd of March 2011, the Council resolved to adopt the draft Plan in accordance with s.12(10) of the Planning & Development Act 2000, as amended. The Fingal Development Plan 2011-2017 therefore came in to effect on 20th April 2011.



# Planning & Strategic Infrastructure Department

## LOCAL AREA PLANS

A number of Local Area Plans were commenced during 2011 and preparation and public display of their strategic issues/pre-draft consultation documents was commenced during 2011 and into early 2012, including:

Baldoyle LAP  
Portmarnock LAP  
Donabate LAP  
Kilmartin LAP  
Ballyboughil LAP  
Metropark LAP  
Cherryhound LAP

### Local Area Plans adopted in 2011

The Naul, Adopted 9th May, 2011, Barrysparks, adopted 11th July, 2011 and Extension of life of the Airport adopted 13th June, 2011

## OUTSIDE BODIES

In the course of the year the Council was represented by Planning and Strategic Infrastructure Department staff on the following outside bodies:

- Airport Regions Conference (ARC), comprising local authorities of the European Union and the Accession States having major airports located in their area. Fingal County Council was host to the biannual ARC International Conference which was held in Malahide on 2nd December, 2011. Councillor Anne Devitt's term as President of Arc ended in December, 2011.
- QLAIR – Quality of Life in Airport Regions
- School Liaison Committee - Department of Education and Science
- North Fringe Development Forum – Dublin City Council and Fingal County Council.
- Archaeological Policy and Practice working group established by Department of Environment, Heritage and Local Government.
- Heritage Council Working Group.
- National Biodiversity Data Centre
- Regional Authority Technical Working Group
- Project Board for Department of environment "My Plan"
- National Transport Authority GDA Stakeholder Group.
- Dublin Airport Stakeholders Forum
- Eastern Region Ring Basin District Project
- Water Services Training Group (WSTG)
- National Standards Authority of Ireland (NSAI)
- CEN (European Standards Organisation)

# Planning & Strategic Infrastructure Department

## FINGAL HERITAGE PLAN

The Heritage Plan is a five year action plan which deals with all aspects of our heritage including our wildlife, coast and countryside, our architectural heritage, our archaeology, our local history and culture. All of the actions stem from the belief that our heritage sustains and strengthens local communities and makes a unique contribution to ensuring a good quality of life for everyone.

The first Fingal Heritage Plan ended in 2010, and so Fingal County Council re-established the Heritage Forum to advise it on the preparation and implementation of the second Fingal County Heritage Plan, which will run to the end of 2017. The Fingal Heritage Forum represents the wide range of statutory and voluntary organisations concerned with heritage issues in Fingal. A Draft Heritage Plan was prepared following an initial period of public consultation in March and April 2011, taking into account submissions received and with the advice and guidance of the Fingal Heritage Forum. The draft Plan went on public display from mid December 2011 until mid February 2012. After submissions from this period of consultation have been taken into account, it is expected that a final draft will be presented to the Council for approval in March 2012. The implementation of the Plan is led by the Council's Heritage Officer. A total of approximately €67,000 was spent by the Council on Heritage Plan projects in 2011. The Council also successfully competed for funding of over €29,000 from The Heritage Council.

During 2011 work was undertaken on a wide range of heritage projects including the following:

### Heritage Projects 2011

1. Balbriggan Public Realm Plan.
2. Coastal Heritage GIS Project.
3. Martello Towers Exhibition.



4. Geology Publication.
5. Structural assessment of Monuments in Fingal County Council's ownership.
6. Heritage Week.

# Housing Department

## HOUSING PROCUREMENT

Social housing procurement now centres on the Long Term Leasing Scheme and the Rental Accommodation Scheme.

To this end 699 RAS properties have been secured to date, 155 in 2011 together with 38 Long Term Leasing properties, 32 in 2011.

Housing construction did commence on 2 infill dwellings at Fortlawn Avenue, Blanchardstown and 1 infill dwelling completed at St. Cronans Court, Swords in 2011. 1 dwelling was acquired for social housing provision under the Private House Purchase Scheme.

## AFFORDABLE HOUSING

24 properties were sold under the Affordable Housing Scheme in 2011, and the Council continued to utilise the provision of Circular Letter AHS1 2009 which provides for the leasing of unsold affordable units to voluntary housing bodies, 114 of which are now occupied by families from the Council's housing list.

## HOUSING ADAPTATION GRANTS SCHEME FOR OLDER PEOPLE AND PEOPLE WITH DISABILITY

There were 279 private grants approved totalling €2,254,254.

## HOUSING STOCK

### Rental

At 31st December 2011 the Council had 4,508 properties in its housing stock. The Rental income collected from these properties was €13,687,181.

At 31st December 2011 1,859 live mortgage accounts yielded payment of €12,692,667.



## ESTATE MANAGEMENT

A total of €5.1m revenue expenditure was incurred on response maintenance and general upkeep of the Council's Housing Stock and estates. 9,080 response maintenance requests were received during 2011.

In addition 3743 boilers are part of the Council's Boiler Servicing Programme.

6 Tenant Induction Courses were held to assist housing applicants to settle into their new homes and communities.

The Estate Management Section attended 40 Residents Association meetings and attended 25 meetings with the Gardai concerning Community and Estate policing.

# Housing Department

729 complaints regarding Anti-Social Behaviour and breach of tenancy were received during 2011.

There are 11 excluding orders in place regarding anti social individuals from Council tenancies and 7 anti social tenancies were repossessed.

Estate Improvement Works were completed in Parslickstown, Wellview, Ladyswell Park, Fortlawn, Corduff and Sheephill Estates to alleviate Anti Social Behaviour at Anti Social Behaviour blackspots.

Capital expenditure of €5.5 m was incurred on planned maintenance programmes and other improvements such as:

Pre-Let Repairs completed in 141 dwellings.

Central Heating installation and upgrading works in 35 dwellings

Painting and joinery works took place in 395 dwellings under the cyclical maintenance programme.

Refurbishment works were carried out on 30 dwellings in Mourne View estate under the Remedial Works Scheme



## ALLOCATIONS

A total of 480 dwellings were allocated to applicants from the housing list.

This is broken down as:-

|   |     |
|---|-----|
| • Social New Build                          | 29  |
| • Social Casual                             | 104 |
| • RAS                                       | 98  |
| • RAS in-situ                               | 113 |
| • Long Term Leasing                         | 28  |
| • Voluntary (new build & unsold affordable) | 88  |
| • Voluntary Casual                          | 20  |

There were 8,688 applicants on the housing list at 31/12/2011.

A total number of refusals of housing accommodation was 80. This is broken down as:-

|                           |    |
|---------------------------|----|
| • Social New Build/Casual | 45 |
| • RAS                     | 35 |

## TRAVELLER ACCOMMODATION

A review of the Traveller Accommodation Programme 2009 – 2013, was conducted and approved by Fingal County Council in December 2011.

# Housing Department

Fingal County Council introduced a mobile library service to group housing schemes in the north county.

An open day took place at Barnlodge halting site, attended by members of statutory and non statutory organisations.

Progress has continued on the Traveller Interagency Group accommodation objectives. This involves working in a site specific way on two pilot sites to develop a focused interagency approach to addressing issues arising on these sites.

In addition to this Fingal County Council provided 5 units of accommodation to Travellers.

## INDICATOR

|   | 2011    | 2010   | 2009     |
|---|---------|--------|----------|
| <b>H: Housing</b>   |         |        |          |
| <b>H.1 Housing Vacancies:</b>   |         |        |          |
| Total number of dwellings in local authority stock  | 4,508   | 4,459  | 4,464    |
| Overall % of dwellings that are let   | 97.25%  | 98.09% | 98.53%   |
| Overall % of dwellings that are empty   | 2.75%   | 1.91%  | 1.47%    |
| % of empty dwellings subject to major refurbishment schemes   | 8.9%    | n/a    | 12.12%   |
| % of empty dwellings unavailable for letting  | 88.7%   | 95.29% | 84.85%   |
| % of empty dwelling available for letting   | 11.3%   | 4.71%  | 15.15%   |
| <b>H.2 Average time taken to re-let dwellings available for letting</b>   | 2.9 wks | 1 week | 37 days  |
| <b>H.3 Number of repairs completed as a percentage of the number of valid repair requests received</b>                            | 97%     | 95%    | 94%      |
| <b>H.4 Average time taken to inform applicants of Local authority's decision on applications for:</b>                             |         |        |          |
| The shared ownership housing scheme   | n/a     | n/a    | 5.1 days |
| Housing loan scheme   | 56 days | n/a    | 15 days  |
| Local authority housing   | 60 days | n/a    | 70 days  |
| <b>H.5 Traveller Accommodation</b>  |         |        |          |
| Total number of traveller families accommodated as a percentage of the targets set in the local traveller accommodation programme | 15%     | 66.67% | 57%      |

# Housing Department

| <b>Rev: Revenue Collection</b>                              | 2011   | 2010   | 2009   |
|---|--------|--------|--------|
| <b>Rev.1 House Rent</b>                                     |        |        |        |
| (a) Amount collected at year as a percentage of amount due: | 86.09% | 90.98% | 93.26% |
| (b) Percentage of arrears:                                  |        |        |        |
| 4 – 6 weeks old   | 4.52%  | 6.7%   | 9.3%   |
| 6 – 12 weeks old  | 12.51% | 16.42% | 18.02% |
| More than 12 weeks old                                      | 77.35% | 67.86% | 59.69% |
| <b>Rev.2 Housing Loans</b>                                  |        |        |        |
| (a) Amount collected at year as a percentage of amount due: | 93.60% | 95.25% | 96.59% |
| (b) Percentage of arrears:                                  |        |        |        |
| 1 month old   | 10.82% | 12.59% | 10%    |
| 2 – 3 months old  | 6.48%  | 10.15% | 4%     |
| More than 3 months  | 82.70% | 77.26% | 86%    |

## Community, Culture & Sport Division

The activities and operational programmes of the Community, Sports and Arts Offices outlined below, are closely interlinked as it is recognised that each of them is essentially involved in community development.

### **THE COMMUNITY OFFICE**

The Division's Community Development Officers worked on a variety of programmes and supported a wide range of community organisations during 2011. A comprehensive support and advisory service was provided to voluntary community-based bodies throughout the County by a team of field staff who work in close liaison and help address the needs expressed by those groups.

The 5 Units within the Community Office were instrumental in the delivery of a number of programmes and activities in 2011. These Units worked with 120 priority groups on a monthly basis.

#### **Capital Projects Unit (CCPU)**

This Unit plays a key role in supporting the development of local management and operational structures that oversee the day to day operation of Shared Community Facilities. 2011 saw the completion of a number of Shared Facilities under the Fingal Schools Model. Ongar and Phibblestown Community Centres opened to the community towards the end of 2011. In addition, Applewood and Tyrrelstown Community Centres reached completion during the year and are also open to the general community.

#### **Community Development Unit (CDU)**

The main focus of the Community Development Unit's (CDU) work is in supporting and enabling community and voluntary groups in Fingal to effect change and combat social exclusion within their own communities. In 2011, the Unit delivered supports such as training, information and mentoring services to over 100 voluntary and community groups. The Unit delivered 5 community Education programmes to 40 participants in the area of committee skills.

#### **Community Facilities Support Unit (CFSU)**

This Unit was established to support and enable management committees of Community Centres to carry out their roles effectively. The CFSU provided information, mentoring, advice and models of good practice in various disciplines. The Unit worked with all community facilities that avail of the Council's management assistance funding.

## Community, Culture & Sport Division

### Network Development Unit (NDU)

In 2011, the Fingal Community & Voluntary Forum, the Fingal Ethnic Communities Network and the Fingal Senior Citizens Network were supported by the NDU. Both networks have delivered on their extensive actions plans for the year. The Fingal Senior Citizens Network, in partnership with the Community Development Office, the County Development Board and Vantastic launched a major new pilot initiative on Health Transport for the Elderly. The Seniors Network has also played a pivotal role in the development of the Fingal Age Friendly Initiative.

### Funding and Information Unit (FIU)

The FIU reports on all funding applications received under the Activities & Summer Projects Programme. The Unit explores external funding opportunities and provides information and application supports to community groups. The Unit also updates information on web and print media.

### Funding Provided to Community and Voluntary Organisations in 2011

| Area                   | Summer projects | Arts funding | Total    |
|------------------------|-----------------|--------------|----------|
| Balbriggan/Swords      | €23,203         | €21,150      | €44,353  |
| Castleknock/Mulhuddart | €25,187         | €6,100       | €31,287  |
| Howth/Malahide         | €6,551          | €11,750      | €18,301  |
| County (aggregate)     | €54,941         | €39,000      | €93, 941 |

In 2011, it is estimated that over 4,000 young people participated in funded Summer Projects. During the year, the FIU successfully applied to the Office of the Minister for Integration, with €155,000 being made available to support integration initiatives through the Council's Integration Funding Scheme. 25 groups availed of this funding.

# Community, Culture & Sport Division

## SPORTS OFFICE

The Sports Office was involved in a number of sports and physical activity programmes over the year and worked closely, and in parallel, with the Community Office. The main programmes were:

### Sports Conditioning Programme (Sportscon)

The Office continued its Sportscon programme in Primary Schools. Sportscon mainly targets children aged 6– 9 years and coaches teachers to deliver basic sports skills in a way that allows youngsters to excel at their own level. During 2011, the programme was delivered to additional teachers/classes and Special Needs volunteers.

### School & Youth Sport

The Office supported and resourced the Buntús, and rolled out a number of Buntús Start programmes in pre-school settings. During 2011, the Office organised Soccer & Tag Rugby blitzes, an indoor cricket league, Primary School cross-country events and school badminton blitzes. A Late Night Soccer initiative was run in four locations, aimed at encouraging young adults to engage in positive pastimes. In 2011, the coaches were assisted by local Gardaí Síochána, which helped them to build relationships with the young people on the programme. A “kidgloves” project, aimed at 9 – 13 year old boys and girls, was run to introduce them to the sport of boxing.



### Coach Education programme

The Office supported a range of National Governing Bodies Coach/Referee Education courses and Emergency Skills (first aid) training for volunteers.

### Activity programmes

Activities run by the Office during 2010 included a number of older adult swim programmes, a pitch and putt programme, a Ladies Morning Badminton club, a Traveller Participation programme and the Fingal Sprint Triathlon.

### Joint-funded Sports Specific Development

The Office co-funded 5 Football in the Community Development Officers, with the F.A.I., 1 Rugby Development Officer with Leinster R.F.U., 1 part-time Tennis Development Officer, in conjunction with Tennis Ireland, and a Cricket Development Officer with Leinster Cricket.

# Community, Culture & Sport Division

## Women in Sport

Irish Sports Council jointly funded programmes in 2011 included a Camogie blitz, Gaelic for Girls, Hip Hop dance and Exercise Energise - a Secondary Schools programme aimed at girls 12 -14 years who don't otherwise participate in sport and physical activities.

## Disability Sports

The Office delivered a "Be Active Be Inclusive" training programme, which provided sports and physical activity training to carers and volunteers working with people with disabilities.

## Networking and Strategy Development

The Office attended the Irish Sports Council Local Sports Partnership Network quarterly meetings and initiated the preparation of a 5 year Sports Strategy.

## ARTS OFFICE

The role of the Council's Arts Office is to encourage, foster and support cultural activity within Fingal and forms an integral element of the Division's community development role.

## Arts Grants

In 2011, a total of €18,000 was awarded to Community Arts Festivals and Traditional Music Festivals, with €45,000 awarded under the general arts grant scheme. A further €558,700 was awarded direct to the Council's two Arts Centres, Draíocht and the Séamus Ennis Cultural Centre.

## Cultural Centres

Fingal County Council continued to enhance the cultural life in Fingal and provide public access to the Arts through the ongoing development of its two Arts Centres:

- Draíocht, which celebrated its 10th year in 2011, is a multi-purpose Arts venue, and The Séamus Ennis Cultural Centre, which also celebrated its 10th anniversary, continued to serve as a traditional arts venue.

## Outreach and Education

This scheme provided funding and practical support for professional practicing artists to work in Primary & Post-primary schools in Fingal. Schools who took part collaborated with the Artists and the Arts Office during the planning, implementation and review of their project. Projects culminated with a public showcase to celebrate the students developed skills and share the enjoyment gained from the experience with the wider community.



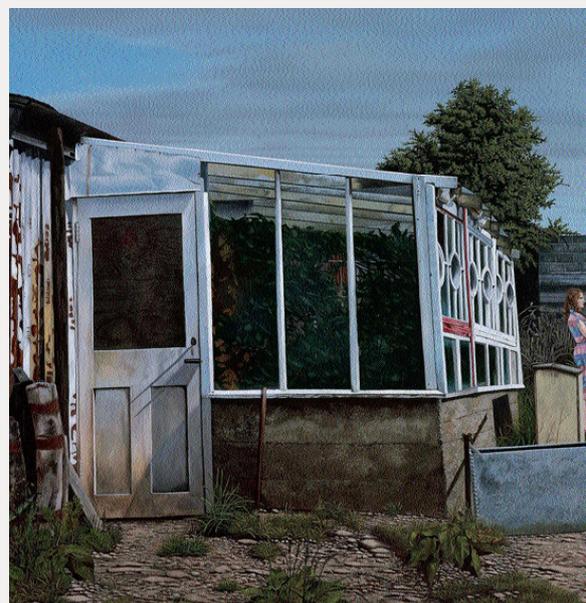
## Community, Culture & Sport Division

### **In Colour**

In Colour is an exhibition and education programme, aimed at bringing the Leaving Certificate Art History syllabus to life. The programme involved the exhibiting of major works which were borrowed from the Arts Council, AIB and the Limerick City Gallery collections. In 2011, a website was developed as a valuable educational resource for teachers and students.

### **Amharc Fhine Gall V111**

The 2011 Amharc Fhine Gall event opened on the 17th of November in Draíocht. This exhibition is a platform to support recent art college graduates from Fingal, offering them a chance to show in one of the finest visual art galleries in the state, on a professional level. This annual event also allows the arts office to connect with these emerging artists and identify practical and relevant ways to support them in the early stages of their careers.



### **What Next?**

The Amharc Fhine Gall Graduate Show coincided with the annual professional development day: What Next?, which took place in Draíocht. What Next? offers an unique insight into the challenges and opportunities relevant to artists working in the current climate with practical advice and insights.

### **Integrated Community Facilities and Capital Projects Unit**

During 2011, this Unit continued to play a driving role in promoting an awareness amongst developers of the importance and commercial benefits of ensuring that the sustainability of new communities, through facilities provision, are given sufficient thought in the preparation of plans.

The Community, Culture & Sports Division was also proactive in encouraging greater community access to and use of school facilities. Under the Fingal Schools Model, two new schools were completed in 2011, St. Benedict's N.S., Ongar and Pobalscoil Setanta, Phibblestown, both in Dublin 15, each of which has a major Community/Recreation Centre.

# Community, Culture & Sport Division

## LIBRARIES DIVISION

Fingal Library Service is operated through 9 branch libraries at Balbriggan, Baldoyle, Blanchardstown, Garristown, Howth, Malahide, Skerries, Swords and Rush. The Mobile Library and Housebound Service visits approximately 180 locations throughout the County. Fingal Library Service also operates the Local Studies/Archives Section at Clonmel House, Swords.

### Self Service: RFID (Radio Frequency Identification)

Self service terminals were introduced at Swords, Malahide and Balbriggan Libraries during 2011 and also at the Staff Library at County Hall. These provide an enhanced service to Library users,. The terminals have been very successful, accounting for, in some cases, up to 90% of transactions, thereby resulting in greater efficiency and more effective use of staff time.



### BYKI: Online Language Learning Service

An exciting online free language learning service was launched on the Fingal Libraries' website in 2011. BYKI offers a choice of 80 languages and is a personalized learning system which tracks everything the user learns. Since its launch on the website in November 2011, the service has been accessed just over 900 times, with French proving to be the most popular language.

### Blanchardstown Library

The largest public library in the country celebrated its 10th birthday in 2011, with a puppet show, exhibitions, quizzes and spot prizes. The Library also had its first ever venture into Culture Night, when along with hundreds of other cultural and arts centres around the country, it opened its doors for a great night of family entertainment.

### Events 2011

3,782 free events and activities catering for all ages and many diverse interests took place in Fingal Libraries during 2011. National campaigns are well represented in our libraries with events taking place for Children's Book Festival, Bealtaine, Heritage Week, Seachtain na Gaeilge, Science Week and Library Ireland Week. Our branch libraries run and support book clubs, host author visits, and poetry readings, exhibitions, music recitals and dance events.

### Writing 3.0

Fingal Libraries and the Fingal Arts Office collaborated once again this year to host Writing 3.0, Fingal's Annual Writers' Festival. The emphasis this year was on performance and uplifting experiences, with workshops on comedy and improvisation, songwriting and screenwriting, as well as the traditional focus on writing, reading, poetry and fiction. Highlights of this year's festival included a recording of RTE's Sunday Miscellany at Farmleigh House, 'Four Savvy Women' presented by Mary Wilson of RTE's Drivetime also at Farmleigh and a song writing course with Mick Hanly at Malahide

## Community, Culture & Sport Division

Library.

### Europe Direct

The Europe Direct Centre at Blanchardstown Library is a local link to Europe for the citizens of Fingal. The Centre hosts European themed events and provides information and advice to the public on all aspects of the EU, from food to travel. The most popular Europe Direct event in 2011 was a Volunteering Fair held at Blanchardstown Library to mark the European Year of Volunteering. A variety of organisations took part including Home Start, Gorta, Foroige, St. Vincent De Paul, Blanchardstown Garda Station and also the Fingal Volunteer Centre.

### Publications

Two key publications were produced by the Local Studies and Archives Section in 2011:

**Fingal Studies: Early Fingal Entrepreneurs** and **Fingal Sporting Heroes**.

Both will be formally launched in 2012.

|  | 2011      | 2010      | 2009      |
|--|-----------|-----------|-----------|
| Items borrowed   | 1,272,135 | 1,229,879 | 1,201,342 |
| Registered Members   | 145,325   | 129,020   | 88,616    |
| Internet Usage hours   | 127,697   | 112,753   | 96,984    |
| Website visits   | 50,831    | 42,942    | 33,571    |
| Average number of public opening hours per week for full time libraries                    | 49        | 49        | 48.93     |
| Average number of public opening hours per week for part time libraries (where applicable) | 17        | 23        | 29        |
| Number of registered library members as a % of the local population (2011 Census)          | 53.22%    | 53.8%     | 36%       |
| Number of items issued per head of population (county wide) for:                           |           |           |           |
| (a) Books  | 3.58      | 3.97      | 3.98      |
| (b) Other Items  | 1.08      | 1.16      | 1.03      |
| (c) Total: Books plus Other Items  | 4.66      | 5.13      | 5.01      |
| % of Libraries that offer internet access to the public                                    | 100%      | 100%      | 100%      |
| Number of Internet sessions provided per 1000 pop  | 467.75    | 470.71    | 404.10    |
| Book fund expenditure per capita   | 3.12      | 4.15      | 5.83      |
| Visits by the public to Fingal Libraries   | 1,234,807 | 1,043,983 | 1,003,683 |

## WASTE MANAGEMENT DIVISION

### Waste Recycling & Disposal

The Council commenced 2011 operating a three bin kerbside collection service (Dry Recyclables, Organic Waste & Residual Waste), 2 recycling centres and a network of 73 bottle banks. During 2011 the Council transferred its waste collection business to Panda (Nurendale Ltd). The transfer of the Black and Brown Bin service occurred on November 1st and the Green bin transferred on Dec 31st following the end of the green bin contract with Greyhound Recycling and Recovery Ltd.



### Recycling Centres and Bottle Banks

- The Council operates two recycling centres (Estuary & Coolmine) and a network of 73 bottle banks throughout the county. The following table gives tonnages of weights collected.

| Tonnage of Recyclables Collected | 2011 | 2010 | 2009 |
|----------------------------------|------|------|------|
| Estuary Recycling Centre         | 3884 | 3969 | 4813 |
| Coolmine Recycling Centre        | 3781 | 3676 | 4035 |
| Total                            | 7665 | 7645 | 8848 |

### Waste Electronic and Electrical Equipment

- Implementation of the Waste Electronic & Electrical Equipment (WEEE) Regulations 2005 requires inspection of premises to ensure retailers are complying with the regulations and the acceptance of WEEE at Recycling centres free of charge (Household WEEE and WEEE from registered retailers).

|  | 2011              | 2010              | 2009               |
|--|-------------------|-------------------|--------------------|
| WEEE accepted at Recycling Centres     | 1244 tonnes       | 1303 tonnes       | 1486 tonnes        |
| Above on Per Capita basis*             | 4.56kg/<br>person | 4.77kg/<br>person | 5.44 kg/<br>person |
| WEEE collected from retailers by ERP** | 933 tonnes        | 687 tonnes        | 615 tonnes         |

\*ERP is the European Recycling Platform the approved compliance scheme for Fingal

- There are 544 retail premises registered with ERP (European Recycling Platform) and WEEE Ireland for 2010.
- There are also 114 retail premises registered with Fingal County Council.

# Environment, Business & Enterprise

## WASTE INFRASTRUCTURE

### Balleally Landfill

Balleally landfill operated throughout 2011 taking in 92,000 tonnes of waste. The capping programme continues with Cell 5 and most of Cell 6 capped. The remaining void space is small and the landfill will close for waste in 2012. The leachate continues to be tankered to Ringsend until the new Portrane wastewater treatment works is complete and the EPA grant permission to discharge treated leachate to the sewer connected to the Portrane works.

### Dunsink Landfill

Dunsink landfill continues in its aftercare phase i.e. environmental monitoring, leachate and landfill gas management. The generation of landfill gas continues to drop however it is still sufficient to generate electricity economically. This position may change in the next few years.

### Fingal landfill

The search for a new landfill for the Dublin Region commenced in 1997, and following an extensive site selection process the Nevitt site was chosen in 2004. An application was made to An Bord Pleanála for development consent and compulsory purchase order and an application to the Environment Protection Agency for a waste licence in 2006. An Bord Pleanála approved the scheme in October 2009 and the EPA in May 2010. A challenge to the EPA's decision by way of judicial review was made and subsequently withdrawn in November 2011. Due to the changed circumstances in the waste industry, waste levies, the construction of landfills in the counties surrounding Dublin and the local authorities' reduced role in waste management a decision was made in December 2011 not to proceed with the project.

### Environmental Awareness

- An Taisce Green Schools Programme - 74 Green Schools in Fingal in 2011, 6 first flags awarded. A total of 187 flags, have been awarded to Fingal schools.
- An Taisce National Spring Clean.
- Repak National Recycling Week.
- LA Environmental Partnership Fund (Part of Local Agenda 21) - awarded a total of €32,000 in 2010 to 15 local environmental projects.
- Education Programme continued in the Estuary and Coolmine Recycling Centre with 6 schools visiting in 2011.
- Anti Litter and Graffiti calendars compiled from winning entries submitted by Fingal County Council primary and secondary school students.
- 15 Sustainable Energy Ireland workshops facilitated for local schools.
- ERP in association with the Environmental Awareness team organised Santa's grotto in Swords and Blanchardstown to promote battery recycling.

# Environment, Business & Enterprise

## PERFORMANCE INDICATORS

|  | 2011    | 2010   | 2009   |
|--|---------|--------|--------|
| <b>Waste Arisings (WA) and Recycling</b>                 |         |        |        |
| Tonnage Household Waste to Landfill                      | 21,048* | 31,232 | 37,789 |
| Tonnage Household Waste Recycled                         | 26,432  | 29,811 | 29,325 |
| Tonnage Composted (Brown Bin)                            | 12,673* | 15,701 | 16,785 |
| Domestic WA from household (landfill & recycling)        | 60,153  | 76,744 | 83,899 |
| % Domestic Waste Recycled                                | N/A**   | 59     | 55     |
| <b>Waste Management Resources (LA)</b>                   |         |        |        |
| No. Civic Amenity  | 2       | 2      | 2      |
| No. Bring Banks  | 71      | 73     | 73     |
| Households with Green Bins                               | 68,000  | 70,000 | 65,301 |
| <b>Schools Participating in Environmental Programmes</b> |         |        |        |
| % of Primary Schools with Green Flags                    | 86      | 85     | 82     |
| % of Secondary Schools with Green Flags                  | 92      | 92     | 92     |

\* data is only for waste collected by Fingal - does not include November and December tonnages collected by Panda

\*\* Not available because full year data not available for all datasets.

# Environment, Business & Enterprise

## INSPECTORATE DIVISION

The Inspectorate Division was established in 2011 to bring together most of the enforcement functions of Departments across the Council in order to maximise efficiencies and explore the potential for sharing expertise and resources in carrying out our statutory enforcement functions.

Functions in the new division are generally divided between enforcement activities concerning the built environment such as planning, building control and derelict sites and activities of a more environmental nature such as waste enforcement, water pollution and litter.

### Waste Management Act and Regulations

- 10 successful prosecutions for breaches of the Waste Management Act, 1996 in 2011 with fines and costs of approx €16,823 being imposed by the Courts.
- 51 businesses were inspected for compliance with the Waste Management (Packaging) Regulations, 2007.
- 20 Companies registered as self-compliers in 2011.
- 2 Waste Permits and 2 Certificates of Registration were granted in 2011 for waste recovery facilities under the Waste Management (Facility Permit and Registration) Regulations, 2007-2008.
- Food Waste Regulations – 213 inspections.
- Waste Tyre Regulations – 21 inspections.

### Litter Control

- 220 fines issued in 2011
- 3 abandoned vehicles and 5 burned out vehicles were removed in 2011. Additionally 15 residents availed of our service to have their end-of-life vehicle removed

### Air Quality Control

This is provided on an agency basis by the Health Service Executive (HSE).

- 1 Primary air monitoring station in Fingal measuring air quality. This station gives real time data on PM10 and NOx and forms part of the Regional Air Quality Monitoring Network.
- A new local Air Quality Management Plan has been adopted in conjunction with Dublin City Council, Dun Laoghaire Rathdown County Council and South Dublin County Council.
- 91 complaints relating to Air Pollution were investigated in 2011

# Environment, Business & Enterprise

## Noise Control

Complaints are investigated by Environmental Health Officers.

- 147 complaints relating to noise were received in 2011.
- Noise Mapping of the entire Fingal County commenced in 2011 and will be completed in 2012.
- Residential complaints must be brought to the District Court directly by householders under Section 108 of the Environmental Protection Agency Act 1992.

## Control of Dogs & Horses

- 485 dogs seized and 60 surrendered to the Dog Pound in 2011.
- 6420 dogs licensed in Fingal in 2011 of which 1233 licences were issued online
- 161 horses impounded at the Council's pound in 2011.

## Water pollution control

- Fat, oil and grease (FOG) licensing programme launched county-wide during 2011 to control discharges to sewers from food preparation premises that have the potential to cause sewer overflows to the environment.
- Ongoing progress on the implementation of the Water Framework Directive programme of works leading to improvements in water quality.
- Farm surveys, carried out in the Matt River, Mill Stream and Turvey River catchments identified opportunities to reduce potential sources of pollution.

## Planning Enforcement

Proper planning & sustainable development implies that all development must have the benefit of a planning permission or be exempted development under the Planning & Development Acts, 2000 to 2010. The Inspectorate continuously monitors developments for compliance with planning permission. Representations made to the section regarding unauthorised developments are also investigated and enforcement taken where required.

## Building Control

The primary purpose of Building Regulations is to provide for the health, safety and welfare of people in and around buildings. In addition, the building regulations make provision for the special needs of disabled persons in relation to buildings and for the conservation of fuel and energy. The primary statutory responsibility for observing the requirements of the Building Control Acts, 1990-2007 falls on the persons who actually design and construct buildings and on the owners of buildings, who normally start this process

# Environment, Business & Enterprise

## Safety of Structures and Places

The Inspectorate is empowered under the provisions of the Derelict Sites Act, 1990 to direct, by way of a notice, the owner or occupier of land which is or may become derelict to take such measures considered necessary to prevent it from becoming or continuing to be a derelict site. The Local Government (Sanitary Services) Act, 1964 may be used in addressing any safety concerns that may arise in relation to structures or places which may include unfinished developments/estates.



## INSPECTORATE PERFORMANCE INDICATORS

| 2009                          | 2011   | 2010   |         |
|-------------------------------|--------|--------|---------|
| No. Litter Wardens            | 6      | 6      | 6       |
| No. Litter Fines issued       | 1220   | 1,111  | 1,397   |
| No. Litter Fines Paid         | 504    | 591    | 708     |
| Total Value Litter Fines Paid | 82,851 | 91,570 | 109,260 |

## Environmental Complaints

|                                     |                                    |       |       |
|-------------------------------------|------------------------------------|-------|-------|
| Total Number of Complaints          | 1,786<br>(133 WMA)<br>& (1653 LPA) | 3,587 | 4,511 |
| No. of complaints investigated      | 1763                               | 3,314 | 4,189 |
| No. of Enforcement Procedures Taken | 33                                 | 45    | 72    |

## Waste Packaging Regulations (e.g. packaging or permit regs)

|  |     |     |     |
|--|-----|-----|-----|
| No. Businesses members of Repak                          | 300 | 350 | 342 |
| No. Self Compliant Businesses (to Fingal County Council) | 20  | 19  | 20  |

## Environment, Business & Enterprise

| <b>Complaints concerning water pollution:</b>              | 2011 | 2010 | 2009 |
|--|------|------|------|
| No. of Complaints/ Incidents received/identified           | 54   | 37   | 52   |
| No. investigated<br>(Incl. 2010 carry over)                | 60   | 37   | 52   |
| No. of complaints resolved with no further action required | 45   | 31   | 39   |
| No of formal enforcement (Section12) procedures taken      | 4    | 1    | 7    |
| No. of prosecutions initiated                              | 0    | 0    | 0    |
| Prosecutions successfully concluded                        | 0    | 0    | 0    |

### Planning Enforcement

|   |          |            |            |
|---|----------|------------|------------|
| Total number of planning cases subject to complaints that are investigated  | 324      | 322        | 466        |
| Total number of planning cases subject to complaints that are dismissed     | 150      | 144        | 150        |
| Number of planning enforcement procedures taken through warning letters     | 122      | 124        | 223        |
| Number of planning enforcement procedures taken through enforcement notices | 49       | 76         | 85         |
| Number of panning prosecutions<br>(District – S.157)                        | 9<br>(8) | 28<br>(15) | 27<br>(23) |
| (High Court/Circuit Court – S.160)  | (1)      | (13)       | (4)        |

### Building Control

|   |     |     |     |
|---|-----|-----|-----|
| Total number of new buildings notified to the local authority   | 373 | 535 | 564 |
| Number of new buildings notified to the local authority that were inspected                           | 37  | 65  | 73  |
| No. of buildings inspected as a percentage of new buildings notified to the local authority           | 11  | 12  | 13  |
| The number of all dwellings for which a BER Certificates was sought by the Building Control Authority | 169 | 340 | 302 |
| The number of BER Certificates submitted in response  | 125 | 109 | 106 |

## Environment, Business & Enterprise

|  | 2011 | 2010 | 2009 |
|--|------|------|------|
| Number of Disability Access Certificates Assessed  | 225  | 245  | n/a  |
| Number of Estates on list of housing developments/estates to be completed (Based on 2011 DoE survey) | 152  | n/a  | n/a  |
| Number of site Resolution Plans  | 15   | n/a  | n/a  |

### Taking in Charge

|   |       |       |       |
|---|-------|-------|-------|
| Number of estates that were taken in charge in the year in question | 21    | 32    | 25    |
| Number of Dwellings in respect of estates taken in charge           | 3499  | 3574  | 2046  |
| Km of road in respect of estates taken in charge                    | 17238 | 22364 | 16000 |
| Number of derelict/dangerous sites complaints investigated          | 52    | 64    | 73    |
| Number of derelict sites on derelict sites register                 | 1     | 1     | 1     |

# Environment, Business & Enterprise

## **PARKS & HERITAGE PROPERTIES DIVISION**

The Parks & Heritage Properties Division is principally responsible for the management and maintenance of major parks and heritage properties in the ownership of Fingal County Council. This includes some 2,000 acres (800 Ha.) of designed parks and landscapes. The division is also responsible for, historic houses, gardens and public allotments across the County. The Division is also responsible for developing and implementing the Council's Biodiversity Plan.

### **Bio-diversity**

The Division advanced 9 biodiversity Plan projects during 2011 including 2 key demonstration projects (1) farming for wildlife and (2) floodplain management. In addition high profile projects included the Red Kite release project and the Grey Partridge re introduction projects.

### **The Forest of Fingal – Tree Strategy**

Work continued on implementing the Fingal Tree Strategy with surveys of trees in Parks and Open Spaces.

### **Growing Places**

The Fingal Growing Places Initiative was implemented in open spaces in Fingal. During 2011 over 300 acres were maintained as wildflower meadows, much of this in large regional parks.

### **Santry Demesne**

Works continued on the restoration of the Demesne including planting work and the walled garden with the involvement of a local community group.

### **Liffey Valley Regional Park – St. Catherine's Improvement Works**

Work commenced on the development of a par 3 Golf Course at St. Catherine's and on the creation of paddocks for livestock in the Demesne.

### **Malahide Demesne**

A major grant aided improvement scheme was progressed at Malahide Demesne during 2011 which when completed will see significant improvements to the Castle, Botanic Gardens and Visitor Facilities

# Environment, Business & Enterprise

## Allotments

Public allotments were maintained at Powerstown, Dublin 15 and Turvey, Donabate.

New allotments were opened at Skerries bringing the total to 670 allotments.

## Regional Parks Managed and Maintained:

- Ardgillan Demesne, Balbriggan
- Malahide Demesne, Malahide
- Newbridge House and Demesne, Donabate
- Santry Demesne
- Liffey Valley Regional Park – St Catherine's



## Visitor Attractions & Events

- A major concert featuring the singer "Prince" was held at Malahide Demesne in July and this attracted approximately 20,000 concert goers.
- Talbot Botanic Gardens situated at Malahide Castle (guided tours provided every Wednesday afternoon from April to October)
- Newbridge House, Donabate (guided tours provided from April to October)
- The Traditional Farm operated in Newbridge Demesne attracted a wide audience. The coffee shop facilities were open to the public at Newbridge.
- Ardgillan Castle, a series of exhibitions and events took place throughout the year at the Castle
- The Victorian Walled Garden and Rose Garden and National Collection of Shrubby Potentillas at Ardgillan Demesne were open to the public with tearooms and coffee shop facilities also available.
- A variety of classes were also held in Ardgillan Castle and gardens throughout the year.
- The Skerries Mills Industrial Heritage Centre and associated tearoom and craft shop facilities continued to be popular with both the local community and visitors alike.
- The Elmgreen Golf Centre, Castleknock (18 hole Golf Course, 18 hole Pitch & Putt Course and 24 Bay Driving Range)
- Corballis Golf Links, Donabate (public links golf course). Three new golf holes and a realigned 4th hole were opened to the public in May 2009.
- Malahide Demesne. (9 hole par 3 Golf Course and Pitch and Putt Course).
- Period plays were performed in the walled grounds at Ardgillan Castle & Newbridge House.
- Major parkland playgrounds were provided in Ardgillan, Malahide, Newbridge & Santry Demesne.

# Environment, Business & Enterprise

## Restoration Projects

- Work continued on the restoration of Bremeore Castle and Church yard, Balbriggan, in association with FÁS.
- Restoration work continued at Swords Castle and there were interesting Archaeological findings at the entrance to the Castle.

## Tree Planting

- National Tree Week and National Tree Day events were organised in March with the continued co-operation of local schools and the Tree Council of Ireland.
- 5 Acres of woodland were planted with assistance from the Tree Council of Ireland and IKEA.

## Development of Open Spaces

- The taking-in-charge of new open spaces continued throughout the year.
- A major new 100acre (40Ha.) park at Racecourse Lands Baldoyle was taken in charge

## ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT DIVISION

The Economic Development Division supports the structured economic development of Fingal by planning for, initiating and managing projects that contribute positively to the county's ongoing economic development. It promotes job creation by working in partnership with local businesses, Chambers of Commerce, IDA and Enterprise Ireland to strengthen economic development. It promotes and assists co-ordination between the Fingal Development Board, FÁS, the Fingal County Enterprise Board and third level institutions including the Institute of Technology Blanchardstown (ITB) and Dublin City University (DCU).

## Economic Planning, Marketing & Promotion of Fingal

Work commenced in 2011 on the development of a new economic strategy to follow the existing economic strategy prepared in conjunction with the County Development Board - "Connecting people, places and prosperity – an Economic Strategy for Fingal 2006 - 2011". This new Economic and Enterprise Strategy 2012 – 2017 will seek to develop key strategic development areas including employment creation, skills development and enterprise supports and services.

## Environment, Business & Enterprise

The website [www.fingalworks.ie](http://www.fingalworks.ie) is an online resource providing information for jobseekers, business start-ups, existing businesses, investors and those with an interest in doing business or living in Fingal. [www.fingalworks.ie](http://www.fingalworks.ie) provides Fingal specific information on social welfare, redundancy, business finance, training, mentoring, feasibility studies and research and development in an easy to access format.

Fingal County Council is a member of the Board of 'The Green Way' and staff from the Economic Development Division are members of the Implementation Team. The Green Way endeavours to develop an internationally recognised Green Economic Zone complimenting planning and existing infrastructural investment, where all participants – public and private, Irish and International – are working in unison to deliver vibrant and highly adaptable jobs, creating enterprises, and building on proven joint capabilities to innovate, regenerate and transform.

Fingal County Council continues to participate and add value to the Edge Cities Network which has brought together towns and cities on the edge of major European capitals since 1996. The ongoing aim of the network is to share economic and social solutions to challenges within member locations.

### **Tourism Promotion**

In 2011 the Fingal Tourism Forum was established and its members include the staff of relevant Fingal County Council departments, the managers of Ardgillan Castle, Newbridge House & Farm and Skerries Mills, the managers of Draíocht and the Seamus Ennis Centre and the manager of Fingal Tourism.

Initiatives arising from the Forum include a joint marketing strategy for the three heritage properties and the preparation of a Strategic Plan for each property to maximise economic opportunities while remaining mindful of conservation requirements. In addition an Events Website has been set up on the Fingal County Council website to promote events at the various locations and work will continue in 2012 to improve marketing of events at venues around Fingal.

A Coastal Strategy is also being developed to develop a strong identity for the Fingal coastline, assemble relevant information about the facilities along the coast and prepare and implement a plan for the extension of coastal walkways and cycleways.

In addition, in 2011 preliminary planning commenced on holding an event in July 2012 called "Flavours of Fingal" in conjunction with Fingal Tourism, Fingal Farmers and Teagasc. This event will celebrate and raise awareness of the agricultural and horticultural industry in Fingal and have three themes – Farm, Food and Family Fun.

Financial support by the Council to the administration and operation of Fingal Tourism continued through its membership on the board and participation in joint programmes of trade and consumer fairs, in store-promotions, targeted advertising, public relations and direct marketing campaigns and tourism guides [www.fingaldublin.ie](http://www.fingaldublin.ie)

The Economic Development Unit continued to project manage and provide support to the Malahide Castle & Gardens Redevelopment Project. Construction works on this new and exciting €10 million project began during 2011. The new Malahide Castle and Gardens is due to be relaunched in June 2012 and visitors can look forward to a more dynamic visitor experience with a new Castle Tour, the opening of the Walled Botanical Garden and the west lawn to the public for the first time, a restaurant and high quality retail

## Environment, Business & Enterprise

experience which will be operated by Avoca Handweavers together with the extensive parkland and playground. The €10 million investment for this project is funded by Fingal County Council and Fáilte Ireland. This project is currently Fingal County Council's largest investment project and is the largest tourism investment project in the country. Up to 100 jobs are being supported in the construction phase and when open, an additional 80 jobs will be provided by AVOCA Handweavers who will run the café and retail offerings on site with additional jobs created by the new Operator.

### DEVELOPING AND MANAGING INDUSTRIAL PARKS

The Council continues to develop Industrial Parks at Damastown, Cappogue, Stephenstown, Bay Business Park and College Business and Technology Park, Blanchardstown.

#### Damastown Industrial Park

- 38 firms operating within the Park.
- An additional 18 hectares available for disposal.

#### Coolmine Industrial Estate

- 55 small firms operating within 12.14 hectares.

#### Cappogue Industrial Lands

- 13 hectares of land available for disposal.

#### Stephenstown Industrial Park, Balbriggan

- 7 Companies operating within the Park.
- Urban Design Plan is currently being prepared in accordance with the Stephenstown, Cloghader, Clonard Local Area Plan.
- 10 acres of General Industry Lands available for disposal.

#### Enterprise Centre, Swords

#### Bay Business Park, Balbriggan

- Passport Office, Bridgestone Ireland, and 22 other own door units within the Park.



# Environment, Business & Enterprise

## **College Business & Technology Park**

- Joint venture with I.D.A. Ireland.
- The Institute of Technology, Digiweb and a crèche operate within the 93.07 hectares park.

## **Lanistown, Turvey**

- 40 hectares of Industrial land on the R132 within 1 kilometre of the M1 at Lissenhall.
- TESCO operating major logistics centre.

## **Developing and Managing Enterprise Centres for Start-Up Businesses**

Fingal County Council has developed and continues to support three Enterprise Centres in the County. The newest of these, the Drinan Enterprise Centre in Swords was opened during 2010. The two other enterprise centres, BASE in Mulhuddart and BEaT in Balbriggan provide start-up space and training facilities for businesses in these areas. Over 65 businesses and in excess of 250 jobs are currently supported in the three enterprise centres.

## Environment, Business & Enterprise

### FINGAL DEVELOPMENT BOARD

The Fingal Development Board (FDB) operates under aegis of the Local Authority as a multi-agency Board. According to the Local Government Act 2001 its function is to integrate the statutory, state funded and voluntary sector efforts to develop the county. The FDB looks specifically at the delivery of services by state and state funded agencies. During 2011 the FDB continued to deliver on its 2009-2012 Strategy – “Building a Better Fingal”. The practical delivery of the strategy is achieved through 12 working groups who are supported by a team of staff from Fingal County Council:

- Social Inclusion Measures Committee
- Invest Fingal – The Economic Development Committee
- Fingal Disability/Accessibility Forum
- Fingal Inter-Agency Traveller Group
- Fingal Joint Policing Committee
- Fingal Data Hub
- Fingal Comhairle na nÓg
- Fingal Children’s Services Committee
- Fingal Integrated Transport Forum
- Dublin Airport Stakeholder’s Forum
- Fingal Age Friendly Initiative
- Flavours of Fingal

In addition to the 12 strategic themes outlined in this Strategy the Directorate staff participate on a number of committees to represent the interests and policy agenda of the Fingal Development Board.

# Operations Department

The Operations Department was established in early 2011. This new Department, comprises most functions of the former Transportation Department together public open spaces and parks, landscaping, tree maintenance and litter collection in all public areas. It also includes responsibility for beaches and harbours.



The amalgamation of functions, previously separated, provides opportunities to develop works programmes that match regular calendar-based scheduled activities and that allows allocations of manpower resources in a more flexible manner than was previously possible.

## Transportation

Fingal County Council has responsibility for the management and movement of people, vehicles, animals and goods in a safe, efficient, economical manner from place to place within Fingal via the public road network system.

The main pieces of enabling legislation are:

- Roads Act 1993 - 2007
- Road Traffic Acts 1961 to 2008
- Local Government(Planning & Development) Acts 2000 – 2011

## Transportation Process/Range of Services

A wide range of services are provided for the County of Fingal, the improvement, maintenance and lighting of existing roads, the implementation of traffic management measures and the operation of a road safety section and school warden service. The Operations Department acts as an agent for the National Roads Authority (NRA) for the management of the National Road Network which includes the M1, M2 and N3 routes, in Fingal. The Department is also responsible for taking in charge new roads, temporary and permanent closures of roads, the making of Bye-laws relating to roads and related areas (e.g. speed limits, parking places etc.).

## Traffic

A wide range of traffic control, traffic planning and traffic management issues are dealt with;

- Travel Demand Management, the basic principle of which is to promote sustainable alternatives to the use of the car, i.e. park and ride facilities, walking, cycling and mobility management plans etc.
- Provision and maintenance of traffic signals
- Signing and paint marking/lining of road network.

# Operations Department

- Traffic calming and management schemes, where the objective is to improve pedestrian safety, ease traffic congestion, improve accessibility for mobility impaired road users, and effectively manage parking.
- Facilitating the provision of the Quality Bus Network (QBN) for the National Transport Authority (NTA)
- Smarter Travel is the Government policy for transport in Ireland. "Smarter Travel, "A Sustainable Transport Future, A New Transport Policy for Ireland 2009 – 2020", Complemented by "Ireland's First National Cycle Policy Framework" The purpose of this project is to develop route to promote sustainable modes of transport. A pedestrian/cycle pathway was completed in 2011 between Balbriggan and Balrothery. A pathway from Balbriggan to Skerries is planned for 2012.

| Traffic Elements in 2011 | Details                              |
|--------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| Traffic Signals          | 101 (91 on Remote Monitoring System) |
| Pedestrian Signals       | 89 (81 on Remote Monitoring System)  |
| Toucan Crossings         | 26 (13 on Remote Monitoring System)  |
| School Warning Signals   | 22                                   |
| Zebra Crossings          | 3                                    |
| Bus Gates                | 2                                    |

## Sustainable Transport Project

Castleknock QBC – completed 2011

Huntstown Way – completed 2011

Traffic and Parking Management Scheme at Clonsilla Train Station – construction completed 2011

Pedestrian and Cycle Access to Skerries Train Station – construction completed 2011

R132 resurfacing – Santry Avenue – Dardistown – construction completed 2011

R132 resurfacing – Cloghran – Pinnock Hill – construction completed 2011

Old Hansfield Road Pedestrian and Cycle Scheme (Phase 1) – construction completed 2011

Balbriggan to Balrothery Pedestrian/Cycle way – construction ongoing

## Pay and Display

The Pay and Display Schemes for the towns of Malahide, Balbriggan, Skerries and Swords and Rush continued to operate effectively and a new scheme will be introduced at Clonsilla/Portersgate.

# Operations Department

## Road Maintenance

The Operations Department operating from Depots at Balbriggan, Swords and Coolmine undertook an extensive Programme of Works throughout 2011 comprising resurfacing, surface dressing, strengthening, drainage and flood relief works, remedying defects arising from wear and tear and pot-hole repairs on the county roads most in need of repair. Winter maintenance is a sophisticated and integral part of the operations programme, spanning from the beginning of November to the end of April. A system of Thermal Mapping has been undertaken on the Main road network and based on readings from strategically located weather stations along the routes, which is fed into the computer system, the local authority carries out precautionary salting/gritting accordingly.

## Mechanical and Electrical Division

The Mechanical Division managed a fleet in excess of 250 vehicles and plant associated with Road Maintenance, Water Services and Environmental services in 2011 and carried out its own vehicle repair service from depots at Swords and Coolmine. The section was also responsible for the maintenance of water and drainage pumping stations and treatment plants.

During 2011, the Electrical Division managed the maintenance of 32,300 public lights throughout Fingal.



## Road Safety

The Operations Department managed the School Warden Services. The total number of Wardens employed in 2011 was 95 fulltime wardens and 43 reserve wardens. Managing and maintaining the School warden programme is an important aspect of the Road Safety Programme and this was done in 2011 through:

- Training, supervision and administration of Adult School Wardens
- Training and supervision of pupils involved in junior school warden service
- Maintenance and upkeep of school crossing paint markings
- Inspection and maintenance of school crossing street furniture and signage
- Ensuring all crossings comply with the legislative requirements and best practice
- Annual school warden training seminar

# Operations Department

## Road Safety in the County in 2011 continued through:

- Production of information/campaign materials, leaflets, armbands, rulers and pencils with the safety message
- Pedal Cyclist training course
- Educational talks in schools
- Junior school warden training course
- Road Safety Week, Walk to School Day
- Road Safe Road Show in Helix Theatre for transition year students
- Promotion of the safe routes to schools and walking bus multi-agency approach
- Bike for your Breakfast mornings in schools
- Cycle and motorcycle events during Community Safety Week
- COW and WOW days during Green Week

## KEY STATISTICS

| Road length by category            | 2011   | 2010   | 2009  |
|------------------------------------|--------|--------|-------|
| National Roads including Motorways | 60km   | 60km   | 60km  |
| Regional Roads                     | 225km  | 225km  | 225km |
| Local Roads                        | 1019km | 1002km | 976km |

## Service Indicators

|   |      |      |      |
|---|------|------|------|
| Cost per sq. m for surface dressing roads   | €3.0 | €3.2 | €5.2 |
| Percentage of Local and Regional Roads surface dressed (Per square metre of road) | 1.6% | 1.4% | 1.1% |

# Operations Department

## ADMINISTRATION

The Operations Department's Administration Division services Area Committee Meetings for the Howth/Malahide, Castleknock/Mulhuddart and Balbriggan/Swords Areas on a monthly basis.

During 2011, the Administration Division also dealt with:

|  | 2011 | 2010 | 2009 |
|--|------|------|------|
| Wayleave/ Communications Applications, Road Opening Licence Applications | 328  | 393  | 392  |
| Temporary Road Closure Applications                                      | 39   | 31   | 21   |
| Taking in Charge Certificate Applications                                | 329  | 357  | 303  |
| Abnormal Load Permit Applications  | 331  | 417  | 565  |

## ENVIRONMENT

### Beaches & Bathing Water

There are 48 kilometres of coastline in Fingal.

- Blue Flag awarded to Portmarnock and Portrane
- Green Coast Awards to 6 beaches; Portmarnock, Malahide, Donabate, Portrane, Rush South and Skerries South.

9 designated beaches providing a valuable recreational amenity.

- Balbriggan, Skerries South, Loughshinny, Rush South, Portrane, Donabate, Malahide, Portmarnock, Sutton (Burrow Road).
- Beach cleaning.
- Access facilities.
- Regular monitoring of seawater samples carried out to ensure compliance with Bathing Water Quality requirements.

36 lifeguards employed at 10 stations from June to end August 2011.

# Operations Department

## **Harbours**

Maintenance of navigation aids at Balbriggan, Skerries, Loughshinny and Malahide.

Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food aided improvement works that included;

- Repairs to slipway at Malahide
- Upgrading public lighting and services at Rush Harbour
- Re-surfacing of paved surface to original quay at Skerries Harbour
- Removal of sand bank at entrance to Balbriggan Harbour

## **Burial Grounds**

There are 35 Burial Grounds operated and maintained by the Fingal County Council.

- The statutory process for the development of the new burial ground at Flemington, Balbriggan was completed mid 2011. Development commenced June 2011 and is scheduled to be completed early in 2012.

## **Public Conveniences**

Maintenance of 15 public conveniences – 7 open year round and 8 open during the summer season.

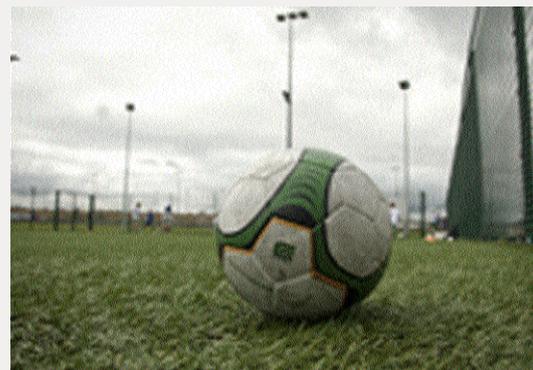
# Operations Department

## PARKS

The Operations Department is principally responsible for the planning, management and maintenance of some 2500 acres (1012 Ha.) of public open space in Fingal. The Division manages neighbourhood parks and sporting facilities across the County.

The Department provides extensive recreational and leisure opportunities for Fingal's residents and visitors alike. It also maintains approximately 140 acres (57 Ha) of urban grassed roadside margins the median and boundary areas of much of the motorway network in the County.

- The Operations Department maintained 32 playgrounds in various locations throughout Fingal.
- A total of 145 pitches were maintained by Operations Department for a range of team sports including Hurling, Camogie, Hockey, Gaelic, Soccer, Rugby and American football.
- 5 all-weather pitch facilities were available in Balbriggan, Skerries, Rivervalley Corduff, Blanchardstown and Broomfield, Malahide.
- Cricket grounds were provided at Malahide Demesne, at the Town Park, Balbriggan and Porterstown.
- 12 Multi Use Games Areas were available in across the County.
- A skateparks were maintained in Balheary and Millenium Park, Blanchardstown.
- A Bowling Green administered by the Skerries Bowling Club was in operation in the Town Park, Skerries.



## Tree Planting and Civic Decoration

- National Tree Week and National Tree Day events were organised in March with the continued co-operation of local schools and the Tree Council of Ireland.
- The annual programme of tree and shrub planting, seasonal bedding and street tree planting and maintenance was also carried out.
- Christmas Trees were provided at 15 locations and Christmas Tree Recycling facilities were provided countywide.