



# Tuarascáil Bhliantúil 2013 Annual Report 2013





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## Message from the Mayor

This was another year of challenge and change for Fingal but it was also a very positive one. As Mayor from June 2013, I want to pay tribute to the work of my predecessor, Cllr Cian O'Callaghan in promoting Fingal and its wonderful assets at every opportunity. It would be impossible to mention everything that I attended during 2013 so I have selected a few headlines to give you a flavour of what a success it was for us.



As the year of The Gathering, 2013 brought a number of significant events to Fingal including the European Athletics Team Championships at Morton Stadium, The J24 World Class Yacht Championships at Howth and our own Flavours of Fingal Show in Newbridge House and Farm Donabate. This two day family event which showcased the rich agricultural and horticultural heritage of the Fingal area was attended by approximately 20,000 people.

I hosted a number of foreign delegations including the vice mayor of Chengdu, China, a city of 14 million with whom we are developing close trade relations.

We continued to invest in infrastructure projects such as the Mulhuddart Interchange upgrade which I had the privilege of helping to open on October 7<sup>th</sup> 2013.

On 25<sup>th</sup> October I attended the launch of the Fingal Vintage Society Men's Shed Project in Turvey, Donabate. This worthwhile initiative encourages men to get together for companionship and a chat. This was also the month I attended the opening of Tyrellstown Park which will provide much needed recreational and playing facilities for a growing community.

I was particularly happy to attend the Fingal Libraries Launch of "Early years Literacy Strategy" in Blanchardstown Library on 27<sup>th</sup> November. This strategy encourages young children to become interested in reading which fosters a hobby for life.

As Mayor I had a unique opportunity to witness at first hand the hard work and tireless commitment of our talented staff who provide and maintain a wide range of services to the people of Fingal throughout the year.

Finally I wish to thank most sincerely former Fingal Manager David O'Connor who retired in November 2013. His vision and commitment to Fingal and its citizens served us all well and I speak for all my fellow Councillors in wishing him well for the future. I was very fortunate to have the invaluable assistance of Peter Caulfield as interim Manager.

I look forward to working with the new Fingal County Manager and all of our dedicated staff for the remainder of my term in 2014.

**Kieran Dennison**  
Mayor of Fingal



## Message from the Acting County Manager

In 2013 the local authority continued to respond to the needs of our citizens by delivering efficient and effective services. In line with national policy it continued to place increasing emphasis on economic development and commenced the re-orientation of the Council in order to put in place the new governance structures envisaged in the local government reform document, Putting People First, an Action Plan for Effective Local Government.



In addition to carrying out its day to day business, the Council continued to invest in infrastructure which is essential to meet the needs of a growing population. With increasing rents in the region, it is vital that Fingal continues to ensure that serviced lands are available for housing supply and that Fingal remains attractive for sustainable industrial and other employment opportunities.

Local Area Plans were adopted by the Council in 2013 for Baldoyle, Stapolin, Kilmartin, Portmarnock South, Rathingle, Rowlestown and Rivermeade.

Examples of significant capital investment are the commissioning of Leixlip Water Treatment Plant, the Mulhuddart Interchange upgrade, the widening of the M1 to three lanes between junctions 3 and 4, the upgrade of the Lissenhall Interchange and the Naul Road widening in Balbriggan. The Lusk traffic management scheme was completed and work commenced on the Royal Canal Greenway Scheme. Our social housing stock saw 2,323 tenanted properties improved under the Building Fabric Programme (including 332 units funded by the SEAI and 278 under the Job Stimulus Programme). 12 units of Traveller Accommodation were provided in 2013.

Corporately the Council organised or had an input into 400 events in 2013. Memorable days were enjoyed at the International Cricket Match in Malahide, the European Athletics Team Championships, the Dublin Bay Prawn Festival in Howth, St. Patrick's Day Parade, Flavours of Fingal and the Autumn Jazz Festival in Balbriggan, to name just a few.

I wish to thank the staff of Fingal for their support and commitment to best practice in so many areas of service provision, which has unsurprisingly earned Fingal County Council a reputation of being amongst the best in the country.

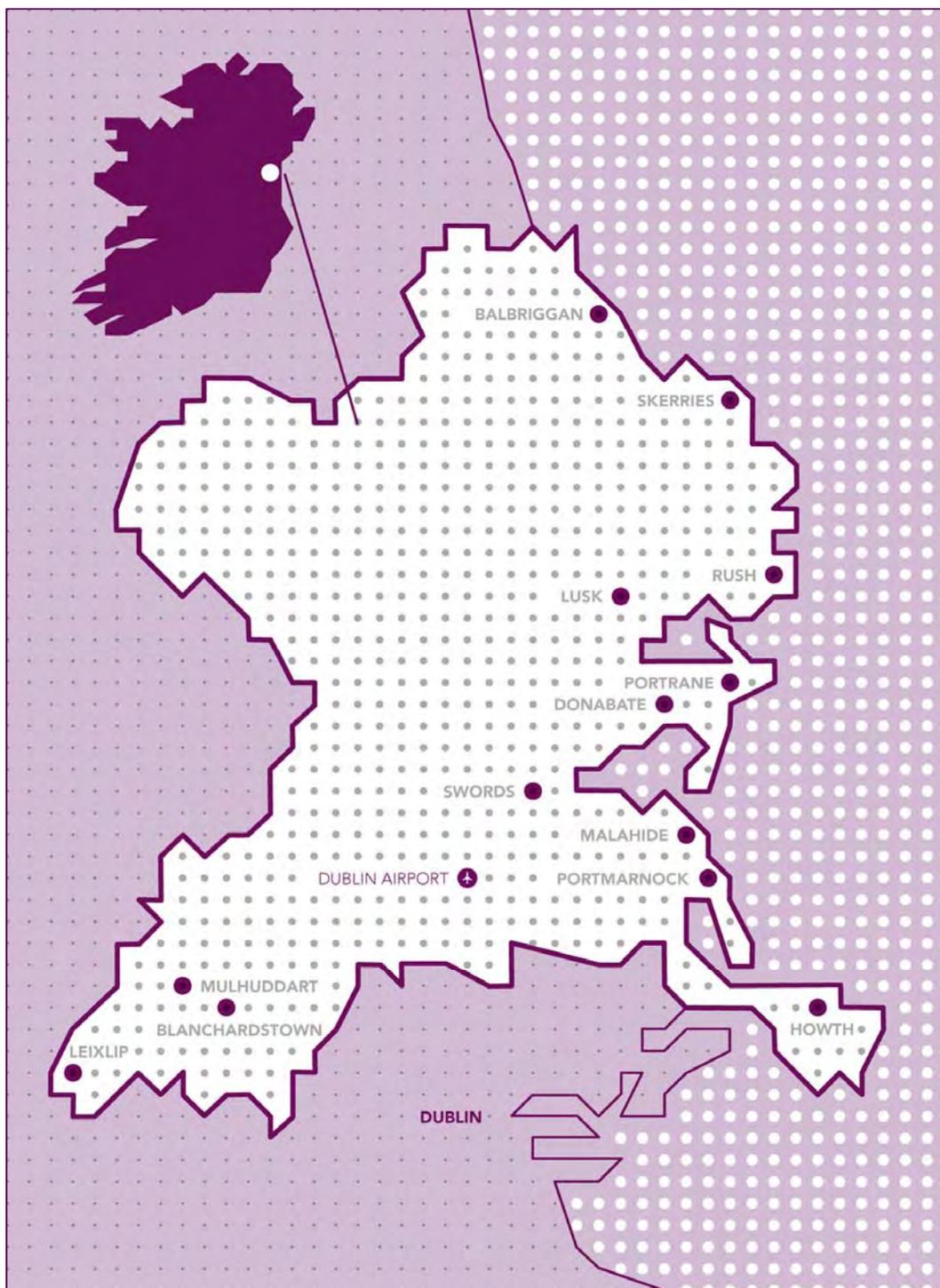
I would like to thank the outgoing County Manager, David O'Connor for his support in 2013 and for his exemplary commitment to public service during his tenure as Manager.

I would also like to thank the Mayor, Councillor Kieran Dennison and his predecessor Councillor Cian O'Callaghan and each of the Members of the Council for their hard work and commitment throughout 2013.

**Peter Caulfield**  
Acting County Manager



## Fingal County Council Electoral Map





## Corporate Affairs Department:

This department comprises:

- Corporate Services Division
- Property Services Division
- Internal Audit Unit
- Events Unit
- Communications Unit
- Workplace Partnership
- Balbriggan Town Council

### MAYOR:



Cian O'Callaghan  
Mayor  
January 2013-June 2013



Kieran Dennison  
Mayor  
June 2013-December 2013

### DEPUTY MAYOR:



Peggy Hamill  
Deputy Mayor  
January 2013 - June 2013



Joan Maher  
Deputy Mayor  
June 2013 - December 2013



## FINGAL COUNTY COUNCIL - ELECTED MEMBERS

### **BALBRIGGAN ELECTORAL AREA**

Ken Farrell, (Labour), 4 The Drive, Orlynn Park, Lusk, Co. Dublin.  
(Mobile: 087-7551927)  
E-mail: [ken.farrell@fingalcoco.ie](mailto:ken.farrell@fingalcoco.ie)



David O'Connor, (Non Party), "Meadowlands", Ballyboughal, Co. Dublin.  
(Tel: 8433691 (H), Mobile: 087 6803860)  
E-Mail: [davidj.oconnor@fingalcoco.ie](mailto:davidj.oconnor@fingalcoco.ie)



Tom O'Leary, (Fine Gael), 4 Haven House, Thomas Hand Street,  
Skerries, Co. Dublin.  
Tel. No. 8905022  
E-mail: [tom.oleary@fingalcoco.ie](mailto:tom.oleary@fingalcoco.ie)



Ciaran Byrne, (Labour), 41 South Strand, Skerries, Co. Dublin.  
(Tel: 8491179 (H), Mobile: 087 2273060, Fax: 8495361)  
E-Mail: [ciaran.byrne@fingalcoco.ie](mailto:ciaran.byrne@fingalcoco.ie)



May McKeon (Non Party) Resigned on 22<sup>nd</sup> November 2013.  
"Sheemore", Market Green, Balbriggan, Co. Dublin.  
(Tel: 8413660 (H), Mobile: 087 7852644)  
E-Mail: [may.mckeon@fingalcoco.ie](mailto:may.mckeon@fingalcoco.ie)



Grainne Maguire, (Non Party)(Replaced May McKeon from 23<sup>rd</sup> November, 2013.  
90 Drogheda Street, Balbriggan, Co. Dublin.  
(Tel. No. Mobile 087 9436650)  
E-Mail : [1grainnemaguire@gmail.com](mailto:1grainnemaguire@gmail.com)



### **SWORDS ELECTORAL AREA**

Gerry McGuire (Labour), 1 The Strand, Donabate, Co. Dublin.  
(Tel: 8436014, Mobile: 087 2381980)  
E-mail: [gerry.mcguire@fingalcoco.ie](mailto:gerry.mcguire@fingalcoco.ie)



Tom Kelleher (Labour), Kilsallaghan, Co Dublin.  
Mobile: 087 2837165)  
E-Mail: [tom.kelleher@fingalcoco.ie](mailto:tom.kelleher@fingalcoco.ie)





Darragh Butler, (Fianna Fail), 17 Highfield Close, Swords, Co Dublin.  
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Anne Devitt, (Non Party), Lispopple, Swords, Co. Dublin.  
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E-Mail: [anne.devitt@fingalcoco.ie](mailto:anne.devitt@fingalcoco.ie)



Eugene Coppinger (Socialist Party), 46 Forest Walk, Rivervalley, Swords, Co. Dublin.  
Mobile: 087 2327412  
[eugene.coppinger@fingalcoco.ie](mailto:eugene.coppinger@fingalcoco.ie)



#### **HOWTH/MALAHIDE ELECTORAL AREA**

Peter Coyle, (Labour), (Resigned 26<sup>th</sup> May, 2013)  
8 Burrow Court, Portmarnock, Co Dublin.  
(Tel: 8460327(H), Mobile: 087 2837160)  
E-Mail: [peter.coyle@fingalcoco.ie](mailto:peter.coyle@fingalcoco.ie)



Judy Dunne, (Labour), (Co-Opted on 14<sup>th</sup> June, 2013)  
21 Wendell Avenue, Portmarnock, Co. Dublin.  
(Tel : Mobile : 087 6178557)  
E-Mail : [judy.dunne@fingalcoco.ie](mailto:judy.dunne@fingalcoco.ie)



Cian O'Callaghan (Non Party), 5 Campbell Court, Main Street, Howth, Dublin 13.  
(Mobile: 086 2866631)  
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Eoghan O'Brien, (Fianna Fail), 7 Seabury View, Malahide, Co. Dublin  
(Mobile 086 8580562)  
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**MULHUDDART ELECTORAL AREA**

Ruth Coppinger, (Socialist Party), 159 Castlecurragh Heath, Mulhuddart, Dublin 15.

(Tel; 8116174, Mobile: 087 6730187)

E-Mail: [ruth.coppinger@fingalcoco.ie](mailto:ruth.coppinger@fingalcoco.ie)



Kieran Dennison, (Fine Gael), 1 Fernleigh Grange, Castleknock, Dublin 15.

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E-mail: [kierandennison@gmail.com](mailto:kierandennison@gmail.com)



David McGuinness, (Fianna Fáil), 1 Beechfield Heights, Clonee, Dublin 15.

(Mobile: 087 6415403)

E-mail: [dmcguinn@tcd.ie](mailto:dmcguinn@tcd.ie)



Michael O'Donovan, (Labour), 70 Delwood Drive, Dublin 15

(Tel: 8220030 (O) Mobile: 087 2207798)

E-Mail: [michael.odonovan@fingalcoco.ie](mailto:michael.odonovan@fingalcoco.ie)



Mary McCamley, (Labour),

147, Castlecurragh Vale, Mulhuddart, Dublin 15.

Mobile : 087 6501441

E-Mail: [mary.mccamley@fingalcoco.ie](mailto:mary.mccamley@fingalcoco.ie)



**CASTLEKNOCK ELECTORAL AREA**

Eithne Loftus, (Fine Gael), 6 Deerpark Avenue, Castleknock, Dublin 15.

(Mobile: 087 6223419)

E-Mail: [eithne.loftus@fingalcoco.ie](mailto:eithne.loftus@fingalcoco.ie)



Peggy Hamill, (Labour), (Resigned 28<sup>th</sup> December, 2013)

"Back Lodge", Oatlands, Castleknock, Dublin 15.

(Tel; 8216100, Mobile: 087 9930009)

E-Mail: [cllrpeggy.hamill@fingalcoco.ie](mailto:cllrpeggy.hamill@fingalcoco.ie)



Mags Murray, (Fianna Fail), 13 Lohunda Close, Parkview, Clonsilla, D. 15.

(Tel: Mobile 086 0651419)

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Matthew Waine, (Socialist Party), 58 Woodview Grove, Blanchardstown, D. 15

(Mobile: 087-6684616)

E-Mail: [mattwaine@gmail.com](mailto:mattwaine@gmail.com)





## STANDING COMMITTEES OF THE COUNCIL

### AREA COMMITTEES

<b>Balbriggan/Swords</b>	Members of Balbriggan and Swords Electoral Areas and Cathaoirleach of Balbriggan Town Council
<b>Castleknock/Mulhuddart Howth/Malahide</b>	Members of Castleknock and Mulhuddart Electoral Areas Members of Howth/Malahide Electoral Area

### Organisation and Procedure Committee

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

### Corporate Policy Group

Cian O'Callaghan (Mayor) - January 2013– June 2013

Kieran Dennison (Mayor) – June 2013 – December 2013

Mags Murray (Chairperson) Transportation S.P.C.

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

Eithne Loftus

(Chairperson) Environment S.P.C.

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

Ruth Coppinger (Chairperson) Housing S.P.C.

## MEMBERS OF COMMUNITY AND GENERAL STRATEGIC POLICY COMMITTEE

### Councillors

David O'Connor (Chairperson)

Darragh Butler

Judy Dunne replaced Peter Coyle on 14<sup>th</sup> June, 2013.

Anne Devitt

Peggy Hamill

Mary McCamley

Cian O'Callaghan

Matthew Waine

### Non Councillor Members

Gráinne Maguire

Padraig McMahan

Brendan Sherlock

Paul Holden

Myles Caulfield

Clodagh O'Donovan

Joseph Kuye



## **MEMBERS OF ENVIRONMENT STRATEGIC POLICY COMMITTEE**

### **Councillors**

Eithne Loftus (Chairperson)

(Judy Dunne replaced Peter Coyle on 14th June, 2013.

Eugene Coppinger

Kieran Dennison

Anthony Lavin

Peggy Hamill

Gerry McGuire

Grainne Maguire replaced May McKeon on 9<sup>th</sup> December, 2013.

David O'Connor

Eoghan O'Brien

### **Non Councillor Members**

Olive Byrne

Valerie Henderson

David Rogers

Maire O'Brien

Stephen Malone

Ms. Terry Cummins

## **MEMBERS OF HOUSING STRATEGIC POLICY COMMITTEE**

### **Councillors**

Ruth Coppinger (Chairperson)

Eugene Coppinger

Kieran Dennison

Ken Farrell

Joan Maher

Mary McCamley

Gerry McGuire

David McGuinness

Cian O'Callaghan

Michael O'Donovan

### **Non Councillor Members**

Andrew McCann

Sylvester Greally

Paula Kenny replaced Kathleen McKillion on 8<sup>th</sup> July, 2013.

Roderick O'Gorman

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  
Terry Kelleher resigned and was replaced by Grainne Maguire on 14<sup>th</sup> October, 2013)  
Grainne Maguire resigned and was replaced by Terry Kelleher on 9<sup>th</sup> December, 2013)

## **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  
Grainne Maguire replaced May McKeon on 9<sup>th</sup> December, 2013

### **Non Councillor Members**

Rory Bannon  
Brendan Doorley  
Raymond Ryan  
Paddy Kavanagh replaced David Donnelly on 8<sup>th</sup> April, 2013.  
Jean Fay Brady  
Cathal Boland  
Tom O'Malley replaced Bernadette O'Connell on 13<sup>th</sup> May, 2013.



## COUNCILLOR MEMBERSHIP OF OTHER BODIES

### **MEMBERS OF BLANCHARDSTOWN COMMUNITY FORUM**

#### **Councillors**

Eithne Loftus  
Mary McCamley

### **MEMBERS OF SWORDS COMMUNITY POLICING FORUM**

#### **Councillor**

Darragh Butler  
Ann Devitt  
Gerry McGuire

## REPRESENTATIVES ON STATUTORY BODIES

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

## **AUDIT COMMITTEE**

### **Councillors**

Judy Dunne replaced Peter Coyle on 14<sup>th</sup> June, 2013  
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 replaced by Grainne Maguire on 9<sup>th</sup> December, 2013  
Anne Devitt  
Ciarán Byrne  
Peter Coyle replaced by Judy Dunne on 14<sup>th</sup> June, 2013

#### **SOUTHERN AND EASTERN REGIONAL ASSEMBLY**

##### **Councillors**

Ciarán Byrne  
Anne Devitt

#### **FINGAL COUNTY ENTERPRISE BOARD**

##### **Councillors**

Peter Coyle replaced by Judy Dunne on 8<sup>th</sup> July, 2013  
Kieran Dennison  
Gerry McGuire  
May McKeon replaced by Grainne Maguire on 9<sup>th</sup> December, 2013

#### **IRISH PUBLIC BODIES MUTUAL INSURANCES LIMITED**

##### **Councillor**

Mags Murray

#### **LOCAL AUTHORITY MEMBERS ASSOCIATION**

##### **Councillor**

Mags Murray

#### **FINGAL TOURISM LIMITED**

##### **Councillors**

Cian O'Callaghan (Mayor) - January 2013 – June 2013  
Kieran Dennison (Mayor) - June 2013– December 2013  
Tom O'Leary replaced Peter Coyle on 14<sup>th</sup> June, 2013.



#### **NORTH DUBLIN DEVELOPMENT COALITION (NORDUBCO)**

##### **Councillors**

Cian O'Callaghan (Mayor) - January 2013 – June 2013

Kieran Dennison (Mayor) - June 2013 – December 2013

Anne Devitt

#### **FINGAL LEADER PARTNERSHIP BOARD**

##### **Councillors**

May McKeon replaced by Gerry McGuire on 9<sup>th</sup> December, 2013

Ciaran Byrne

Anne Devitt

#### **DUBLIN EMPLOYMENT PACT – STRATEGIC POLICY GROUP**

##### **Councillors**

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**

Mary McCamley

David McGuinness

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

**Mayor:** Cian O'Callaghan (Mayor) - January 2013 – June 2013  
Kieran Dennison (Mayor) - June 2013 – December 2013

#### **CASTLEKNOCK ELECTORAL AREA:**

##### **Councillors**

Peggy Hamill resigned on 28<sup>th</sup> December, 2013

Mags Murray

Matthew Waine

Eithne Loftus



**MULHUDDART ELECTORAL AREA:**

**Councillors**

Ruth Coppinger  
Michael O'Donovan  
Kieran Dennison  
David McGuinness  
Mary McCamley

**NATIONAL RURAL DEVELOPMENT FORUM**

**Councillor**

Ciarán Byrne

**BALLEALLY LANDFILL LIAISON COMMITTEE**

**Councillors**

Ken Farrell  
Grainne Maguire replaced May McKeon on 9<sup>th</sup> December, 2013  
Anne Devitt  
Gerry McGuire

**COUNTY HERITAGE FORUM**

**Councillors**

David O'Connor  
Judy Dunne replaced Peter Coyle on 8<sup>th</sup> July 2013  
Kieran Dennison  
Grainne Maguire replaced May McKeon on 9<sup>th</sup> December, 2013  
Mags Murray

**NORTH FRINGE AREA FORUM**

**Councillors**

Cian O'Callaghan  
Joan Maher  
Judy Dunne replaced Peter Coyle on 14<sup>th</sup> June, 2013  
Eoghan O'Brien

**REGIONAL HEALTH FORUM DUBLIN AND NORTH EAST**

**Councillors**

Grainne Maguire replaced May McKeon on 9<sup>th</sup> December, 2013  
Mags Murray  
Eithne Loftus  
Gerry McGuire  
Anne Devitt  
Kieran Dennison



#### **HANSFIELD SDZ STEERING GROUP**

##### **Councillors**

Ruth Coppinger  
Michael O'Donovan  
Mary McCamley  
David McGuinness  
Kieran Dennison

#### **FINGAL INTEGRATED TRANSPORT GROUP**

##### **Councillor**

Mags Murray

#### **JOINT POLICING COMMITTEE**

##### **Councillors**

Cian O'Callaghan (Mayor) - January 2013 – June 2013  
Kieran Dennison (Mayor) - June 2013 – December 2013  
Mags Murray  
Peggy Hamill  
David O'Connor  
Eithne Loftus  
Kieran Dennison  
Matthew Waine  
Michael O'Donovan  
Mary McCamley  
Judy Dunne replaced Peter Coyle on 14<sup>th</sup> June, 2013  
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**

Joan Maher



**BALBRIGGAN COMMUNITY POLICING FORUM**

**Councillors**

Ciarán Byrne

May McKeon resigned on 22nd November, 2013

**DRAIOCHT**

**Councillor**

Peggy Hamill

**DUBLIN NORTH-EAST DRUGS TASK FORCE**

**Councillor**

Cian O'Callaghan

**AIRPORT REGIONS CONFERENCE (ARC)**

**Councillor**

Ciaran Byrne

**NUCLEAR FREE LOCAL AUTHORITY**

**Councillor**

Michael O'Donovan

**LES RENCONTRES**

**Councillor**

Tom Kelleher

**GOVERNING AUTHORITY OF DCU**

**Councillor**

Ciaran Byrne

**BLANCHARDSTOWN COMMUNITY POLICING FORUM**

**Councillors**

Mary McCamley

Mags Murray

**MALAHIDE CASTLE & GARDENS LTD**

**Councillor**

Anthony Lavin replaced Peter Coyle on 8th July, 2013.

**MONITORING BOARD FOR INTERREG IVC PROJECT**

**Councillor**

Tom Kelleher

**BALBRIGGAN PUBLIC REALM IMPLEMENTATION GROUP**

**Councillor** Ciaran Byrne



## **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 5<sup>th</sup> June 2009:

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

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.

The Public Realm Plan "the Heart of Balbriggan" was published in 2012 and one of the actions in the Plan was to produce a strategy for Railway Street. A public consultation process commenced in 2012 and the "Railway Street, a new beginning" document was published in November 2012. Work continued in 2013 to promote Railway Street as an historic place in Balbriggan.

The Town Council Annual Awards were held in October and afforded the Town Council the opportunity to pay 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 assigned from Fingal County Council. The Town Manager is Ms. Ide de Bairtiséil. The Town Clerk is Mr. Brian Murray.



## CORPORATE SERVICES

### **Higher Education Grants**

All NEW Applications for Higher Education Grants for Academic year 2013/2014 are being processed by Student Universal Support Ireland (SUSI). All RENEWAL Applications for Academic year 2013/2014 are being processed by Fingal County Council.

Number of Renewal Applications	550
Number of Renewal Grants Awarded	361
<u>Total expenditure for 2013</u>	<u>€2,401,410.12</u>



### **School Meals Scheme**

Approximately 2,800 children in 10 Primary Schools in the Fingal area were catered for on a daily basis under this scheme.

### **Register of Electors**

The final Register of Electors for 2013/2014 was published on 01/02/2013  
The total number of Electors on the final register was 176,078.

A draft register of electors for 2014/2015 was published on the 01/11/2013.  
The total number of electors on draft register was 177,610.

### **Edited Register of Electors**

The edited register of electors published on the 1<sup>st</sup> February 2013 contained 17,553 names.



## **PROPERTY SERVICES DIVISION**

The Council's Property Services Division acquires and disposes of property on behalf of Fingal County Council and manages properties and lands 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 - The Property Acquisition Section continued in 2013 to progress the acquisition and disposal of school sites in accordance with Memorandum of Understanding between the Department of Education and Skills and the County and City Managers Association.
- Compulsory Purchase Order - Five Compulsory Purchase Orders were submitted to An Bord Pleanála and all were subsequently confirmed.
- Motorway Order – Remaining acquisition in respect of Motorway Schemes continued in 2013.
- 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 the new Property Interest Register continued in 2013.

Security and maintenance of Council lands/properties.

Letting of Council lands for tillage and grazing by con-acre agreements – approx. 800 acres let in 2013.

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 lands or properties /grant of wayleaves etc.

Lease of Lands to Sporting Organisations and Utility Companies.



## FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUESTS

<b>Applications received/processed in</b>	<b>2013</b>	<b>2012</b>	<b>2011</b>
Applications received	48	68	67
Decisions made	41	66	63
Applications on hand at 31 December	7	2	4
<b>Nature of Information Sought</b>	<b>2013</b>	<b>2012</b>	<b>2011</b>
Personal (to applicant)	14	24	33
Non-Personal	34	44	34
Mixed	0	0	0
Granted	27	35	23
Part-Granted	8	19	11
Refused	6	13	5
Transferred	0	0	0
Withdrawn/Outside FOI	2	3	24
<b>Appeals</b>	<b>2013</b>	<b>2012</b>	<b>2011</b>
Appeals to Information Commissioner	0	0	0
<b>Source of Requests</b>	<b>2013</b>	<b>2012</b>	<b>2011</b>
Journalists	0	3	3
Business	16	17	2
Oireachtas / Local Authority members	0	1	0
Other/General Public	32	46	62
Staff	0	1	0
<b>Ombudsman Complaints</b>	<b>2013</b>	<b>2012</b>	<b>2011</b>
Complaints received	12	10	4
Complaints responded to	12	10	4
<b>Subject of Complaints</b>			
Planning	1	0	1
Operations	0	1	0
Housing	8	3	0
Finance	0	0	1
Water Services	0	2	1
Community, Recreation & Amenities	0	0	2
Environment, Business & Enterprise	1	3	0
Property Services	1	0	0
Corporate Affairs	1	0	1



<b>Citizen Charter Complaints</b>	<b>2013</b>	<b>2012</b>	<b>2011</b>
Complaints received	11	9	1
Complaints responded to	11	9	1
<b>Subject of Complaints</b>			
Planning	0	0	0
Operations	1	0	0
Housing	6	1	0
Finance	1	0	0
Water Services	1	0	0
Community, Recreation & Amenities	0	0	0
Environment, Business & Enterprise	2	0	3
Property Services	0	0	0
Corporate Affairs	0	0	0



## INTERNAL AUDIT UNIT

During 2013, Internal Audit 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, in addition to making recommendations for improvement where necessary. All these Reports included a "Risk Assessment" where appropriate.

Internal Audit also carried out Compliance checks, as part of its core activity in a number of Divisions. These checks also incorporated reports on Economy, Efficiency and Effectiveness across the organisation.

In addition Internal Audit:

- 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
- Promoted the concept of Value for Money and Efficiency initiatives
- Continued to emphasise the value of good Corporate Governance

The Audit Committee in December 2013 commenced a full review of the risk register.



## EVENTS UNIT:

The Events Unit promotes the Council to the wider community and many community / voluntary groups approach the Council for advice / assistance to host events. Stemming from the Olympic Torch event in 2012 the Events Unit was presented with an Event Industry Award for "Investor in Events Award" for continued investment in the Events Medium as a means of achieving business objectives.

We have a skilled team who work and liaise with a number of departments within the Council along with community groups, voluntary groups, Civil Defence and other statutory bodies to make events happen.

Corporately Fingal County Council had an input / role in over 400 events in 2013. The following is a flavour of some of these:

- St. Patrick's Day Festival



- Les Recontres Conference
- Spring Break Music Festival
- Dublin Bay Prawn Festival Howth
- Fingal Film Festival
- European Athletics Team Championships





- Fingal 10K Road Race



- Powerchair Football
- Fingal Festival of Football
- International Cricket Match, Malahide
- Flavours of Fingal
- Autumn Jazz (Balbriggan)
- Swords/Balbriggan Christmas Lights



*Swords Christmas Lights*



*Balbriggan Christmas Lights*



### **Safety Advisory Group**

Established at the end of 2011 Fingal's Safety Advisory Group (SAG) carries out the following:

- Provision of advice and support on crowd safety at events (in particular to community / voluntary groups)
- Makes recommendations on public safety
- Encourages event organisers to engage with the SAG
- Resourcing through education, guidance and good practice safer and more enjoyable mass gathering events

Follow the events unit on twitter@EVENTSinfingal



## COMMUNICATIONS OFFICE

The Communications Office deals with local and national media queries, advertising, corporate pocket diary, website, social media and oversees corporate communications and internal communications on behalf of Fingal County Council. It advises staff on requirements as a public body under the Official Languages Act.

In 2013 the Communications Team issued press releases, news alerts, queries from local and national media and queries on Twitter and Facebook. 5 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.



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 is provided during and outside of office hours and will continue in 2014.

As part of the Council's Major Emergency Plan, Communications staff continue to fulfill the role of Media Liaison Officers for training and exercises to act on behalf of Fingal County Council in the event of a declared emergency, and in accordance with the National Framework.

The new corporate website [www.fingal.ie](http://www.fingal.ie) was officially launched in October 2013 and is now centrally managed by staff in the Communications office who also manage the Corporate Twitter and Facebook accounts.

A comprehensive review of the Fingal brand took place in 2013 and staff in the Communications Office continue to manage its implementation.



In 2013 an Internal Communications strategy was agreed and an action plan implemented following a staff survey. As part of this plan, thirteen Internal Staff Information Screens were introduced to canteens and break rooms throughout the Council. The Raven Staff newsletter was expanded and the newsletter is produced more regularly.

To ensure a complete and effective media monitoring service for print, broadcast and social media activity, a new comprehensive package was agreed with Kantar Media in December 2013.

### **Fingal Local Authorities Irish Language Scheme**

Fingal's Irish Language Scheme 2006- 2009 was prepared in accordance with the Official Languages Act 2003 and confirmed by the Minister in 2006.

During 2013 the Council dealt with and responded to 7 queries from the Irish Language Commissioner. The drafting of a second scheme was completed in 2013 and will be submitted to the Department for approval in 2014.

## **WORKPLACE PARTNERSHIP**

The Fingal Workplace Partnership Committee was engaged in the following projects and initiatives during 2013.

- Held the 3<sup>rd</sup> Remembrance Ceremony for deceased Fingal Staff.
- Launched the "Dignity at Work" document.
- Organised and managed events to help boost morale amongst staff including representation in the Swords St. Patrick's Day Parade, designing and printing a staff calendar showcasing the good work done by Fingal Staff.
- Organised competitions for staff to help improve morale in the organization.
- Commenced the second FETAC Level 4 Continued Learning Programme for all Staff.
- Organised the Health & Safety Week including a Sponsored Walk in aid of the Blanchardstown Hospice.
- Organised and developed courses to provide training for outdoor staff to further their careers.



- Organised and co-ordinated a pilot Transition Year Programme.
- Supported and facilitated the work of local Workplace Partnership Groups.
- 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 2013:

- Bereavement Working Group.
- Health and Safety.
- Staff Morale/Let’s Make it Better
- Equality
- Further Education.



*Remembrance Ceremony for Deceased Staff.*



## **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 2013. The pattern of work has changed considerably over the last number of years with the emphasis shifting from the provision of new social housing and towards fabric improvement in our existing housing stock; a concentration on public and community buildings; and work on a shared services basis for a number of local authorities.

### **CIVIC AND COUNCIL OWNED BUILDINGS**

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

The Department continues to liaise with Community Recreation and Amenities Department dealing with post-completion issues.

#### **Malahide Castle**

The Department oversaw the upgrade of the second floor bedrooms in the castle; and the installation of external lighting in the grounds and car park. Work commenced on the conservation and repair of windows in the castle. Works to the heating system in the Cambridge glass house were substantially completed.



*Castle Bedrooms Project*



*Temporate Glass House Project*



### **Donabate / Portrane Library**

This fit-out project was tendered in 2013 and commenced on site in October with a completion date in early 2014.



*Donabate/Portrane Library*

### **Pinewood Community Centre**

The Department prepared tender documents for post-fire refurbishment and alterations to this building in 2013. Tenders for the construction work will be sought early in 2014.

### **Devine's Cottage, Lusk**

The Department obtained Part XI planning approval and tenders for the alteration and extension of this house for use as a community facility.

### **Depots**

The Department continued to work with the Operations Department on the consolidation and re-organisation of the Council's services depots at Fancourt – completed refurbishment of the office building and a new car-park; Watery Lane - the completion of the new salt barn; and taking briefs for work at Coolmine and Corr Bridge depots.

### **Drinan Sports Centre**

The first phase of the car park was completed in February 2013. Detailed design for the main building continued through 2013; work commenced on the tender documents with a view to seeking tenders in the first quarter of 2014.

### **Newbridge Demesne**

Part XI planning consent was obtained for work to the courtyard and for a new visitor toilet facility. The new toilet building was completed in November 2013.



*Newbridge Farm – new toilet facilities building.*



### **Howth Tourist Information Kiosk**

Design and fabrication work is complete and awaits completion of licence prior to erection on site.

## **HOUSING**

The Architect's Department continued to offer professional services to the Housing Department in 2013.

### **Housing Completions**

The Department oversaw work on the last phase of house refurbishment in Mourne View Estate in Skerries in 2013.

### **Schemes in Preparation**

Feasibility studies for a number of schemes were worked on through 2013.

Solutions other than new construction as a means of providing social housing are being used.

### **Pyrite Remediation**

The Architect's Department assessed the requirement for pyrite remediation work at Dromheath Avenue Extension, tendered the project; and in co-operation with the Housing Department managed the remediation work which was commenced in May and completed in September, on time and within budget.

### **Part V Inspections-**

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

### **House adaptations, extensions and small works-**

21 new accessible showers, 26 new and 3 replacement stair-lift installations, 2 miscellaneous adaptations and 3 extensions of dwellings for people with special needs were completed in 2013.

### **Housing Maintenance**

The Department continued to manage the maintenance of the Council's stock of 4,482 dwellings; attending to just over 9,850 requests for repair (including requests from the Traveller Accommodation Unit), as well as scheduled external maintenance and repair to over 950 dwellings; and heating maintenance to over 3,000 dwellings.

167 vacant houses were repaired prior to re-letting in 2013. Many of these houses were significantly upgraded to improve energy efficiency.



### **Energy Efficiency Works**

The Architect's Department, together with the Housing Department were able to respond to a further call for proposals by SEAI to improve the thermal performance of Council dwellings. The Council obtained in excess of € 482,000 to provide double-glazed replacement windows (72 houses, predominantly in the Council's Older Persons Dwelling (OPD) stock and cavity and roof insulation in 2,000 houses. The Council funded additional window replacement and insulation works. The Council's work in improving energy efficiency in 2013 led to an estimated energy saving of 3.92 Gigawatt/Hours for the year 2012-2013.

### **CONSULTANCY SERVICES**

The Architects Department provided architectural consultancy services in design development for access works and repairs to Ardee Castle for Louth County Council. Planning consent was obtained for the regeneration scheme at Aisling Park for Dundalk Town Council and tender document preparation was undertaken for the first phase of the project (14 houses).

The Department also provided consultancy services on a sports and leisure centre at Mullingar for Westmeath County Council; provided advice on procurement of consultants for new offices at Navan for Meath County Council; and assistance in tender assessment for a new community centre for Galway City Council.

### **OTHER SERVICES**

As well as the above, the Department offered services, advice or comment on radon testing; dealing with pyrite; purchase mapping services (47 with BER's); way leave applications; building energy rating (472 in total with 49 done in house); and permissions to carry out alterations by tenants; . The Department continued to provide out-of-hours dangerous building inspections and reports, as required, in 2013.

### **QUANTITY SURVEYING, COST PLANNING AND COST CONTROL**

The Department provided quantity surveying, cost planning and cost control services associated with all of the projects listed in this report. The small works framework has proved particularly efficient in delivering in a timely manner the increased volume of small works delivered in 2013. Procurement advice was provided and tender templates developed for a range of serial contracts and frameworks both for Fingal County Council and other agencies.



## CONSERVATION

The Conservation Officer provided advice and reports on the following:

- Ongoing Review of Record of Protected Structures and Record of Protected Structures Database Project (with Dept. AHG)
- Architectural Conservation Areas Statements of Character for St. Ita's, Portrane
- Newbridge Conservation Plan and Review of Thatch Survey of Fingal
- Planning File Reports & monthly Planning Files Meetings and Pre-planning consultations
- Unauthorized development, endangerment and neglect of Protected Structures
- Conservation Advice to owners on works to historic buildings
- Commemorations Group (Millennium of 1014)
- Swords Castle and Bremore Castle Operational Plan
- Establishment of Historic Building Committee (with Dept. AHG)
- Malahide Public Realm Strategy
- Structures at Risk Fund
- Investigating and developing sources of funding for architectural conservation (research on EU structural funds, proposal for FCC funding scheme and potential LEADER project)

## PLANNING AND URBAN DESIGN

### **Local Area Plans**

The Architect's Department assisted the Planning Department in the preparation of the Stapolin /Baldoyle Local Area Plan (May 2013); and the Portmarnock South Local Area Plan (July 2013).

### **Public Realm Studies**

The Department has completed the Public Realm Study, shortlisted for an IPI award, in Balbriggan and continued its involvement in the Implementation Plan.



*Balbriggan Public Realm Study – Railway Street*



The report for the Public Realm Study in Malahide is complete and a resulting 'app' and design guides are in preparation.



*Malahide Public Realm Strategy*

#### **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.



## **Community, Culture & Sports 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.

### **COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT OFFICE**

The Division's Community Development Officers worked on a variety of programmes and supported a wide range of community organisations during 2013. 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 working on a geographical basis were instrumental in the delivery of a number of programmes and activities in 2013. These units worked with 90 priority groups on a monthly basis.

#### **Community Facilities**

The Units play a key role in supporting the development of local management and operational structures that oversee the day to day operation of Standalone Community Facilities and Shared Community Facilities.

*Official Opening of  
Broadmeadow Community  
Garden, September 2013*



In 2013 we supported the completion, set up and opening of the Shared Community Facility at St Brigids, Castleknock. 2012/13 also saw the transition from the set up phase to the first year of operation in Holywell and Flemington Community Centres. In addition the Community Officers have provided both Quality Management support under the KPI Audit Programme, Community Development and Community Usage supports under the First Steps Programme to the 5 other Fingal Schools Model Shared Facilities at Tyrrellstown, Ongar, Applewood, Diswellstown and Castaheany.



*Official Opening of  
Holywell  
Community Centre,*

In the 19 additional standalone Community Facilities the Community Officers started to roll out the First Steps programme and the Quality Management Programme in 2013. The Community Officers support and enable voluntary management committees of Community Centres to carry out their roles effectively. They provided information, mentoring, advice and models of good practice in various disciplines. The Units worked with all community facilities that avail of the Council's management assistance funding.

### Community Development and Engagement

The main focus of our Community Development work is in supporting and enabling community and voluntary groups in Fingal to effect change and combat social exclusion within their own communities. In 2013, the Units delivered supports such as training, information and mentoring services to over 120 voluntary and community groups. The Unit delivered **40** community Education programmes to **790** participants in the area of committee skills.



*Balbriggan Integration Forum, 2013 Community Group  
of the Year Overall Winner.*



The Community Office plays a pivotal role in the development and support of thematic networks. In 2013 we worked with the Ethnic, Senior Citizens, Disability and Environment Networks. We also supported the Fingal Community and Voluntary Forum.

In 2013 The Community Development Office continued to support the Fingal Age Friendly Initiative by developing and delivering age appropriate initiatives such as Digitise the Nation, the Health, Fitness and Well Being Programmes, the Stretch and Relaxation Programme, two Seniors Information Seminars and the development and introduction of the Skerries Age Friendly Town Initiative.

### **Funding**

Funding Provided to Community and Voluntary Organisations in 2013:

Area Activities Funding Total	Activities (General and Summer Projects)	Arts	Total
Total	€57,008.50	€70,050.00	€127,058.50

In 2013, it is estimated that over 5000 young people participated in funded Summer Projects.

19 Facilities received financial assistance from a total amount of €237,500 allocated to Management Assistance Funding.

### **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 Sports Office, which is part of the Irish Sports Council's network of Local Sports Partnerships, delivered 600 programmes to in excess of 53,000 participants, working with 1,482 clubs, organisations and schools. Some of the highlights were:

#### **Sports Conditioning Programme (Sportscon)**

The Office continued its Sportscon programme in Primary Schools and other settings. Sportscon is a specialised training module developed for children of all ages and abilities, to improve children's basic movement skills through exercises and fun games. Teachers and volunteers are trained in the delivery of Sports Con, which allows the programme to continue in many schools. In 2013, the programme was delivered in 24 primary schools with a pilot run in two secondary schools, some 2,720 pupils benefited from the programme. An additional 60 teachers from 12 schools participated in a specialised training workshop. 44 Community groups participated in the programme where 605 Volunteers and staff received training, 65 coaches from 18 sports clubs took part in advanced workshops. A further 20 special need carers and volunteers receiving training in the delivery of Sports Con.



*Teachers Course in Corduff.*

### **Sporting Facts**

Sporting Facts is a sports and educational programme using Sports Con as the basis of all activity sessions alongside classroom modules consisting fun quizzes and competitions aimed at teaching primary school children the many benefits of sport, physical activity and healthy lifestyles. The programme was delivered in 24 schools to 2,220 children participating in the programme.

### **School & Youth Sport**

During 2013, the Office organised and delivered a variety of sporting activities.

Soccer & Tag Rugby blitzes, indoor cricket leagues, Primary School Athletics events, tennis programmes and school badminton blitzes. A “kidgloves” project, aimed at 9 – 13 year old boys and girls, introduced them to the sport of boxing.

Late Night Soccer, which is run in partnership with the FAI and the Local Community Garda catered for 524 young people per week, in four venues. The programme, run between 9 – 11 pm on a Friday night, gives young boys and girls an opportunity to participate in positive pastimes.

Exercise Energise programme - 240 first year girls in eight secondary schools participated in the programme culminating in a sports day where the girls sampled some new sports, including Cricket, Olympic Handball and Zumba dance.

A programme using sport as a means of introducing and assisting the transition for primary school pupils into secondary school was run in two schools with 90 primary pupils and 20 secondary schools students acting as mentors and coaches to the younger children.



### **Coach Education Programme**

The Office ran a number of courses including Code of Ethics (child protection), Children's Officer, Emergency Skills (first aid) and supported a range of National Governing Bodies Coach/Referee Education courses and training for and up skilling volunteers. In partnership with Dublin City Council Sports Network we presented a workshop for sports volunteers on the guidelines for clubs on the soon to be introduced Garda Vetting Legislation.

### **Activity programmes**

Activities run by the Office during 2013 included a number of older adult programmes including swim programmes, Nordic walking, Pitch and Putt with Fingal represented by a team in the Go for Life National Games in DCU in June.



*Go for Life Games  
for Older Adults*

The Sport Office held the Operation Transformation Walk in Newbridge Demesne in January. On one of the wettest day of the year in excess of 250 people turned up to join the Mayor, Councillor Cian O'Callaghan and participate in the 3k walk. We were also joined by Gavin Walker one of the Operation Transformation leaders with a surprise visit from Katherine Thomas the show's presenter. The entire walk was televised with footage being shown in successive programmes.



*Operation Transformation 3K Walk, 2013.*



### Joint-Funded Sports Specific Development

The Office co-funded 5 Football 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.

### Women in Sport

Irish Sports Council jointly funded programmes in 2013 included a Camogie blitz, Gaelic 4 Girls, Women and Girls Tag Rugby, Exercise Energise, Ladies and Girls Cricket, Cardio Tennis, Girls Festival of Football, Girls Football School Club Link to encourage girls to join local clubs. We also presented a training session for primary school teachers to teach them the basic skills of football to encourage them to involve girls in the sport.



*Fingal Festival of Football, 2013.*

### Disability Sports

The Office delivered Blind Golf, a “Be Active Be Inclusive” training programme, which provided sports and physical activity training to carers and volunteers working with people with disabilities, a football programme in conjunction with HSE occupational therapists for adult men and continued support for powerchair sports.



*Fingal Powerchair Soccer*

### Partnerships

The Office continues to rely on partnership with a myriad of agencies and organisations to deliver its programmes to the widest range of the community. This year we partnered with the Institute of Technology Blanchardstown to run a Sports Volunteering programme for students to provide them with valuable experience.



## ARTS OFFICE

The role of Fingal County Council's Arts Office is to encourage, foster and support cultural activity within Fingal, through supporting the development of creative people and communities. This is achieved through the provision of grants and bursaries, educational programmes, public art commissions, funding and support of two arts centres, and support to professional artists living in Fingal. In 2013 the Arts Office published the Council's second Fingal Arts Development Plan (2013-2017)

### **Arts Grants awarded under section 6 of the 2003 Arts Act**

In 2013, a total of **€35,000** was awarded to Community Arts Festivals and Traditional Music Festivals, with **€43,000** awarded under the general arts grant scheme. A further **€578,200** 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 and the Séamus Ennis Cultural Centre.

Draíocht – hosted 149 ticketed shows with 29,300 people in attendance.

The Séamus Ennis Cultural Centre – 112 ticketed events were held during 2013 with a total of 3829 people attending the Centre.

## YOUTH & EDUCATION

### **Artful Dodgers, an Arts Programme for Early Years**

Artful Dodgers is a music and visual arts programme for Fingal Community Crèche services, delivered in partnership with Fingal County Childcare Committee. Two crèche services are involved: Ros Eo in Rush, and Little Learners in Dublin 15. One visual artist and one musician collaborate to design and deliver the content. 45 children and families are involved.

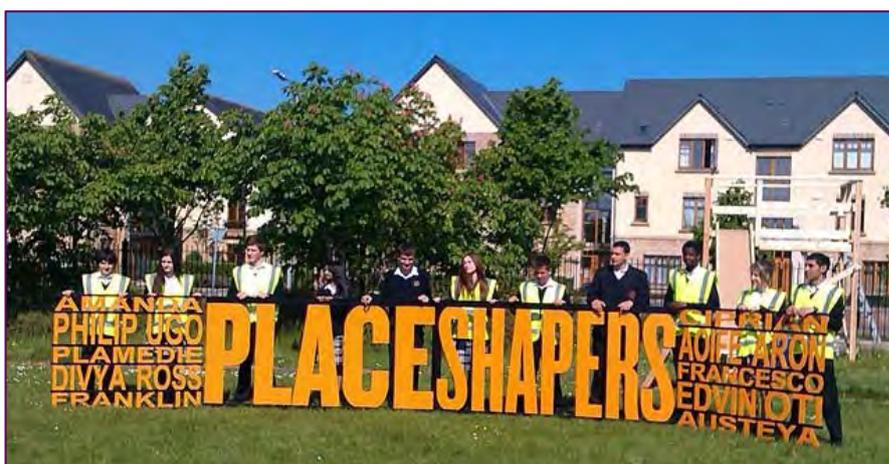
Alongside the delivery of the programme, we are conducting research into the arts for early years in conjunction with the School of Education, Trinity College Dublin.





**Place Shapers – Architecture and Urban Design Education Initiative 2012 - 2013,  
Participatory Planning Award winner at the National Planning Awards 2013 - 2014**

Fingal Arts Office and the Irish Architecture Foundation teamed up during 2012 /2013 with four professional architects, one film maker and two schools to develop a project that engages young people with architecture, to learn about the built environment. For details visit: [www.placeshapers.wordpress.com](http://www.placeshapers.wordpress.com)



*Place Shapers Project, Blanchardstown, 2013.*

**PUBLIC ART**

- **Aileen Lambert –Placenames**

Placenames is the title of a series of ten short digital video works created in response to placenames/townlands and their meanings in Fingal. The Project launched in February 2013 with a screening of the 10 short films and a talk on placenames in Fingal. The Publication pack is available from the Arts Office.



- **Robert McColgan - Realt na Mara**

Robert McColgan's impressive sculpture Realt Na Mara was installed on the western apex of the east pier in Howth. It represents points of a compass, and a wish for the safety of all those travelling the sea to Howth.



- **The Hide Sculpture**

The Hide Sculpture, a permanent work proposed at Balleally Landfill by artist Garrett Phelan continued its progression on site with a suggested relocation of the work to the northern estuary boundary of the landfill.

- **Christine Mackey - A Year in the Field Exhibition**

The yearlong study and residency with St Patrick Boys National School, Donabate investigated the unique ecology and botany of a local field through workshops and site visits. A student-designed workbook and an exhibition of findings were produced. Two schools in Dublin 15 were selected for an additional residency.

#### OTHER ART OFFICE INITIATIVES IN 2013 INCLUDED:

- **Fingal's Year of Illustration**

2013 was Fingal's Year of Illustration, collaboration between Children's Books Ireland, Laureate na nÓg Niamh Sharkey and Fingal County Arts Office.

- **Pictuir**

An exhibition of 21 Irish illustrators formed part of this programme, the exhibition opened in Draíocht and was complimented by a series of 'Focus On' workshops where young people had the opportunity to respond to the exhibition.

- **Illustrators Ink**

A development day 'Illustrator Ink' took place in Malahide Castle and discussed contemporary issues and opportunities for illustrators across a wide range of sectors.

- **Amharc Fhine Gall**

There are approx. 145 professional artists living and working in Fingal at present. Amharc Fhine Gall is a platform to support recent art-college graduates from Fingal by offering them a chance to show in one of the finest visual art galleries in the county. In its ninth year 2013 Amharc Fhine Gall IX Exhibition was titled *'Eternal Light'*.



- **Studio Space**  
The Arts Office along with the Parks Division identified the lodges on the grounds of Malahide Demesne as possible residential studio space for professional artists.
- **Bursaries**  
In 2013 the Arts Office piloted a series of new bursaries for professional artists as part of one of the objectives in the 2013-2017 Fingal Arts Plan. Over the summer the Arts Office administered **10 bursaries** with a total value of **€9,300**.
- **Fingal Arts Development Plan 2013-2017**  
The provision of an arts plan for the county is a requirement under Section 6 of the 2003 Arts Act. It is a strategic response to addressing the needs of arts development in Fingal and offers an opportunity for people to become engaged with, and to renew their interest in the arts.

In order to inform the development of the 2013-17 Fingal Arts Plan, a process of public consultation was entered into to gather input from a range of groups and individuals including: the General Public, Professional Artists, Youth, Schools, Arts Groups and Public Art.

The completion and adoption of this plan by the Council in July 2013, is a direct response to the needs of the arts community in Fingal.

For further details on all arts events go to: [www.fingalarts.ie](http://www.fingalarts.ie)



*Drawing Days*





## Environment, Business & Enterprise:

### WASTE MANAGEMENT DIVISION:

The Council is responsible for the environmental regulation of waste collection through waste collection permits and waste presentation byelaws.

#### 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	2013	2012	2011
Estuary Recycling Centre	4426	4308	3884
Coolmine Recycling Centre	3084	3297	3781
Total	7511	7605	7665

#### 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).

	2013	2012	2011
WEEE accepted at Recycling Centres	1162	1202	1244 tonnes
WEEE collected from retailers by ERP*	1399	1164	933 tonnes
Total	2561	2366	

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

#### Waste Management Plan

The Regional Waste Management Plan 2005 – 2010 was evaluated in accordance with amendments to the Waste Management Acts and the New Waste Framework Directive in November 2012. Following the evaluation a decision was made to replace the Plan. The drafting of a new plan commenced in 2013 following the establishment of the new waste planning regions.



## WASTE INFRASTRUCTURE



### **Balleally Landfill**

Balleally Landfill closed to waste in May 2012 after 40 years of operation. Soil is however still being accepted at the landfill for remediation and capping. Approximately 25,000 m<sup>2</sup> of the old landfill remains to be capped with engineered capping which comprises soil, drainage layers, artificial bentonite layer and a gas collection layer.

### **Dunsink Landfill**

Dunsink landfill continues in its aftercare phase i.e. environmental monitoring, leachate and landfill gas management. The generation of landfill gas is reducing. However, electricity is still being generated.

## ENVIRONMENTAL AWARENESS

- The Cleaner Community Awards in 2013 saw a rise in entries to 107 entrants across categories, which range from Best Front Garden to the Green Business Award. A total of 41 prizes were awarded, which is an increase of 6 prizes on 2012 due to the extremely high standard of entries.
- An Taisce Green Schools Programme - 96 Green Schools in Fingal in 2012, 7 first flags awarded. A total of 263 flags, have been awarded to Fingal schools.
- An Taisce National Spring Clean.
- Adopt a Patch Initiative.
- LA Environmental Partnership Fund (Part of Local Agenda 21) - awarded a total of €35,000 in 2013 to 14 local environmental projects.
- Education Programme continued in the Estuary and Coolmine Recycling Centre with 13 schools visiting in 2013.
- Cinema and radio advertising promoting awareness of dog fouling and illegal waste collectors.



- Anti-Litter and Graffiti poster competition for Fingal primary and secondary school students.
- 15 Sustainable Energy Ireland workshops facilitated for local schools.
- A total of 8 secondary schools were involved in the ERP Junk Couture Competition.

## PERFORMANCE INDICATORS

Waste Management Resources (LA)	2013	2012	2011
No. Civic Amenity	2	2	2
No. Bring Banks	73	73	71
Schools Participating in Environmental Programmes	131	125	118
% of Primary Schools	95	90	86
% of Secondary Schools	100	92	92

## INSPECTORATE DIVISION:

The Inspectorate Division brings together many of the enforcement functions of Departments in the Council in order to maximise efficiencies and explore the potential for sharing expertise and resources in carrying out statutory enforcement functions.

Functions in this division are generally divided between enforcement activities concerning the built environment such as planning, building control and derelict sites and activities concerning the natural environment, such as waste enforcement, water pollution and litter.

## NATURAL ENVIRONMENT

### Waste Management Act and Regulations

- 93 Enforcement actions were initiated for breaches of the Waste Management Act, 1996 in 2013.
- 4 Waste Permits were granted in 2013 for waste recovery facilities under the Waste Management (Facility Permit and Registration) Regulations, 2007-2008.
- 19 Companies registered as self-compliers under the Packaging Regulations, 2007 in 2013.
- 47 businesses were inspected for compliance with the Packaging Regulations, 2007.
- Food Waste Regulations – 220 inspections.



- Waste Tyre Regulations – 32 inspections.
- WEEE Regulations - 464 premises registered with (ERP).  
3 registered with Fingal County Council.  
27 Inspections carried out.

#### **Litter Control**

- 738 fines issued in 2013
- 93 files were prepared for prosecution.

#### **Air Quality Control**

This is provided on an agency basis by the Health Service Executive (HSE) Environmental Health Officer (EHO's).

- The Primary Air Quality Station is situated in Blanchardstown Dublin 15 measuring PM10 and NOx. Data is given in real time and forms part of the Regional Air Quality Monitoring Network.
- Over 100 inspections were carried out in 2013 under the Air Pollution Act ( Marketing, Sale, Distribution and Burning of Specified Fuels) Regulations 2012. 70 Targeted inspections of coal sellers and distributors were carried out during the year in addition to investigations on foot of 32 complaints from members of the public relating to burning of specified fuels.

#### **Noise Control (Environmental Noise Action Plan 2013 -2017)**

- 117 Complaints investigated by EHOs.
- Environmental Noise Action Plan 2013 – 2018 was produced in June 2013 for the four Dublin Local Authorities.

#### **Control of Dogs & Horses**

- 4032 dog licenses issued (1918) issued online.
- 427 dogs seized and 13 surrendered to the Dog Pound in 2013.
- 117 horses impounded at the Council's pound in 2013.

#### **Water Pollution Control**

Fingal County Council is part of the Eastern River Basin District (ERBD). The primary objective is to achieve compliance with statutory obligations relating to surface waters as set out in the River Basin Management Plan under the Water Framework Directive.

Activities during 2013 included:

- Continued monitoring of Bathing water quality at designated beaches under the Bathing Water Directive



- Managing the registration of the Domestic Waste Water Treatment Systems (Septic Tanks) and developing inspection plans.
- 20 Farms surveyed and cross reported to the DAFM
- 80 Trade Effluent Discharge Licences monitored
- 190 Trade Effluent Licences (FOG) issued.
- Quarterly sampling for Operational Monitoring of Rivers (68 in total)



*Photographs 1 and 2 show overflows caused from FOG blockages in the sewer.*

#### **Recommended Minimum Criteria for Environmental Inspections (RMCEI)**

- The RMCEI Plan 2013 was implemented through the combined resources of the Inspectorate Division to ensure the efficient monitoring and implementation of Environmental legislation.

#### **BUILT ENVIRONMENT**

##### **Planning Enforcement**

Proper planning and sustainable development implies that all development must have the benefit of a planning permission or be exempted development under the Planning and Development Acts, 2000 to 2010. Unauthorised developments are investigated and enforcement action 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.

### **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. The Inspectorate Division also has responsibility for taking in charge of estates. Section 180 of the Planning and Development Act, 2000 makes provision for taking estates in charge at the request of the developer or by plebiscite of the majority of 'qualified' residents' of the estate. Estates are only taken in charge when completed in compliance with planning and building control legislation.



*Taking in Charge: Bremore Pastures (Before and After)*



**Unfinished Housing Estate – Palmer Avenue  
Before & After**





## INSPECTORATE PERFORMANCE INDICATORS

PERFORMANCE INDICATORS	2013	2012	2011
No. Litter Wardens	4	6	6
No. Litter Fines issued	738	1158	1220
No. Litter Fines Paid	322	424	504
Total Value Litter Fines Paid	51,842	66,545	82,851

Environmental Complaints	2013	2012	2011
Total Number of Complaints	2161	2883	1786 (133 WMA) & (1653 LPA)
No. of Complaints Investigated	2161	2883	1763
No. of Enforcement Procedures Taken	93	101 (RMCEI Enf 2012 stats)	33

Waste Packaging Regulations (e.g. Packaging or Permit Regs)	2013	2012	2011
No. Businesses Members of Repak	65	400	300
No. Self Compliant Businesses (to Fingal County Council)	19	18	20

Complaints concerning water pollution:	2013	2012	2011
No. of Complaints/ Incidents Received/ Identified	29	46	54
No. Investigated	37 (Incl. 2012 Carry over)	55	60 (Incl. 2010 Carry Over)
No. of Complaints Resolved with No Further Action Required	24	32	45
No of Formal Enforcement (Section12) Procedures Taken	27	27	4
No. of Prosecutions Initiated	0	0	0
Prosecutions Successfully Concluded	0	0	0



<b>Planning Enforcement</b>	<b>2013</b>	<b>2012</b>	<b>2011</b>
Total Number of Planning Cases Subject to Complaints that are Investigated	227	237	324
Total Number of Planning Cases Subject to Complaints that are Dismissed	64	116	150
Number of Planning Enforcement Procedures Taken Through Warning Letters	202	186	122
Number of Planning Enforcement Procedures Taken Through Enforcement Notices	55	69	49
Number of Planning Prosecutions (District - S.157)	2	0	9
(High Court/Circuit Court - S.160)	0	0	(8)
	0	1	(1)



<b>Building Control</b>	<b>2013</b>	<b>2012</b>	<b>2011</b>
Total Number of New Buildings Notified to the Local Authority	975	389	373
Number of New Buildings Notified to the Local Authority that were Inspected	235	42	37
No. of Buildings Inspected as a Percentage of New Buildings Notified to the Local Authority	24	11	11
Number of All Dwellings for which a BER Certificate was sought by the Building Control Authority	172	131	169
Number of BER Certificates Submitted in Response	180	132	125
Number of Disability Access Certificates Assessed	133	136	225
Number of Estates on List of Housing Developments/Estates to be Completed (Based on 2011 DoE survey)	27	50	152
Number of Site Resolution Plans	0	3	15

<b>Taking in Charge</b>	<b>2013</b>	<b>2012</b>	<b>2011</b>
Number of Estates that were Taken in Charge in the Year in Question	18	16	21
Number of Dwellings in Respect of Estates Taken in Charge	1877	1052	3499
Km of Road in Respect of Estates Taken in Charge	32834	6893	17238
Number of Derelict/Dangerous Sites Complaints Investigated	54	41	52
Number of Derelict Sites on Derelict Sites Register	1	1	1



## **PARKS & HERITAGE PROPERTIES DIVISION**

The Parks & Heritage Properties Division continues to manage and maintain all of the Council's major regional parks and historic properties. There are approximately 1,373 acres (556 hectares) of designed landscapes in Fingal managed by the Council. In addition the Council manages a number of important historic buildings and gardens that are open to the public attracting a large number of visitors from the county area and beyond. The Division is also responsible for the Council's allotments and the implementation of Fingal's Biodiversity Plan.

### **Malahide Demesne**

Following a major redevelopment Malahide Castle and Gardens attracted 104,000 visitors in 2013, with 62% of them coming from overseas. 17% of the visitors were family groups, many of whom came along to experience the wonderful Easter and Christmas events held in 2013. It is anticipated that visitor numbers should reach 115,000 in 2014.



*Malahide Demesne.*

### **Newbridge Demesne**

Once again Newbridge hosted the Flavours of Fingal Festival in September, 2013. The festival was the biggest and best so far with over 20,000 people coming along over the two days. The Christmas event in Newbridge House continues to entertain and enthrall the little people of Fingal.

### **Ardgillan Demesne**

As always variety is the key word in relation to Ardgillan with its holistic centre, children's parties, art exhibitions, evening and daytime classes, civil weddings, outdoor plays and tours of the castle. Thousands of people made the most of the wonderful summer this year by visiting Ardgillan with its unique coastal location.



### **Santry Demesne**

The Demesne continues to be hugely popular with the surrounding population with more and more people using the park for exercising or simply having fun with the kids. The Council continues to support the local community that is developing the walled garden.

### **Liffey Valley Regional (St. Catherine's) Park**

Work commenced in 2013 on a major redevelopment of the park that will see a playground, BMX track, pond and extensive woodlands being put in place. Completion of this project in 2014 will provide the people of the surrounding area with an amenity they can be proud of.

### **Playgrounds**

The playgrounds in the four historic demesnes are amongst the most popular in the country providing thousands of children with a safe but challenging play environment.

### **Biodiversity**

Works under the Biodiversity Action Plan continued during 2013 including: The Grey Partridge Reintroduction Project, Giant Hogweed Control and the management of Turvey Nature Reserve. New open space grazing projects were started in Robb's Walls Park Portmarnock and at Racecourse Park Baldoyle. Coastal Erosion Risk Assessment was completed at Robertson Outer Estuary. Invasive species control was carried out at a number of locations.

### **Allotments**

A new allotment scheme was opened in 2013 bringing to almost 900 the number of allotments managed by the Division. Other public allotments are located at Powerstown in Dublin 15, Turvey in Donabate and Skerries.

### **Initiatives and Events**

- International cricket match between Ireland and England in Malahide Demesne
- Darkness to Light sponsored walk in Newbridge Demesne in aid of Pieta House.
- Completion of the Conservation management plan for Newbridge Demesne.
- Commencement of stabilisation work in Swords Castle.
- Sustainable Tourism Strategy commenced.



*International  
Cricket  
Match,  
Malahide  
Demesne.*



## 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. It promotes and assists co-ordination between the Fingal Development Board, the Fingal County Enterprise Board and third level institutions including the Institute of Technology Blanchardstown and Dublin City University.

### **Local Enterprise Office – (LEO)**

The Government Action Programme for Effective Local Government - Putting People First, published in October, 2012, sets out a clearer and enhanced role for local government in promoting and facilitating enterprise and economic development. In particular, the operation of a local enterprise support service and being the "first stop shop" for new businesses will be a core element of our economic development role. During 2013 Fingal County Council had the honour of hosting the official launch of the branding for the national rollout of the LEO network.



*Official Launch of Local Enterprise Office.*

### **Economic Planning, Marketing & Promotion of Fingal**

The new Economic Development Action Plan 2014 – 2017 for the county was completed in 2013. This plan will develop key strategic development areas and address issues such as employment creation, skills development and enterprise supports and services.



### **Developing and Managing Industrial Parks**

The Council continues to work with the business sector to develop Industrial Parks at Damastown, Coolmine, Cappogue, Stephenstown, Bay Business Park, College Business and Technology Park, Blanchardstown and Turvey.

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

Fingal County Council has developed and continues to support three Enterprise Centres in the County. **Drinan Enterprise Centre** in Swords together with **BASE** in Mulhuddart and **BEaT** in Balbriggan provide start-up space and training facilities for businesses in these areas. Over 70 businesses and in excess of 270 jobs are supported in the three enterprise centres.

### **Fingal Learning Exchange**

The Fingal Learning Exchange encourages sharing, learning and innovation to respond more effectively to social and economic challenges. Developed in collaboration with Institute Technology Blanchardstown (ITB) the Fingal Learning Exchange has facilitated the bringing together of 200+ academics, students, business, civic and public organizations, representatives and citizens in 2013.

Learning Exchanges on Social Enterprise and Entrepreneurship, Black & Ethnic Minority Social Enterprise and Civic Engagement and Social Impact were held in the past 12 months. Networks and expertise in civic and community engagement, social enterprise and social Impact has been developed which along, with other innovative responses will inform the implementation of Fingal's Economic Development Action Plan 2014 – 2017.



*Fingal Learning Exchange - May 2013 – Social Enterprise & Entrepreneurship, LINC, Institute Technology Blanchardstown.*



Analysing social and economic data and trends, Mulhuddart, Dublin 15 was identified and agreed by partner agencies as a 'Priority' in 2013. Organisations who deliver services to citizens in Mulhuddart are invited along with citizens to participate in building a shared vision to improve economic and social outcomes. The area based planning approach developed in Mulhuddart, will inform the operation of the new Local Community Development Committee (LCDC) in 2014. Other area planning networks exist in Corduff, Blakestown/Mountview areas in Dublin 15.

Fingal has one government designated RAPID area in Blanchardstown targeted for capacity building and financial supports

### **Local Community Development Committee**

The Local Government Bill 2013, published in October 2013, proposed the abolition of the County Development Boards (CDBs), and the creation of Local Community Development Committees (LCDC's) which will take up former CDB co-ordination functions in the future. "Putting People First" policy document, also recommended that most of the interagency initiatives of the former County Development Board be retained by the LCDC. In line with this recommendation, during 2013, the Economic and Social Development unit continued to support the implementation of the successful former CDB projects which included:

- Age-Friendly Initiative
- Fingal Data Hub
- Invest Fingal
- Joint Policing Committee
- Dublin Airport Stakeholders Forum
- Comhairle na nÓg
- Disability/Accessibility Forum
- Traveller Inter-Agency Group
- Fingal Children's Services Committee
- Fingal Integrated Transport Forum



*Members of Fingal Comhairle na nÓg attending Dail na nÓg in November 2013*



*Staff and Pupils of St. Oliver Plunkett National School, Balrothery, Co. Dublin, working on their Yellow Flag diversity programme. The programme is supported in Fingal by the Traveller Interagency Group. St Oliver Plunketts N.S. were awarded the flag in October 2013.*

### **The Gathering**

The Gathering Ireland 2013 was a government-led initiative which aimed to attract additional overseas visitors to Ireland and the Economic Development Unit acted as the lead Regional Co-Ordinator, providing financial support to 32 Local Gatherings held in Fingal during 2013. Events included family and clan gatherings, community celebrations and business events. One of the highlights of the year was the BMW J24 World Championship 2013 held in August.



*BMWJ24 Yacht Race.*



The Flavours of Fingal Show was held on the 14<sup>th</sup> and 15<sup>th</sup> September in Newbridge House & Farm, Donabate. An estimated 20,000 people attended over the two days. There was a total of 75 exhibitors at the show and new attractions included a Learning Zone for children, which was an interactive zone with workshops and educational messages about farming and food.

The Walled Garden/Food Village hosted local food producers, cooking and floristry demonstrations. In the farm area there were sheep and cattle competitions, sheep dog trials, an equestrian show and a dog agility show. Other activities included face painting, a GAA mini camp, bouncy castles and a weaving and spinning demonstration. This two day show was strongly supported by local businesses who partook and who generously contributed funding support.



*Flavours of Fingal, 2013*

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 Green Way – Dublin’s Cleantech Cluster**

Fingal County Council is a co-founder, board and implementation team member of The Green Way since its formation in 2010.

In January 2013 DCU opened the DCU hub for Cleantech Innovation in Glasnevin, Dublin 11. A new business plan has recently been prepared for The Green Way highlighting new collaborative opportunities, including EU programmes, and showcasing Dublin and Ireland for Cleantech excellence in energy, renewables, smart cities, water and other growth sectors.



### **New China (Chengdu) Working Group**

Fingal had four inward trade visits from China in 2013 which included visits from the Shanghai Social Insurance Fund, Chinese Community and Housing representatives, trade visits from Suzhou in Jiangsu Province and a team including the Deputy Mayor of Chengdu.

The Chengdu visit in August achieved a trade links 'break through', built upon by strong trade relations cemented in 2011 via visits to and from Chengdu by the Mayor, Fingal Elected Members and Senior Corporate and Economic staff. A new programme is planned for 2014.



## 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
- treasury and cash flow management and
- 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

### **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.



In accordance with Government decision S29296 coupled with the National Recovery Plan and the EMU/IMF Programme of Support for Ireland, Fingal County Council operates the 15 day prompt payment rule.

Constant monitoring of the level and nature of outstanding invoices was conducted throughout the year and action was taken where appropriate to ensure that the Council met all prompt payment deadlines.

In the course of the year 2013 no interest penalties were incurred by the Council and 95% of invoices were paid within 15 days.

**Performance Indicators:**

	2013	2012	2011
Commercial Rates (Amount collected as % of amount due)	90.2 %	83.13%	84.99%
Commercial Water/Wastewater Charges (Amount collected as % of amount due)	74.89 %	69.52%	70.9%



## **REVENUE ACCOUNT STATEMENT**

for year ended 31<sup>st</sup> December 2013

	<b>DRAFT 2013</b>	<b>2012</b>
	€	€
<b>Expenditure</b>		
Housing & Building	35,109,627	36,993,164
Roads Transportation & Safety	22,000,524	22,253,315
Water & Sewerage	44,161,673	43,233,278
Development Incentives & Controls	14,233,713	13,964,482
Environmental Protection	34,855,279	35,352,876
Recreation & Amenity	30,149,698	30,045,311
Agriculture, Education, Health & Safety	4,011,113	6,272,116
Miscellaneous	18,586,228	20,612,395
<b>Total Gross Expenditure</b>	<b>203,107,855</b>	<b>208,726,937</b>
<b>Income</b>		
Housing & Building	33,623,914	35,345,411
Roads Transportation & Safety	8,551,272	8,329,501
Water & Sewerage	13,167,592	13,593,465
Development Incentives & Controls	2,752,581	2,188,120
Environmental Protection	4,313,928	5,704,402
Recreation & Amenity	3,225,024	2,984,820
Agriculture, Education, Health & Safety	2,701,531	4,896,672
Miscellaneous	8,287,803	8,393,321
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>76,623,645</b>	<b>81,435,712</b>
<b>Net Expenditure</b>	<b>126,484,210</b>	<b>127,291,225</b>
<i>Which is funded by:</i>		
County Rates	119,258,645	121,495,756
Local Government Fund	19,619,590	19,909,684
Pension Related Deduction	3,442,498	3,453,932
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>142,320,733</b>	<b>144,859,372</b>
Surplus/(Deficit) for Year before Transfers	15,836,523	17,568,147
Transfers from/(to) Reserves	(17,365,258)	(17,765,759)
	(1,528,735)	(197,612)
Incoming Balance @ 1st January	17,476,010	17,673,622
<b>Closing Balance @ 31st December</b>	<b>15,947,275</b>	<b>17,476,010</b>



## **CAPITAL ACCOUNT STATEMENT**

for year ended 31<sup>st</sup> December 2013

	<b>DRAFT 2013</b>	<b>2012</b>
	€	€
<b>Expenditure (Net of Internal Transfers)*</b>		
Housing and Building	19,825,731	20,416,040
Road Transportation & Safety	43,459,539	26,862,124
Water Supply & Sewerage	43,562,201	44,612,534
Development Incentives & Controls	9,944,696	24,688,325
Environmental Protection	1,627,206	5,619,834
Recreation & Amenity	7,688,155	17,520,155
Miscellaneous Services	319,866	280,320
	<b>126,427,394</b>	<b>139,999,332</b>
<b>Income (Net of Internal Transfers)*</b>		
Housing and Building	22,739,470	16,868,888
Road Transportation & Safety	19,269,048	24,935,309
Water Supply & Sewerage	46,591,901	38,601,676
Development Incentives & Controls	(14,338,819)	12,486,486
Environmental Protection	4,912,911	5,493,611
Recreation & Amenity	6,557,692	15,034,556
Miscellaneous Services	3,079,262	5,061,470
	<b>88,811,465</b>	<b>118,481,996</b>
<b>Surplus/(Deficit) for year</b>	<b>(37,615,929)</b>	<b>(21,517,336)</b>
Balance (Debit)/Credit @ 1st January	68,383,822	89,901,158
<b>Balance (Debit)/Credit @ 31 December</b>	<b>30,767,893</b>	<b>68,383,822</b>

\*Excludes internal transfers, includes transfers to and from Revenue account



## Housing Department

### Housing Procurement

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

To this end 764 RAS properties have been secured to date, 83 in 2013 together with 75 Long Term Leasing properties, 16 in 2013.

In addition the Council purchased 40 housing units for social housing purposes during 2013.

### Unsold Affordable Housing

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, 256 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 173 private grants approved totalling €1,825,435.

## HOUSING STOCK

### Rental

At 31<sup>st</sup> December 2013 the Council had 4,482 social properties and 72 long-term lease properties in its housing stock. The Rental income collected from these properties was €13,060,372.70. There are an additional 84 units of Traveller's housing stock and c. 96 Halting Site Bays. €208,671.52 was collected in rental income from the Traveller's Unit.

### Loans

At 31<sup>st</sup> December 2013, 1,787 live mortgage accounts yielded payment of €11,549,674.

## ESTATE MANAGEMENT

€5.1m revenue expenditure was incurred on response maintenance and general upkeep of the Council's Housing Stock and estates and a further €1.1m revenue expenditure was incurred in respect of the Traveller's Accommodation Unit's response maintenance.

10,101 response maintenance requests were received during 2013.

In addition 3993 boilers are part of the Council's Boiler Servicing Programme.



8 Tenant Induction Courses were held to assist tenants to settle into their new homes and communities.

The Estate Management Section attended 24 Residents Association meetings. Meetings held with An Garda Síochána on 18 occasions, concerning Community Policing and Estate Management issues.

850 allegations regarding Anti-Social Behaviour and breach of tenancy were received during 2013.

There are presently 7 excluding orders in place regarding anti-social individuals from Council tenancies and vacant possession of 3 anti-social tenancies was recovered.

Estate Improvement Works were completed in Ladyswell Park, Wellview, Fortlawn, Sheephill, Corduff Avenue and Glasmore Park to deal with laneway issues and alleviate anti-social behaviour at anti-social behaviour black spots.

Garden maintenance and grass cutting dealt with in 467 dwellings (senior citizens and vulnerable tenants) under the grass cutting programme,

Capital expenditure of €5.5 m was incurred on planned maintenance programmes and other improvements as outlined below.

Pre-Let Repairs completed in 167 dwellings.

Central Heating installation and upgrading works carried out in 31 dwellings. In addition 73 units in Castlecurragh upgraded with new storage heating.

Painting and joinery works took place in 909 dwellings under the cyclical maintenance programme.

Windows and where necessary doors replaced in 130 tenanted dwellings under the window and door replacement programme.





Attic and cavity wall insulation works were carried out to a total of 2,323 tenanted dwellings under the Building Fabric Upgrade Programme (including the 332 units funded by the SEAI and the 278 units completed under the Job Stimulus Programme). The cost of this work was fully recouped from the Department of the Environment, Community & Local Government. An additional 56 void dwellings received insulation works under this programme in 2013. In total 2379 Council dwellings received insulation works in 2013, bringing them to the DECLG's baseline comfort level. All Council dwellings which it is possible to insulate in this manner have now been addressed.



*Cavity Wall Insulation Works*

The DECLG financed a pilot project under the Job Stimulus Programme where 278 dwellings received attic and cavity wall insulation in the RAPID area of Dublin 15. These works were carried out by a Community Based Organisation (CBO), who trained and employed a number of people from the unemployment register for the project.

Attic and cavity wall insulation works were carried out to 332 tenanted dwellings, which were part-funded by a grant from the Sustainable Energy Authority of Ireland with the balance being funded by the DECLG.

Refurbishment works were carried out on 13 dwellings in Mourne View estate in 2013 under the Remedial Works Scheme, 81 dwellings have now been completed under this Scheme.



*Whitechapel*



*Sheepmoor*



## ALLOCATIONS

A total of 403 dwellings were allocated in 2013 to applicants who had applied to Fingal County Council for Social Housing Support, as follows:

• Social Casual	125
• Social New Build	0
• SHIP	34
• RAS	33
• RAS in-situ	49
• RAS Renewals	64
• Long Term Leasing	27
• Voluntary (new build & unsold affordable)	43
• Voluntary Casual	13
• Voluntary CAS,CBL, Leasing	15

### **Housing Need Assessment 2013**

The Housing Need Assessment is a count by housing authorities of households qualified for social housing support within their functional area. A national summary of social housing assessments is carried out on a periodic basis and provides an important insight into the level of need for social housing support across the country. 6020 was the net household need in Fingal at May 7th, 2013 (this figure excluded transfer applicants and applicants whose main authority of assessment is another Dublin local authority). The Housing Agency published its report Summary of Social Housing Assessments 2013 in December 2013.



## TRAVELLER ACCOMMODATION

The 2013 Annual Count of Traveller Families showed that a total of 416 families are resident in the County

The Traveller Accommodation Programme 2014 – 2018 is due to be approved by the Council in 2014.

In addition, Fingal County Council provided 12 units of accommodation to Travellers in 2013.



*Hazelwood Cottages, Dublin 15.*

PERFORMANCE INDICATOR	2013	2012	2011
<b>H: Housing</b>			
<b>H.1 Housing Vacancies:</b>			
Total number of dwellings in local authority stock	4,482	4,478	4,508
Overall % of dwellings that are let	96.90%	96.74%	97.25%
Overall % of dwelling that are empty	3.10%	3.26%	2.75%
% of empty dwellings subject to major refurbishment schemes	n/a	n/a	8.90%
% of empty dwellings unavailable for letting	83.50%	82.20%	88.70%
% of empty dwellings available for letting	16.50%	17.80%	11.30%
<b>H.2 Average time taken to re-let dwellings available for letting</b>			
	23 days	35 days	2.9 wks



<b>H.3 Number of repairs completed as a percentage of the number of valid repair requests received</b>	91%	96%	97%
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**H.4 Average time taken to inform applicants of Local authority's decision on applications for:**

The shared ownership housing scheme	n/a	n/a	n/a
Housing loan schemes	56 days	81 days	56 days
Local authority housing	30 days	30 days	60 days

**H.5 Traveller Accommodation**

Total number of traveller families accommodated as a percentage of the targets set in the local traveller accommodation programme	31%	40%	15%
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**Rev: Revenue Collection**

**Rev.1 House Rent**

(a) Amount collected at year as a percentage of amount due:	87.81%	87.28%	86.09%
(b) Percentage of arrears			
4 – 6 weeks old	5.28%	5.12%	4.52%
6 – 12 weeks old	14.59%	13.91%	12.51%
More than 12 weeks old	75.45%	75.34%	77.35%

**Rev.2 Housing Loans**

(a) Amount collected at year as a percentage of amount due:	88.45%	90.65%	93.60%
(b) Percentage of arrears:			
1 month old	5.44%	6.46%	10.82%
2 – 3 months old	3.43%	4.94%	6.48%
More than 3 months	91.13%	88.60%	82.70%



## Human Resources Department

One of the major activities of the Human Resources Department in 2013 was the introduction of the application of pay adjustments and related measures in accordance with the Financial Emergency Measures in the Public Interest Act 2013 and the Haddington Road Agreement. This included additional working hours, reduction in salaries and annual leave entitlements.

The Voluntary Redundancy Scheme for Local Authorities was introduced in July, 2013 in order to achieve a permanent reduction in the workforce of local authorities from 2013 onwards in line with the recommendations of the workforce study and the Action Programme for Effective Local Government; Putting People First.

The Health and Safety Unit, for the third consecutive year, received an Award in the National Irish Safety Organisation's Annual Occupational Safety Awards. This achievement demonstrates our continuing commitment to excellence and improvement in our service provision.

### Recruitment

Fingal County Council employed 1296 staff (FTE) at the 31/12/2013 as detailed in the following table:-

	<u>Permanent</u>	<u>Temporary</u>	<u>Total</u>
Administration	488	3	491
Professional	125	8	133
Technical	159	-	159
Craft	75	-	75
General Workers	426	12	438
<b>Total</b>	1273	23	1296

### Retirees

32 Staff retired in 2013. 17 Staff availed of the Voluntary Redundancy Scheme.



### **Staff Training**

In 2013 the Irish Institute of Training & Development (IITD) awarded Fingal County Council the Large Enterprise – Customer Service Award. This award was granted in recognition of best practice training management and interventions and the Council's ongoing commitment to Staff Training and Development.

143 Training Courses were run in 2013 which provided a total of 1627 training places for staff.

29 employees availed of the Staff Education Scheme in 2013.



*Winner of Large Enterprises/Customer Services Award, IITD - National Training Awards 2013.*

### **Industrial Relations**

Council maintained its good industrial relations record.

### **Health & Safety**

The following activities were carried out during 2012;

- 302 safety inspections were carried out of which
- 30 were safety audits.

### **Performance Indicator**

Corporate Health - Percentage of days lost to sickness absence: 5.49%



## Information Technology Department

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.

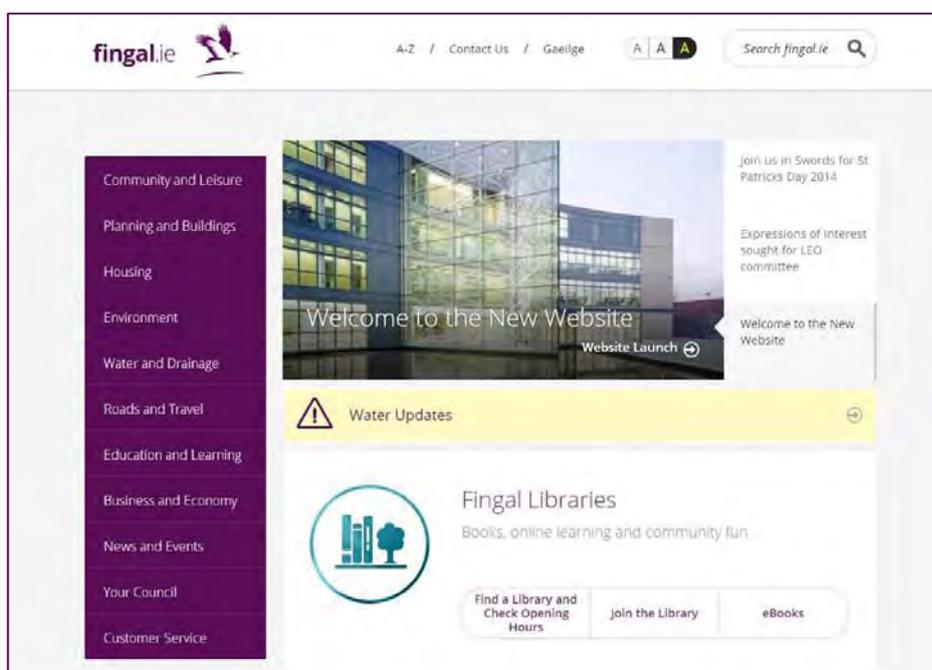
The IT Department enables the provision of services to citizens, staff and elected public representatives through multiple channels such as front desks, mobile devices, Internet and using technologies such as GIS and Web 2.0

### National Projects

In 2013, Fingal County Council was approved as the lead Local Authority for two national I.T. shared service projects for the Local Government sector.

The Knowledge Management and Open Data project aims to enable Local Government to adopt Knowledge Management as a strategic approach to managing and leveraging the knowledge assets of the sector in order to deliver on strategic priorities.

The Building Control Management System (BCMS) Project aims to deliver a single standardised BCMS operating across the Local Government sector to enable Local Authorities to implement the Building Control (Amendment) Regulations 2013 by the implementation date of 1<sup>st</sup> March 2014.



*New Fingal County Council Website*



### **Regional Projects**

The Council also participated in two regional I.T. shared service projects with the other Dublin Local Authorities.

The ePlanning Shared Service Project aims to provide a single ePlanning Portal for the Dublin region which will make search facility and documents associated with planning applications available for the Dublin region; enable online submissions for the Dublin region; and enable online planning applications for the Dublin region.

The Library Information Management System (LIMS) Project aims to deliver a single national management system for public libraries in all local authorities. The system will include a single shared library catalogue, facilitate a single national library membership card and provide the capacity for shared acquisitions, management and integration of print and digital material.

### **Projects**

The IT Department managed a number of major projects in cooperation with various Council Departments during 2013, including –

#### ***New Council website***

- Redesign of Council website to be user and mobile friendly.

#### ***LocalView Online Mapping***

- New online mapping system for members of the public.

#### ***Housing Portal***

- New online system for Housing Rents customers.

#### ***Fleet Management System***

- Implementation of system to manage Council vehicles.

#### ***Field Workers Mobile Application***

- Implementation of pilot mobile working application for staff.

#### ***Housing Needs and Rents Assessment***

- Business Process Improvement of Housing Needs and Rents Assessments.

#### ***Managed Printing***

- Centrally managed printing service for staff.

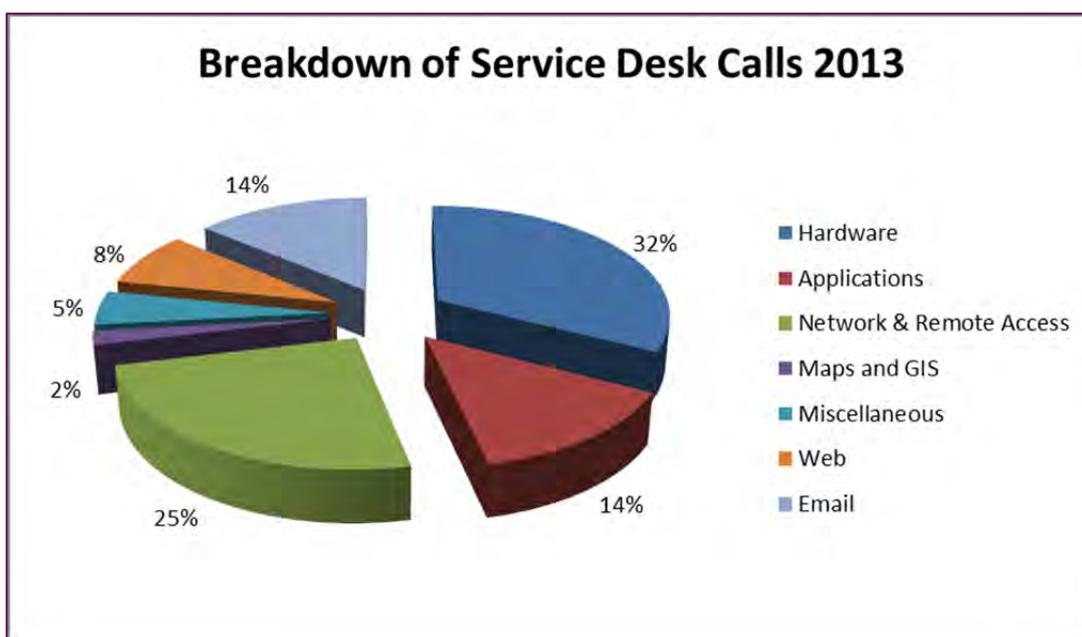
#### ***VOIP Phone System***

- Implementation of new Council phone system.



**Service Desk**

Call Statistics	2013	2012	2011
Service Desk Calls Logged	4,684	4,276	5,324
Average calls per month	390	356	444
Average calls per day	13	11	22
Resolved with 24 hours	44%	47%	45%





## 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 statutory functions
- ◆ 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 such as Metro North
- ◆ 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.

Review and implementation of the department's case management system continued in 2013, which has proved an effective tool in processing rates collection cases and enforcement action. In 2013, ongoing training was provided to staff who attended a broad range of courses in the areas of professional development, legal knowledge and I.T.



## Libraries Division

Fingal Libraries account for 35% of visits to the Council's website, with visitors using our digital services, searching our online catalogue, checking details of one of our many events or managing their library account. The core services of our nine branches, four mobile libraries, housebound service and Local Studies and Archives section continued to be provided free of charge in 2013. The mobile/housebound service visits 196 locations throughout the county on a regular basis. We have the highest rate of membership in the country with 157,403 people or 57.45% of the population registered as members. In 2013, our largest branch library, Blanchardstown, attracted on average 1,409 visitors per day, a figure which sometimes peaked to 2,000 during school holidays and at pre-exam time. Clearly the Council's libraries and its services are popular with the citizens of Fingal!

### Fingal Libraries Digital Services and Self-Service

With something to offer everybody from online books and magazines to online learning courses, our library members have really embraced the Digital Age. Currently we have over 4,700 library members using our digital services which generated over 26,500 transactions in 2013. These services are accessible 24/7, thus ensuring the library is always available to our members. In 2013, 74% of transactions at Blanchardstown, Balbriggan, Rush, Malahide and Swords were carried out using the self-service option.

### Early Childhood Literacy Strategy

Fingal County Libraries' Early Years Literacy Strategy: *The Youngest Ages Can Turn Pages* was launched in November 2013. Key actions addressed during 2013 included literacy training, the setting up of baby book clubs in libraries, the development of a core early years collection called *Early Readers* and facilitating children's engagement with authors and illustrators.



*Balbriggan Library.*

### Events

Hundreds of events took place in 2013 to inform, entertain and respond to the needs of the libraries' diverse membership. Highlights included a poetry project and competition for adults called *Heart in Mouth*, a summer reading challenge for 6 to 12 year olds and the *Battle in the Castle* reading programme. Libraries participated in the *Flavours of Fingal Festival* offering activities that included storytelling, arts and crafts sessions, children's



entertainers and cookery demonstrations with nutritional advice. We also took part in an awareness raising initiative on homelessness with the Peter McVerry Trust and in the World Refugee Day library campaign with the UNHCR.

In 2013 many community groups met in our libraries to talk, debate and plan the social, cultural and economic future of their communities. Library staff organised job seeking workshops, language courses and computer classes to support job seekers and entrepreneurs and the County's economic revival.

### **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, as well as providing a forum for engagement and interaction. The highlight of the year was an Education and Employment Fair organised as a direct response to the high rate of unemployment especially among young people. There were over 20 exhibitors on the day including Eurodesk, Europass, UCD and Blanchardstown Area Partnership. This event was opened by MEP Emer Costello and over 900 people attended.



### **Local Studies and Archives**

Our key publications in 2013 were *Fingal Studies*, *Some Fingal Schools*, the 3rd edition of our local history journal and *Portmarnock, its People and Townlands*. We produced a local history calendar to advertise the collections available in the repository. The library also held a series of successful and well attended talks specifically chosen to highlight the impact at local level of national and international events and to commemorate particular events in our history such as the 1913 Lockout.

The Archives section oversaw the complete rebinding of the Dublin County Council Registers of Electors 1964-1994, the scanning of all burial ground registers, and accompanying maps, held by the County Council, as part of a long-term digitization programme, and the transfer of all FCC Managers Orders held by the Archives into an extra-secure off-site facility. We acquired a number of historically valuable collections and items by donation, including some National School roll books and a barracks diary for Malahide RIC dating from the time of the famine.



PERFORMANCE INDICATOR	2013	2012	2011
Items borrowed	1,077,122	1,192,968	1,272,135
Registered Members	157,403	160,308	145,325
Internet Usage hours	141,455	134,734	127,697
Website visits (Home page only)	76,847	70,709	50,831
Website unique pageviews*	377,787	373,684	362,423
Average number of public opening hours per week full time libraries	44.71	47.94	49
Average number of public opening hours per week part time libraries	27	23	17
Number of registered library members as a % of the local population (2011 census)	57.45%	58.51%	53.22%
Number of items issued per head of population (countywide) for			
(a) Books	2.945	3.15	3.58
(b) Other Items	0.985	1.204	1.08
(c) Total: Books plus other items	3.93	4.354	4.66
% of libraries that offer internet access to the public	100%	100%	100%
Number of Internet sessions provided per 1000 pop	516.25	493.53	467.75
Book Fund expenditure per capita	2.52	2.37	3.12
Visits by the public to Fingal Libraries	1,156,018	1,232,394	1,234,807

\* Unique Pageviews are defined by Google Analytics as the number of sessions during which a page is viewed one or more times by the same user.



## Operations Department

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



The amalgamation of functions provides opportunities to develop works programmes that match regular calendar-based scheduled activities and 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, including 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 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. improved facilities for public transport, planning of walking and cycling networks, cycling and mobility management plans etc.
- Provision and maintenance of traffic signals
- Signing and road marking of road network.
- Improvements to walking and cycling networks, where the objective is to improve pedestrian and cyclist safety, ease traffic congestion, improve accessibility for mobility impaired road users, and effectively manage parking.
- Facilitating the improvements to the bus network in conjunction with 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 routes to promote sustainable modes of transport particularly cycling.
- Promote road safety



Traffic Elements in 2013	Details
Traffic Signals	100 (94 on Remote Monitoring System)
Pedestrian Signals	86 (82 on Remote Monitoring System)
Toucan Crossings	27 (24 on Remote Monitoring System)
School Warning Signals	23
Zebra Crossings	3
Bus Gates	1
Speed Readers/ vehicle activated signs	13



### Sustainable Transport Projects

In 2013 the following projects were advanced:

- The Lusk Traffic management scheme was completed, and provides for signalisation of the Station Road/Dublin Road/Main Street junction and new pedestrian crossing facilities.
- The Ongar Castaheaney Cycle Network Improvement scheme was completed in December 2013. With particular emphasis on routes to schools, the scheme provides improvements to the walking and cycling infrastructure in this area of Blanchardstown.
- Construction work commenced on the Royal Canal Greenway scheme. The scheme provides for the upgrading of the existing tow path along the canal between Ashtown and Castleknock and includes resurfacing, and provision of new public lighting and CCTV.
- Remedial works were carried out to traffic calming ramps at various locations throughout the county.
- 4 new pedestrian/toucan signalised crossings were provided to improve safety (Blanchardstown 2 No, Lusk 1 No, Jamestown Road, Finglas 1 No.)
- Works to improve accessibility on the footpath network in Howth were carried out.
- A programme of improved road markings with an emphasis on Bus Lane, Cycle Lane and school crossing markings.
- Design work continued to develop new sustainable transport schemes including Dublin 15 Priority Cycle routes, Royal Canal Greenway (Castleknock to Maynooth) and public transport improvements from Swords to the Dublin City.



### **Pay and Display**

The Pay and Display Schemes for the towns of Malahide, Balbriggan, Skerries, Swords, Rush and Clonsilla/Portersgate continued to operate effectively.

### **Road Maintenance**

An extensive Programme of Works throughout 2013 comprised 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 on the main road network from strategically located weather stations linked to the Icecast System is used to establish when precautionary gritting operations are mobilised.



### **Fleet Management and Plant Hire**

The Fleet Management and Plant Hire Section (FMPH) manage the fleet and plant hire requirements for Fingal County Council. In 2013, FMPH managed a council owned fleet in excess of 380 vehicles and plant and processed 631 plant hire requests.

### **Public Lighting Section**

During 2013, the Public Lighting Section managed the maintenance of 30,000 lights throughout Fingal.

### **Road Safety**

The Operations Department manages the School Warden Service. The total number of Wardens employed in 2013 was 95 fulltime wardens and 21 reserve wardens. Managing and maintaining the School Warden Service is an important aspect of the Road Safety Programme and this was delivered in 2013 by:

- Training, supervision and administration of Adult School Wardens
- Training and supervision of pupils involved in junior school warden service



Road Safety in the County in 2013 continued through:

- 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 Safety Road Show in Helix Theatre for transition year students
- Promotion of the safe routes to schools and walking bus approach
- Bike for your Breakfast mornings in schools
- Cycle events during Community Safety Week
- COW (Cycle on Wednesday) and WOW (Walk on Wednesday) days during Green Week

### Key Statistics

<u>Road length by category</u>	2013	2012	2011
National Roads including:			
Motorways	60km	60km	60km
Regional Roads	225km	225km	225km
Local Roads	1039km	1026km	1019km
No. surface water gullies on non-national roads -	40,000		



<u>Also dealt with:</u>	2013	2012	2011
Wayleave / Communications Applications, Road Opening Licence Applications	439	385	328
Temporary Road Closure Applications	19	36	39
Taking in Charge Certificate Applications	532	413	329
Abnormal Load Permit Applications	350	313	331

### Service Indicators

No. of kilometres of local and regional roads improved and maintained under the Restoration Programme per annum 38.4 km

No. of kilometres of local and regional roads constructed under the Specific Improvement Grants Scheme per annum 0km



## ENVIRONMENT

### **Beaches & Bathing Water**

There are 48 kilometres of coastline in Fingal. There are 10 designated beaches providing a valuable recreational amenity in the County located at.

- o Balbriggan, Skerries South, Loughshinny, Rush South, Portrane, Donabate, Malahide, Portmarnock, Sutton (Burrow Road) and Claremont, Howth.



36 lifeguards are employed at 10 beaches from June to end August 2013. In addition to carrying out beach cleaning and providing access facilities there is regular monitoring of seawater samples carried out to ensure compliance with Bathing Water Quality requirements

### **Harbours**

The Operations Department manage and maintain a number of harbours and piers in the County at Balbriggan, Skerries, Rush, Loughshinny and Malahide Slipway. As part of the Fishery, Harbour and Coastal Infrastructure Development Programme and the Marine Tourism Capital Infrastructure Development Programme, the Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine part funded improvement works with the Council providing the balancing funding in 2013 which included the following works;

- Re-pointing of the remaining section of the inner harbour wall at Balbriggan Harbour
- Re-pointing of the inner harbour wall at Skerries Harbour
- Re-surfacing of harbour pier and removal of stepped access and replacing with recessed ladder at Loughshinny Harbour



*Official Unveiling by President Higgins of Skerries & Loughshinny Sea-pole, September 2013.*

## BURIAL GROUNDS

There are 36 Burial Grounds operated and maintained by the Fingal County Council.



## **Public Conveniences**

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



## PARKS

The Operations Department is responsible for the planning, management and maintenance of some 2500 acres (1012 Ha.) of public open space in Fingal. The Department 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.

- 33 playgrounds in various locations throughout Fingal. Two new playgrounds under construction in Swords.
- 168 pitches are maintained for a range of team sports including Hurling, Camogie, Hockey, Gaelic, Soccer, Rugby and American football.
- 8 all-weather pitch facilities are available in Balbriggan, Skerries, Rivervalley, Balheary, Hartstown Park, Mulhuddart, Corduff and Malahide.
- Cricket grounds in Malahide Demesne and Town Park, Balbriggan, Porterstown and Lanesborough
- A grass athletics track is provided in Porterstown Park.
- 12 Multi Use Games Areas - these are small sided all weather facilities for soccer and basketball. One new MUGA under construction in Swords.
- 2 Skateparks in Balheary, Swords and in Millennium Park, Blanchardstown.
- Public tennis courts in Malahide, Holywell, Swords, Balrothery, Skerries, Lusk, Riverwood, and Carpenterstown.
- A Bowling Green administered by the Skerries Bowling Club is in operation in the Town Park, Skerries.
- 2 public golf courses , Corballis, Donabate and Elmgreen, Dublin 15.
- Adult exercise equipment in 3 locations, Millennium Park, Dublin 15, Beechpark, Dublin 15 and Kenure Park, Rush. Adult exercise equipment under construction in another 5 locations Swords, Balbriggan, Balbriggan, Skerries, Lusk and Hartstown.



In addition the Operations Department was actively involved in

- National Tree Week and National Tree Day events.
- The annual programme of tree and shrub planting, newly planted herbaceous areas, bulb planting and seasonal bedding and street tree planting and maintenance was also carried out.
- Christmas Tree Recycling.
- Facilitating sporting events in parks and open spaces including RAS in Skerries and Cross in Ward River Valley, Swords. Athletics in Balheary, Swords.

## **ADMINISTRATION**

Operations Department services Area Committee Meetings (Services A) and County Council meetings on a monthly basis. Meetings of the Transportation SPC and Environment SPC on a quarterly basis



## Planning & Strategic Infrastructure Department:

### STRATEGIC INFRASTRUCTURE

#### GREATER DUBLIN DRAINAGE

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 key outcomes in 2013 included:

- Publication of the **Alternative Sites Assessment and Route Selection (Phase 4): Final Preferred Site and Routes** Report. The Report identified Clonshaugh (Clonshagh) as the preferred site for the wastewater treatment plant with the optimum outfall location approximately 1 km north of Ireland's Eye as
- Public consultation on the issues to be considered in the EIS Statement , which were raised in the ASA Phase 4 report
- Completion of the **Public Consultation Report on the Issues to be Considered in the Environmental Impact Statement** which attracted over 13,000 submissions. This report was published following noting by the Councillors at the Council meeting in January 2014
- Ongoing updating of Fingal County Council, Regional Authorities, Dublin City Council, Meath & Kildare County Councils and meetings with various stakeholders – particularly landowners and community groups



- Ongoing detailed site investigations on the preferred site and routes including ongoing data collection and meeting with statutory and stakeholder bodies
- Completion of review of **Fingal's Sludge Management Plan** with an associated **SEA** and **NIS**.

## **DEVELOPMENT MANAGEMENT SECTION – WATER SERVICES**

The Development Management Section advises on the water, foul and surface water 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. The section also provides guidance on Flood Risk Management.

Activities during 2013 included:

- Advised on 830 Planning Applications (including additional information submissions and extensions of duration)
- Preplanning consultations
- Responded to An Bord Pleanála on appeals
- Provided Water Services input to Local Area Plans in Baldoyle/Stapolin, Portmarnock South, Rolestown, Kilmartin and Rathingle.
- Liaison on strategic infrastructure projects
- Implementation of 'The Planning System and Flood Risk Management' Guidelines for Local Authorities November 2009
- Strategic Flood Risk Assessments (SFRAs) were prepared for Baldoyle, Portmarnock South, Kilmartin and Rivermeade LAP lands.
- Implementation of the EPA "Code of Practice for Wastewater Treatment and Disposal Systems Serving Single Dwellings" (October 2009)
- Carried out On-site Waste water treatment plant inspections and released bonds for 39 sites.
- 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.



## DEVELOPMENT MANAGEMENT SECTION- TRANSPORTATION

Work was completed on the following schemes during 2013:

- M1 widening to three lanes, Junction 3 – Junction 4
- Upgrade of Lissenhall Interchange
- Naul Road widening at Millfield, Balbriggan
- Construction of N2 – N3 Link Road.
- Mulhuddart Interchange Upgrade
- Drinan – Holywell pedestrian cycle route.



*Lissenhall Interchange Upgrade*

Funding was received from both the National Roads Authority and the National Transport Authority for the above schemes.

Planning approval has been obtained for Holywell Link Road and for Castlemills Link Road.



*Official Opening of N2/N3 Link Road*





*The Mayor of Fingal County Council, Councillor Dennison, and the Minister for Transport, Tourism and Sport, Leo Varadkar, at the opening of Mulhuddart Interchange Upgrade on 7<sup>th</sup> October 2013.*



## **DEVELOPMENT MANAGEMENT SECTION - REGISTRY, BONDS & CONTRIBUTIONS**

### **Planning Applications**

The number of planning applications received was 947 (of which 114 were declared invalid). This represents an increase of 5.57% on the 2012 figure.

### **Strategic Infrastructure Applications**

During the course of the year, one Strategic Infrastructure Development Application (SID) was lodged with An Bord Pleanála for continuance of use of long term car park known as Eastlands at Stockhole, Cloghran, Tobberbunny, Dardistown Townlands, Dublin Airport, Co. Dublin. No decision had been made by year end.

A decision was made by An Bord Pleanála during 2013 to APPROVE a SID application, lodged in 2012, for Dublin North Fringe 220 kV Reinforcement Project in the townlands of Belcamp and Clonshagh for Eirgrid.

### **Performance Indicators**

<b>Performance Indicators</b>	<b>2013</b>	<b>2012</b>	<b>2011</b>
New Applications Registered	947 (114 invalid)	897 (74 invalid)	958 (102 invalid)
Number of Applications Determined	766	849	905
% of Grants	90%	89%	88%
% of Refusals	10%	11%	12%
% Determined within 2 months	73%	73%	67%
Number of A Applications Received	644 (86 invalid)	567 (56 invalid)	605 (72 invalid)
Number B Applications Received	303 (28 invalid)	330 (18 invalid)	353 (30 invalid)

### **Bonds & Contributions**

A sum of €8.8 million was collected under the Section 48 Development Contribution Schemes in 2013. Payments and phased payment agreements are constantly agreed, monitored and reviewed. Legal Proceedings were instituted in 46 cases involving a total sum of €1.2 million. Judgments were secured from the courts in 8 cases with a total value of €143,188.



### **Building Control**

A total of 133 applications for Fire Safety Certificates were received during 2013. Thirty-four 7 Day Notices, eleven Revised Fire Safety Certificates and four Regularisation Certificates were also received. 141 applications for Disabled Access Certificates were also received.

A total of 382 Commencement Notices were submitted and Naming/Numbering Schemes were approved in respect of 9 Schemes/Projects.

## **STRATEGIC INFRASTRUCTURE**

### **Development Plan 2011-2017**

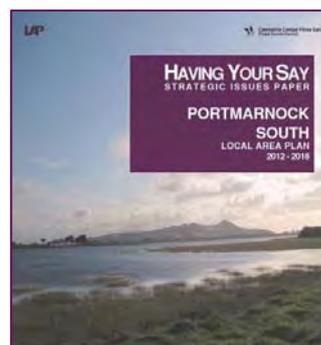
The Fingal Development Plan, which was adopted in April 2011, is one of the most important functions of a County Council. In March 2013 a report on progress to date (vis a vis securing the Objectives of the Plan) was presented to the Elected Members.

Key planning objectives of the Development Plan delivered on to date include the preparation of a series of Local Area Plans (LAPs) and non-statutory plans, studies and strategies as outlined below, advancing policies and implementation of our Green Infrastructure network (including the preparation of an Open Space Strategy, advancing Fingal pedestrian and cycle network, etc.), and significant progress in the review of the County's Record of Protected Structures.

### **Local Area Plans**

The following are the Local Area Plans that were adopted by the Council in 2013:

- Baldoye Stapolin - Adopted May, 2013
- Kilmartin - Adopted May, 2013
- Portmarnock South - Adopted July, 2013
- Rathingle - Adopted November, 2013
- Rowlestown - Adopted May, 2013
- Rivermeade - Adopted June, 2013





A number of Local Area Plans were commenced during 2013 and preparation and public display of draft LAPs will take place during 2014, including:

- Donabate LAP (RA)
- Kinsealy LAP (RV)
- A review and amendment to Hansfield SDZ is also underway.

The challenge facing the planning authority in the preparation of the new 'Residential' LAPs has been to appropriately reflect the uncertain economic climate associated with the housing market, whether in relation to realising the completion of some residential LAP areas, ensuring the delivery of enabling physical and social infrastructure, marrying the residential density requirements of the NTA and the Guidelines for Planning Authorities on Sustainable Residential Development in Urban Areas and the attractiveness for apartment schemes (under current market and funding conditions); as well as compliance with the RPGs and Development Plan Core Strategy which promotes and seeks the development of the Metropolitan areas within the County. To this end, the planning authority has worked with the NTA, DOECLG, Dublin Regional Authority and Dublin planning authorities to respond to the short-term housing market requirements, while protecting the long-term planning objectives and sustainability of Dublin City and Region. This report/research paper was published in July 2013 and has influenced and assisted the Planning Authority in the preparation of many of the RA zoned LAPs.

### **Variations, Studies & Part VIIIs**

Variations adopted during 2013 – Charlestown and St. Finian's CS, Swords.

Other proposed Variations commenced during 2013 - Tyrellstown, Porterstown Pedestrian Bridge, St. Ita's Portrane, Ballymun and Ballycoolin.

These (adopted and/or proposed) Variations predominantly relate to the planning authority's desire to respond effectively and quickly to socio-economic and community requirements of the area, particularly where there is an opportunity to enhance employment and/or services within the County.

Dublin Airport Master Plan, whose preparatory work was largely undertaken during 2013, will be completed during 2014 and the review of the LAP for the airport commenced thereafter.

Projects undertaken / commenced in 2013:

1. Malahide Public Realm Strategy
2. Abbotstown Study
3. Royal Canal Greenway
4. Broadmeadow Way
5. Blanchardstown to Phoenix Park Cycleway, etc.



### **Outside Bodies**

In the course of the year the Council was represented by Planning 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 membership on ARC is now held by Cllr Ciaran Byrne who replaces Councillor Anne Devitt, who over the last nine years has presided over ARC.
- QLAI – 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, Community 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.

During 2013, Fingal County Council also continued its work with our counterparts in twelve regions across Europe participating in a new Interreg IVC project, the Green Infrastructure Network or Green InfraNet, which brings together local and regional bodies from across Europe and is working to strengthen the development and implementation of green infrastructure across Europe by exchanging experience and by transferring good practice between regions.

### **Fingal Heritage Plan**

The Heritage Plan, adopted by the Council in April 2012, 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.

The Plan contains 49 actions to be undertaken over a 6 year period led by the Council’s Heritage Officer. A total of approximately € 43,000 was spent by the Council on Heritage Plan projects in 2013. The Council also successfully competed for funding of over € 23,000 from The Heritage Council in 2013.



## Heritage Projects 2013

### 1. Field Monuments Advisor

In 2013 the Fingal FMA scheme focused on assessing and documenting change in the condition of monuments in Fingal by re-visiting monuments previously visited as part of previous FMA work between 2007 and 2010. An exhibition entitled *The Archaeology of Open Spaces* was also developed by the FMA and held in Balrothery Community Centre during Heritage Week. This highlighted the range of monuments in Fingal's parks and open spaces.

### 2. Hidden Treasures

The Hidden Treasures Project involved working with local schools and youth groups in Dublin 15 to explore the area's heritage of over 90 archaeological sites. Participating schools and youth groups carried out a project on a monument in their area. The Overall Winners were the Ladyswell Rapid Group from Ladyswell National School who explored the history and heritage of the Lady's Well or Holy Well in Mulhuddart. The Project is led by a partnership which includes Safer Blanchardstown, Mountview Resource Centre, Fingal South-West Heritage Society, Fingal County Council Community Division, Fingal Libraries, Fingal County Council Heritage Office and The Heritage Council. Hidden Treasures is part of a wider Adopt-a-Monument initiative being piloted by Fingal County Council which aims to involve local communities in caring for their local heritage.



*Ladyswell Rapid Group, Ladyswell National School, Mulhuddart, overall winners of Hidden Treasures Project.*



### 3. Heritage Week:

The Council supported a number of Heritage Week events including Loughshinny and Rush Historical Society's commemoration of Harry Hawker's seaplane crash-landing in Loughshinny Harbour in 1913.



This event to celebrate a unique aspect of Loughshinny's heritage won The Heritage Council's national awards for Best Overall Event and Most Innovative Event in 2013.



*Heritage Council Award for the best National Heritage Week event*



#### **4. Grassland Management Project at Baldoyle Bay Special Area of Conservation (SAC)**

Works were carried out this year in Baldoyle Racecourse Park to enable the management of the grassland in the Mayne Marsh Conservation Area, which lies within Baldoyle Bay Special Area of Conservation (SAC), through the introduction of Highland Cattle. Heritage Plan funding enabled the supply and installation of fencing to enclose the cattle's feeding area, installation of pedestrian control barrier, installation of gates, ground re-grading works and work to fill in gaps in the Coast Road boundary wall.



## Water Services Department:

### PROJECTS OFFICE

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

- Leixlip Water Treatment Plant Extension – The new treatment plant has been commissioned. The overall scheme is due to be completed in July 2014 including refurbishment of the existing plant.



*Leixlip Water Treatment Plant Extension.*

- Balbriggan / Skerries Network Upgrades – Two contracts under this scheme were further progressed during 2013. Dublin Road Pumping Station Balbriggan was tendered, but not awarded. Contract Documents for the Rush Road pumping Station in Skerries were completed.
- Portrane, Donabate, Rush & Lusk Waste Water Treatment Scheme – Approval was received from the DECLG to complete the Rush element of this scheme. Surveys are ongoing and it is hoped to complete the contract documents in 2014.



*Whitestown Pumping Station in Rush*



*Portrane Pumping Station*



- Blanchardstown Regional Drainage Scheme – Prequalification of the Liffey Siphons Construction Contractors has been completed. The Permanent Flow Monitors have also been completed. A new proposal has been put forward to the DECLG for the 9C Duplication and Storage which reduces the scale of the project considerably. The Contract Documents and tender process awaiting approval to proceed.
- Swords WWTP Expansion – Construction work commenced on this during the first quarter of 2013. It is approximately 20% complete.
- Malahide Reservoir Scheme SLI – There have been ongoing delays with the land transfer for the site into the Council's ownership which has delayed to progress on this contract.
- Balbriggan Water Supply Scheme Phase 1 SLI – Construction is complete and the scheme has been commissioned.
- Balbriggan Water Supply Scheme Phase 2 – Jordanstown to Kilsough The procurement of Consulting Engineers to advance the detailed design of this project is awaiting approval to proceed.
- Swords Watermain Rehabilitation Scheme – 5.3km of existing 30" pre-stressed concrete trunk main to be rehabilitated by slip lining or replacement. The route of the pipeline has been mapped with GPS. Prequalification of the Construction Contractor has been completed.
- Ballycoolen - Kingstown Watermain Duplication – 7km of 900mm main – Design Brief and Budget to Stage 3 was submitted to DECLG. Awaiting approval to proceed.
- Howth Water Supply Scheme (planning stages WSIP) – Revised Budget and Design Brief was submitted to DECLG. Awaiting approval to proceed.
- Swords Network – Oldtown /Mooretown Drainage Scheme. Consulting Engineers to be appointed to complete feasibility study. Following the study it is hoped to progress the drainage scheme to address the issues identified in the feasibility study.
- Cloghran Sewerage Scheme –Tenders process was completed in 2013 and a letter of intent was sent to the preferred contractor. Awaiting approval to proceed with the contract.

## **WATER SUPPLY OPERATIONS**

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. 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.



## LEAKAGE AND WATER CONSERVATION

The council maintains a dedicated team of leakage inspectors who survey the network for leaks, some of these leaks are on the private side and the consumer is required to fix them. The public main leaks are repaired directly by Council staff. In addition there are bursts on the main which generally interrupt supply to the customer. These bursts are generally fixed within 12 hours of being discovered.

	2011	2012	2013
Bursts Repaired	145	78	117
Leaks on public main found	593	574	543
Private Leaks found	93	66	79

Most householders willingly repair leaks when notified of their existence by the Council, however in some cases it is necessary to issue warning letters and also sometimes statutory notices are issued under the Water Services Act.

- The system developed for the tracking of leaks within Estates not taken in charge as well as private side leaks continued to work well.
- During 2013, 19 warning letters and 19 Notices under Section 54 of the Water Services Act were served on developers or management companies, of estates not taken in charge by Fingal County Council, with reported leaks on the public side.
- There were also 60 warning letters and 19 Notices under Section 56(1) of the Water Services Act issued relating to private side leaks where the leak was the responsibility of the householder.
- In addition there were also 10 letters issued in 2013 giving warning of possible restriction to water supply if leak(s) remained unrepaired. Of these, 5 were repaired prior to restriction and 5 supplies had a restrictor put on. On placing the restrictor on the household supply 3 had the leaks repaired, 1 committed to have repair carried out and 1 is outstanding.



*Capital Replacement & Maintenance Works, 2013.*



## DRAINAGE SERVICES

There are four large wastewater treatment plants, Swords, Malahide, Portrane and Barnageeragh. The latter two are operated by a contractor on behalf of the Council. In addition the Council operates smaller treatment plants serving the rural villages. Wastewater from the Blanchardstown area is treated at Dublin City Council's Wastewater Treatment Facility at Ringsend.



*New Wastewater Treatment Plant at Portrane.*



*Discharge from Barnageeragh Waste Water Treatment Plant.*

### Headlines 2013

- Drainage pumping station and rising main at Killalane (part of the Balbriggan/Skerries drainage catchment) commenced
- Upgrade of surface water network at Oldcastle Avenue, Howth

### Key Performance Indicators/National Service Indicators

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

	2011	2012	2013
Leixlip	100%	99.2%	100%
Bog of the Ring	100%	100%	100%
Distribution Network	100%	99.8%	100%



### Levels of Unaccounted for Water (UFW)

	2011	2012	2013
UFW	33.76%	32.65%	TBC

### Length of Watermain Replaced

	2011	2012	2013
Metres of watermain replaced	36,820	25,714	21,767*

- 6,960 m were laid by direct labour the balance was laid by contractors

### % compliance with Urban Wastewater Treatment Regulations

	2011	2012	2013
Swords WWTP	95.4%	99.2%	100%
Malahide WWTP	96.4%	98.0%	90.8%
Portrane WWTP (Old)	50.1%	32.5%	-
Portrane WWTP (New)	-	100%	100%
Villages WWTP	83.4%	98.0%	99.4%
Barnageeragh WWTP	98.6%	98.6%	98.7%

## 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 2013

- 141 applications for water and sewer connections were processed in 2013.
- A total number of 38 questions, 15 motions and 8 headed items were dealt with at Council/Committee meetings during 2013.
- During 2013 emphasis was placed on obtaining e-mail contact for as many consumers or resident associations as possible for the purpose of informing those affected by planned or emergency water disruptions. The combined e-mail lists for the Fingal area now total 1196 (621 in 2012). Communication via our Twitter service is also provided.
- The Fingal News carried 4 water related articles