

**Comhairle Contae Fhine Gall**  
Fingal County Council



# **Chief Executive's Management Report**

11<sup>th</sup> of October, 2021  
Item 32

# CHIEF EXECUTIVE'S MANAGEMENT REPORT – OCTOBER 2021

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## **Chief Executive's Foreword**

We are now in Q4 of 2021 and I am anticipating a busy end to the year. The 3 year capital programme 2022 – 2024 is listed for consideration by the Elected Members at this October Council meeting. This programme represents significant investment in the county and will support the progress of both small and large scale projects.

We are tasked with delivering a significant housing programme in accordance with Government Housing policy and Housing for All, a new Housing Plan for Ireland. Over the period of this plan the funding will enable the Council to realise and deliver a significant number of social housing dwellings via all available housing support mechanisms. Staff across the organisation are working closely to consider all aspects of the plan.

Key projects will gain momentum over the course of this programme including public realm improvement projects for Our Balbriggan, the Swords Cultural Quarter project, sustainable transport projects, redevelopment and improvement works on our heritage properties and a full range of active travel projects.

I am certain we are all positively looking forward to the 22<sup>nd</sup> of October where this phase will see the majority of restrictions lifted and replaced by guidance and advice to enable us to work together to protect ourselves and to live our lives to the fullest extent possible.

We will need to continue to monitor the ongoing risk from the disease and take steps individually and collectively in our everyday lives to keep this risk under control. Staff will continue the transition of returning to the office on the basis of a phased and cautious return and in the context that services must continue to be delivered. A review of our buildings is underway and will include upgrades to ensure that the benefits of remote meetings are maintained by

implementing technological and meeting space solutions.

I was delighted to see The Shackleton Garden open officially in September. The Garden will provide a fantastic tourist attraction for Dublin 15 and will be an excellent addition to the Liffey Valley Trail in Fingal. This significant investment from Fingal County Council and Fáilte Ireland opens the Garden up to the public as an important local amenity, visitor attraction and tourism asset in the Dublin 15 area.

The 1<sup>st</sup> of October marked a special commemoration for the lives of those lost to Covid-19 where I joined our Mayor, Cllr Seána Ó Rodaigh, in planting a memorial tree in Townpark Swords. This tree planting was one of several taking place across the country to mark International Day for Older Persons. The Commemorations Committee is considering other ways in which we can pay tribute to and remember loved ones and all those who have passed away throughout the pandemic.

**AnnMarie Farrelly**  
**Chief Executive**

## HR, CORPORATE AND GOVERNANCE

### Contents

Major Emergency Management  
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Health & Safety Unit  
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Communications

### Major Emergency Management



The Major Emergency Management structures in place within the Council have proven to be very effective and continue to serve us well as we look forward to the 22<sup>nd</sup> of October where this phase will see the majority of restrictions lifted and replaced by guidance and advice to enable us to work together to protect ourselves and to live our lives to the fullest extent possible.

Fingal County Council's Executive Management Team and senior management continue to meet regularly to ensure continuity of services and put measures in place to align with the Government's plan for the final phase of their response to the COVID-19 pandemic COVID-19: Reframing the Challenge, Continuing Our Recovery and Reconnecting.

#### Human Resources

The Human Resource Department continues to plan for and respond to the challenges brought by Covid19 in line with the Government's **COVID-19** Reframing the Challenge, Continuing Our Recovery and Reconnecting plan. Staff continue to be kept up to date on relevant Government directives and are provided with useful information through text alerts and a dedicated staff information webpage. The recent Government announcement that a return to the office may commence on a phased and staggered attendance basis from Monday, 20 September, has seen the process of welcoming more of our staff back

to our offices. Each section within the Council will be developing their own plans as to how attendance at the office will work and evolve in the coming months

Training and development of our staff, including statutory Health & Safety training, continues throughout the pandemic ensuring that critical services are not adversely affected. As part of the Local Authority Climate Action Training Programme, Council staff are currently undertaking "Climate Action - Raising Awareness" training, delivered through the Climate Ireland Learning Platform. The HR Department is continuing the roll out of Diversity, Interculturalism Training which will assist the Council in meeting its obligations under the Public Sector Equality & Human Rights Duty.

The HR Department is currently engaging in large scale recruitment campaigns for a range of roles.

#### Health & Safety Unit (HSU)

The HSU has continued with finalization and publication of ancillary safety statements. The 2021 corporate safety statement has been published on Share point. Site safety inspections, audits and accident investigation continues along with VDU and remote VDU assessments for new entrants / returning staff. The HSU is also currently engaged in addressing the safety queries of staff returning to the office.

#### Customer Services

County Hall and the Civic Offices re-opened to the public on Monday 6<sup>th</sup> September. During the month a total of 1,124 people called to the office to conduct business in person broken down as follows -

County Hall	504
Civic Offices	620

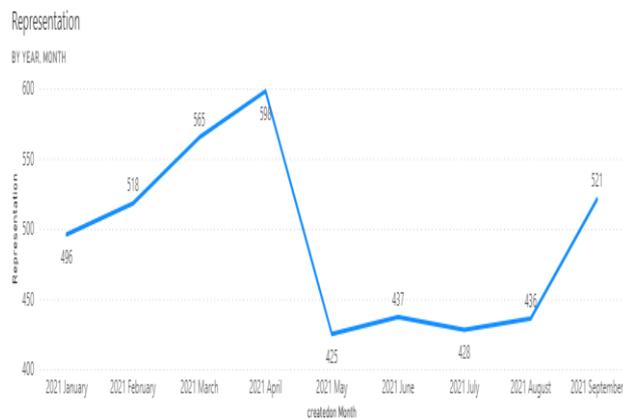
The Council's Customer Care agents continued to manage business with the public on the phones and by email during this time as the first point of contact -

Phone Calls	15,931
Emails	955

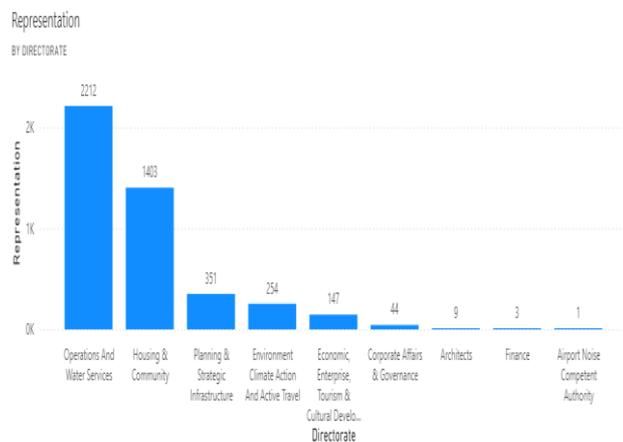
### CRM

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

The month of September had a total of 521 Councillor's representations.



The table below shows the number of Councillor's representations assigned to each Department for the year to date.



### Information Technology

#### Digital Working

In September staff took part in 9,282 Teams meetings, 39,052 Calls took place, and 807,077 emails were received or sent by the Council.



#### IT Infrastructure & Support

885 support calls were logged by Council staff with the IT Service Desk in the past month and 30 calls were logged by Councillors with Sord. 100% server availability and 100% network availability was achieved in the month of September.

#### Document Management System

The implementation of the FinDocs Document Management System is continuing on schedule. Community and Libraries went live in September bringing to eight the number of Departments who are now up and running on the new system. Work is in progress to bring Operations Department on board.

#### CRM System

The project to replace the Council's CRM system has commenced and the initial discovery phase has been completed. The project is currently in the business process mapping phase which aims to standardise processes with a view to improved efficiency and minimising the cost of digitalisation. The next phase will be system design followed by system build and implementation. In conjunction with the implementation of the replacement CRM system, the Councillors' Reps system will also be updated. The implementation of phase one of the new system will take place in mid-2022.

## Libraries IT Upgrades

Work is now complete on the Libraries IT upgrade project. Public WiFi has been upgraded and new technologies installed in Balbriggan, Baldoye, Blanchardstown, Donabate, Howth, Malahide, Rush and Swords libraries.

### Public Wi-Fi



On the 9th September, The Mayor of Fingal, Councillor Seána Ó Rodaigh, the Minister of State at the Department of Rural and Community Development, Minister Joe O'Brien and the Chairs of the three Area Committees officially launched free outdoor Public Wi-Fi hotspots in towns and villages across Fingal.

The initiative is supported by the WiFi4EU voucher scheme which aims to provide high-quality internet access across the EU to citizens and visitors via free of charge WiFi hotspots in public spaces such as town and village centres, parks and civic spaces.

A total of 47 WiFi access points are being installed at 18 locations across Fingal. There are seven live access points in Swords, with five in Malahide, Howth and Skerries and four in Rush. Donabate and Blanchardstown Village will have three live access points with two in Lusk, Naul, Blanchardstown Civic Centre and St. Catherine's Park. Garristown, Portrane, Portmarnock, Clonsilla, Castleknock, Mudhuddart and Ongar will have one live access point each.

The Council would like to commend the local businesses who have facilitated the rollout of public WiFi by allowing the WiFi devices to be installed on their premises.

## Smart Mobility Hub



As council offices prepare for a return of all staff, Fingal County Council have commenced a pilot programme that aims to give greater flexibility to employees, reduce traffic congestion, and cut carbon emissions across the region. The initiative is being led by Smart Dublin and Dublin City Council with a consortium of councils, businesses and researchers delivering smart mobility solutions for workplaces.

The Smart Mobility Hub is designed to reduce the use of personal cars for site visits and inspections by offering electric vehicles which are free for staff to use and booked via a single mobile app. This initiative is supported by Fingal County Council IT, Building Facilities and Corporate Services Departments. Electric cars and electric bikes will be available for staff to book from our main offices at Blanchardstown and Swords. Email [smartmobilityhub@fingal.ie](mailto:smartmobilityhub@fingal.ie) for further info.

## Smart Balbriggan Community Hackathon



The Changing Face of Balbriggan Community Hackathon is a free, day-long event which will be held on Saturday, 16<sup>th</sup> October from 9am-6pm. The

hybrid event is open to everyone over the age of 18 in either the Bracken Court Hotel or on-line for those who cannot make it in person.

The hackathon will examine a number of challenges facing the town such as the question of how to make Balbriggan an investment destination, how to develop a thriving creative arts and culture sector and how to build a stronger, cohesive and vibrant community. There is a competitive element to the event and winners, who will be announced just before 6pm on Saturday evening, will get an opportunity to further develop their ideas, including possible seed funding!

The event is being run by facilitators What The Hack in conjunction with the Smart Balbriggan project, an initiative of Fingal County Council, which was launched last year to explore how technology and innovation can improve the town.

For more information and to register, visit <https://balbriggan.ie/the-changing-face-of-balbriggan-community-hackathon-october-16th-2021/>

## Communications

### Podcast

Episode 13 of the Inside Fingal Podcast features an interview with Denis Hyland, who is a Football Development Officer with Fingal County Council and Course Coordinator of the Football and Fitness Transition Year Course which is run by the Council in partnership with the Football Association of Ireland in Corduff Sports Centre.



All podcasts in the series are available at [www.fingal.ie/podcast](http://www.fingal.ie/podcast).

The Inside Fingal Podcast has been nominated in the Best Local Authority Innovation category for an Excellence in Local Government Award.

### Website

There were 111,500 visitors to our website, [fingal.ie](http://fingal.ie), during September which was the second highest monthly total achieved in 2021. There were a total of 287,900 page views.

Choice Based Letting was the page which attracted the most traffic during the month with 17,700 visitors and 31,800 page views. Other high performing pages were planning applications, COVID-19 testing, jobs, recycling centres and libraries.

### Social Media

Our Twitter account, @fingalcoco, had 771,600 impressions during September and an average engagement rate of 1.5% for 442 tweets. 184 new followers were added to bring the total number of followers to 20,363.

The best performing tweet, with 51,301 impressions and 2,274 engagements, was about Andrew Omobamidele being the first graduate from the Football and Fitness Transition Year course run by Fingal County Council and the Football Association of Ireland to play at senior level for Ireland



Our Facebook page had 1.17million impressions during September and the number of followers rose by 267 to 23,920. There are currently 4,252 following

our Instagram account while LinkedIn has 4,722 followers. Our You Tube account now has 554 subscribers which is an increase of 203 or 58% since January.

## Projects and Campaigns



On Wednesday, 08 September a group of 25 Old Irish Goats moved to their new home on Howth Head. This was the launch of phase one of a 3 year partnership project between Fingal County Council and the Old Irish Goat Society. These goats will play an important role in managing growth to reduce fire risk to homes, while also enhancing the biodiversity of the priority heathland habitats. Biodiversity Officer Hans Visser, Shepard Melissa Jeuken and members of the Howth SAAO and the Old Irish Goats Society were joined by the press to welcome the goats.

The story really caught the imagination of the public and press coverage of this project has been very successful. We gained extensive coverage of the launch locally, nationally and internationally with a number of follow up pieces in the weeks since launch.

To date the story has been featured by RTE News, The Times Ireland and UK, Reuters, The Guardian, The Sun, The Echo, Agriland, TG4, BBC Newsround, RTE News2Day, Newstalk, TodayFM and news websites from locations as far flung as Fiji and Canada.

Social media response was also resoundingly positive and far reaching with more than 39k impressions on Twitter, over 3k impressions on Facebook and over 380 views of our video on YouTube.

The Unit also worked on other projects during the month including the official opening of The Shackleton Garden, Bike Week, Cultural Night, Make Way Day, Fingal Festival of History, Fingal Poetry Festival, Online Housing Assistance Payments, Weather Stations for Primary Schools, Climate Action Week, MarathonKids, Sustainable Swords and consultations in Naul, Garristown and Lanesborough.

## Videos

The Communications Unit produced a series of self-help videos for Bike Week and also produced news videos on the opening of The Shackleton Garden and the return of Old Irish Goats to Howth Head. A series of information videos in relation to housing were also produced. All can be viewed at <https://www.youtube.com/c/FingalCountyCouncilVideo/videos>

## Press Releases and Media Queries

We issued 30 press releases during September and dealt with 22 media queries of which five were interview requests.

# ECONOMIC, ENTERPRISE, TOURISM & CULTURAL DEVELOPMENT

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

## EVENTS

### SWORDS CASTLE CREEPY CRAWL



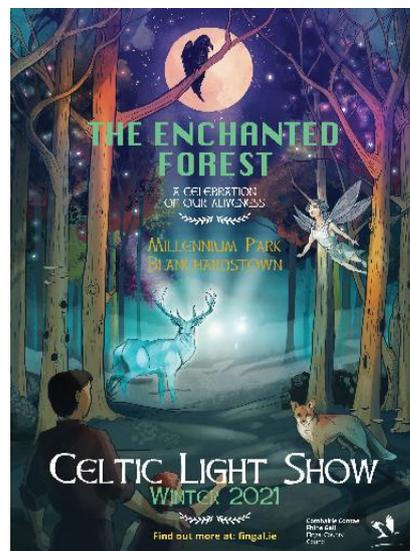
This is a 3-day ticketed event based in Swords Castle over the Halloween weekend and will be a haunting experience.

### ILLUMINATION FINGAL



We are currently planning to illuminate 12 locations in Fingal which will be lit up over the Halloween weekend.

### ENCHANTED FOREST- MILLENNIUM PARK



This month-long event will illuminate a 600 metre area of the Millennium Park and will consist of 20 plus different light/ animated and audio installations the event will run from 5<sup>th</sup> -28th November.

## TOURISM

### FINGAL TOURISM HOSPITALITY GROUP

The tourism recovery campaign continued throughout September 2021 with the rollout of new content, itineraries and the promotion of saleable experiences to increase potential spend.

Feedback from the Fingal Tourism Hospitality Group, who met in September, which comprises of representatives from the Economic, Enterprise, Tourism and Cultural Development Department and members of the Fingal Dublin Chamber, was very positive.

Fáilte Ireland have launched a major Dublin campaign for Q4 2021 as they recognise it has been most severely hit by Covid. Love Fingal Dublin will leverage this heavily resourced campaign to the benefit of tourism in the area.

### FINGAL FOOD TOURISM NETWORK

Working with Fáilte Ireland and the food consultant assigned to the Fingal Food Tourism Network the following is the agreed plan for Q4 2021 and Q1 2022:

- A series of speed networking building events
- Internal familiarisation visits to food business with training elements
- External fam visits to other networks
- Workshops or training events:
- Creation of a Dublin Coast and Fields cook book/ launch event for the book
- Developing a Fingal seafood trail
- Media visits

### TOURISM DEVELOPMENT GROUPS

Skerries Tourism are busy organising a “Winter in Skerries” event which will dovetail with the recently launched Fáilte Ireland “Winter in Dublin” campaign. The group is applying for LEADER funding to support the event.

Howth Tourism has developed a new operational model which is aimed at being more inclusive and collaborative of all businesses in the area including those involved in tourism and those tangentially involved. Fáilte Ireland is involved in this process and has offered various supports which will commence in November 2021.

Dublin 15 Tourism has formalised the group with a partnership agreement and have agreed a comprehensive action plan for 2022. The Liffey Valley Trail will feature in a mini campaign on Love Fingal Dublin for Q4 2021.

Malahide -working with Fáilte Ireland on the National Environmental Monitoring Scheme. This scheme which will identify and characterise tourism movements and behaviours to understand tourism interactions with environment sensitivities. This 5 year study will result in very useful information and data for Malahide with initial results being shared by Fáilte Ireland early 2022.

### HERITAGE PROPERTIES



### EASING OF COVID 19 RESTRICTIONS

Under the phased easing of Covid 19 restrictions, guided tours within indoor attractions were permitted in pods of 6 from 20<sup>th</sup> September 2021.

The Donabate Historical Society will be re-opening their local history museum in the courtyard at Newbridge House from 22<sup>nd</sup> October.

### RECENT HERITAGE PROPERTIES CONSERVATION WORKS INCLUDE:

**Ardgillan Castle** – Tenders for Conservation Management Plan have been evaluated and the contract has now been awarded. Work on the conservation plan will commence shortly.

The tour rooms of the castle will be painted during November and December.

**Swords Castle** – all public realm works to the front of the castle have now been completed.

### MARKETING/PROMOTION OF HERITAGE PROPERTIES

**Malahide Castle** - 4 Candlelight concerts took place on the West Lawn in September. A Halloween event will run from the 27<sup>th</sup> to 29<sup>th</sup> October.

Tickets for the Castle of Lights Event will go on sale from the 29<sup>th</sup> of September. This will be a lighting and projection spectacular in the West Lawn running from the 18<sup>th</sup> of October to the 23<sup>rd</sup> of December Thursday to Sunday from 5pm to 9pm.

**Newbridge House** - The Farm has been a great success and to date visitor numbers have exceeded full year 2019 levels and are now forecasted to exceed 100,000.

Seasonal ticket offers to drive business are now in place with midweek senior offers and kids under 12 go free weekdays after school from 1pm.

**Ardgillan Castle** - Culture Night at Ardgillan was a great success, with many people in attendance. The castle is currently hosting three major filming productions: *Callan's Kicks*, the children's TV show *Bright Sparks* (their fourth year at Ardgillan) and a full length movie entitled *Uncle Silas*. Filming will continue here until mid-November.

A Christmas Craft Fair is also being planned for the artists in residence, which will take place in December.

### **CREATIVE FINGAL PROGRAMME 2021**

The Creative Ireland programme is continuing steadily with many of the approved projects at delivery stage. The Creative Ireland co-ordinator is monitoring progress on all of the approved projects and is actively working with community groups and providing practical advice on the delivery, advertising and the drawdown of funding to ensure that all of the funding allocated is utilised and that the Creative Ireland programme for 2021 is a success.

### **SMALL BUSINESS ASSISTANCE SCHEME FOR COVID**

Fingal County Council's SBASC team has processed all applications received for Q2. The Small Business Assistance scheme for Covid Grant scheme. The purpose of the scheme was to give direct grant aid to micro and small businesses to assist with costs of re-opening, keeping a business operational and re-connecting with employees and customers.

Fingal County Council paid out €572,000 to 143 businesses in the Fingal area under the first phase of the scheme (Q1 SBASC) and a further €560,000 to 155 businesses under the second phase (Q2 SBASC) of the scheme.

### **ARTS OFFICE**

#### **Public Art – Commemorations 2021 – A Burning Tide**



Fingal County Council's Arts Office in partnership with The Irish Writers Centre successfully delivered a unique film and writing commission to remember the Burning of the 6 Coastguard Cottages in Fingal by the IRA. The historical details that were available of this historical event were re-imagined through poetry and prose by some of Ireland's most prolific writers, Dermot Bolger, Enda Coyle Green, Kit de Waal, Stephen Walsh, Ciara ni E, & Eilis ni Dhuibhne.

These new works were performed and filmed on site at various locations in Loughshinny by host of well-known theatre & TV actors including RTE's Joe Duffy, Pat Kinevane, Marion O'Dwyer, Niamh McCann, Ian Lloyd Anderson & Kate Gilmore. The finished piece was screened at Loughshinny Boathouse outdoors over two evenings, the Mayor & The Irish Writer Centre attended the preview, and the screening was also a key piece for Culture Night, it was available online on Culture Night until midnight also. Plans to screen the piece again are ongoing. The work was funded by the Commemorations Unit of The Department of Tourism, Culture, Arts, Gaeltacht, Sports & Media and the Arts Council's Culture Night Fund.

## CULTURE NIGHT 2021



Culture Night Fingal saw a countywide programme of events open and available free of charge to the public on the 17<sup>th</sup> of September. Our Heritage Houses opened their doors on the evening, Newbridge House welcomed visitors to join a curator's tour of the recent contemporary art exhibition Guest and Ardgillan hosted an open studios evening with the residents of the craft space. Dunsink observatory delivered an online visit to the observatory with further events taking place online and in person in Swords, Balbriggan and Naul and Loughshinny Harbour with A Burning Tide.

## MUSICIAN-IN-RESIDENCE PROGRAMME 2021/2022



### ***Musician Eamonn Galldubh and students from St. Molaga's NS Balbriggan (Feb 2020)***

Fingal's Musician-in-residence programme enables over 2,000 primary school children to advance their music education. 25 primary schools benefit from this programme which brings professional musicians to work with teachers and children in schools during the school day. The programme began in 2019 but was disrupted by public health concerns during 2020/2021.

Now the Arts Office is encouraging all participating schools to reactivate their projects with financial and advisory support. 13 schools have completed the

necessary assessment and are set to begin their projects this month. The arts office is continuing to work with the remaining schools to see them successfully reinstate their projects in line with new approaches to working in the classroom.

## MICRO FOREST, 2021 – 2022



### ***Students working with Gareth Kennedy at Blakestown Community School (Sept 2021)***

This autumn Fingal Arts Office, Artist Gareth Kennedy and a team of creative professionals return to Micro Forest – Seanchai site at Blakestown Community School to reactivate the forest as a site for learning about art and ecology with a new group of TY students. The forest became overgrown during the summer months & one species didn't prosper due to the summer heat wave. A full assessment of the trees and forest health has taken place and maintenance will begin in Oct.

The autumn workshop season kick started on Sept 27 with 'Towards a new silviculture' - Youth & Education Officer Julie Clarke & Gareth met with a new group of 20 students to introduce Gareth's art practice and the project's story so far. Ice-breaker games assisted with team building and group bonding.

On Oct 4 'author Niall McCoitir and artist Hannah Bohacova will facilitate a session titled 'Trees, Weeds & Folklore', leading on to practical hands-on engagement with the forest such as identification of species while Niall shares stories of the associated myths & legends as presented in his writing.

Following this the students will be taught how to make their own charcoal from wood burning techniques by craftsman Eoin Donnelly in a workshop titled 'Carbon and the Forest Floor'. This newly made charcoal will be their material for drawing

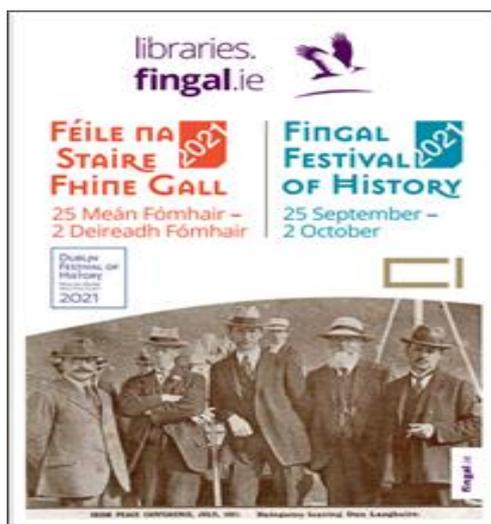
the local forest species found. The month will end with a workshop titled **'Winter Tonic'**. Using locally sourced ingredients – elderflower and hawthorn, the students will be taught how to make a winter tonic by artist Hannah Bohacova.

## LIBRARIES

### Branch library services

Since 20th September a more extensive range of services is available at branch libraries as we continue to emerge from the COVID pandemic. As well as browsing and lending services, reading and study spaces are now available as are meeting rooms. Library staff have organised a full programme of online events and activities and in person events will begin over the coming weeks.

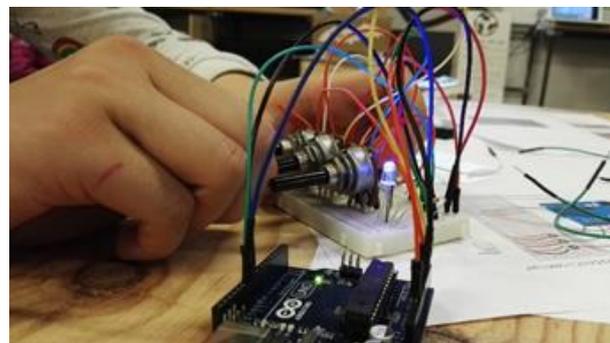
### Fingal Festival of History



There has been great interest in this year's Fingal Festival of History which ran from 25th September to 2nd October. Covering one of the most divisive periods in Irish history including the Partition, the Truce and the Anglo-Irish Treaty, the Festival programme was thought provoking and informative. The talks were pre-recorded at the Chapel at Swords Castle and are available to view on the Fingal Libraries YouTube channel. Topics covered include the coastguard at Malahide and Portmarnock; everyday life in Fingal in 1921; the Fingal IRA and the War of Independence; the Truce in Fingal; the peace

process of 1920-1921; the impact of partition; and music and songs relating to 1919-1921. The Council's Commemorations unit part funds the running of the Festival.

### Creator in Residence



The Council has appointed Kate Delaney, founder and CEO of Make Create Innovate, as its first Maker in Residence, to develop the new makerspace area at Blanchardstown Library. The new makerspace will be a dynamic and diverse space, promoting hands-on creative education programmes in the community. Working across different branch libraries in Fingal, Kate will design and deliver a programme of activities which will explore creativity and technology.

The initial workshops in the Autumn will focus on getting input into the makerspace design from young people, during a series of 3D modelling workshops called **Design Your Makerspace**. We will also explore the theme of **Ocean Ecology Action** with a series of hands-on creative workshops, which will introduce young people to life underwater, as well as learn about how we can bring about change to better support this environment. Other workshops include An Introduction to 3D Design & Printing, An Introduction to 2D Design & Laser Cutting, Design and Build a ZooBot, Make LED Artwork, and many more!

Our initial programme of workshops and courses will be delivered during October, November and December 2021 and will be scheduled after school, on Saturdays, and as part of a Halloween Camp, October 25<sup>th</sup> – 29<sup>th</sup>. The Creator in Residence programme is part funded by Creative Ireland.

### **Blanchardstown Library refurbishment works**

After a period of refurbishment, Blanchardstown library reopened on Monday 20<sup>th</sup> September. The new refurbishments reflect the changing usage of libraries and include 70 study spaces, 2 meeting/study booths for 4 people, and 2 soundproof collaboration/meeting pods for 4 people and 10 people respectively. There are a total of 26 public access pcs, an IT training room, and a project room complete with AV technology to allow for communication between sites and the recording of events. The new makerspace is being equipped by the Maker in Residence and should be operational by later in October with a full set of programming.

The Library still retains all of the traditional services with a large range of adult and junior fiction and non-fiction available to borrow, and seating to allow people to have a read and relax. The junior section has a new sensory pod and new homework seating. Borrowable tablets and devices will be available from October.

### **Migrant family literacy project**

Work continues on the planning stage of the family migrant literacy project. This is a collaborative project with the Fingal Integration Officer, Valorie McAllorum and senior Fingal community officers. The project will concentrate on the areas of Flemington in Balbriggan and /diverse areas and both of which score highly on the social deprivation index.

The project is modelled on the Write to Read programme created by Dr. Eithne Kennedy and her team in the DCU Education Department. Two of the team members are devising the programme plan for us and this will be delivered over a 6-week period beginning the week of 22<sup>nd</sup> October. The project's objective is to help parents in assisting their children to read and is aimed at families identified as most at need by Home School Liaison Officers.

### **Work Matters**

Mintel market research reports are available through Fingal Libraries as part of the Work Matters

programme. Mintel Ireland reports cover market, consumer and brand research as well as tracking international market insights and trends. There are two upcoming online presentations on Mintel which will be of interest to business students and to entrepreneurs:

1. **How to conduct market research:** This session is a "behind the scenes" look at Mintel, as an analyst will talk through how they go about producing the in-market reports that are readily available. Date: 14<sup>th</sup> October at 12pm

2. **Mintel overview session:** The aim of the session is to provide a brief overview of the Mintel platform. This will include tips on navigating the site, setting up useful alerts, finding key stats and content. Date: 21<sup>st</sup> October at 12pm

### **Bookclub news**

Fingal Libraries online book club, will meet on Wednesday 20<sup>th</sup> October at 6.30pm via MS Teams. The book club will discuss 'The Last September' by Elizabeth Bowen. Further details are available from [ciara.farrell@fingal.ie](mailto:ciara.farrell@fingal.ie)

The group recently submitted their votes, under a new library book club category, for the Dublin Literary Festival longlist. They chose 'Boys Don't Cry' by Fíona Scarlett and Fíona has been invited to give a talk in Blanchardstown Library in November.

### **October events for children**



**Children's Book Festival** runs throughout the month of October and Fingal Libraries has organised lots of great events for little ones, including a creative writing course for 8-12 year olds and live zoom sessions by authors with school classes.



The aim of **EU Code Week** is to make coding and digital literacy accessible in a fun and engaging way. Fingal Libraries has organised coding workshops for children both for first-time and for more experienced coders.

Details of all our events are at: <https://www.fingal.ie/council/service/fingal-library-events>

## ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

### Our Balbriggan 2019 – 2025 Rejuvenation Plan – A Socio-Economic Strategy



The Our Balbriggan Programme Office continues to support the Chair of the Leadership Group and its five pillars, who meet regularly, to progress work across a range of economic and social measures including: Growing the Local Economy, Public Realm & Infrastructure, Education, Skills & Employment, Community Integration, Health & Well Being and Community Safety.

The five pillar chairs and memberships will share progress, cross cutting issues and emerging priorities at a planned event in advance of the next Balbriggan Leadership Group meeting scheduled on 27<sup>th</sup> October.

DBFL Consulting Engineers have been appointed as Active Travel and Transport Consultants to advise on the town's transportation and active travel system and make recommendations for improvements. DBFL are liaising closely with The Paul Hogarth Company, the Masterplanning Consultants and with the Integrated Design Team for Quay Street.



Paul Keogh Architects have been appointed as the Integrated Design Team (IDT) for the re-imagined Quay Street and Harbour Area. Stage 1 Internal and external stakeholder engagement workshops have been taking place during the month of September. The workshops, which have been well attended, will inform early stage design, and form part of ongoing engagement up to Part 8 planning application which is anticipated in Mid-2022.

The Council has recently acquired 14 Bridge Street, which will be integrated into the Bridge Street/Millpond Park re-development. Minor works will be carried out shortly to secure and help reveal the future potential of the site.

The Our Balbriggan Hub opened its doors to celebrate Culture Night 2021 and marked the occasion with a special photographic exhibition featuring 13 images captured by local photographers. Musical performances took place by musicians from the locally based Irish Institute of Music and Song.

Local Artist Alison O'Grady did a live illustration on the night of her specially commissioned piece titled "Balbriggan is class" inspired by Balbriggan local Olympian Andrew Coscoran



There were many visitors dropping by the Hub on culture night including Mayor, Cllr Seána Ó Rodaigh, the previewed amateur photographers and family members of Olympian, Andrew Coscoran.



**Local Enterprise Office Fingal**



LEO Fingal provides a broad suite of support services to stimulate enterprise and enable small businesses to succeed. Some of the LEO highlights for September 2021 are as follows:

**Student Enterprise Programme Launch**



The Fingal Student Enterprise Programme (SEP) was launched on Wednesday, September 15<sup>th</sup> by the Mayor of Fingal, Cllr. Seána Ó Rodaigh. The 2021-22 SEP will be similar to last year, in that remote workshops will still be an option however this year students will have the opportunity to receive workshops in-person (subject to public health guidelines). 20 Fingal schools have registered to participate in this year's programme.

**Evaluation and Approvals Committee**

The next Evaluation and Approvals Committee (EVAC) meeting will take place on Wednesday the 6<sup>th</sup> of October. Thirty companies were approved funding in 2021, with a combined value of €694,730.

**Green for Micro Initiative – Mentoring/Consulting Programme for SMEs**



LEO Fingal have approved 9 applicants for Green for Micro programme, an initiative from the Local Enterprise Office to help prepare small businesses for the low carbon, more resource efficient economy of the future. This programme is available to companies with up to ten employees.

## Trading Online Voucher (TOV) scheme



An initiative under the Government's National Digital Strategy, the TOV scheme supports small businesses to enhance their online offering by providing a grant of up to €2,500 for ecommerce and digital marketing activities. Since January 2021, 306 applications were approved in the amount of €677,570. A TOV information online seminar took place on Friday, 3<sup>rd</sup> September which had 196 people in attendance. The next webinar will take place on Friday, 5<sup>th</sup> November 2021.

## Brexit/Customs Workshops

A "Prepare your Business for Customs" workshop took place on Tuesday the 21<sup>st</sup> of September. The workshop aimed to assist businesses in understanding what they need to do to trade with the UK and other 'Third Countries', how tariffs work and how to correctly classify goods. There were in total 17 attendees who took part in the online workshop for September. In 2021, so far 12 workshops have been delivered with 303 Fingal businesses participating overall.

## Fingal Enterprising Women Network (FEWN)



FEWN continues to provide online learning and networking opportunities to provide a platform that encourages and enables networking and peer to peer learning among women in business. The September

online event took place on Tuesday, 14<sup>th</sup> September "Creating PR Content that Captivates" to help businesses make the most of this all-important marketing tool attended by 150 female entrepreneurs.

## National Women's Enterprise Day (NWED)



This year's National Women's Enterprise Day will take place on the 7<sup>th</sup> of October as an online event.

Fingal's Derya Sousa of Kianda Technologies will participate in an intriguing spotlight session as part of the event and Ciara Garvan of Work Juggle will feature as the leading light for Fingal. The day's programme will cover a whole host of areas such internationalisation, finding new markets, trading online, sustainability and innovation.

## Business Advice Clinics and Mentoring



Business Advice Clinics and mentoring continue to be offered online. Since January 2021, 79 Business Advice Clinic days were held, offering advice and support to 742 Fingal Businesses. In addition, 282 companies received one to one mentoring.

## Start Your Own Business (SYOB)

The SYOB programme continues to be highly popular. Up to the end of September 2021, 238 aspiring Fingal entrepreneurs undertook one of 12 online SYOB Programmes. The next programme is scheduled to commence on 26<sup>th</sup> of October.

## LEAN for Business Programme



The LEAN Business Programme is designed to increase efficiency and drive business growth by enabling the implementation of key LEAN principles. Thirteen Fingal businesses have undertaken the 2021 LEAN programme in 2021. A free information session took place on Wednesday September 1<sup>st</sup>, which fed into the latest Fingal led programme that commenced on September 16<sup>th</sup>.

### Microfinance Ireland COVID-19 Loans

LEO Fingal provides a loan scheme through its partnership with Microfinance Ireland, with “soft” loans of up to €25,000. LEO Fingal is actively promoting the availability of loans from businesses that have difficulty raising finance from their bank. Sixteen applications have been processed, assessed and submitted to MFI to date this year.

### Dublin Food Starter Programme

Ten Fingal food entrepreneurs completed the Food Starter programme to date in 2021. The next programme led by Fingal commences on 12<sup>th</sup> of October. Food Starter is an intensive and compact training programme for individuals that wish to start a new food production business.

### Export Compass Series of Webinars

In collaboration with Enterprise Ireland, a series of webinars entitled Export Compass began on the 7<sup>th</sup> of September and will be due to conclude on the 5<sup>th</sup> of October 2021. This series is aimed at businesses seeking to enter the world of exporting. The series will include five highly informative 45-minute webinars taking place each Tuesday at 10am.

## Showcase 2022



LEO Fingal is now taking applications from craft and design businesses that wish to participate in Showcase – Ireland’s Creative Expo. Three eligible Fingal businesses will be selected to promote their business at this major international trade fair. The event will take place from the 23 - 26<sup>th</sup> of January 2022 in the RDS and was launched in September by the Design & Craft Council of Ireland with Fingal Head of Enterprise.

### Local & Rural Development

#### **LOCAL COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE**

The Fingal LCDC continues to oversee and administer the key areas of LEADER and SICAP and the various Local Development and Community Development funding programmes under its remit. The LCDC is also supporting the work of the Community Call through the Healthy Ireland Initiative, the Community Resilience Fund and the Keepwell Campaign, and the many projects up and running under those funding streams.

#### **COMMUNITY ENHANCEMENT PROGRAMME 2021**

The Fingal Local Community Development Committee (LCDC) continues to pay out grants to the 81 groups that were approved for 2021 Scheme funding. The Community Enhancement Programme (CEP) is funded by the Department of Rural and Community Development and was launched nationally in May by the Minister for Rural and Community Development, Heather Humphreys TD, and the Minister of State with responsibility for Community Development and Charities, Joe O’Brien TD.

The scheme aims to:

- support local groups to re-open their facilities post COVID-19
- provide small grants for facilities repairs and renovations, new equipment and safety upgrades
- a focus on providing funding in disadvantaged areas

The CEP provides a flexible and targeted approach to funding those communities most in need and is aimed at addressing disadvantage as identified in the Fingal Local Economic and Community Plan and also at this time supporting local community and voluntary groups with reopening costs as a result of COVID 19

### **SICAP**

The SICAP Annual Plan for 2021 continues to be implemented. The €1.24m 2021 SICAP Plan has ambitious KPIs which take into account the many challenges arising from delivering services in a Covid 19 environment. Indications to date are that the 2021 SICAP Programme is progressing well and within expectations. The mid-year review of the 2021 annual implementation plan is complete and a positive delivery of the programme for 2021 is expected.

### **LEADER PROGRAMME**

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

The updated 2021/22 Transitional Funding Arrangements for the LEADER Programme were recently announced with the Dublin Rural LEADER LAG approved for €1,882,175 to cover both projects funding and administration funding for the period April 2021 – December 2022. Of this amount, €1,411,631 is now available for LEADER Project Applications under the categories of Rural Enterprise, Social Inclusion and Rural Environment. Historically,

Fingal Projects comprise of 65-70% of the total LEADER Projects Funding, roughly corresponding to Fingal's share of the Dublin Rural LEADER Geographical Area.

The LEADER Programme reverted on the 1st April to EU Transition Rules for the period 2021-22 with a new Dublin Rural LEADER Local Development Strategy to be put in place for 2023. Under the Transitional Arrangements the Dublin Rural LEADER LAG and the LEADER Programme will continue to be funded by the Department of Rural and Community Development under the same eligibility and LEADER implementation rules as before. LEADER will continue to approve and fund new projects as normal.

The most recent meeting of the Dublin Rural LEADER Local Action Group (LAG) took place in August with 4 projects approved with a total value of €114,000. Going forward there is currently over €3 million in the new LEADER projects pipeline of which over €1 million is for Rural Enterprise.

Fingal County Council continues to deliver the financial and administrative oversight responsibilities for the approval and drawdown of LEADER funded projects following the national transfer of the LEADER Article 48 Administrative Checks from Pobal to the Local Authority Sector.

### **Town and Village Streetscape Enhancement Scheme 2021**

Fingal County Council has been awarded a maximum of €260,000 in funding by the Department of Rural and Community Development under the new Town and Village Streetscape Enhancement Scheme 2021. This Scheme provides €7 million nationally as part of Our Rural Future, a five-year strategy to revitalise rural Ireland and make our rural towns and villages more vibrant and attractive places to live, work and visit.

The funding aims to support the upgrade of shopfronts and building facades and the enhancement of streets and open space through painting, artwork, murals, signage

replacement/removal, street furniture, lighting and planting in five towns and villages in Fingal.

Fingal County Council sought applications from businesses and community groups in the towns of Rush, Lusk, Donabate, Skerries and Oldtown to fund enhancement works in designated areas.

Received applications are currently being evaluated with successful projects to be approved by the Department of Rural and Community Development.

options and facilities. Bespoke options or generic office fit-out options can be considered.

The renovation works in the Beat Centre are now complete. Funding for these renovations has been provided by the Dublin Rural LEADER Programme. The newly fitted out space allows Beat to expand its offering in the areas of remote working hub space and flexible start-up workspace.

## **ENTERPRISE CENTRES**

Fingal's Enterprise Centres welcome the launch of ConnectedHubs.ie and look forward to participating in the initiative for the benefit of Fingal based Businesses and Remote Workers. ConnectedHubs.ie is your one-stop-shop for hubs throughout Ireland. Launched in May 2021, it is designed to simplify and standardise the process of sourcing and booking spaces, desks, offices and events in hubs for a day, a week, a month, a year or longer. ConnectedHubs.ie is operated by The National Hub Network, a Government of Ireland initiative that provides a vehicle for individual hubs to come together under a shared identity to maximise the economic opportunity of remote working. The National Hub Network has the support of Government, remote working advocacy groups and industry representatives. In this way, ConnectedHubs.ie also encompasses a range of key features that deliver significant benefits to member hubs, hub clients, employers, local communities and the wider economy.

Under the Connected Hubs Funding Scheme, BASE Enterprise Centre secured €75,000 for centre upgrades.

Occupancy rates at the Council's three enterprise centres at the end of September were Drinan 84%, BASE 88% and Beat 88%. The three Enterprise Centres currently support 62 businesses and 320 direct jobs. All three Enterprise Centres have space available to businesses who wish to avail of remote working

# OPERATIONS & WATER SERVICES

## Contents

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

### 1. Works Programmes

#### 2021 Programme of Works

The delivery of the 2021 Programme of Works continues into Q4. The following are examples of works completed in various areas across the County since the Programme was approved by Members.



Surface dressing works at Corrstown



Road restoration works on Forest Road, Swords.



Surface dressing works at Lauristown



Road resurfacing works on Railway Avenue, Baldoyle



**Footpath works on Thormamby Road, Howth.**



**Road Repair works Man O War and Loughshinny  
Howth / Malahide Area**



**Footpath works on Asgard Road, Howth.**

**Depot Works Programmes:**

In addition to the delivery of the Annual Programme of Works depot crews deliver on other area work programmes.

**Balbriggan / Swords Area**



**R132 Drainage works Balrothery**



**Dropped kerb crossing point at junction into Gainsbrough Avenue, Malahide and footpath repairs in various location at Moyclare Park, Baldoyle.**



**Footpath repairs in various location at Station Road, Portmarnock and on Main Street, Malahide.**

**Public Conveniences**

Work is ongoing on the installation of the new public toilets in the area. The eco toilets have all been installed. The toilets at the Summit and Claremont , Harbour in Howth are awaiting their ESB connections.



**Eco Toilet at Balscadden**



**The Summit**

**Castleknock / Mulhuddart Area**

Following an extensive 3 year restoration project managed by the Parks & Green Infrastructure Division, The Shackleton Garden was officially opened on the 17<sup>th</sup> September 2021 by Mayor of Fingal, Cllr Seána Ó Rodaigh, in the presence of the Tánaiste, Leo Varadkar, TD, Fingal County Councillors, Oireachtas members, Chief Executive AnnMarie Farrelly, Garden Volunteers and members of the Shackleton Family.

The works were part funded by a Fáilte Ireland tourism grant and specialist contractors were engaged to carry out the main restoration and reconstruction works. Additional work was undertaken directly by the Operations Department crews who worked tirelessly over the last few months preparing the garden for the official opening to the general public.





**Herbaceous Flower bed planted in Riverwood Estate**



**Perennial flower bed put in at Coolmine level crossing**



### **Damastown–Football pitches**

The Operations Crew who are responsible for the maintenance of the pitches at Damastown have received excellent feedback and praise for the high standard of maintenance and condition of the playing pitches.

Following a site visit to Damastown Football Pitches by the FAI High Performance Director. He praised the Council on the fantastic conditions of the pitches and this was also confirmed by Two league of Ireland referee's who use the pitches regularly.

This is a testament to the hard work and dedication of the Operations Crews.



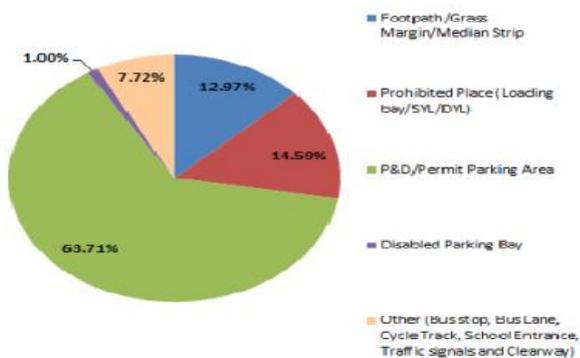
**Resurrection Work to the stone wall Millennium Park**



## 2.Car Parking Services

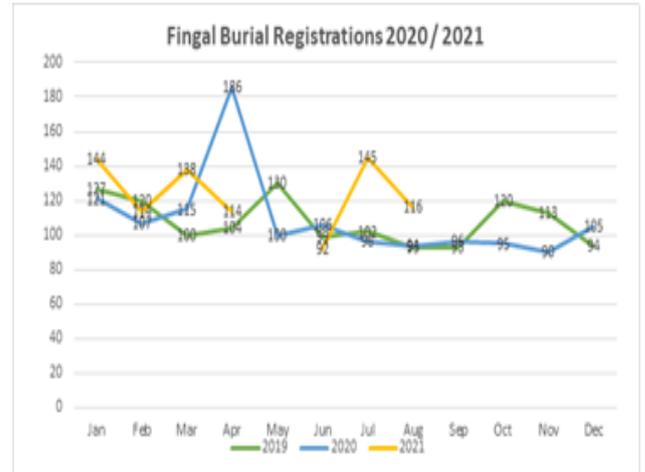
There was a total of 1,295 parking tickets issued during August 2021.

Breakdown of Parking Offences:



## 3.Burial Ground Services

The Operations Department are continuing to administer and monitor delivery to ensure business continuity for Fingal's Burial Ground Service. Essential maintenance works at the burial grounds continued over the summer months.



## 4.Traffic Operations County-wide

Balgriffin Car Parking area –Pedestrian and Parking upgrades

Picture 1 below shows completion of bollards install to create 3m separated walkway for pedestrians visiting the cemetery and car parking lining in progress.



**Installation of Bollards on Carrs Lane has commenced with the purpose of a 3m wide pedestrian walkway along the cemetery wall.**



**New lining for Evora park Junction with Howth Terrace**

**Pedestrian Crossings**

The Tyrrelstown Roundabout upgrade works was completed in early September. The works include a raised zebra crossing at each arm, inclusive of new LED Belisha Beacons. And associated road line markings. Stainless steel bollards were added on the two arms closest to the shops, to enhance safety for footpath users.



**Photos above of the new pedestrian crossings in Tyrrelstown**

**Lining Contract Work 2021 (County-wide)**

Further lining has been carried in the D15 area.



**The Dromheath Estate ramps have had 'Shark Teeth' added.**

**5. Bridge Rehabilitation**

**Works carried out week ending 03<sup>rd</sup> September:**

- Shuttered and poured concrete upstands on precast beams
- Stripped and cleaned all shutters
- Steel fixed and shuttered 2 abutment walls and 3 columns

**Works carried out week ending 10<sup>th</sup> September**

- Pour concrete to 2 abutment walls and 3 columns
- Strip shutters and prepare for backfill
- Steel fix, shutter and pour wing walls

**Column and abutment bases poured**



**Prefabricating reinforcement for beams and deck**



**Installing formwork for beams and deck**



**Beams poured and formwork stripped**



**Steel fixing and installing formwork to columns and abutment walls**

## **6.Fleet Management & Plant Hire Unit and Plant Hire**

There were 64 hires put in place from 1<sup>st</sup> September 2021– 27<sup>th</sup>September 2021, engaging 23 suppliers.

Hires include:

- Pipe Jetter with Recycler
- Crash cushion

## 7. Street Lighting LED Programme

LED Upgrade Program saw 531 LED Upgrade works carried out in the following locations: -

- Balbriggan
- Baldoyle
- Howth
- Carrickbrack Heath/Hill/Lawn, Offington Avenue/Drive/Park...Sutton
- R132 Airside to Pinnock Hill Swords

## 8. Recycling Centre's Update

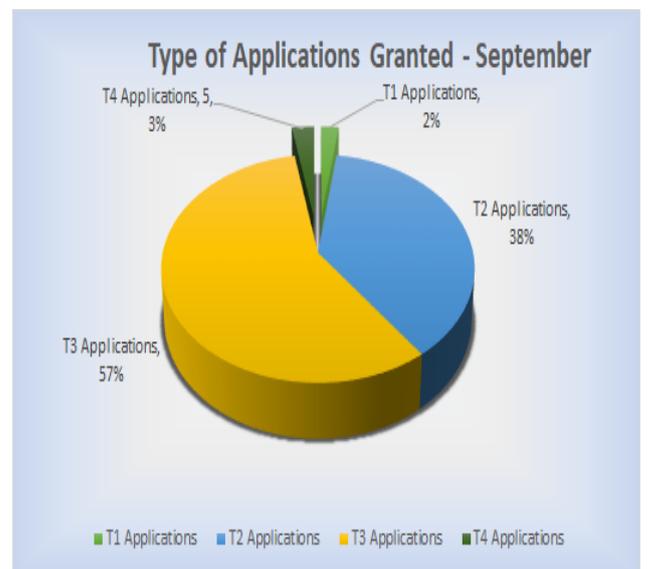
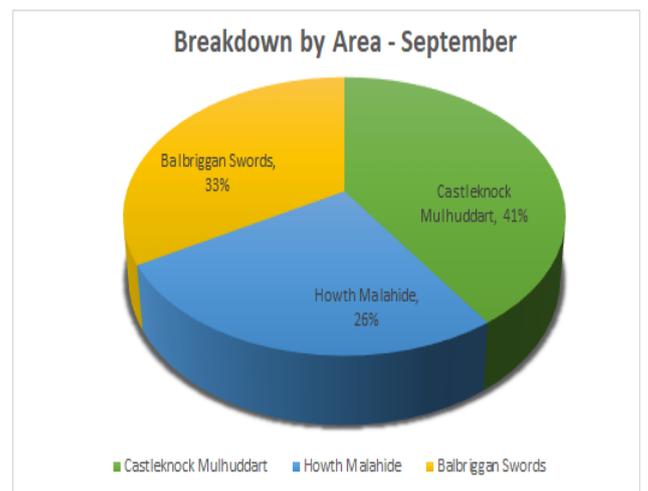
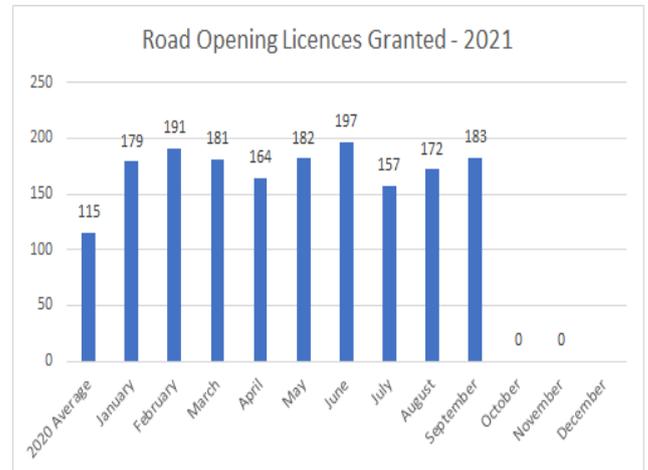


## 9. Road Opening Licences

The Licensing unit continues to process and manage the licensing system for the County, applications are allocated by area for examination and conditioning which includes reviews of the existing carriageway, footpaths, cycleways, and grass verges. Applicants submit temporary traffic management plans for review to ensure all works are carried out safely within the public domain. Road Opening licences are a cross functional process for the department and is essential

for the asset management of Fingal County Council Road network.

187 applications have been received for licences during September 2021 and 183 granted.



**T1 Application:** The T1 is not a licence. It is notification of intent to perform works of high impact due to extent or complexity.

**T2 Applications:** An application to carry out works of moderate impact due to the location, extent, amount, or duration of the work.

**T3 Applications:** An application to carry out works of low impact due to the location, extent, amount, or duration of the work. A T3 licence requires a short application period and does not require a works programme notification.

**T4 Applications:** A notification of emergency works (as defined under legislation). Notification must occur at the time or as soon as possible after commencement and works must be carried out during a limited time period. **Ongoing Projects**

There are currently a number of significant road opening licence projects on going including under the supervision of the Operations Engineering Team.

**KN Project:**

Meetings in relation to road reinstatements are continuing with a number of reinstatements to be completed in Skidoo, Hannahs Avenue and the R127 at Lusk. New works are also continuing along the R127, R129 and R132.

**Irish Water R132 Balbriggan:**

Irish Water are continuing to lay the twin rising main from Knocknagin to Balbriggan. Works are being delivered by way of open cut excavation and directional drilling.

**Irish Water R132 Donabate:**

Irish Water has recently been granted a road opening licence to deliver new pumping station works in Donabate. Works are due to commence in early October.

**Gas Networks Ireland R127 and R129:**

Gas Networks Ireland are making considerable progress in the delivery of a new duct and fibre cable connecting Loughshinny to Ballboughal. Works recently commenced along the busy R127 and are

scheduled to be completed in this section in a number of weeks.

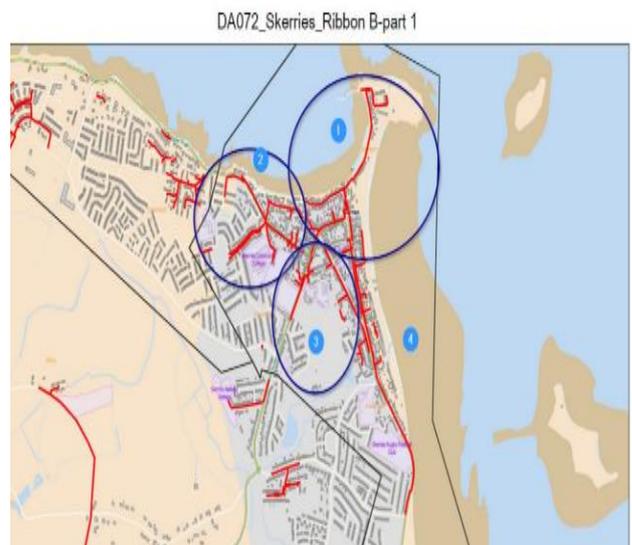


**R129**

**R127**

**NBI Project**

NBI recently commenced works on the Skerries Cluster as part of the NBI project. NBI has applied for over 20 excavations within this cluster enabling NBI to upgrade existing ducting infrastructure to facilitate the NBI upgrade. EIR working on the EMR aspect of the project are also working with a number of licences also in Skerries. NBI has recently been granted a further 4 licences in order to try and expediate the delivery of the project.



## 10. Water Services

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

The Council continue to have responsibility for the Storm Water Network

### Storm Water (surface water) Network – Operations

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

Works summary:

- Castleknock Storm water network upgrade has been completed. The full 120m of pipe has been relined. This now completes all outstanding work associated with this project.

Phase 1 (Advance works) to install a section of new stormwater (surface water) network in Ballyboughal is completed, in conjunction with FCC's Housing Department. Works completed to date - 215m of a 300mm diameter storm pipe has been constructed, with 215m of footpaths reinstated following these works. We have temporarily connected the new pipeline to the an old 150mm diameter FCC pipe that is discharging to an open ditch. This has removed the need for housing to tanker storm water off site.

Phase 2 will comprise of the installation of 35m of 450mm diameter pipe. These works are currently on hold pending the agreement of wayleaves.

The Storm water manhole cover and frame replacement programme for replacing assets at the end of life is ongoing – Covers and frames were replaced at various locations in Knockmaroon, Swords and Balrothery areas.

- A contractor has been engaged and works to Jet, drag and to carry out a CCTV survey along the Old Bawn in Malahide for both Foul and Storm water networks have started. A feasibility project has been undertaken to

ascertain if improvements can be made to the network to reduce the likelihood of flooding events in the future.

Other maintenance and minor works programmes are ongoing, including the CCTV, dragging and cleaning of the Storm Water network in Inbhir Ide, Texas Lane and Yellow Walls road in Malahide. Issues with the network in this area were identified after recent flooding events.

### Storm Water (surface water) Network – Projects

A number of storm water projects are currently being progressed:

- Burrow Beach Surface Water Outfall Pipeline Repair  
  
Scope: This project is to replace the damaged anchor system for the pipeline  
Status: Design stage
- Beaverstown Storm Water Pumping Station Upgrade  
Scope: Review options for the existing pumping station  
  
Status: Project planning / scoping
- Howth Surface Water Culvert Replacement  
Scope: Prepare a design to replace the existing surface water culvert  
  
Status: Preliminary

### Irish Water – Towards a National Publicly-Owned, Regulated, Water Services Utility

The Government's Policy Paper on Water Sector Transformation, entitled *Irish Water – Towards a National, Publicly-Owned, Regulated, Water Services Utility* was published on Tuesday 23<sup>rd</sup> February 2021.

The paper and accompanying press release are available at [www.gov.ie/housing](http://www.gov.ie/housing). All new publications appear on the homepage under the Publications heading.

The paper sets out the Government's approach to water sector transformation including addressing Irish Water as the Single Public Utility.

The Council will continue to work to implement Government policy in regard to water.

## **Communication with Irish Water for Elected Representatives**

### **The Local Representative Support Desk**

- 1) Make contact at [localrepsupport@water.ie](mailto:localrepsupport@water.ie) or by phone at **0818 178 178 / 0818 578 578**. Staff are available Monday – Friday from 9am to 5.30pm to deal with queries from elected representatives about any topic related to Irish Water.
- 2) Outside these hours, the 24/7 customer care line is available for urgent queries at **1800 278 278 / 1850 278 278**.
- 3) Irish Water Planned Works - Irish Water Regional Communications team provide regular updates concerning upcoming projects in the area and planned works which may cause disruption to customers. Regularly updates on the website at <https://www.water.ie/water-supply/supply-and-service-update/#>

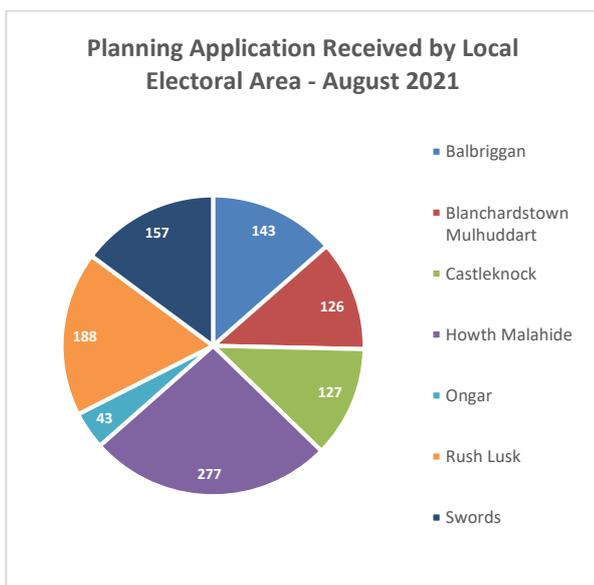
# PLANNING AND STRATEGIC INFRASTRUCTURE (PSI)

Contents
Planning Applications
Planning Decisions
Building Control Admin
Strategic Policy Unit
Heritage Office
Parks & Green Infrastructure Division
Transportation Planning
Development Management/Forward Planning (Water Services) Section

## Planning Applications

There have been 1061 planning applications received to the end of August 2021, 62 of these applications were invalid leaving a total of 999 valid applications. The volume of applications received by Local Electoral Area (LEA) is detailed in the table below.

Up to end of August 2021, 8 Strategic Housing Development (SHD) applications were made to An Bord Pleanála, plus 1 for amendments totalling 4,592 units. 6 decisions were made by the board up to end of August 2021. Of these, 3 were granted, 1 in February and 1 in March (470 units). 1 was one granted in July for amendments. 3 applications were Refused, 1 in March, 1 in June and 1 in July. There is a total of 6 SHD's (3,983 units) currently in the formal application process.



## Planning Decisions

A total of 1,071 planning decisions have been made to the end of August 2021. There have been 926 decisions to grant permission (86%) and 145 refusals of permission (14%). There have been 62 grants of permissions in respect of single house construction, 601 grants of permission for domestic extensions, 221 commercial/retail grants of permission and 20 grants of permission in respect of housing developments of which 11 relate to development of 2 - 20, 1 relates to development of 20 – 50, 6 relate to 50 -100 and 2 of which relate to development of 100+ housing units.

## Building Control Admin

Up to the end of August 2021, there were 116 Disability Access Certificate applications submitted, of these 102 have been granted, 1 was invalidated and 6 are currently on time extension. There were 8 Revised Disability Access Certificate applications submitted, 6 have been granted. There were also 6 Dispensation/Relaxation applications submitted, all 6 have been granted.

There were 162 Fire Safety Certificate applications submitted, of these 103 have been granted, 1 was refused, 6 were invalidated and 25 are currently on time extension. There were 19 Revised Fire Safety Certificate applications submitted, 15 were granted, 1 was invalidated.

There were 16 Regularisation Certificate applications submitted, 2 were invalidated and 10 are currently on time extension.

A total of 911 building control decisions were processed up until the end of August 2021, this includes decisions that were made on applications submitted pre 2021 in addition to applications submitted in the first 8 months of this year. This is made up of 334 decisions to grant, 1 refusal, 11 invalids, 3 amendments and 562 extensions of time.

Building Control Fire Safety, Disability Access, Regularisation and Dispensation/Relaxation Certificate applications can currently be submitted online via the new BCMS applications module and also in hard copy directly into the office.

## Strategic Policy Unit

### Fingal Development Plan 2023 – 2029

The first phase of the Development Plan process finished on 10<sup>th</sup> September with the final meeting on the Chief Executive's Report on Submissions Received.

Work now begins on the drafting of the new Plan with the Chief Executive's draft Plan to be issued to Elected Members on 3<sup>rd</sup> December.



### Sustainable Swords

The next stage of public consultation for the Sustainable Swords project was launched on 28<sup>th</sup> September. This follows the 'Your Swords, Your Say' survey which was carried out in May and the briefing session with Elected Members in July.

The ambition of Sustainable Swords is to create a multi-faceted approach to the planning, design and management of the town, in order to achieve better quality places as the physical setting for life in Swords. Sustainable Swords plans to consolidate and strengthen the historic town centre of Swords. The project will also set specific objectives for the town centre with the goal of increasing the resilience of the local economy and fostering an enhanced, accessible, inclusive, child friendly and healthy urban environment. A vibrant town for all.

The public are invited to explore these themes and share their comments and observations. Feedback from local residents and businesses in this strategic development phase is essential to the success of Sustainable Swords. The document can be accessed here: <https://www.fingal.ie/sustainableswords>

The closing date for receipt of submissions is 26<sup>th</sup> October 2021 with postal and online submissions to be received before 11:59pm. Submissions can be made at <https://consult.fingal.ie/en/consultation/sustainable-swords-public-consultation>

An online webinar, open to everyone, will take place on 12<sup>th</sup> October 2021 at 7pm. The public will hear from the project team and have the opportunity to ask questions. Registration for this event is via the Fingal website: <https://www.fingal.ie/sustainableswords>



## **Vacant Sites Register**

There are currently 9 sites on the Vacant Sites Register (VSR). These include 3 residential sites and 6 regeneration sites.

Invoices for the VSR levy have been issued with regard to VS/0016, VS/0117 and VS/0018 for 2019. The total amount being invoiced for the above sites is €1,344,000. These sites will also be liable for the vacant site levy for 2020 for same amount. A demand for payment for the VSR levy has been issued for VS/0124 (Weavers Row, Clonsilla, Dublin 15) for €129,500 and for VS/0119 (Lands at Howth Road, Co. Dublin) for €2,310,000. The demand for payment for VS/0124 was appealed to An Bord Pleanála (ABP). ABP confirmed the demand for payment on the 15/09/2021. FCC is awaiting a decision from ABP on VS/0119.

A market valuation has been received (13/04/2021) for VS/0129. The site was valued at €450,000.

There have been notices of intention to place 4 sites on the VSR and these are being assessed at present. A number of sites throughout the county are currently being investigated for compliance with the VSR legislation.

## **Heritage Office**

The Fingal HeritageXClimate project is underway. This is a citizen science project that is encouraging the community to take positive action and get involved in monitoring the effects of climate change on their local heritage assets (as identified in the *Fingal Cultural Heritage & Climate Change Risk Assessment* report). Abarata Heritage have been engaged to develop a project toolkit and hold online and in person training events <https://www.fingal.ie/fingal-heritage-x-climate-2021>

As the first of its kind in Ireland the process and results of the *Fingal Cultural Heritage & Climate Change Risk Assessment* are informing other projects including the Transboundary Adaptation Learning Exchange (TaX) project and the Climate Change Adaptation of the Sectoral Plan for Archaeology & Built Heritage.



Projects in Fingal being funded by the Community Monuments Fund 2021 are currently in progress. Works for the protection of the burial site (DU011-090) in the Ward River Valley took place in September. The original proposal was for a post and wattle fence but preliminary works identified a high rock base to the river, meaning posts could not be driven. Inland Fisheries Ireland were consulted and suggested the use of boulders instead. These were installed by Integrated Utilities Services under archaeological supervision and the works inspected by a representative of the National Monuments Service, Department of Housing, Local Government and

Heritage. The site has now been protected against the effects of climate change and preserved for the future.

## **Parks & Green Infrastructure Division**

### **Lanesborough Park Development Project**



The Part 8 Planning Process for the Lanesborough Park Development project has commenced. Proposals were presented to elected members at the September meeting of the Blanchardstown-Mulhuddart/Castleknock/Ongar Area committee. The project, led by the Council's Parks & Green Infrastructure Division, aims to deliver an inclusive and multifaceted amenity for the community of Meakstown. Key elements of the proposals for the park include the provision of a toddler play area, a sand play area, an adventure playground and a zipline all of which will contribute to a vibrant and engaging play space for children of a wide age range. The biodiversity of the surrounding parkland will be further enhanced through tree planting and meadow creation. A trim trail will encourage and facilitate exercise in the community in combination with a widened high-quality perimeter path suitable for active exercise. The Community and Sensory Gardens is envisaged as a place that park users will want to explore and one which can be a productive resource for the community.

Consultation has been central to the development of the proposals and the Council now seeks the continued participation of the community as part of

the statutory consultation process during the submission period of 9th September to 21st October as detailed in the part 8 planning application available at <https://consult.fingal.ie/en/consultation/part-8-lanesborough-park-development-project-meakstown-dublin-11>

### **The Naul Village Park Development Project**



The part 8 planning process for the Naul Village Park Development Project has commenced. Proposals were presented to elected members at the September meeting of the Balbriggan/Rush-Lusk/Swords area committee. The project aims to deliver a vision for the sustainable development of a Village Park, a multifunctional community outdoor space which is sensitive to and reflective of the cultural, historical and natural heritage of the site. Elements within the park include an arrival space, village green, playground, recreation & fitness area, reflection garden and parking. The proposed village park will become an integral feature of the Naul, a place which contributes to the unique character of the village and one in which all the community can come together for events and general amenity.

Building on the successful community consultations held to date, the council encourages feedback and comment on the proposed Naul Village Park Development during the submission period of 14th September to 27th October as detailed in the part 8 planning application available at: <https://consult.fingal.ie/en/consultation/part-8-naul-village-park-development-project-naul-co-dublin>

### **Public Play Space Project at Garristown Library**



The part 8 planning process for the proposed Public Play Space at Garristown Library has commenced. Proposals were presented to elected members at the September meeting of the Balbriggan/Rush-Lusk/Swords area committee. The project led by the Council's Parks & Green Infrastructure Division, aims to reach consensus with stakeholders to deliver a vision for the sustainable development of a public play space at Garristown Library which is sensitive to and reflective of the cultural heritage of the site. The proposals comprise three distinct and linked areas within the Library garden: an architecturally sensitive upgrade of the area to the front of the library building will create a welcoming Entrance Plaza space which respects the relationship between the library and the Church of the Assumption; a multifunctional picnic and sculptured lawn space at the library's southern façade will offer outdoor classroom facilities along with a natural play and casual recreation space; a Woodland Themed Play Garden to the east of the site

will optimise the play potential of the garden. The Woodland Themed Play Garden will cater for a wide age range with opportunities for adventurous, challenging, and social play within a natural setting.

The Public Play Space Project at Garristown Library will create a unique play space for the children of Garristown and provide a space for the whole of the community to enjoy. Building on the successful community consultation held to date, the Council encourages feedback on the proposal during the submission period from the 14th September to the 27th October as detailed in the part 8 planning application available at <https://consult.fingal.ie/en/consultation/part-8-public-play-space-project-garristown-library-main-street-garristown-village-garristown-co>

### **All-weather Pitch facility and car park at Ward River Valley Park, Swords**



The contract for the construction of the new all-weather sports pitch at Ward River Valley Regional Park in Swords works has been awarded following the conclusion of the competitive tender process. The new third generation synthetic all-weather pitch will be a full sized GAA & Soccer pitch, similar to the facility at Bremeare Regional Park in Balbriggan. The new floodlight facility will be accompanied by car, coach and bicycle parking to service the needs of the pitch users and to improve access to the park.

The project led by the Council's Parks & Green Infrastructure Division is scheduled to start on site this Autumn. Significant progress has been made to date with the critical project milestones which have included:

- Statutory Part 8 planning approval
- Archaeological investigation reporting and test trenching
- Procurement of sports surface consultant to prepare performance specification
- Procurement of Quantity surveying consultancy services to support the phases of the project lifecycle
- Tender Stage 1: Procurement and shortlisting of 5 specialist project teams capable of constructing the facilities
- Enabling works to facilitate targeted tree removals on site
- Pre connection inquiries and legal agreement with utility providers including ESB networks and Irish Water.
- Tender Stage 2: Design & Build Tender & evaluation

It is anticipated that facility will be complete in Spring next year and will become a valuable sporting amenity for the people of Swords and wider area.

## **TRANSPORTATION PLANNING**

### **Hole in the Wall Road Upgrade**

Works in September include progression with the new cycleways and footpaths which are now 90% complete. The road pavement is complete to binder course for the whole project with just the surface course to complete. Traffic ducting is complete on the Mayne Road/ Drumnigh Road and the Marsfield Avenue junction and installation of tactile paving 70% complete at both junctions. The linear pathway along the River Mayne is progressing and remedials to the river bank are complete. The existing section of the Hole in The Wall Road, between Marsfield Avenue and Mayne Road, has been altered to a local road with one-way left turn access only onto Mayne Road. Traffic diversions are in place until the new road is opened which is expected to be the end of October. This LIHAF project will serve to underpin the ongoing

residential development in the area and significantly enhance road safety on the local transportation network.



**Continuation of linear pathway adjacent the River Mayne**



**Aerial view looking southwards on Drumnigh Road towards Dublin City**

### **Turvey Avenue Footpath Enhancement**

The CPO application by the Council, to acquire lands necessary for construction of the new footpath, was submitted to An Bord Pleanála in September and will be on display until early October. In the meantime, detailed design is nearing completion. CCTV surveys of the drainage system have been done recently and tender docs are being prepared.

### **Broadmeadow Way**

Advance contracts for ground investigation and fencing are programmed for October. The Council are in receipt of draft detailed design drawings for the landward sections of the Broadmeadow Way and the Main Estuary bridge. Additional ground investigation is required to inform detailed design of the northern causeway sections of the greenway and this is being progressed. The results of this investigation will have a critical input into the finalisation of the scheme design. The Council team met with the DART+ Coastal North project team to discuss the interface between both projects. The Council are preparing to submit additional information to the Department with respect to the Foreshore consent process.

### **Churchfields**

Four shortlisted tenderers responded to the second stage of the procurement process and these tenders are currently being examined. The tender assessment board is currently working through the submissions. This project is a key piece of the supporting infrastructure for the Church Fields masterplan development which includes residential, flood management and parkland infrastructure, and this project also includes significant sustainable transport infrastructure to connect the surrounding residential areas to the school's campus on Damastown Avenue.

### **Snugborough Interchange Upgrade Project**



Construction of new wall structures and earth clearing works to advance the main 9C sewer diversion element of the project are progressing as programmed. Works are ongoing on the western side of the N3 to allow for the commencement of piling operations for the main structures. The website [www.snugboroughinterchange.ie](http://www.snugboroughinterchange.ie) containing information on the project is now live and will continue to be updated with information relating to the project over its life term including timelapse/drone video footage which is also available here <https://vimeo.com/610701709/94c6ad1a01>. A considerable community gain was achieved in the last two weeks with the completion and opening of a walkway through Waterville (photograph attached) which opens up another access route through Waterville Park to Blanchardstown village.

### **Balscadden Beach Universal Access Study**

Following the appointment of a project team to progress this project, a public procurement competition was held. A consultant has recently been appointed to carry out the feasibility study for this project which will include engineering, legal and environmental feasibility of required access improvements.

### **Ongar Barnhill Road**

A major milestone in the preparation of this project is that a Bridge Agreement will be signed in the coming weeks between Fingal County Council and Irish Rail to allow for a bridge to be constructed over the Littlepace Railway line at Hansfield. Separately, land transfers are progressing and once completed will allow for tender to be progressed. This project will underpin the development of significant housing as part of the Barnhill LAP as well as forming an important upgrade to the local transportation network.

### **Harry Reynolds Road Cycle Route**

Works are advancing to prepare for pre-construction site clearance works through the coming Winter and

Spring to allow for commencement of the main project works in Q2 2022.

## **Development Management/Forward Planning (Water Services) Section**

### **Built Environment Division**

#### **Building Control**

- BCMS – 62 CNs for 96 units received in July and 62 Completion Certificates processed. Building Control Site inspection rate for June, July and August is at 1% of new buildings. Almost all DAC, FSC and Dispensations are now coming through electronically via the BCMS applications module.
- Enforcement – Compliance issues range from Part B Fire and Part K (Stairways, Ladders, Ramps and Guards) sound as well as Building Control Reg issues such as requirement for Fire safety Certificates.

#### **Taking in Charge**

- There was 1 estate (Beechwood Gate, Hansfield) taken in charge in September, with two estates, Rahillion in Swords and Hampton Green in Balbriggan proposed to be taken in charge in December.
- We have 47 Developments with formal TIC requests and a further 294 developments on our system, of which 62 are likely to remain private.
- Phase 1 Tender for TIC works on the following estates - Chieftain's Way, Martello, New Haven Bay is due to begin at the end of September and prestart meetings have occurred.
- Phase 2 TIC works – Drynam are under construction at the moment. There is also works ongoing in Thornleigh, Swords by a completion contractor on behalf of the bondsman.
- Work is ongoing in preparing the contract documents for engagement of Consulting Engineers to manage the Ongar remediation works necessary to bring the estates in Ongar up to Taking in Charge standard.

#### **Dangerous Structures**

We currently have 48 active dangerous structures. There were 4 new notifications in August and 2 new notifications in September.



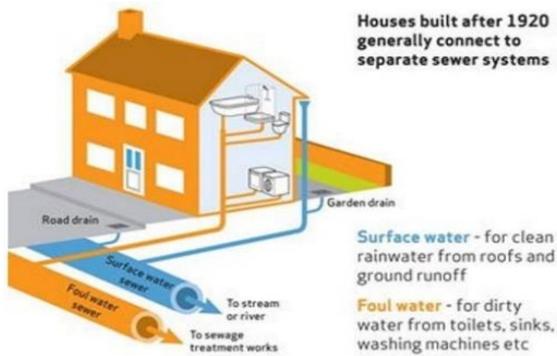
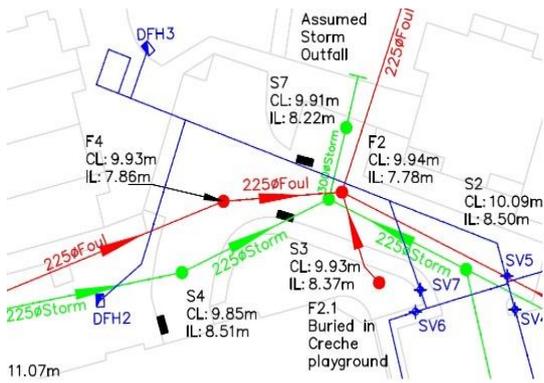
**Ground floor slab being poured in the new Edmund Rice Secondary School in the Phoenix Park Racecourse in Castleknock. 23/09/2021**



**Foundations newly poured for new housing in Bay Meadows, Hollywoodrath, Dublin 15 (23/09/2021).**

#### **Why Sustainable Drainage Systems (SuDS)**

**Traditional method** of managing surface water – put it into underground pipe and send to the nearest watercourse as fast as possible.



**The current method** of managing surface water:

In 2005, the GSDS outlined SuDs as a sustainable way forward for the Greater Dublin Region as it holds the surface water on the development and discharges it at green field runoffs as well as allows the polluting matter to be used up by the plants via bioremediation.



What Happens – in a green field, 95% of the surface water is contained, but in the traditional piped system 95% of the surface water is sent to the nearest watercourse which causes:





### Flood Risk Assessments/ Drainage Strategies

- FCC staff continue liaising with the appointed consultants developing the Strategic Flood Risk Assessment for the upcoming County Development Plan.
- Sustainable Drainage System (SuDS) element of Climate Action week – an on-site SuDS training workshop as part of Climate Action Week was very successful on the 16<sup>th</sup> Sept.



**SuDS Device working well in recent extreme rainfall event in Malahide**



### Irish Water

- Staff continue to liaise with Irish water regarding existing constraints within the water/wastewater networks and identifying solutions to resolve.
- Connection and Developer Services – staff continue to provide a planning review of water/wastewater connection applications on behalf of Irish Water with 15 no. applications processed requiring Water Services planning during August with an average turnaround of 7 working days.

# HOUSING

**Housing**  
 Supply  
 Asset Management  
 Support  
 Tenancy Services



**Housing for All - a New Housing Plan for Ireland**

is the government’s housing plan to 2030. It is a multi-annual, multi-billion euro plan which will improve Ireland’s housing system and deliver more homes of all types for people with different housing needs.

The government’s vision for the housing system over the longer term is to achieve a steady supply of housing in the right locations with economic, social and environmental sustainability built into the system. It is estimated that Ireland will need an average of 33,000 new homes to be provided each year from 2021 to 2030.

The policy has four pathways to achieving housing for all:

- supporting home ownership and increasing affordability
- eradicating homelessness, increasing social housing delivery and supporting social inclusion
- increasing new housing supply

- addressing vacancy and efficient use of existing stock

The pathways contain actions to be taken by government departments, local authorities, State agencies and others. The pathways are supported by actions to enable a sustainable housing system.

The social housing delivery targets for Fingal covering the years 2022 – 2026 have now been received from the Department of Housing Local Government and Heritage. They are in line with the objectives set out in the Housing for All plan with Long Term Leasing being phased out over the lifetime of the plan and emphasis placed on new build delivery. The targets are listed in the table below;

Year	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	Total
<b>Build</b>	360	690	705	758	773	3286
<b>Leasing</b>	44	160	120	30	-	354
<b>Total</b>	404	850	825	788	773	3640

**Construction has started on Affordable Homes in Lusk**

Construction of the 39 affordable and 12 social homes continues at Dun Emer in Lusk alongside the upgrade works to the road infrastructure which is funded by the Affordable Housing Fund (formerly the SSF )

Letters have issued to the first 39 applicants offering the opportunity to purchase an affordable property in the scheme.

As there are only 39 affordable homes available for sale in the scheme, the remaining eligible applicants have been placed on a panel and may be offered a

property in the future in the instance where an applicant with a higher position on the panel declines their offer. Letters have issued informing them of their place on the panel.

Photos from the construction work currently on site at Dun Emer, Lusk.



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

## MIXED TENURE SITES

The Council is currently at pre-planning design stage on schemes that will deliver mixed tenure housing via affordable purchase, cost rental and social housing.

### Church Fields, Dublin 15



- Deliver approximately 1,000 mixed tenure dwellings;
- Initial 300 dwellings at design/pre-planning stage
- Construction of the new link road to commence on site shortly
- Design of the linear park is underway
- Briefing meeting held recently to update local Councillors

### Hayestown Site, Rush



- Deliver a total of 62 dwellings
- Mixed tenure
- Planning approved
- Procurement process being finalised

## Hackettstown Lands, Skerries

The Council is working closely with the Land Development Agency (LDA) to bring forward land banks located in Fingal to unlock their potential to deliver mixed tenure housing.



- The LDA propose road infrastructure upgrade which is funded through the Serviced Sites Fund.
- Plan to deliver 344 housing units of mainly affordable/cost rental and dwellings available for affordable purchase. Housing will also be provided for families in need of social housing.

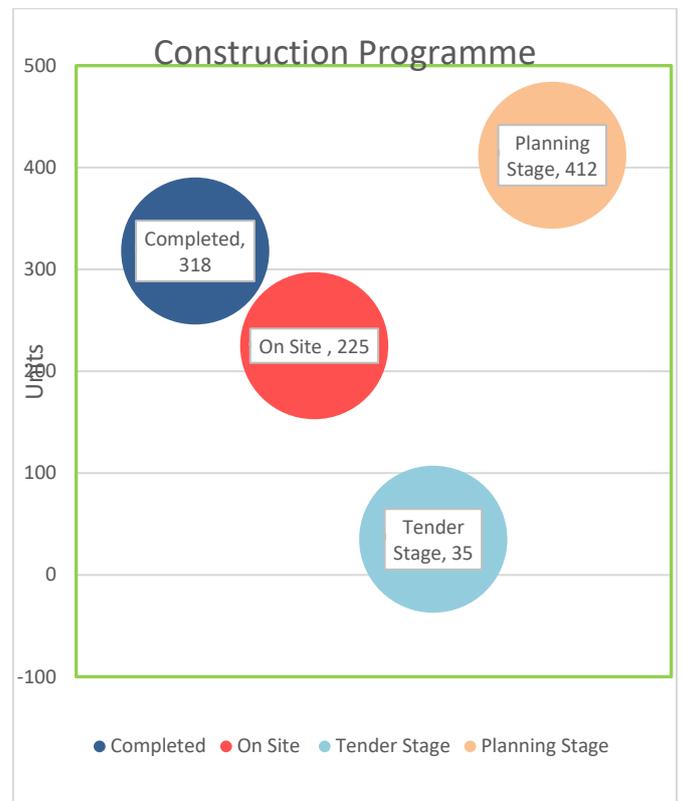
### Social Housing Delivery

The delivery of social housing is continuing across the county despite the Covid-19 restrictions that were in place earlier in the year. The Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage have set the 2021 social housing delivery targets for Fingal via build and leasing as follows;

#### 2021 Delivery Targets

Delivery Mechanism	Target
Build	431
Leasing	130

## Construction Programme



### On Site

Church Road, Dublin 15 - Cluid Housing	65
College St. Baldoyle - Cluid Housing	4
Wellview Cul de Sacs, Wellview, D15	20
Cappagh, Dublin 11	69
Church Fields Phase 2B, Mulhuddart, D15	67

### Tendering Stage

Tucketts Lane, Howth	8
Outlands, Swords, Co Dublin	11
Church Road, Lusk	5
Former Leonards Garage, Lusk	10
Infill Site adjacent to 169 Clonsilla Road, D15	1

### Planning Stage

Garristown – North and East Housing Association	6
Kilhedge Lane - Tuath Housing	31
Mayeston, Dublin 11	74
Infill site at Sheepmoor, Dublin 15	1
Church Fields East Ph 3	300

The Housing Department have produced a special feature this month on Prosper Fingal and how Social Housing Funding under Rebuilding Ireland has benefited people with disabilities.



### **About Prosper**

Established in 1978 by parents and friends of people with disabilities, Prosper Fingal now provides services and supports to 314 adults with an intellectual disability who reside in the Fingal region. These services include Day, Residential, Respite and Clinical supports. Prosper Fingal is a non-for-profit organisation, with charitable status, that is funded through an Annual Service Arrangement with the HSE. Prosper works with many partners in its mission, but particularly with the HSE and Fingal County Council.

### **Prosper's Residential Services**

The organisation established Prosper Fingal Housing Association, which is an Approved Housing Body (AHB). Through this AHB, Prosper currently provides residential and supported living services to 16 adults with an intellectual disability. There is an urgent need to increase Prosper's residential capacity especially with an ageing carer population.

One funding source that has proved highly successful for Prosper to date is the Capital Assistance Scheme for AHBs which is facilitated through Fingal County Council's Housing Department. As such, Prosper has benefited greatly from CAS in order to address the residential needs of its service users, of which 8 are accommodated in CAS-funded homes. For these individuals, it is more than a home – it is a chance to live a life of greater independence and inclusion. It

also relieves parents and carers of a worry that is so permanent and profound in their lives.

### **What is the Capital Assistance Scheme?**

The Council may advance non-repayable loans to Approved Housing Bodies to cover the capital cost of the provision of these units. Additional funding towards development may also be available. The loans are not repayable, provided that the accommodation continues to be let to eligible categories of persons, and is properly maintained. The Department of Housing oversees the scheme, while each individual local authority manages the scheme locally. Individuals must be on the Council's Housing List to be in the 'eligible categories of persons'.

### **How CAS has benefited Prosper**

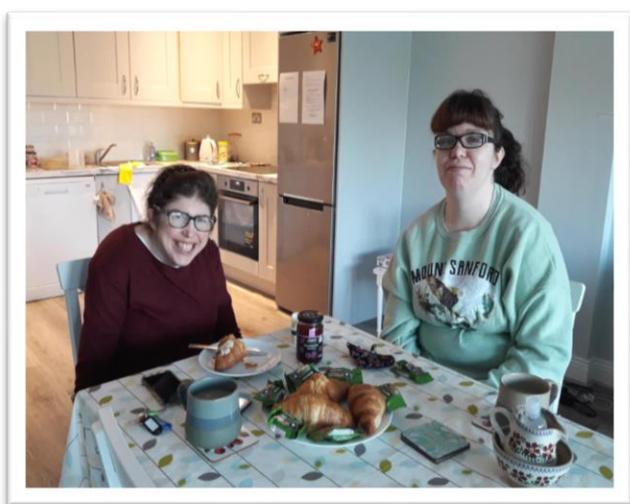
The Capital Assistance Scheme (CAS) is designed for the provision of rented accommodation for those with priority needs, i.e. elderly, disabled and homeless.

CAS has enabled Prosper to provide two distinct types of full-time residential accommodation to eight of its service users. A one-bed apartment and a two-bed apartment in Swords provide low support accommodation for three individuals. A residential community house in Rush, see photo below, provides fully supported accommodation for five clients who each have their own private en suite rooms.



A fourth site is in the early stages of application with many more planned.

CAS enables Prosper to provide residential solutions in a timely manner to adults with an intellectual disability who are on the Housing List. It allows the residents to have a greater level of independence in an environment suited to their support needs, whilst reducing the demand on ageing parents and carers. While CAS provides the capital funding in partnership with Fingal County Council, the HSE provides the revenue to deliver the necessary residential supports.



*"Living on our own gives us all the freedom we want and need and we hope to live in the apartment for the rest of our lives." ~ Helen and Mary Ellen*

Prosper looks forward to continuing to work in partnership with Fingal County Council and the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage to provide more homes to adults with an intellectual disability in the Fingal region. Prosper would also like to thank the Elected Members and staff of Fingal County Council for all their help and support to date.

### Private Rented Inspections

Following the lifting of Covid-19 restrictions, the Council resumed the physical inspection programme of private rented stock in the county on the 26<sup>th</sup> of July 2021.

### Rebuilding Ireland Home Loan

Current Loan Book Value	€ 145,498,757
Loans Drawn Down under RIHL	282
Value of RIHL lending	€60.8m
Covid-19 Agreements to Pay	129

Mortgage holders experiencing difficulties making repayments should contact the Council immediately on [loans@fingal.ie](mailto:loans@fingal.ie) and the Council will endeavour to find an individual solution with each borrower.

### Rent Payments – Council Tenants

The Rent Assessment Team continue to assess accounts under the annual rent review. Should tenants have any queries regarding their rent charge they should contact the Council immediately at email; [rents.assessments@fingal.ie](mailto:rents.assessments@fingal.ie) Further details are available on the Council's website [www.fingal.ie](http://www.fingal.ie).

## Housing Asset Management Report

### Energy Efficiency/Retrofitting Programme (Housing Circular 8/21)



The 2021 Energy Efficiency Retrofit Programme is the first of a ten year programme which is expected to grow to meet the Programme for Government retrofit commitment. This revision will require local authorities to move to a 'deeper retrofit' programme, thus building on what has been completed in previous years. The revised programme provides for significant upscaling in the level of funding available and focuses on ensuring that the fabric of the home is upgraded and an energy efficient heating system is provided.

The approved allocation for Fingal County Council is €1,759,475 with a target of 65 properties to be retrofitted to a B2/Cost Optimal standard.

Works have commenced on 55 properties in Greenridge Court, Windmill and Inbhir Íde and are expected to be complete in November. Works include external wall & attic insulation, Windows & Doors, heat pumps and solar PV panels as deemed necessary to bring properties to a B2/Cost Optimal standard.

### Voids Programme 2021 (Circular 17/21)

The 2021 Voids Programme supports the refurbishment of circa 3,000 vacant properties nationally. Two refurbishment options are being funded this year which afford greater flexibility to local authorities, thereby facilitating maximum impact on the level of vacancy. The Standard Refurbishment programme provides for a maximum funding of €11,000 per property and Non-Standard provides for an average of €50,000 per property. The emphasis under the 2021 Voids Programme is on minimum refurbishment works to comply with the Housing (Standards for Rented Houses) Regulations 2019 to ensure quick turnaround and letting.

The 2021 Voids Allocation for Fingal County Council is 157 properties in total comprising of 141 Standard and 16 Non-Standard. Any void properties approved for funding under this programme is on the understanding that work will be completed and the

property either tenanted or a tenancy offered and accepted in 2021.

### Returning Dwellings to Productive Use

The number of casual voids within social housing stock which are currently in the re-let process set out below:-

Voids for Re-letting	at 28 <sup>th</sup> September 2021
In letting process	41
Undergoing re-let repairs	13
With County Architect for procurement of pre-let repairs	12
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>66</b>

### Planned Maintenance Programmes

#### Boiler Servicing

The Council provides an annual boiler servicing facility, including all maintenance and upgrade works, for a nominal fee of €3 per week to participating tenants. The Council releases batches of work to dedicated Contractors throughout the course of the year. To date, the Council has provided Contractors with 16 of 20 batches totaling 3798 properties and servicing is progressing well.

#### Cyclical Maintenance - Scheme Painting

The programme provides for external painting and joinery repairs to council housing stock which currently operates on a 6/7 year cycle.

Works will commence in Cardy Rock, Balbriggan on 29<sup>th</sup> September 2021. The remaining dwellings will be completed as part of this current programme between now and the end of September/October 2021. (listed below: Batch F & G).

Batch F	
Dromheath	Dublin 15
Castlecurragh Heath/Vale	Dublin 15
St Patricks Park	Donabate
Shamrock Park	Oldtown
Windmill Estate	Skerries
Toberburr Avenue	St Margarets
The Bawn Grove/ The Hill	Malahide
Kirkfield Cottages	Clonsilla
Lambeecher Estate	Balbriggan
Batch G	
Ladyswell Road	Dublin 15
Parslickstown Estate	Dublin 15
Castlegrange Estate	Swords
Wellview Estate	Dublin 15
Cardy Rock Estate	Balbriggan
Barnewall Avenue/Crescent	Donabate
Church Road	Dublin 15
Rockabill	Skerries
Bealing Avenue/Grove	Dubin 15



Some recently painted properties

## Housing Tenancy Services Report

### Housing Assistance Payment (HAP)

The new Hap Application online portal went live on 4<sup>th</sup> October. A briefing for the members and a publicity campaign took place in the week prior to this. The portal will create efficiencies in the application process and reduce turnaround time for applicants as only fully completed applications with all supporting documentation will be accepted.

The HAP Team in Fingal County Council continues to deal with a significant level of queries and applications as a result of the COVID pandemic. Since its inception in Fingal County Council in 2017, the HAP team has set up over 3,000 tenancies. The 614 new tenancies set up to date in 2021 is 2<sup>nd</sup> highest nationally.

### Housing Support

The Housing Support Team are currently preparing a Social Housing Assessment Summary in accordance with Section 21 of the Housing (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 2009.

The Council is contacting certain applicants who have applied for social housing support **after 30<sup>th</sup> July 2020** to confirm they still require social housing support.

Each applicant must confirm their requirement to the Council by completing and returning the Assessment Form which will be issued.

Social Housing Assessment Packs will be issuing by post early October which will include a copy of the Assessment Form to be completed along with a pre-paid return envelope.

Further details, including a copy of the Assessment Form requiring completion, is being made available on a dedicated page on Fingal's Website, and the Housing Support Team will ensure that every effort is made to connect with our applicants over the

duration of the assessment to ensure their records are updated.

The Housing Support Team are currently undergoing training with respect to all aspects of the 2021 Social Housing Assessment and are continuing to support and advise our applicants at this time.

### **Contact Details for Tenancy Services Division**

Set out below are the Housing Support Team Contact details and the Tenancy Services Division details-

<b>The Housing Support Team Contact Details</b>	
Phone	01 890 5902 /01 890 5000
Email	<a href="mailto:Housing.allocations@fingal.ie">Housing.allocations@fingal.ie</a>
Website	<a href="http://www.fingal.ie">www.fingal.ie</a>

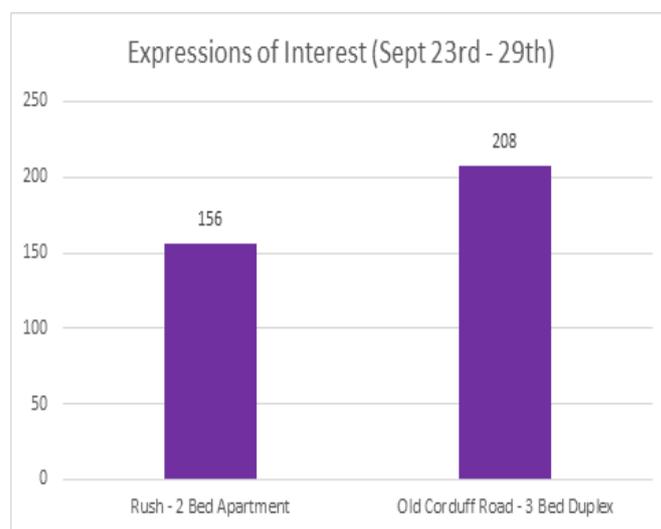
<b>Tenancy Services Contact Details</b>	
<b>Homeless Services</b>	01 890 5090 <a href="mailto:homeless@fingal.ie">homeless@fingal.ie</a>
<b>Estate Management (Maintenance, ASB)</b>	01 890 5588 <a href="mailto:Estatemanagement@fingal.ie">Estatemanagement@fingal.ie</a>
<b>Lettings</b>	01 890 5380 <a href="mailto:Housing.allocations@fingal.ie">Housing.allocations@fingal.ie</a>
<b>Housing Support</b>	01 890 5902 <a href="mailto:Housing.allocations@fingal.ie">Housing.allocations@fingal.ie</a>
<b>Customer Care Team</b>	01 890 5000 <a href="mailto:CustomerCareUnit@fingal.ie">CustomerCareUnit@fingal.ie</a>

### **Choice Based Lettings**

Choice Based Letting (CBL) is an approach used for allocating dwellings which allows housing applicants to express an interest in being considered for the allocation of designated Social Housing Units. Access to the Choice Based Letting (CBL) system is via the Council website at <https://www.fingal.ie/choicebasedlettingscheme>

Fingal County Council continue to offer dwellings through CBL. Information on new CBL dwellings are made available on our website on a selection of developments and individual units which have been designated for allocation using this approach.

There has been considerable interest in the CBL developments and units. This is illustrated in the table below which shows the expressions of interest submitted for two dwelling types at the end of September.



Fingal Housing Staff are in the process of contacting all applicants who have expressed interest to update them on their CBL application.

Applicants have been encouraged to follow Fingal County Council on social media to stay informed of new dwellings available through CBL.

**OpenSky**

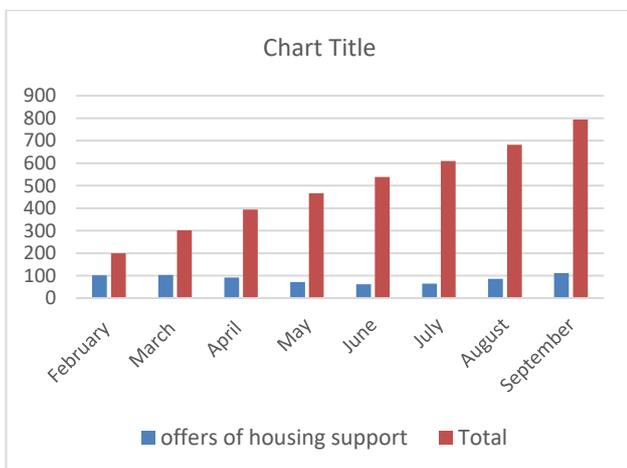
Fingal County Council are engaged with OpenSky in implementing the online-based CBL system. Housing staff are currently working with OpenSky in User Acceptance Training (UAT) which is the final stage of the software system development. This system has been successfully delivered to other Councils in Ireland. The system enables a range of self-service functionalities for four specific types of user i.e. the housing applicant, the housing administrator, Local Councillors and the housing staff.

The CBL system will be easily accessible to approved social housing applicants via a web-enabled portal that will protect and secure personal data of applicants. Each approved housing applicant will have a secure log in and password for the system. Access will also be facilitated to Councillors to review availability of CBL properties. A short information session will be scheduled for Councillors prior to the go live date.

The facility for applicants to express interest in a property online has worked well to date and the provision of the OpenSky system is expected to optimise the social housing allocation process and positively enhance the overall experience of the housing applicant with the added outcome of reduced refusal rates of housing allocations.

**Offers of Housing Support**

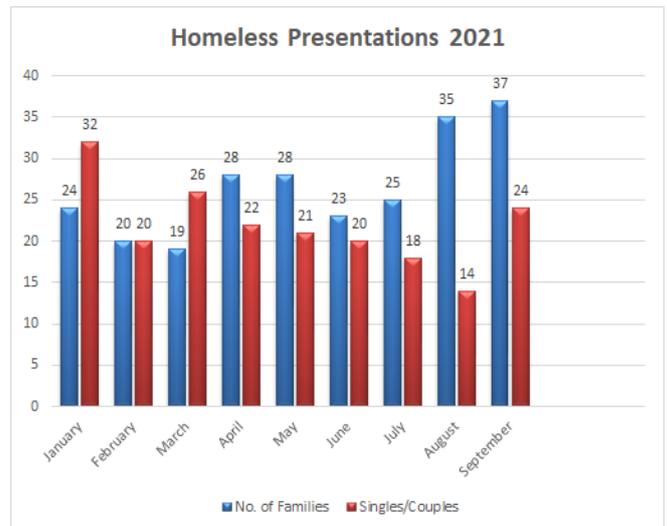
The Housing Allocations Team has continued to provide offers of social housing throughout all levels of **COVID-19 restrictions** and this is demonstrated in the chart below.



**Homeless Services**

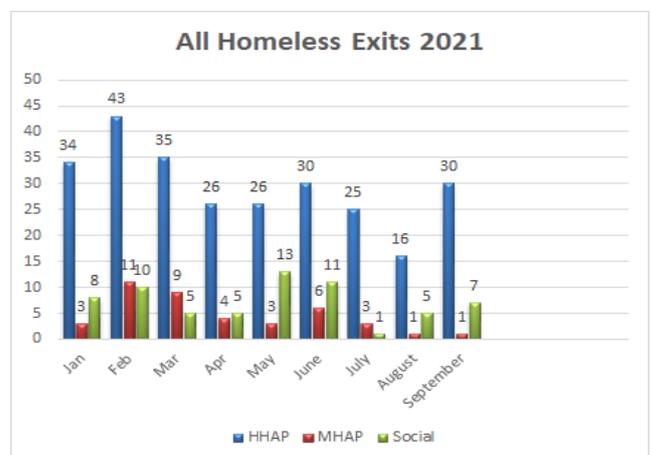
The Council's Homeless Team continue to engage with those experiencing homelessness to offer advice and support.

In September 2021 there were 61 new homeless presentations, comprising 37 families and 24 singles/couples.



During September 2021, 38 households, comprising 26 families and 12 singles/couples, exited homeless circumstances into various forms of social housing support- including into private rented tenancies under Homeless HAP.

Homeless HAP accounts for 30 of these tenancies.



### **Covid-19 Continued Support**

Measures have continued within Fingal to ensure that Traveller families receive as much assistance as possible during these unprecedented times, and particularly having regard to relevant and current public health guidelines and restrictions levels.

Daily site visits by Housing Inspectorate are continuing with due care to maintain public health guidelines while checking on vulnerable residents and advising on the continued supports available. In addition, the Council's designated Social Worker Service for Travellers continues to make regular contact with the most vulnerable, in order to assist with additional needs arising from the current circumstances.

Senior Officials are engaged on an ongoing basis with the HSE pertaining to Covid Public Health Guidelines.

### **Traveller Accommodation**

A programme of works in relation to the refurbishment and upgrading of existing accommodation on specific sites is currently in development with the County Architect. Preparation and site-specific works are continuing in order to progress Traveller Specific Accommodation at Stockhole Lane and Cappagh in accordance with the provision of the Traveller Accommodation Programme 2019-2024. Site works at Stockhole Lane continues to progress and completion is pending supply of essential services to the dwellings. Preparation work on the allocation of units at this site has commenced.

General site maintenance has continued on all Traveller Specific Sites throughout all levels of Covid restrictions.

### **Housing Welfare Service**

The Social Workers attached to the Housing Department are available to support vulnerable tenancies and to work with housing applicants who have medical/welfare needs.

In response to **Covid-19**, the Housing Social Workers have been actively engaged with their most vulnerable cases at this time providing support,

information and inter-agency linkages when and where required. The Estate Management Section continues to work with the most vulnerable and complex of our Tenants in collaboration with our Housing Welfare, Tenancy Sustainment Officers and external statutory agencies to protect and assist the most vulnerable of our tenancies.

### **Maintenance Requests**



During Level 5 Restrictions essential maintenance works such as electrical, water and heating continued and 10,531 maintenance requests have been received year to-date.

### **Anti-Social Behaviour/Inspectorate Unit**

The ongoing management and sustainment with regard to social tenancies and good estate management falls within the remit of the ASB/Inspectorate Unit. Alleged breaches pertaining to tenancy agreements are investigated and pursued in accordance with housing legislative guidelines.

There are occasions when the vulnerabilities, complexities and health related issues associated with a tenancy require tenancy sustainment intervention and supports. Ongoing case management and review with a variety of external agencies, including Approved Housing Bodies, An Garda Síochána, TUSLA and the HSE is a necessity to ensure all agencies work collaboratively with a view to achieving best outcomes.

## Stock Management

Breach of Ten.	28
Miscellaneous	28
Regularisation	9
Downsizing	22

## Surrenders on Estate Management Grounds 2021

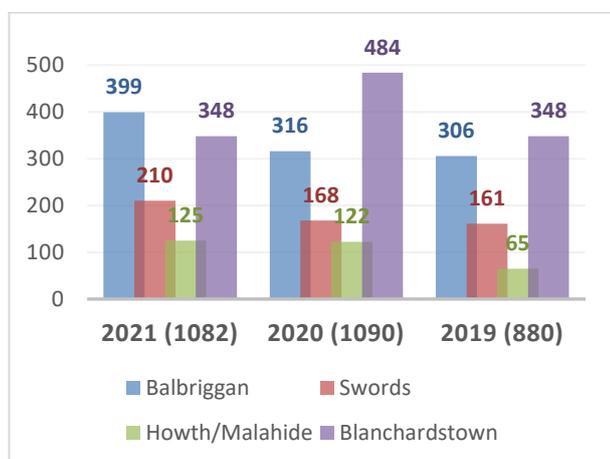
– 0 (Jan), 1 (Feb), 1 (Mar), 0 (April), 1 (May), 1 (June), 1 (July), 2 (Aug), 0 (Sep)

## ASB Caseload Management

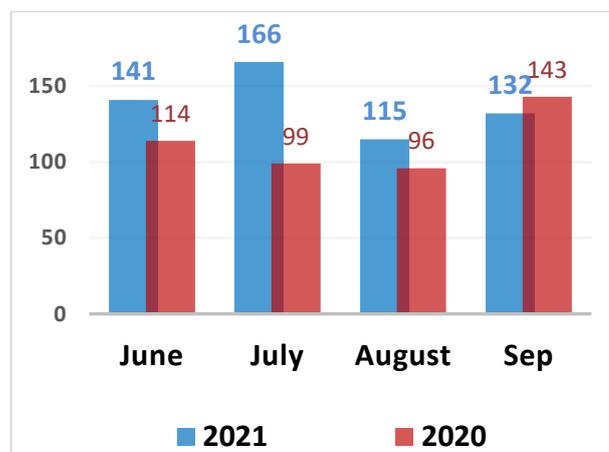
Aug 2021	Active Investigation	Active Monitoring	Closed
Dublin 15	28	5	9
North County	33	11	8
<b>Total</b>	<b>61</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>17</b>

All ASB complaints received are followed up and investigated by a designated team within with ASB Unit and allegations of breaches of Tenancy are pursued accordingly. All complaints are received in confidence.

## Area Breakdown 2019-2021



## Monthly Breakdown of Complaints Received 2020-21



## Anti-Social Interventions

Interviews Held 2021	28
Interviews Held 2020	108
Tenancy Alerts 2021	21
Tenancy Alerts 2020	35
Tenancy Warnings 2021	2
Tenancy Warnings 2020	4

## Inspectorate

Traveller Specific Inspections 2021	1317
Traveller Specific Inspections 2020	1735
Estate Inspections 2021	937
Estate Inspections 2020	636
EM/ASB Inspections 2021	2548
EM/ASB Inspections 2020	3610

## COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

<p><b>COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT OFFICE</b> Dublin15 Community Centre Rejuvenation Support Programme Conversations for Life Programme Fingal Halloween Community Project Fingal Community and Sports Hub</p> <p><b>FINGAL INTEGRATION OFFICE</b> Fingal Ethnic Network – Intercultural Day World Day of Migrants and Refugees Fingal Integration Forum Members hosted some events Loving and Affectionate Families event Expert Advisory Group</p>	<p><b>AGE FRIENDLY PROGRAMME</b> Positive Ageing Week Events</p> <p><b>SPORTS OFFICE</b> Balbriggan Be Active Night ParkFit Tyrrelstown FC Sports Funding</p>
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### COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT OFFICE

#### Dublin 15 Community Centre Rejuvenation Support Programme

In line with government guidelines and the further lifting of restrictions Living with COVID19, on the 20<sup>th</sup> of September Fingal County Council Community Centres commenced to welcome back community groups. In Dublin 15 the Community Development Team have been working with centre managers to support local leaflet drops, centre open days, reaching out and supporting group activity to return safely to the Community Centres. This week will see many groups return to activities which include the new 'Conversations for Life' programme.

#### Conversations for Life Programme

Conversations for Life is a 16-week pilot programme that teaches English through friendly supportive

conversations. This programme is supported by a team of volunteers from the Practical Language Service. The Dublin 15 Community Development Team has supported this voluntary service to run classes in 2 locations - Mountview Community Centre on 22<sup>nd</sup> September and one in Mulhuddart on 24<sup>th</sup> September.

#### Fingal Halloween Community Project

The Dublin 15 Community Development team continue to contribute towards the costs of Community Halloween Projects for 2021. Invitations will be issued to Community Centres and organisations with a track record in delivering both Halloween and general community events, in collaboration with FCC Community Office support in the past. Participating groups will host recreational type events on the lead up to Halloween. Events, in addition to being fun, will deliver an educational '**Staying Safe and Awareness**'

message to young people along with promoting the many complimentary services that other Fingal County Council Departments provide during Halloween i.e. recycling amnesty, bulb planting etc.

### Fingal Community and Sports Hub

October will see the opening of a Community and Sports Hub in Mountview Community Youth and Sports Centre and Tyrrellstown Community Centre. The overall purpose of the Community and Sports Hub is to support community groups, develop community and voluntary initiatives and increase community services delivery in the Centres. The Team has been working on the HUB branding, reaching agreement on HUB users and working towards the hosting of showcase events in October.

### Comhairle Na Nog

The first official meeting of Comhairle Na Nog was held on 13<sup>th</sup> September in relation to 2021 AGM was held in VR. A discussion and plan was set for the upcoming AGM. The members agreed to host the AGM on the 11th of November 2021. All members agreed that they would like to participate in running workshops at the AGM and will start looking at speakers. The AGM is set for a virtual platform this year and follows on from a very successful virtual AGM 2020.

As part of Comhairle Na Nog's work topic on mental health they have been running Mental Health Mondays. They have been posting advice, sharing tips and giving advice on how to maintain positive mental health.

In Septembers meeting the members voted on a day trip on the 2nd of October to Carlingford Adventure Center; won by 1 vote.



## FINGAL INTEGRATION OFFICE

### Fingal Ethnic Network - Intercultural Day

The Fingal Integration Officer attended Fingal Ethnic Network's Intercultural Day on the 21<sup>st</sup> of August using Community Integration Funding to host a three-hour online event which was a showcase of Cultural Activities from over 15 countries such as Asia, Europe, Africa, and South America. It was an opportunity to learn about the traditions around the Globe. It finished with an Interactive Quiz which focused on the content of the day, it was a wonderful way to learn about many customs and practices around the world.

**Fingal Ethnic Network**  
AN ROINN DILAGA'S CRT AGUS COMHOANSAIN  
DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE AND EQUALITY

Comhairle Contae Fhine Gall  
Fingal County Council

# Intercultural Day

**FREE ONLINE ZOOM EVENT**

**CELEBRATE DIVERSITY**

"This Project is supported by the Communities Integration Fund"

**SATURDAY | AUGUST 21, 2021 | From 3pm**

**ZOOM ID: 916 3095 1971**  
**Passcode: 262298**

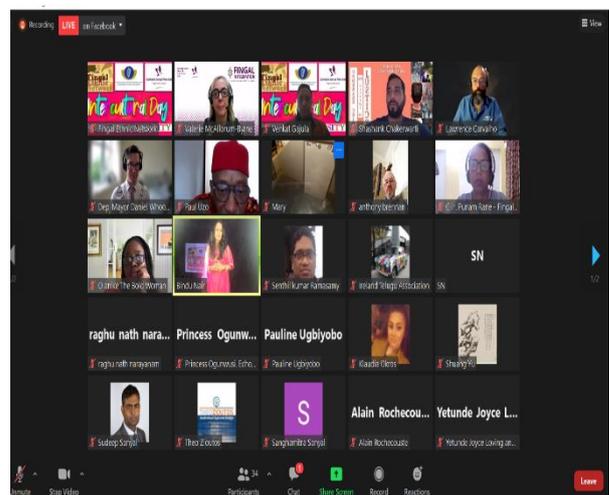
**facebook LIVE Streaming**

- Showcasing of cultural acts from 10+ countries.
- Learn about the traditions around the globe.
- Fun Filled Interactive Quiz - Many Prizes to be Won.
- Entire event will be Live streamed in FEN FB Page.

**To Participate in FEN Intercultural Day event, Fill Participant Registration form before 10th AUG'21**  
<https://forms.gle/Zm6zwDjrcMR FELW8A>

**For more info:** [fen-icd@fingalethnicnetwork.ie](mailto:fen-icd@fingalethnicnetwork.ie) 0860633087 / 0857337576 / 0874179640  
fen.ie fb.com/fingalethnicnetwork.ie

**Participating Countries** Various Countries from Asia, Europe, Africa and South America

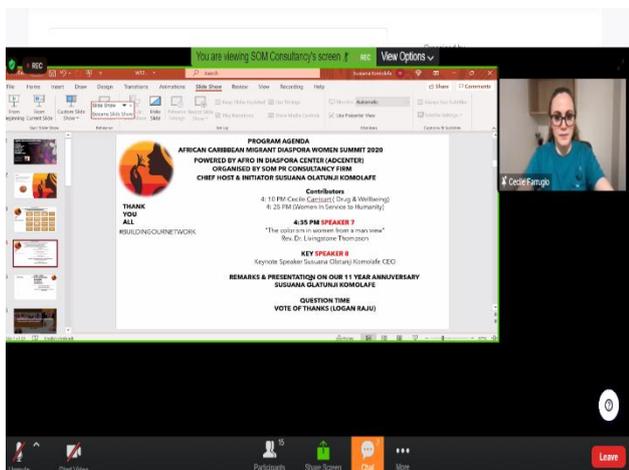


**World Day of Migrants and Refugees**  
2021 theme is *“Together we heal, learn and shine”*.

**Fingal Integration Forum** Celebrated World Day of Migrants and Refugees with St. Finian’s Parish. All who attend masses on the weekend of September 26<sup>th</sup> and 27<sup>th</sup> were invited to say where they are from and read a prayer in their language of origin. The purpose of this event was to harvest a sense of the diversity in the surrounding communities to plan.

**Fingal Integration Forum Members hosted some events**

The Fingal Integration Officer attended 4<sup>th</sup> annual **“Women’s Summit”** hosted by **Afro in Diaspora Center** on Saturday 25<sup>th</sup> September. The theme for this year’s event was **“Building Our Network”** and covered several topics such as colorism, drug issues and women in the community.

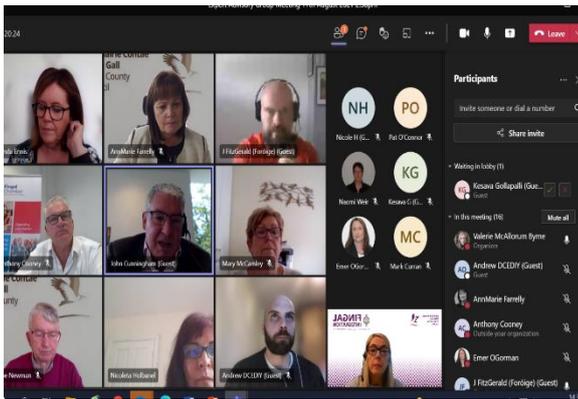


The Fingal Integration Officer attended **Loving and Affectionate Families event “Planning our Future”** Community Webinar on Saturday 25<sup>th</sup> September. This online seminar invited us, to have a national conversation on employment and inclusion, Entrepreneurship and Childcare.



**Expert Advisory Group**

The Expert Advisory Group was set up in 2018 to oversee the development of the Fingal Migrant Integration and Social Cohesion Strategy 2019 – 2024, 18 months after its development the group met on 17<sup>th</sup> August to evaluate progress of the strategy. Welcomed by the Chief Executive and Facilitated by Independent Chairperson John Cunningham, the meeting commenced with presentations of the evaluation report and led into the delivery of the Action Plan 2021-2022 by our Integration Officer with general feedback was very positive. The Chief Executive summed up by saying **“A lot of work has been done and we are hoping to do a lot more”** reiterating Fingal County Council’s commitment to the ongoing delivery of the Strategy.



commenced 27<sup>th</sup> September – 1<sup>st</sup> October 2021 and was celebrated with the theme **‘Re-Connecting Communities’** in particular for community groups, social clubs, day centres to re-connect in a safe way.

Events took place all week in the outdoors, in Swords Castle, Hartstown Park, Blanchardstown and Irish Institute of Music and Song, Balbriggan which brought many happy, smiling faces that was thoroughly enjoyed by all, that included Chair Yoga, Song and Dancing. There is definitely a great swing in the step of the ageing population in Fingal areas.

### Communities Integration Funding 2021

Partner / Collaborator:	Project:	Amount:
FEN	Intercultural Project Awareness Programme and Intercultural Event 21 <sup>st</sup> August.	€5,000
FIF & Area 5 Team	Consultation on Intercultural Hub – Dublin 15 Area pilot for rollout in Fingal	€5,000 (Plus possible match funding from CDO €5,000)
Castleknock Community Centre	Intercultural Day and Information Awareness Evenings	Costing currently being assessed
Mountview CDO Hub	Cambridge English Language for Hard to Reach	Cost Approx. €5,000
FIF & Foroige	Wednesday Night Club Tyrrelstown	Cost €5,000



### AGE FRIENDLY PROGRAMME

The Age Friendly Programme Manager continues the implementation of the Age Friendly Strategy 2018-2023, with monthly virtual meetings with Age Friendly Fingal Alliance and Older People’s Council, engaging with many stakeholders, HSE, DCU Age Friendly University, DDLEETB etc. **‘Positive Ageing Week’**



### Sports Office

### Balbriggan Be Active Night

The Balbriggan Be Active Night took place on September 25<sup>th</sup> and with over 200 young people in attendance the cycling velodrome on the grounds of Flemington Community Centre. The event organised by the Sports Office and funded by Sport Ireland was promoting participation in sport while encouraging kids to get on their bikes and get active.



## **ParkFit**

The Parkfit programme has been taking part in 4 locations around Fingal including Balbriggan, Lanesborough, Millennium Park and Tyrrelstown Park. These free fitness classes are available to the public free of charge and will include options for all levels of ability including the integration of people with a disability. The classes are currently taking place weekly and vary from Body Mind Movement, Core and Chair Exercise, and general fitness. Each class lasts 30–40-minute and are delivered by qualified instructors.



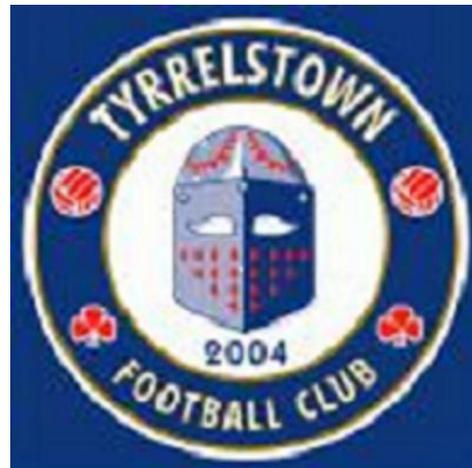
## **Exercise Energise Programme**

Exercise Energise can be rolled out by schools as an afterschool/during school initiative aimed at post primary schools. The programme targets in-active teenage girls in first and second year with the participants deciding what physical activities they want to engage in. The programme which aims to help reintroduce girls into sport and create a positive attitude towards physical activity will run for 12 weeks will see 12 Fingal schools from across the county take part and aims to help reintroduce girls into sport and create a positive attitude towards physical activity.



## **Tyrrelstown FC**

As part of our plans for Tyrrelstown we have started a new football team in partnership with our Fingal/FAI Football Development Officers. The new Tyrrelstown FC Academy will take place every Sunday morning on the all-weather pitch and is open to all children from 4-14yrs. As part of the re-establishment of the club the Sports Office is supporting and delivering volunteer development programmes and the training of coaches in the area. It is hoped the club will have a fully functional executive committee in the coming weeks and they will enter teams into the league in 2022.



## **Sports Funding**

Although the equipment and youth sports funding has closed for Sports Clubs, we have committed to funding over 50 clubs approximately €100,000 in 2021 with five applications still open and being processed.

# ENVIRONMENT, CLIMATE ACTION & ACTIVE TRAVEL

Contents	
Climate Action	Landfill Aftercare
Environmental Awareness	Litter Management
Circular Economy	Waste Enforcement
Bring Centres	Flood Schemes
Water Quality Protection	Active Travel
Bathing Water Quality	

## Climate Action

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

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

The four Dublin Local Authorities, CARO & Codema hosted Dublin Climate Action Week (#DCAW21) from 13th September 2021 with the vision of showcasing Dublin’s climate action progress to its citizens and demonstrate the leadership role of the four local authorities in conjunction with other partners’.

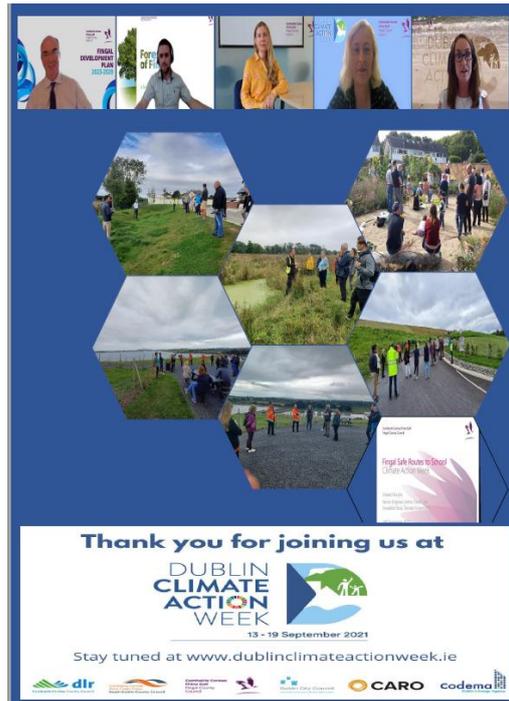
The week was aligned with Bike week, and both were a great success with good public attendances and engagement. Fingal hosted a number of site visits and webinars and recordings of many of the webinars are available to view at [www.dublinclimateactionweek.ie](http://www.dublinclimateactionweek.ie).

Climate Action Championing leadership training has been rolled out to Councillors and senior staff and feedback has been positive.

### Explore the Climate Action Week Event Programme:

Day	Time	Event	Speakers	Event Format
Monday 13 Sept 2021	14:30	Rogerstown Park Site Visit: Waste Management in Ireland, and Tips for Households	Ronan O'Reilly, James Walls, Brian Reynolds, Janice Butler	Site Visit
	18:30	ReUse & Repair Initiative in Fingal	Rediscovery reps, Sinead Fox, Community reps	Online Screening
Tuesday 14 Sept 2021	10:00	Chief Executive of the Dublin Local Authorities	DLR, Fingal, DCC, SDCC, CARO Chief Executives	Online Panel Discussion
	19:00	Living Lightly- Sustainable Living	Elaine Butler	Online Live Webinar
Wednesday 15 Sept 2021	12:00	St. Ita's Wetland Site Visit- Biodiversity & Climate benefit of Rewetting Wetlands	Hans Visser	Site Visit
	10:00	Rogerstown Estuary Site Visit - Let's Flood	Hans Visser	Site Visit
	16:00	Sustainable Fingal webinar - Highlight Opportunities and Supports for SME's	Aoife Sheridan, Darja Balciunaitė	Live Webinar
	10:00	Incorporating Sustainable Drainage Systems in Residential Developments	Colin Gallagher, Daragh Sheehy,	Site Visit
Thursday 16 Sept 2021	15:00	Forests of Fingal	Kevin Halperin, Michael Staunton	Live Webinar
	19:00	Conscious Cup Campaign Tidy Towns Workshop	Sorcha Kavanagh	Live Webinar
	13:00	Fast Fashion Panel Discussion	Carrie Ann Moran	Live Panel Discussion
	10:00	Composting Made Easy	Craig Benton	Site Visit
Saturday 18 Sept 2021	10:00	Composting Made Easy	-	Event Format
	15:00	Composting Made Easy	-	In Person Site Visit - Bayside Association Community Garden

Register for events at [www.dublinclimateactionweek.ie](http://www.dublinclimateactionweek.ie)



**Environmental Awareness**

**Dublin Community Clean Up** – This was a week-long mobilisation of groups all around Dublin involving the Local Authorities, Canals groups, resident and estates groups and Tidy Towns. Schools and Community groups were very active throughout the week and made huge efforts to clean up areas of litter. The joint effort is very effective as it brings people together. Areas represented were Naul, Oldtown, Ballyboughal, Baldoyle, Howth, Skerries, , Swords, Rush, Lusk, Balbriggan, Meakstown, Blanchardstown, Castleknock, Ongar, Portrane, Donabate & Balrothery.

**Composting for Schools Pilot** was launched on 23<sup>rd</sup> of September. This involves the four Dublin Local Authorities and the Regional Waste Office. The pilot project will fund online training and classroom resources for 107 Dublin schools as well as a €250 voucher for each school to spend on composting kit such as wormeries, pallet bins and leaf-mould cages. Each teacher will receive comprehensive training and access to an online forum. Fingal primary and secondary schools can register [here](#). Composting is circular economy, it prevents greenhouse gas emissions and creates a useful garden product.

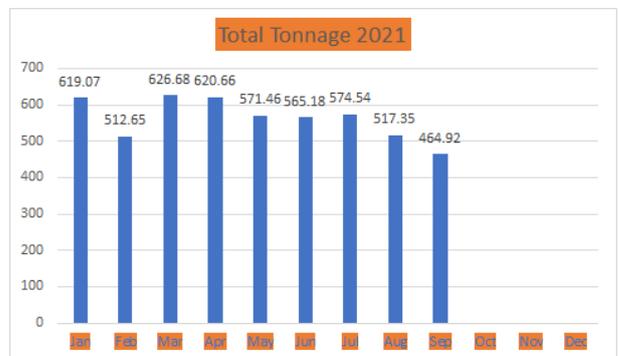


DCAW Composting Workshop Bayside

**Circular Economy**

**Bring Centres**

The total amount of glass collect throughout of Bring Centre network in September was 464.92 tons. The chart below shows overall tonnages this year.



In September, the Environment Department installed three new audio devices at the Bring Centre locations below. This brings to six the total number of devices installed throughout the Bring Centre network.

The new audio devices have been installed at littering hot spots as a deterrent to littering and illegal dumping. There is evidence to suggest that the installation of these devices result in a reduction of littering and illegal dumping.

The Environment Department will monitor these sites over the coming six months to determine the effectiveness of these devices. The devices can be rotated as required to other sites or their use if effective can be extended further throughout the network.

#### New Audio Devices installed at Bring Centres



New Audio Device Littlepace Shopping Centre Dublin 15



New Audio Device RiverValley Swords.



New Audio Device Rush South Beach

#### Bring Bank Painting

Further requests have been made to our contractor to have several other Bring Centre receptacles repainted which will be done in September /October 2021. Power washing continues throughout the County. A repaint job was completed at Littlepace Shopping Centre at the request of the owner to improve the overall look of the site at this location.

#### Bring Bank Expansion

The Environment Department continue to work to expand the network of Glass and Textiles recycling facilities throughout Fingal.

#### Textile Recycling

The Textile Recycling Contract will be awarded in October.

## Landfill Aftercare - Dunsink

### Landfill Licence Compliance

The Landfill Licence monthly compliance monitoring programme continued in August with 30 No. samples taken - four surface water, nine groundwater locations and seventeen for landfill gas. Monitoring will continue in September. At the end of the month the third quarter monitoring reports for surface water, groundwater, landfill gas and leachate will be finalised and submitted to the Environmental Protection Agency.

Approximately 5000 tonnes of topsoil were imported onto the Landfill between the months of June and August. This area has now been seeded with grass and post/wire fencing of this area is due to start in September. The Council plans to commence a tree planting programme in this area in 2022.



Sowing Grass seed on topsoil imported to Dunsink Landfill – August 2021.

### Works at Dunsink Compound and Gas Combustion Plant.

Key infrastructural works which commenced in April 2021 are now nearing completion and will result in significant operational and Health and Safety benefits for both Fingal staff, Contractors operating on behalf of the Council and Horse Club members.

The works included:

- The removal and relocation of all Horse Club Stable structures, equipment and access to the existing Dunsink Landfill Compound.
- Improved security and fencing of the Compound with access to the area for Council staff and contractors only.
- Ground improvement works and a newly fenced and segregated yard with separate access to accommodate the Horse Club and its activities.



Horse Club Stable Structures in process of being relocated to newly segregated yard adjoining the existing Dunsink Compound.

### Litter Management

A total of 280 planned route inspections were carried out by the Litter Wardens in September, resulting in the fines and warnings issued as set out in the table below.

There are **5** cases listed for prosecution in District Court for October 2021 with a further **32** listed for November 2021.

In addition to these, a further **13** cases are being prepared for legal proceedings at present with more to follow.

The Litter Wardens will shortly begin their targeted inspections in addition to the planned route inspections aimed at ensuring business owners take every step to prevent any material generated by their business is not accessible for burning on Halloween bonfires.

Month	Fines issued 2020	Warnings Issued 2020	Fines Issued 2021	Warnings Issued 2021
January	83	39	3	16
February	103	12	33	23
March	32	16	36	35
April	0	1	66	27
May	0	3	71	116
June	35	1	45	35
July	99	18	75	21
August	49	7	36	23
September	34	7	28	28

\*\*\* 2 of the fines listed above in the Litter Enforcement Section were for dog fouling offences.

### **Dog Warden & Dog Shelter Service**

Midland Animal Care commenced the provision of the dog shelter service for the Council on 15<sup>th</sup> September 2021. There are currently no dogs at the facility. Preparations are currently underway to facilitate a visit to the premises for Councillors. Moving forward Councillors are welcome to visit the facility at any time.

### **Fines issued under the Control of Dogs Act**

Month	Fines Issued
Jan	3
Feb	6
Mar	5
Apr	5
May	1
Jun	0
Jul	3
Aug	0
Sept	0

### **Horse Welfare Programme**

The final Equine ID clinic for Dunsink landfill outreach programme for 2021 took place on 1st October. The outreach programme has entered a phase of monitoring and welfare inspections. All findings from these welfare inspections will be reported to the Regional Horse Welfare Group and any actions required will be dealt with via this Group.

## Water Quality Protection

### Bathing Water Quality

#### General

The bathing water season ended on 15<sup>th</sup> September. There were 9 rounds of scheduled sampling at the ten identified bathing waters and at “other monitored” water, Malahide (the minimum required under the Bathing Regulations is four). The results of sampling have been summarized in the tables below. In general, quality was excellent/good throughout our bathing water but bathing areas with streams directly discharging to the environment were impacted by the thunderstorms during the period July/August. Prohibitions were issued on 9 occasions – a summary is provided below. While no results met ‘poor’ status for Front Strand, Balbriggan it is unlikely that there will be a lifting of the All Season Advisory Notice next year.

	Identified Waters Individual Classification				
2021 season	Excellent	Good	Sufficient	Poor	Total
Samples					
Scheduled	88	7	1	4	100
Unscheduled	8	1	1	0	10
<b>Total</b>	96	8	2	4	110

	Non Identified Waters Individual Classification				
2021 season	Excellent	Good	Sufficient	Poor	Total
Samples					
Malahide	9			2	11
resamples	3				3
other waters	4				4
<b>Total</b>	16	0	0	2	18

Incident	Date issued	Location	Prohibition	Advisory	Reason	Cause
1	07/07/2021	Balbriggan	Yes		Sufficient - sample 5/5/21	Urban and agricultural runoff
2	07/07/2021	Rush Souths	Yes		Poor - sample 5/7/21	Urban and agricultural runoff
3	20/07/2021	Skarnies		Yes	Poor early egg results 19/7/21	animals and birds and impact of urban surface waters
	21/07/2021	Skarnies	Yes <sup>1</sup>		Poor - enterococci results replaces advisory - results from 19/7/21	animals and birds and impact of urban surface waters
4	21/07/2021	Burrow	Yes		Poor - sample 19/7/21	impacts from animals and contamination of urban surface waters
5	06/08/2021	Malahide	Yes		Poor - sample 3/8/21	Unknown
6	06/08/2021	Malahide	Yes		Storm water overflow Malahide WWTP - extension of prohibition	thunderstorms
7	06/08/2021	Balbriggan	Yes		Storm water overflow Quay St.	thunderstorms
	09/08/2021	Balbriggan	Yes <sup>2</sup>		Storm water overflow Quay St extension of prohibition	thunderstorms
8	18/08/2021	Malahide		Yes	Poor egg sample 17/8/21	impacts from animals and contamination of urban surface waters
9	18/08/2021	Clarnont		Yes	Poor egg sample 17/8/21	impacts from animals and contamination of urban surface waters
	19/08/2021	Clarnont	Yes <sup>1</sup>		Poor enterococci - sample 17/8/21	impacts from animals and contamination of urban surface waters

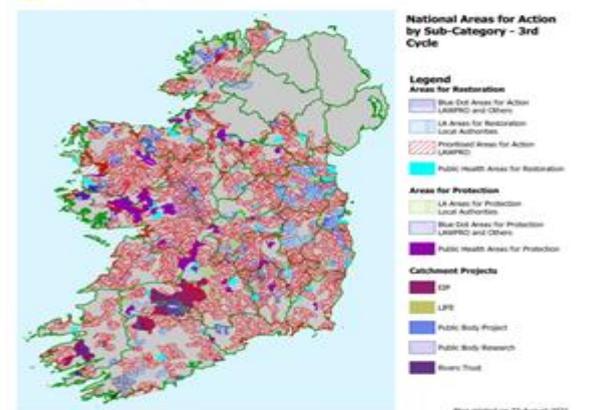
There were five yellow warnings for Thunderstorms and five yellow warnings for rainfall during the bathing season. Rainfall from thunderstorm events are unpredictable as to where they fall but can cause significant localised impacts to the bathing areas. After a heavy rainfall event it is important to avoid contact with the water for at least 48 hours to prevent the risk of getting a recreational water illness. For more information see: <https://www.beaches.ie/protect-your-health-with-the-48-hour-rule/>

## **Draft River Basin Management Plan for Ireland 2022-2027**

The Minister for Housing, Local Government and Heritage, Darragh O'Brien, TD, has published the draft River Basin Management Plan for Ireland 2022-2027 for public consultation. The Minister now invites submissions, observations and comments on the proposed plan. Ireland's third River Basin Management Plan (RBMP) will be open for public consultation until 31<sup>st</sup> March, 2022 (see link below). River Basin Management Plans (RBMPs) are key tools for implementation of the EU Water Framework Directive (WFD) and key European legislation which requires our rivers, lakes, groundwater and coastal water to achieve a healthy state, or what's known as 'good ecological status'. Ireland's first River Basin Management Plan (RBMP) was published in 2009, the second in 2018, and the third RBMP will run for six years to 2027.



Figure 11: Map of third cycle Areas for Action



Website link; <https://www.gov.ie/en/consultation/2bda0-public-consultation-on-the-draft-river-basin-management-plan-for-ireland-2022-2027/>

## **Active Travel**

### **FCC Active Travel Programme 2021**

NTA funding has been secured for several projects, details of progress outlined below.

### **Hartstown / Huntstown / Mountview Road, Dublin 15**

Phase 2A of the Hartstown/Huntstown works is now almost complete with the construction of uncontrolled crossing points along the route to give safe crossing locations for persons with reduced mobility. Phase 2B design works are almost complete and these works will see the junctions and roundabouts along the route upgraded to add cycle protection infrastructure.



### **Hartstown/Huntstown Kerb Protected Cycle Lane – New Uncontrolled Crossing Points and Junction Build Out**



### **Hartstown/Huntstown Kerb Protected Cycle Lane – New Uncontrolled Crossing Points and Junction Build Outs**

### **Rivervalley Rathingle, Swords**

Design works for the Phase 2 of the Kerb protected cycle lanes is now complete and phase 2 of these works have now commenced. These works will consist of junction build outs which will provide a safer crossing location for pedestrians, roundabout modifications which will provide a safer path for cyclists through roundabouts and finally bus stop build outs which will allow cyclists to pass safely behind bus stops and remove the current conflict with busses.

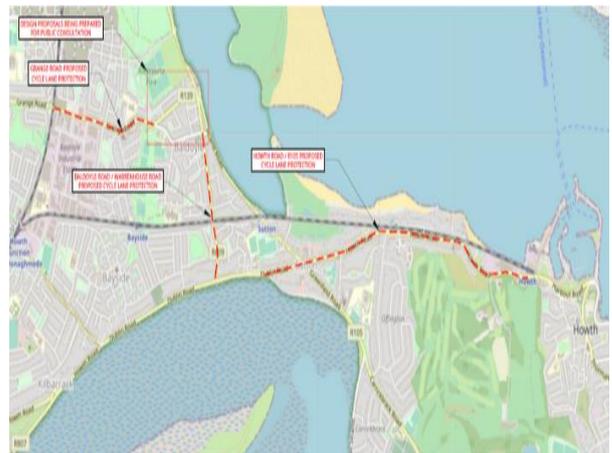
### **St. Cronan's Avenue, Swords**

St Cronan's Avenue is progressing steadily with revised design options submitted recently to the Active Travel project team for consideration. We have expanded the Project brief to include other issues that have been identified in the area through our Connectivity and Permeability Tracker and our Safer Routes to School programme. These include the Brackenstown Road Cycle lanes and also St Cronan's Junior & Senior Schools for front of school treatment on Brackenstown Road. The review will consider the design proposal in terms of safety, function and costing of constructing the new cycling infrastructure in this area as well as footpath repair and junction build outs for safer crossing points. Engagement with the Schools and Parish Centre has commenced and further engagement will be held with all stakeholders once preliminary design is available.

### **Grange Rd/Warrenhouse Rd/Dublin Rd/Howth Rd**

Footpath repair works have been completed on Grange Road. Footpath repair works have commenced on Howth Road and are due to last for 2 weeks. Civil works on Warrenhouse Road i.e. junction build outs are progressing and are due to be completed in the next week.

Line marking works on Grange Road and Warrenhouse Road have commenced are due to be completed in the next 2 weeks, weather dependant.



### **Baldoyle to Howth Phase 1 Route**



**Junction build out engineering works with traffic calming measures on Warrenhouse Road**

### **R132 Ministers Road to Blakes Cross**

The design consultants have completed the update to the Options Appraisal Report. The next step is to review the current speed limit on a section of the road between Corduff National School and Ministers Road to ensure the recommended design proposal can be constructed in compliance with national design standards. Once this element is addressed the Active Travel unit will progress with full design, preparation of tender package. Works are planned to commence early 2022.

### **Towns & Villages Mobility**

Currently the Active Travel Unit is reviewing towns and villages around the county with a view to identifying projects and measures which will allow for people to make meaningful journeys using active travel modes such as walking and cycling. This review will inform our works programme over this and coming years.

### **Connectivity Review**

We are continuing to receive various requests regarding Permeability and Connectivity pieces from various stakeholders across the county. These are being recorded in detail for further investigation and development.

We have developed a Connectivity Tracker that is recording the details and is being used to evaluate and help to identify the best course of action and mechanism to develop these ideas and progress them to fruition and delivery on the ground.

Once evaluation is completed on the list to date, it is planned to look at the first tranche of works and agree a mechanism for developing and delivering these projects on the ground.

Where there are existing Projects in close proximity to the issue highlighted, at design or construction stage we endeavour to include these Connectivity and Permeability pieces within overall schemes.

### **Upcoming Projects**

The Active Travel Unit will also be commencing design works on the following schemes:

- Bus Gate at Littlepace (NTA partnership) - The NTA have indicated that they intend to commence planning and design work on this bus-only access proposal early next year and that there will be extensive public consultation undertaken when initial designs are developed.
- Protected cycle Lane on Snugborough Road – NAC to Ongar, this will consist initially of a scoping exercise and feasibility report.

### **Safe Routes to School Programme Update**

<b>Engagement:</b>	<b>Future Engagement:</b>
Meetings held with 7 Principals to date: Road Safety Concerns discussed Potential front of school treatments explained Permeability/Connectivity measures identified Hands Up Surveys Completed (staff + pupils) List of estates children travelling to/from school Meeting requests issued to remaining 4 Principals	Presentations to Councillors Leaflet drop to stakeholders eg: residents/businesses as applicable Engagement with Parents/Parents Association Public Meeting Non-statutory public consultation School gate engagement Notification of temporary road closure where applicable in local newspapers/social media

Consultants have been appointed to prepare a long list of potential SRTS measures for each of the selected schools and to identify the most suitable option.

The Active Travel section will also continue to work with schools outside of this programme who did not submit an Expression of Interest to An Taisce through our Active Travel Programme.

Presentation will be given to the Councillors on the SRTS Programme at each October Area Committee Meeting



**Bleper Bikes**

Fingal Bike Share Scheme – August Usage – Bleper Active

**Existing Bike Share Scheme – Fingal**

<b>August</b>
1429 bike journeys started within existing Fingal operating zone in August, down from 1980 in July.
1517 bike journeys ended within existing Fingal operating zone in August. Excess bikes are collected by Bleper and returned to the city centre.
Highest usage recorded on Sundays with 19.33% followed by Monday's with 16.9%
Howth train station was the most popular location again.

Average number of 77 bikes in Fingal (SLA = 50) available for hire each day of the month, 6 more than the month of July.

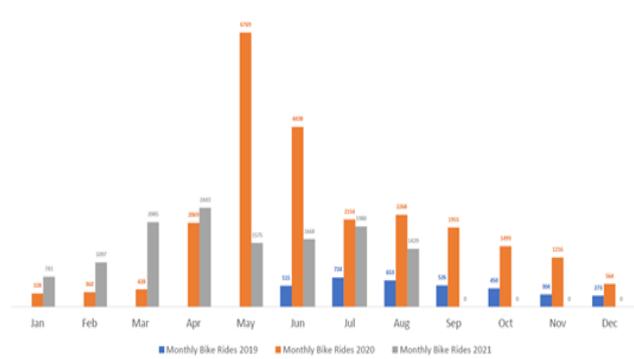
Increase in return trips to Dublin Airport, despite it being outside Fingal's operating zone.

**Bleper Bike Expansion – North County Summer Pilot**

<b>August</b>
New locations in North Fingal for a 3-month pilot include Donabate, Portrane, Rush, Skerries, and Balbriggan with a total of 70 bikes allocated. The pilot scheme has been extended by 1 month, until the end of September.
748 bike journeys started within North Fingal pilot zone in August, down from 1284 in July.
748 bike journeys ended within North Fingal pilot zone in August.
Balbriggan is the most popular location with 320 journeys (decrease from July) followed by Skerries with 302 (decrease from July).

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

All Fingal staff and Elected Members can avail of free bleper bike hire.



Monthly Bike Ride figures from 2019, 2020 & 2021

## **Cycling without Age**

We continue to recruit pilot volunteers for the Cycling without Age initiative. To date, there are 36 volunteers fully trained in operating the Trishaws. In total, 74 Volunteers have signed up from across the 3 Local Electoral Areas.

Further training will take place in Santry Demesne on 11th October and we continue to welcome any new volunteers who would like to sign up to this initiative.



## **Bike Week 2021**

Active Travel held numerous events and activities throughout the County during Bike Week, which took place from Sunday 12<sup>th</sup> of September to Saturday, 18<sup>th</sup> of September. These events included Family Group Cycles, Pedal for your Medal Cycle Challenge, Photo Competitions, Adult Cycle training, All Inclusive cycle with St. Michael's House, A Community Cycle on the Baldoyle/Portmarnock Greenway, Staff Lunchtime cycles, Glow in the Dark cycle, a flagship event in St. Catherines Park and more. It was a huge success with the Glow in the Dark cycle being the highlight of the week.



**Launch of Bike Week in Newbridge Demesne**



**Staff Lunchtime Cycle**



**All Inclusive Event, Malahide Castle**



**Adult Cycle Training, Swords**



**Photographs from the Family Fun Day, St. Catherine's Park**



**Photographs from the Glow in the Dark Cycle, Malahide Demesne**



### **E-Scooter & E-Bike Demo Day**

BIRD E-Mobility Company came to Millenium Park to provide a demo on their latest model of electric scooter and their new electric bike. With new legislation due to be enacted in the coming months on e-mobility, it was beneficial to see how e-scooters and e-bikes will operate in the public domain using the latest technology such as:

- Parking technology
- Anti-pavement riding technology
- Go-slow zones
- No-go zones
- In-app safety features

A competitive Tender process will take place in the coming months to appoint a suitable service provider.



**Keen To Be Green**

The Active Travel Section were delighted to attend the Fingal Community Facilities Network’s launch of their ‘Keen to be Green’ charter and to give a presentation to Centre Managers on where Active Travel has come from, what it means and why it is so important. An overview was also given on upcoming projects and initiatives and how the support of the community will help us in achieving our goals to become a more active and less car dependant county.

**Bike Racks**

The Active Travel Team is busy managing the installation of Bike Rack Stands throughout Fingal. A Contractor is now in place on the ground to install these Bike Racks in public areas such as parks, playgrounds, beaches, town and village centres and other recreational areas. We are continuing to receive requests from various stakeholders for Bike Racks with approximately 300 suggested locations being assessed by the team for their suitability. These are then included in work packages for inclusion on the Contractors works programme for installation. A tracker system was developed to ensure all suggested locations are captured, recorded, managed and distributed in a fair and unbiased manner in each local electoral area.

The below images illustrate recently installed bicycle stands with concrete bases in Balrothery’s Glebe Park playground and soccer pitches and also some in our Town & Village centres.



**Balrothery – Glebe Park Soccer Pitch**



**Balrothery – Glebe Park Playground**



**Skerries – Strand Street**



**Donabate – Main Street**

## FINANCE

Contents
<b>Financial Reports</b>

### Financial Reports

Refer to Appendix 1 for the following reports:

- Revenue Account Income & expenditure to 30<sup>th</sup> September, 2021
- Capital Account Income & Expenditure to 30<sup>th</sup> September, 2021
- Summary of Corporate Debtors to 30<sup>th</sup> September, 2021

## APPENDIX 1

### REVENUE ACCOUNT INCOME & EXPENDITURE SUMMARY BY SERVICE DIVISION AT 30TH SEPTEMBER 2021

	EXPENDITURE			INCOME			NET
	Expenditure €	Adopted Full Year Budget €	% Budget Spent to date	Income €	Adopted Full year Budget €	% Budget Raised	€
Housing & Building	50,444,392	71,062,100	71%	50,734,515	74,321,200	68%	-290,123
Road Transport & Safety	18,583,388	24,972,900	74%	5,789,054	7,500,800	77%	12,794,334
Water Services	13,792,019	13,792,400	100%	11,989,505	17,168,500	70%	1,802,514
Development Management	12,017,057	13,785,400	87%	5,887,871	4,496,500	131%	6,129,186
Environmental Services	31,904,960	42,814,100	75%	4,711,313	6,089,700	77%	27,193,646
Recreation & Amenity	27,215,624	36,628,900	74%	1,230,908	1,921,900	64%	25,984,716
Agriculture, Education, Health & Welfare	551,318	1,127,300	49%	202,862	225,100	90%	348,456
Miscellaneous Services	77,804,356	35,878,200	217%	63,895,151	14,325,100	446%	13,909,205
Central Management Charge	30,378,112	46,313,300	66%	2,304,863	3,187,700	72%	28,073,249
Local Property Tax / GPG				5,628,000	7,504,000	75%	-5,628,000
Rates				112,225,575	149,634,100	75%	-112,225,575
	<b>262,691,224</b>	<b>286,374,600</b>	<b>92%</b>	<b>264,599,617</b>	<b>286,374,600</b>	<b>92%</b>	<b>-1,908,393</b>

## CAPITAL ACCOUNT

### INCOME & EXPENDITURE SUMMARY BY SERVICE DIVISION TO 30/09/2021

		Balance at 01/01/2021 €	Expenditure YTD €	Income YTD €	Balance at 30/09/2021 €
A	Housing & Building	-33,151,165	35,794,079	-26,590,130	-23,947,216
B	Road Transport & Safety	17,501,293	24,885,962	-2,427,682	39,959,573
C	Water Services	-12,552,750	1,059,841	-675,645	-12,168,554
D	Development Management	-101,477,199	7,823,722	-30,985,269	-124,638,746
E	Environmental Services	-14,681,189	1,997,668	-7,208,506	-19,892,027
F	Recreation & Amenity	-12,299,513	10,674,312	-1,165,831	-2,791,032
H	Miscellaneous Services	-79,809,475	3,443,902	-23,336,205	-99,701,778
	<b>Total</b>	<b>-236,469,998</b>	<b>85,679,486</b>	<b>-92,389,268</b>	<b>-243,179,780</b>

SUMMARY OF CORPORATE DEBTORS TO 30/09/21				
	Balance at 01/01/2021 €	Balance at 30/09/21 €	Current debt €	> 1 Year €
<b>RATES</b>	-14,751,274	27,041,690	23,122,703	3,918,987
<b>LOANS</b>	1,701,915	1,885,708	308,874	1,576,834
<b>RENTS</b>	7,082,917	8,084,363	3,890,131	4,194,232

*Figures for rents and loans are unadjusted by credits/prepayments*