Your Council, working for you

Comhairle Contae Fhine Gall Fingal County Council





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Message from AnnMarie Farrelly, Chief Executive, Fingal County Council

I hope this report finds you all in good health basis and provide an insight into ongoing as we navigate through another month in major projects, key statistics and events in Level 5.

Each month, I am required to provide the This month we detail the first affordable Mayor and Elected Members with a report housing development in the county in 11 on the activities of the Council over the previous month. The ongoing support and contribution of the Mayor and Elected Members is invaluable to how we carry out our business on behalf of the people of Fingal and I express my thanks to them.

In this summary report, we focus on the work we carry out in Fingal Council on an ongoing

the pipeline.

years, the planned virtual celebration of St. Patrick's Day and progress on the Hole in the Wall Road upgrade as well as highlighting updates from across all departments.

I hope you will find this an interesting and informative update from your Council.

AnnMarie Farrelly, Chief Executive.









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AFFORDABLE HOUSING

The first Affordable Housing Scheme in the County in 11 years in Dun Emer, Lusk. Full details on Page 14





Total Fingal Electorate is now over 193,300



Local Electoral Area	Total
Balbriggan	23,437
Blanchardstown-Mulhuddart	17,071
Castleknock	32,427
Howth-Malahide	44,088
Ongar	20,752
Rush-Lusk	23,645
Swords	31,970
	193,390

The Register of Electors for 2021/2022 was published on 1st February 2021 and came into effect on 14th February 2021.

The total electorate for Fingal is 193,390. The table above shows a breakdown per Local Electoral Area.

Success for Fingal County Council at the 29th NISO Awards The 29th National Irish Safety Organisation / Northern Ireland Safety Group Annual Occupational Safety awards took place in January 2021 in a special online ceremony.

The awards are an All-Ireland affair, set up to recognise how organisations manage health and safety at work. There was success for the Health & Safety Unit as Fingal County Council was ranked in the Category One awards achieving an 'exceptional high achiever' award along with the 'high distinction' award. .





Continuing Customer Care

During the month of February, the Council's Customer Care Unit (CCU) dealt with 14,186 telephone calls and 1,010 emails.

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

The month of February had a total of 497 Councillors representations.

Inside Fingal Podcasts

Two episodes of our Inside Fingal podcast series were produced during February. Episode 6 featured Head of Fingal's Local Enterprise Office Oisin Geoghegan, who spoke about the work of the Local Enterprise Office and the wide range of supports they offer to Fingal businesses as well as previewing Local Enterprise Week.

In Episode 5 of Inside Fingal, Aoife Sheridan, from the Economic Enterprise Tourism and Cultural Development Department, talks about Fingal County Council's Sustainable Fingal initiative which aims to encourage businesses across Fingal to embrace sustainable measures. She outlines some of the benefits to businesses if they incorporate sustainability into the day-to-day running of their business. See www.fingal.ie/podcast for all episodes.

Virtual Events for IWD2021 & SnaG



The Council's Communications Unit marked International Women's Day 2021 by posting short videos throughout the day on our social media channels with contributions from Chief Executive AnnMarie Farrelly as well as female Fingal County Councillors and members of the Council's Executive Management Team.

Seachtain na Gaeilge le Energia is an international Irish language festival and one of the biggest celebrations of our native language and culture that takes place each year.

Online events celebrating Seachtain Na Gaeilge included an online seisiún with the Seamus Ennis Centre with musicians zooming into the session live from all over Ireland as well as a zoom event on March 10 which featured Antaine Ó Faracháin and Nollaig Mac Cárthaigh with Fingal Irish Officer, Bernie Kelly for ceol, craic and singing live on Zoom.



Smart Balbriggan Webinar

Smart Balbriggan was founded in June 2020 by Fingal County Council as a Smart Dublin District where innovation projects are fast-tracked. Smart Balbriggan will complement and support the delivery of the Our Balbriggan Rejuvenation Plan (2019-2025) by trialing and testing new technology projects and solutions.

During this webinar we will present the Smart Balbriggan Programme Framework and new Public Trello Board. The Programme Framework was developed thanks to input from the Balbriggan community and is our key guiding document, outlining our strategic priorities, principles, objectives and planned actions for the programme.

We will also update you on a number of exciting new projects that have commenced over the past six months including:

- Model Quay Street and Harbour 3D Model: a state-of-the-art public consultation tool that will allow our community to experience and consider planned redevelopments immersively.

- WeCount: a 'citizen science' project to empower local communities to take a leading role in the production of data, evidence and knowledge relating to mobility in their own neighbourhoods.

- Smart Balbriggan Hackathon: an exciting, upcoming community event that will explore new and innovative ways to tackle local challenges and improve our town.

Register to receive a link for the webinar event at: https://www.eventbrite.ie/e/smart-balbriggan-community-webinartickets-137627899753 and If you have any queries about Smart Balbriggan or the webinar event, please contact smart. balbriggan@fingal.ie





St. Patrick's Day Celebrations and Events

Fingal County Council will be illuminating several buildings for the St Patrick's Day Festival period from Monday 15th - Sunday 21st, March. Additionally, selected historic buildings will show messages to celebrate Seachtain na Gaeilge 2021.

As part of a series of on-line virtual events for St. Patrick's Day, Fingal Events are asking the community to get involved in Homemade Parades. This involves sending in photos of your parade using your toys/books or art. Whatever captures your imagination. People can enter through their Residents Association via the Fingal Public Participation Network, Fingal Libraries or Fingal Arts and are in with a chance of winning a ONE4ALL voucher.





Update on Heritage Property Closures

Under the Government's Covid-19 Resilience & Recovery 2021 Plan, the following changes to service will continue to apply across our heritage properties:

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



ECONOMIC CORRIDOR

"The Dublin-Belfast Economic Corridor: Current Profile, Potential in Recovery & Opportunities for Cooperation" will be published on Wednesday, 24th March at a cross border online event hosted by economist David McWilliams. Invitations to this online event will be forwarded to all Members in the coming week.

The Dublin Belfast Economic Corridor (DBEC) is a collaboration, involving the eight Local Authorities located between Dublin and Belfast and in partnership with DCU and UU. This important initiative demonstrates the ability of Local Government, on either side of the border, to come and work together for the benefit of their respective communities and the regional economy.

Fingal County Council recently made its nominations to the Oversight and Governance Board of the DBEC (Mayor David Healy, SPC Chair Cllr. Tony Murphy & SPC Member Cllr. Howard Mahony), which will have its inaugural meeting following the launch event.

Local Enterprise Week March 1-5

Local Enterprise Week 2021 occurred from the 1st to the 5th of March and featured a packed series of events to help businesses and start-ups to access supports. training and networking. For the first time, these events took place virtually and concluded with the Fingal Enterprising Women Network Event opened by Fingal County Council Chief Executive AnnMarie Farrelly, with guest speakers including Gráinne Seoige and Derya Sousa, Co-Founder of Kianda Technologies who were National Enterprise Award Winners this year.

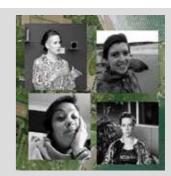


Sustainable Fingal Initiative

The Council has launched Sustainable Fingal which aims to engage with the business community on the implementation of sustainable business measures. This initiative delivers on an objective under the Council's Climate Change Action Plan.

A brochure "Sustainable Ideas for SMEs" has been prepared to inspire businesses with some simple actions to improve their sustainability and outlines the benefits this can bring to their business under the key headings of Energy, Water and Waste Management. The Council's research is supported and supplemented with information from SEAI, Repak and Irish Water.

Echo's Bones Film



Following a successful open call, which reached across Fingal, artist Sarah Browne has connected with local participants who identify as being on the Autistic Spectrum. The participants, who have all expressed to be part of this public art project, joined the information session this month with the artist, theatre maker Sarah Fitzgibbon, AslAM autistic self-advocate Eleanor Walsh and composer Alma Kelliher.

They have signed up to a series of weekly facilitated workshops online to create new film work based in Fingal, looking at Samuel Beckett's short story Echo's bones and how might those on the autistic spectrum can be represented through film and personal stories. The new group will become the collaborators on this work as filmmakers, scriptwriters, actors, sound designers and editors.



LOCAL ENTERPRISE WEEK 2021 Making It Happen 01-05 March



Programme of Works 2021 for Howth Malahide



At the Area Committee Meeting, on the 3rd February 2021, the 2021 Programme of Works for the Howth Malahide area was adopted by the Elected members.

The wide-ranging Programme delivers €1.567 million Euro worth of works in the Howth Malahide Administrative Area under the following technical areas: Traffic Management Schemes, Drainage Works, Public Lighting Schemes and Projects in Parks & Open Spaces.

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County Speed Limits Project

The Draft Speed Limit Bye-Laws for the County were presented and adopted by the full Council in February 2021. The review envisages legal speed limit changes across the county of Fingal.

The majority of the work will be carried out by in-house Fingal direct labour staff. A strategy for tendering and appointment of an additional specialist contractor is being finalised by the Operations Department including the number and type of signs required.

It is planned that the Speed Limit Signs including all poles and supports will be in place before September 1st 2021.

Typical signs that can be expected to be installed countywide are shown above.





Fingal County Council's Operations crews attended to a large amount of essential and emergency tree works in Dublin 15 following high winds during February.

Our Fully Electric New Additions!

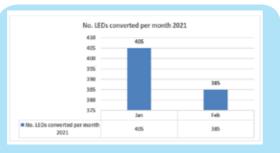
Fingal County Council purchased the following Fully Electric Vehicles

• 4 fully electric Goupil Utility vehicles to replace 4 diesel vans in the Demesnes.

• 7.5 ton eCanter tipper truck. This is the 1st fully electric 7.5 ton tipper truck in the Republic of Ireland.







Street Lighting - LED Upgrade Programme

In February, the LED Upgrade Program saw 385 LED Upgrade works carried out in the following locations:-

•Old Balbriggan Road, Quay Street, R132 Courtlough - Balbriggan

•Abbey Park, Marian Park - Baldoyle

•Blanchardstown Road North Extension, Snugborough Road Extension - Blanchardstown •Skerries Road - Lusk

•Shielmartin Road, St Fintans Crescent, St Fintans Park - Sutton

• Airside Industrial Estate, Seatown Road East Swords

Works at Ward River Valley Park, Swords

Vegetation removal works have been carried out in the new section of the Ward River Valley Park. It was required to remove 125m of heavy laurel and bramble vegetation in order to commence conservation works on the sensitive architectural features such as the Brick Arch.

The 'Brick Arch' is currently on a very unsuitable walking and BMX bike route which is putting this very sensitive architectural feature in danger of imminent collapse. In order to close off the area around

this old Arch an alternative woodland access was required. The 125m of vegetation removed will provide a woodland floor quality access route only. It will be very difficult to provide anything more than this until a full drainage study is carried out to facilitate planning of more standardised stone pathways.

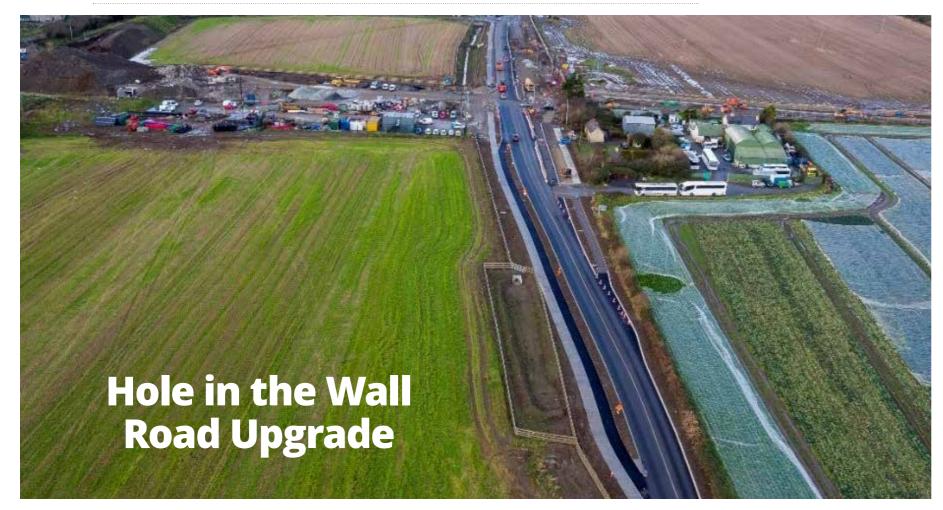
The entire lowland grass area is a flood plane so any pathways proposed must be carefully planned and designed to withstand the flooding conditions experienced over the last few months.



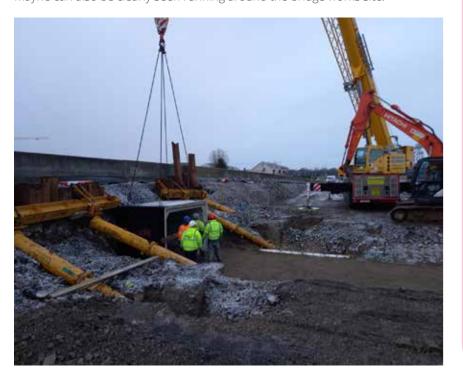




Planning and Strategic Infrastructure



On 1st February, SIAC and Fingal County Council's resident engineering staff remobilised to site on this essential works project. Works on the roadway, cycle tracks, footpaths, flood defences and the bridge to carry the new road over the River Mayne can be seen in the attached photos. The temporarily diverted River Mayne can also be clearly seen running around the bridge works site.







Heritage in Fingal

The Heritage Officer presented on the Fingal Cultural Heritage & Climate Change Risk Assessment project to the planning team for the implementation of the Climate Change Adaptation Sectoral Plan for Built and Archaeological Heritage on 4 February 2021. The meeting was opening by Minister Malcolm Noonan and the work in Fingal received as a valuable pilot project.

The Heritage Officer network has worked together to review the draft National Heritage Plan - Heritage Ireland 2030; relaunch the Gardening for Biodiversity books and produce a Spring into Heritage bucket list as part of the national Keep Well and Love your Heritage campaigns.

The Development Plan

The Development Plan is a statutory document and, as per the Planning & Development Acts, Fingal County Council must review the existing Development Plan and prepare a new one. This process will begin with the first round of public consultation on 12th March 2021. The Plan will set out the strategic spatial vision and future direction for the county over a six-year period from 2023 to 2029. The Development Plan will build on our previous successes and investment and our strategic advantages as a County. We will maximise the strengths of our citizens, communities, built and natural heritage, infrastructure and tourism to their full potential.

In advance of the first round of consultation, three information sessions have taken place with the Elected Members, focusing on the existing Development Plan, the process of making a Development Plan and Environmental Assessments.

A further session will take place this week in relation to the Record of the Protected Structures and the Development Plan and lastly one on the Strategic Issues Papers will be organised for mid-March.

Sustainable Swords

Work has commenced on the significant transport assessment element of the Sustainable Swords project. The initial baselines studies are underway, with traffic data collection and review of existing studies ongoing to gain an understanding in more detail of the existing and desired demand for travel in and around Swords. Following that, various interventions will be developed to meet the project objectives. Consultation with the NTA and other stakeholders including elected members and local residents and businesses will form an integral part of this project.





Forest of Fingal - Public Consultation Sessions

As part of the consultation process of the revised Tree Strategy, a series of public Webinars have been scheduled throughout February and March.

Two evening sessions have taken place to date, with the final session scheduled for Saturday 6th March at 4pm to facilitate those with limited availability during the week. Promotion and registration for the event was kindly carried out by Fingal Libraries.

Public consultation is running up to and including the end of National Tree Week, on the 28th March. The draft material can be viewed at https://consult.fingal.ie/en/consultation/forest-fingal-tree-strategy-fingal where submissions are actively encouraged.

Parks and Green Infrastructure Division Updates



Work to advance amenities projects including the All-weather Pitch facility and car park at Ward River Valley Park, Swords, New Park and playground proposals for Lanesborough, The Naul, Garristown and Howth and an All-weather Running Track & Sports Pitch Facility at Porterstown Park continue in earnest by Fingal County Council's Parks and Green Infrastructure Division.



Fingal Age Friendly Guide 2021



20,000 Copies of the 2021 Age Friendly Guide were recently distributed to older people right across Fingal. Books were left into Post offices, Library Service, Gardai, Meals on Wheels, Beaumont Hospital, Friends of the Elderly, Covid Responders and chemists among many other places. You can view the guide at www.fingal.ie/age-friendly-guide-2021

Community Development

Keeping People Connected

Fingal County Council Community Development Office in association with the Communications Unit have developed a Fingal Virtual Community Centre for community groups, community service and community centres to showcase their online and location-based activities.

Activities are grouped under key categories: 1. Exercise & Wel Being, 2. Talks, Courses & Workshops 3. Social, Recreational & Fun, 4. Child & Family. The type of activities expected to feature include Activities such as Fitness & Aerobics, Yoga, Zumba, Money Matters, Cooking, English Language, Job seeking & CV Preparation, Smartphone training, Effective Zoom, Career Guidance, Arts & Crafts, Music, Singing and reading. Fingal Virtual Community Centre is part of the Fingal Keep Well campaign and will provide an opportunity for anyone who wants to find out more, connect and get involved in online activities in Fingal.

The Fingal Community Development Office are involved in activities including planning for Pride of Place 2021, #Keep Well Campaign - Staying Connected (Community Call), Community Activity Funding, Irish Men's Shed Association Zoom Meeting and International Woman's Day.

The Office also provides support to groups such as the Fingal Public Participation Network (PPN), Fingal Integration Forum, Age Friendly Fingal and Fingal Comhairle na nÓg.

Fingal County Council has appointed a developer to deliver the first affordable housing scheme in the county in 11 years at Dun Emer, Lusk. Ó Cualann Cohousing Alliance will oversee the construction of 51 homes, of which 39 will be affordable and 12 will be social housing.

The affordable homes will be available to eligible first-time purchases at prices that will be around 25% below their market value. The 39 units will be a mixture of two-bedroom apartments, three-bedroom duplexes, three-bedroom terraced and three-bedroom semi-detached. Guide prices are set out below;

DWELLING TYPE	NUMBER	
2 Bed Apartment	8	From €166,000
3 Bed Duplex	8	From €206,000
3 Bed Terrace	15	From €250,000
3 Bed Semi	8	From €258,000

All details in relation to the affordable homes, the affordable scheme, eligibility criteria, etc. are available on the website www.fingal.ie. The site also has a Frequently Asked Questions section and additional queries can be emailed to affordablehousing@fingal.ie.

Applications for the Dun Emer Affordable House Purchase Scheme will be online and details of how and when to apply will be announced in the coming



Fingal Sports Office Keeping us all active

Fingal Sports Office has been extremely busy in recent months and has been rolling out various exciting events and initiatives all in the name of fitness and wellbeing. Some of the fantastic endeavours they have faciliatated include:

Fingal HomeFit Yoga, Fingal Home-Fit, Live Hip-Hop Classes, Online Sport Inclusion Disability Awareness Classes, Women in Sport Coaching Series and Couch to 3k – Walk to Jog.

Social Housing Delivery in Fingal

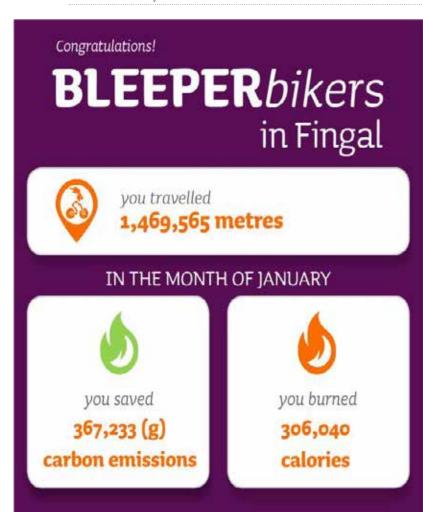
The delivery of social housing across the county continued during 2020 despite the Covid-19 restrictions that were in place.

Social housing delivery exceeded the targets set by the Department of Housing, Local Government & Heritage. In 2020, 1,325 units were delivered through new build, leasing, aguisitions and HAP (Housing Assistance Payment).

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

Delivery Mechanism:	Targ
Build	431
Leasing	130





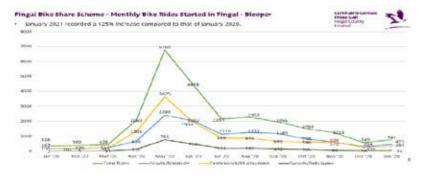
Bleeper's bike rides increased from 564 rides in December to 741 rides in January. This amounts to a 125% increase in the last month and this figure is 23 times more than the rides from the same period in 2020.

This number shows the immense increase in the popularity of cycling during the last 12 months. Saturday and Sunday account for the highest number of rides and accounted for 24.16% and 17% respectively.

Bleeper had 65 bikes in operation during January.

We will continue to promote usage of Bleeper through our social media platforms. The hire of Bleeper's bikes continues to be free for all Fingal staff.

The Active Travel Section have commenced a market sounding from bike share and micro mobility companies for the provision of e-scooters and e-bikes in Fingal Information received is currently being reviewed and those which meet criteria will be asked to present their plans to collaborate with Fingal County Council in a new scheme.



Installation of Bike Racks in Fingal Continues

Bike racks continue to be installed throughout the County and the Active Travel section are working on the next phase of bike parking installation.

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

Bike Racks for Schools initiative

Schools looking to encourage their students to cycle may still apply for bike racks and can do so by completing the online application and submitting it to Road.Safety@Fingal.ie.





Horse Welfare Programme

The DSPCA continue to monitor and inspect the horses on Dunsink Landfill and work with the horse owners in relation to the ongoing care of the animals.

5 bales of hay were delivered to the landfill on 26th February and the welfare issues of one horse was identified by the DSPCA and addressed with the assistance of the owner and a vet.

Horse owners have agreed to work with DSPCA & to commence with setting up a committee with local reps for each area of Finglas (south, east & west), This is currently on hold until COVID restrictions lift. First Equine ID clinic to commence when COVID restrictions permit it.

Environmental Awareness Campaigns and Initiatives



Anti-Litter and Anti-Graffiti projects ongoing in several locations such as Taylors Hill Balbriggan with clean-ups and planting of areas for biodiversity.

ReLove Fashion Competition was held online on 25th Feb. This is a clothes up-cycling event in partnership with the Eastern Regional Local Authorities and the ReDiscovery Centre. A student from Malahide Community School won the Best Evening Dress Category.

Castleknock Tidy Towns Group were provided with funding for a Swift Conservation project in partnership with four Fingal Dublin 15 schools: St Brigid's National School, Castleknock Educate Together School, Castleknock National School, Castleknock College.

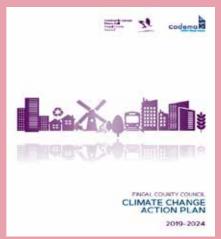
Online Sustainable Gardening workshops & wildflower masterclasses were delivered to members of Tidy Towns, community and residents' groups and allotment holders. The courses were well received.

Environmental presentations have also recently been delivered to communities through the Fingal Community Centres events.

Fines Issued under Litter Pollution Act

To date this year, 540 planned litter patrols have been carried out across the county by Fingal County Council staff. This has resulted in the issuing of 35 litter fines and 29 warning notices under the provisions of the Litter Pollution Act.





Climate Change Action Plan

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

Climate Action "Raising Awareness" training is being rolled out to all staff in the Council. A Championing Leadership pillar will be delivered to senior staff and councillors in Q4 2021.

Action 165 of the national Climate Action Plan 2019 states that 'Each local authority will identify and develop plans for one Decarbonising Zone. A circular and further guidance has issued from DHLGH. DZ's can be described as spatial areas identified by the LA in which a range of mitigation measures can co-exist. A cross departmental team will now identify potential areas.



9,394

The majority of staff continued to work from home in February, with 9,394 Teams meetings held during the month and 27,729 calls taking place. Usage of the remote working technologies has now settled into a predictable pattern.



71

The number of hires put in place by the Council's Fleet Management and Plant Hire Unit in the period from February 1 to February 26, 2021, engaging 17 suppliers.

242

The number of Road Opening Licence applications received during the month of February. The Licensing unit continues to process and manage the licensing system for the County. Road Opening licences are a cross functional process for the department and is essential for the asset management of Fingal County Council Road network.



60

The number of principal inspections on bridges in the Fingal area.

The Consultant commenced the Principal inspections on 25th of January 2021 and work is continuing. Inspections are estimated to be completed by first week of March 2021.

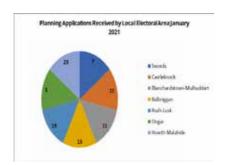
26,458

The number of vehicles received at the Estuary Recycling Centre, Swords in the period from January 6 to February 24, 2021.

Coolmine Recycling Centre received 15,426 vehicles in the period from January 11 to February 22, 2021.

87

There have been 87 planning applications received to the end of January 2021, 4 of these applications were invalid leaving a total of 83 valid applications.



3,378

The number of followers on our ever growing Instagram account. Our most popular post was the set of photos of the new calves born at Newbridge Farm

Search @fingalcountycouncil on Instagram and start following us!



€59,800

The funding available to Fingal County Council for allocation to community, not-for-profit and voluntary groups for funding under the COVID-19 Emergency Fund is funded by the Department of Rural and Community Development and administered by the Fingal Local Community Development Committee

6

The number of Inside Fingal Podcasts available - We recommend the following apps to listen to the Inside Fingal Podcast, iTunes, Spotify, Stitcher, Castbox and Google Podcasts, and each episode is promoted on the Fingal County Council Facebook, Instagram, Twitter and LinkedIn social media accounts.

All podcasts are also available at www.fingal.ie/podcast.



58

The first draft of the Speed Limit Bye-laws for the entire county is now complete. The draft document went out for public consultation in February and closed on the 20th March. Almost 200 maps have been generated for the review at a very high level of detail. Approximately 58 submissions were received.

90,000

The number of homes which received a copy of the Libraries Spring Brochure. The varied events programme encourages us to stay active in mind and body over the coming months, whether it be taking up yoga classes, learning to do macramé or simply reading more. The programme is in line with the Government's Keep Well campaign that is aimed at showing people how we can mind our own physical and mental health and wellbeing by adding healthy and helpful habits to our daily and weekly routines.





Messages of Hope on Fingal Buildings





OUR MISSION

To be a vibrant, outward looking, well run Council that shows leadership and embraces diversity and opportunity

Comhairle Contae Fhine Gall Fingal County Council

