

**Your Council,
working for you**

**Comhairle Contae
Fhine Gall**
Fingal County
Council



April 2021
Chief Executive's
Report on Activities

Baily Lighthouse, Howth, Co. Dublin

Photo by David Pike - Economic, Enterprise, Tourism & Cultural Development



Message from AnnMarie Farrelly, Chief Executive, Fingal County Council

I hope this April Report on Activities finds you well and looking ahead to longer, brighter spring days.

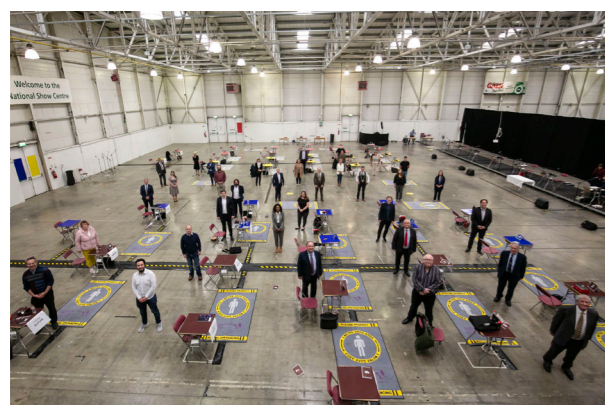
The last month was a very eventful period for us here in Fingal as we celebrated St Patrick's Day, Seachtain na Gaeilge, International Women's Day and hosted a very successful first ever virtual Local Enterprise Week. April is already shaping up to be another busy month as we will see progress on work programme delivery and capital projects. Housing delivery is a priority and construction is about to commence on site to deliver affordable housing at Dun Emer with more projects to be brought to Council in the coming months. We have commenced the review of the current Fingal Development Plan and preparation of the Fingal Development Plan 2023-2029.

This week, an easing of level 5 restrictions means that we are now permitted to travel within our county and to meet with another household outdoors for the first time in over 100 days. Our beaches, demesnes, open spaces and parks have provided much needed respite in the form of fresh air and exercise over the last 12 months and

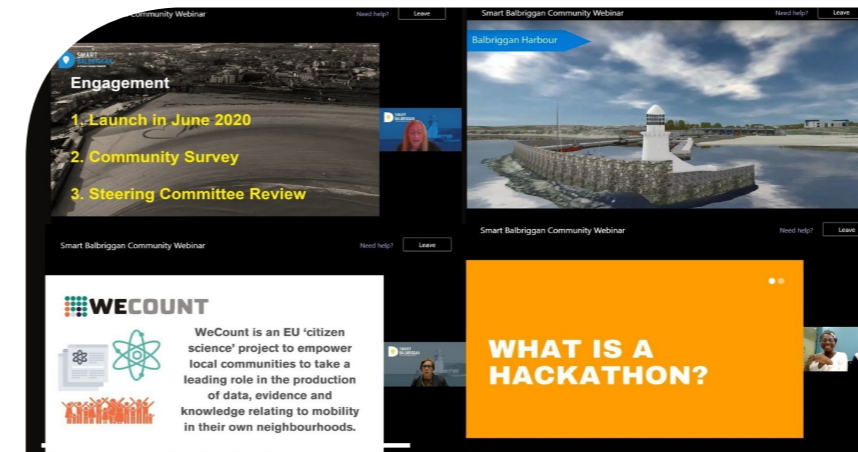
have become so important for health and wellbeing. Operations and Water Services and Environment, Climate Action and Active Travel Departments alongside the Parks and Green Infrastructure Division continually strive to ensure that we can enjoy these areas.

However, with the anticipated increase in footfall in scenic areas over the coming months, it must be recognised that littering, fly tipping and dumping continue to be a challenge. With summer almost upon us I would ask that alongside the Council taking litter and enforcement action all citizens are encouraged to play their part in assisting us protect and maintain our beautiful county. I am very much looking forward to the time when our events can recommence and our heritage sites, public buildings and libraries can once again open their doors and welcome visitors from near and far. In the meantime, please do continue to enjoy all that Fingal has to offer and stay safe.

AnnMarie Farrelly,
Chief Executive.



Fingal's 40 Elected Members attending a socially distanced meeting of Fingal County Council at the National Show Centre, Cloghran. Right: Mayor of Fingal Cllr David Healy and Chief Executive AnnMarie Farrelly recently welcomed Minister for Housing, Local Government and Heritage, Darragh O'Brien T.D. to Balbriggan to announce an investment of €25.4m for the town under call 2 of the Urban Regeneration and Development Fund.



THAT'S SMART!

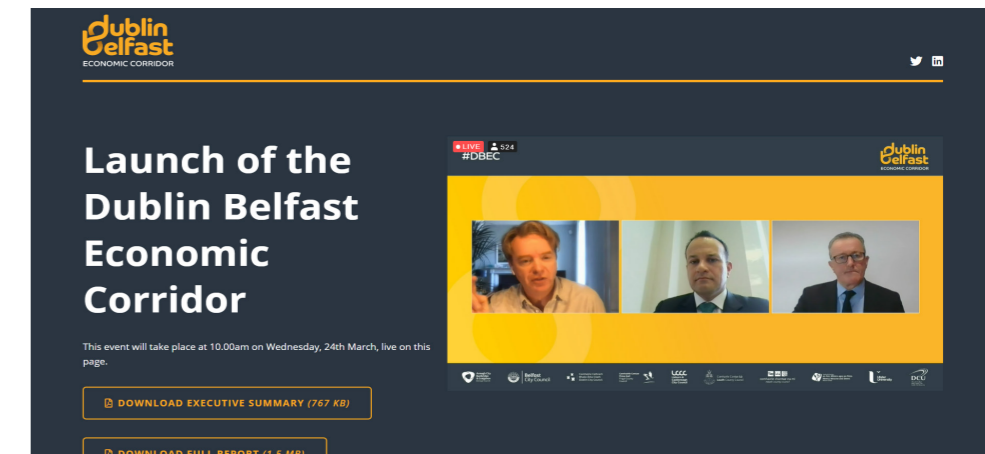
Launch of the Smart Balbriggan Programme Framework

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THE ECONOMY

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NATIONAL TREE WEEK
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FINGAL COASTAL WAY
Public consultation to begin
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AFFORDABLE HOUSING
Construction to begin shortly on the first Affordable Housing Scheme in the County in 11 years



Full details on Page 13



The seventh episode of our Inside Fingal podcast series was published during March and was an interview with our Principal Sports Officer, Marion Brown, who recently retired after 19 years with the Fingal Sports Office. She spoke about the development of sport within Fingal County Council and about the work done by her team of dedicated sports officers over the last two decades.

To listen to the Inside Fingal Podcast the following apps are recommended: iTunes, Spotify, Stitcher, Castbox and Google Podcasts. Each episode is promoted on the Fingal County Council Facebook, Instagram Twitter and LinkedIn social media accounts.

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

Seachtain na Gaeilge & Irish Language Updates



A very successful virtual Seachtain na Gaeilge festival took place in March with a programme of live and recorded virtual events and the language promoted extensively on social media and through daily bulletins issued to staff.

The public consultation regarding the proposed 4th Irish Language Scheme concluded with 4 submissions received and the Draft 4th Scheme was presented to the SPC on March 24th and will be presented to the May Council meeting.

Irish language training continued with 9 staff members starting the Certificate in Professional Irish with Gaelchultúr.



Fingal News Continues to Grow in Popularity



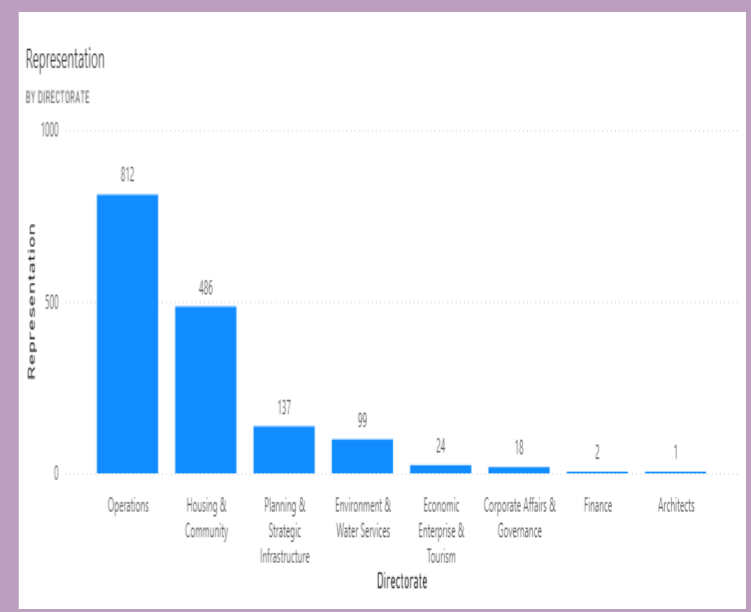
Edition 17 of Fingal News was published on March 1st and achieved a record number of conversions for both the English and Irish editions. The English edition had 661 reads from 706 impressions, a conversion rate of 94%, while the Irish edition had 28 reads from 60 impressions, a conversion rate of 47%. The previous bests were 80% for the English version of Edition 14 and 43% for the Irish version of Edition 15.

The digital magazine can be read at <https://issuu.com/fingalnews>

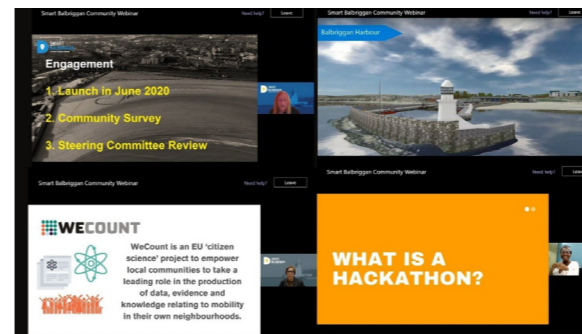
Fingal Councillors Representations Top 1,579 so far This Year

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 March had a total of 565 Councillor's representations with an overall total of 1,579 in the year to date. The table shows the breakdown of representations to each Directorate with Operations receiving 812 followed by Housing and Community at 486.



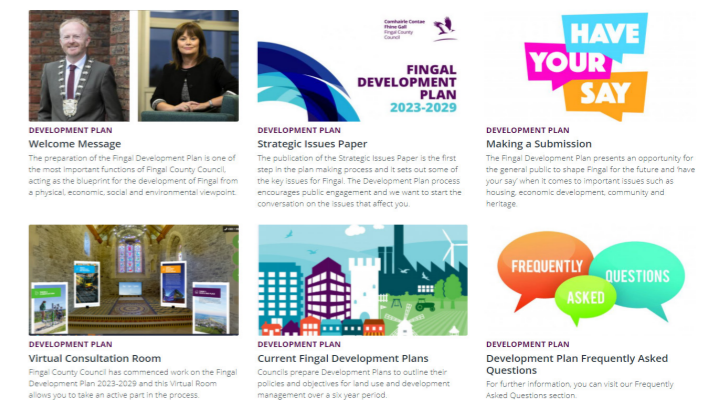
Launch of the Smart Balbriggan Programme Framework



Smart Balbriggan was founded in June 2020 by Fingal County Council as a Smart Dublin District where innovation projects are fast-tracked. Smart Balbriggan will complement and support the delivery of the Our Balbriggan Rejuvenation Plan (2019-2025) and the Fingal Digital Strategy (2020-2023) by trialing and testing new technology projects and solutions.

The Smart Balbriggan Programme Framework was developed thanks to input from the Balbriggan community and is our key guiding document, outlining our strategic priorities, principles, objectives and planned actions for the programme. Connectivity, mobility and community engagement initiatives are core focus areas for the district. A public Trello board has been set up to showcase the latest project developments as they happen.

Fingal Development Plan 2023-2029 Stage 1



During the month of March, there were 241,200 site views on our website, fingal.ie, with 88,000 unique visitors. The visitors number was up by 7,500 on February with site views increasing by 13,700.

Planning Applications continued to be the most visited page on the site with 19,000 unique visitors and 29,200 page views. The launch of the Fingal Development Plan 2023-2029 saw the creation of a special website page www.fingal.ie/developmentplan

Customers Calling!

For the month of March, the Council's Customer Care Agents dealt with a total of:

- 16,162 telephone calls
- 1,227 emails.

Launch of the Dublin Belfast Economic Corridor

This event will take place at 10.00am on Wednesday, 24th March, live on this page.

DOWNLOAD EXECUTIVE SUMMARY (767 KB)

DOWNLOAD FULL REPORT (1.5 MB)



A recorded performance by Congolese guitarist, Niwel Tsumbu was presented as part of Once Upon a Sound at The Hide Sculpture.

The series has received positive responses and was reviewed by well-known independent art critic Nialler9.

Parklet Partners Sought



Following on from the 2019 initiative which aimed to support local businesses by transforming the existing streetscape into a welcoming and attractive community space, the Council is launching another call for applications under “Parklet Partners” initiative with a deadline of the 30th April.

The parklet, which accommodates dining space and additional seating, is aimed at encouraging people back into the centre of towns and villages while complying with public health guidance.

On the 24th March Fingal County Council participated in the launch of the Dublin Belfast Economic Corridor.

The launch included a joint report “The Dublin-Belfast Economic Corridor: Current Profile, Potential for Recovery & Opportunities for Cooperation” from Dublin City University (DCU) and Ulster University (UU) which looks at the challenges for the region including Brexit and COVID-19 and the opportunities to establish clusters in key sectors, leverage collaboration and drive economic development in the region.

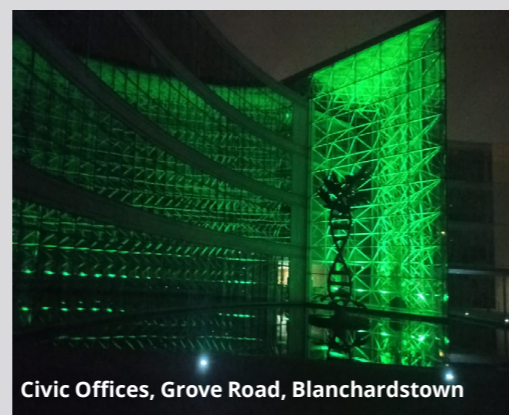
The eight local authorities involved in the development of the Corridor are:

- Armagh City, Banbridge and Craigavon Borough Council
- Belfast City Council
- Dublin City Council
- Fingal County Council
- Lisburn & Castlereagh City Council
- Louth County Council
- Meath County Council
- Newry, Mourne and Down District Council

The launch was hosted by economist David McWilliams, the webinar had over 1,000 attendees registered to attend and featured interviews with Northern Ireland’s Minister for Finance Conor Murphy MLA, Tánaiste and Minister for Enterprise, Trade and Employment Leo Varadkar TD, Minister for Housing, Local Government & Heritage Darragh Murphy TD and Robin Walker MP Minister of State for Northern Ireland.

Further information on the Corridor is available at www.dbec.info and the development of the Corridor can be followed on Twitter @DBECIreland and LinkedIn.

Public Buildings Light Up for St. Patrick’s Day



Civic Offices, Grove Road, Blanchardstown

As part of the Global Greening campaign the following buildings were lit up across the County:

- Swords Castle
- Rush Library
- Balbriggan Court House
- Lusk Round Tower,
- Balrothery Church
- Draíocht
- Blanchardstown Library
- Castleknock Church
- Civic Offices- Blanchardstown
- Swords- County Hall
- Malahide Castle
- Howth Martello Tower
- Bremore Castle
- Newbridge House

See our St. Patrick’s Day photo special on page 17



The Grow It Forward campaign is a collaborative programme between the Irish Public Library Service and the Grow It Yourself (GIY) organisation, that supports people to live healthier and more sustainable lives by growing some of their own food. The campaign runs from 23rd March to 30th June.

This project is part of a national programme developed by GIY to support the Government of Ireland’s Living with COVID Resilience and Recovery Plan, as the lead activation under the Healthy Eating pillar, delivered in partnership with the national library network.

Through this partnership Fingal Libraries will be distributing starter growing kits for people to grow at home. Each kit will contain five packets of seeds: tomatoes, carrots, mixed oriental greens, peas and beetroot. They will also contain 9 gift tags and a Grow It Forward planting information sheet. Participants are asked to Grow It Forward by sharing their kits as little seedlings, plants in pots or the produce at harvest time to 9 other people, so that the goal of impacting as many people as possible can be achieved. More information and the details of how to register for a kit are available at: <https://www.fingal.ie/grow-it-forward-campaign>

First Virtual Enterprise Week



Over 2,000 budding entrepreneurs and business owners in Fingal took part in online events, marking Local Enterprise Week, from the 1st – 5th March 2021. LEO Fingal hosted 11 events for local businesses, in addition to 10 Spotlight events which were open to businesses across the country.

Highlights from the week included: multiple guest appearances by National Enterprise Awards winner Derya Sousa; the ever-popular “Instagram for Business” webinar; the Fingal Enterprising Women Network online session featuring acclaimed TV presenter and entrepreneur Gráinne Seoige—celebrating International Women’s Day; and the official launch of the first season of the “Fingal Business Podcast”—with the first episode featuring last year’s keynote speaker: Daytime Emmy nominee, celebrity chef and businesswoman Catherine Fulvio.



Clonsilla Road Bulb Planting



Hartstown Ring Road in Bloom

Our Planting Programme is in Bloom!

Since this highly popular initiative was introduced in 2014, the Dublin 15 Operations Team have planted more than 28,000 sqm of open space comprising of in excess of 2.8M Bulbs. In 2021, the existing bulb plantings at numerous locations will be rejuvenated as part of the mechanical bulb planting programme. The citizens of Dublin 15 are also currently enjoying the emergence of 4,340m² new pollinator friendly bulbs planting at 12 new locations this year.

Many new areas of bulb planting were added to Howth Malahide's Open Spaces and road verges in Autumn 2020 and are now just beginning to come into bloom for the first time. Pollinator friendly bulb mixes were chosen and planted throughout. The blooming of the bulbs at locations including Carrickbrack Road carpark, Summit carpark, St Fintan's Road Park, Howth and Seagrang Park, Sutton means that the first grass cutting of the season can be delayed at these locations which is of huge benefit to pollinators & biodiversity.



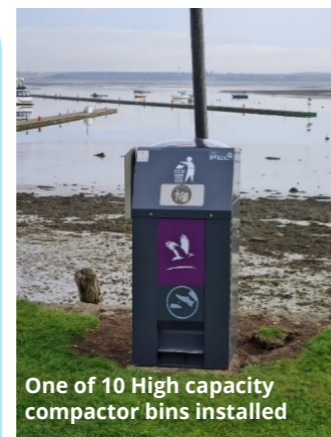
Howth Malahide area is Blooming

Litter, Anti-Social Behaviour & Vandalism

Unfortunately, excessive littering, anti-social behaviour and vandalism incidents had grown to unsustainable levels in some areas which was exacerbated by the fine weather. In order to combat this, the Howth Malahide team commenced placing additional temporary bins, at various locations to deal with the increased littering at popular locations where the public frequent. Over 50 temporary bins are now in place and making a great difference to the littering issue. Cleansing staff and Park Rangers are continuing to be rostered to work additional hours to cope with the issues. More compactor bins allowing for greater capacity were ordered, delivered and work on the installation of 10 of them commenced at the end of March.

Unfortunately, the overnight anti-social behaviour and vandalism increased in March at Malahide Demesne to such an extent that we had no choice but to engage a Security Firm to carry out additional overnight on-site monitoring and patrolling to protect the Demesne and grounds.

Previous to them coming on board, the Fairy Trail was very badly vandalised, the Cricket Pitch was attacked and there have been several other smaller acts of vandalism throughout the Estate during night time. Incidents and littering have now reduced however the situation is being extremely closely monitored in cooperation with the Gardai.



One of 10 High capacity compactor bins installed



Litter picking in Malahide Just one of Fingal's many scenic coastal towns



Littering at Malahide Demesne

Ramping Up Safety - County Wide Ramps Contract 2021 Underway

Work has now commenced on the preparation of the works requirement for the Ramps Contract 2021. The Ramp Drawings for each location has now been completed and they will be brought as headed Item to each Administrative Areas April ACM and following approval by the members will go on Public Display as part of the consultation process for the installation of new ramps under Section 38 of the Road traffic Act 1994.

Fingal County Council Ramps Contract 2021 - Ramps Locations	No.
Baldoyle/Sutton/Malahide	
New Ramps	
Carrickbrack Hill - Asphalt Speed cushions x 4 (2 sets)	2
Greenfields Road by St Sabina's School - Bus friendly flat top ramps x 2	2
Repair Ramps	
St Fintan's road - Sutton asphalt speed cushions by 2 (1 set)	1
Castleknock/Mulhuddart	
Replace/Repair Ramps	
Tyrellstown - Replace modular with in-situ asphalt speed cushions by 5 (1 set)	5
Fortlawn Park - Replace with new ramps	4
Somerton Road	1
Swords/Balbriggan	
New Ramps	
Beaverstown Road, Donabate - Standard round top ramp x 2	2
Forest Road, Swords - Bus friendly flat top ramps x 2	2
Roletstown Village 50kmh - Standard round top ramp x 2	2
Brackentown Road - Standard round top ramp x 2	2
Carr's Mill Estate - Standard round top ramp x 2	2
Park Road at Kenure Park/Kenure Gate, Rush - Standard round top ramp x 2	2
L-1275-0 at Scoil Maelbhi (Milverton National School, Margaretstown, Skerries, Co. Dublin) - Subject to Speed Limit changes - Standard round top ramp x 2	3
Repair Ramps	
Various locations x 2	2
Total Number of Ramps	31



County Speed Limits Project

Following ratification of the Speed Limit Review in February, two tenders have been prepared. The first has been published and is a tender for delivery of a large number of speed signs to FCC and is scheduled to be awarded after Easter.



National Tree Week March 21 - 27, 2021

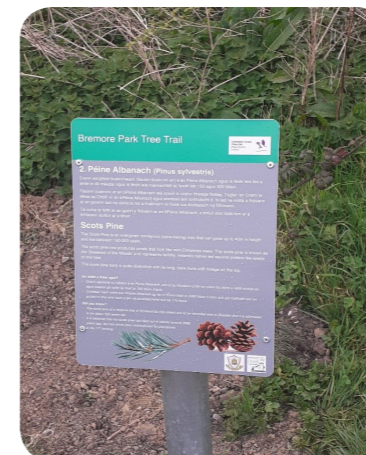
With level 5 restrictions remaining in place during National Tree Week 2021, it was not possible to have associated public events.

However, to celebrate the week, the Council has planted native specimen oak trees as a commemoration to lost loved ones during this challenging year at each of the following public parks: Ardgillan Demesne, Newbridge Demesne, Santry Demesne, Malahide Demesne, St. Catherine's Park in Lucan, Millennium Park and Ward Rivervalley Park.

A new tree trail was also introduced into Bremore Regional Park which was a collaborative project between

Balbriggan Tidy Towns, St Molaga's National School and the Council.

We are now looking forward to National Tree Week 2022 where we will have more interesting projects and initiatives planned.



Ardgillan Demesne



Fingal Coastal Way Public Consultation

It is intended to hold a non-statutory public consultation in April 2021, which will set out a small number of routes (c.3-5 route options) over the entire route corridor, with associated descriptions of each option.

From this, an emerging preferred route will be developed for further consultation and preliminary design in advance of a planning application. As part of this, a Teams briefing will be arranged for councillors, in advance of the consultation start date.

Consultation begins on Fingal Development Plan 2023 - 2029

Fingal County Council has commenced the review of the current Fingal Development Plan and preparing the new Fingal Development Plan 2023-2029. The beginning of an eight-week public consultation on the Strategic Issues Paper, was launched on 12th March.

An Information Booklet, summarising the seven themes contained in the Strategic Issues Paper, is being distributed to households across Fingal and can also be viewed at www.fingal.ie/developmentplan.

The seven themes are: People and Place, Climate Action, Connectivity and Movement, Employment, Economy & Dublin Airport, Cultural Heritage, Green Infrastructure & Natural Heritage and Infrastructure & Utilities.

Four online consultation seminars featuring a total of eight presentations on topics raised in the Strategic Issues Paper will be held in April and a Minecraft workshop is also being developed to encourage the participation of younger citizens.

The Development Plan process is scheduled to run for the next two years and will involve three public consultation stages before the final plan is adopted by Councillors in February 2023. The current stage, which is known as the pre-draft, sets out the strategic direction for the Plan and will form the framework into which objectives and policies at the subsequent stages will sit.

Submissions can be made until 12th May Fingal County Council's Consultation Portal, www.consult.fingal.ie



The first play policy for the county is currently in development. Titled: Space for Play, a Play Policy for Fingal, the policy seeks to ensure the provision of safe, accessible, inclusive, natural and engaging spaces of the highest quality for all children to enjoy. An overview of the play policy and work stages was presented at the March meeting of Planning Strategic Transport & Infrastructure Development Strategic Policy Committee. Internal and public consultation on the policy will follow later this year.



Forest of Fingal Revised Tree Strategy

The extensive public consultation on the draft revised strategy concluded on the 28th March. During the consultation period the Council actively encouraged public participation through presentations to the Area Committees, social media posts, press releases, public information and Q&A sessions and a promotional video.

This has resulted in a wide range of valuable submissions, these will be compiled and reviewed in full, making a valuable contribution to the final version later in the year.



The part 8 planning process for Bremore Regional Park Development Project has commenced.

An overview of proposals was presented to elected members at the March meeting of the Balbriggan, Rush Lusk Swords area committee meeting. The project is an important step in delivering the long-term vision for the park and comprises a multifunctional sports campus, improved central zone and new coastal pocket park. The proposals combine family orientated spaces which facilitate play, active recreation and social interaction with a high-quality public realm which will allow people to sit, look and experience the sea. The project will deliver significant public amenities to the local community and transform the relationship between the town of Balbriggan and the park.

Building on the successful community consultations held to date, the council actively encourages feedback and comment on the proposed Bremore Regional Park Development during the submission period of 16th March to 30th April as detailed in the part 8 planning application available at: <https://consult.fingal.ie/en/consultation/proposed-bremore-regional-park-development-project>



Construction to begin on Fingal's first Affordable Housing Scheme in 11 years at Dun Emer, Lusk

Construction is about to commence on site to deliver the first affordable housing scheme in the county in 11 years at Dun Emer, Lusk. Ó Cualann Cohousing Alliance will oversee the construction of 51 homes, of which 39 will be affordable and 12 will be social housing. Details in relation to the affordable homes, the affordable scheme, eligibility criteria, etc. are available on the website www.fingal.ie. The site also has a Frequently Asked Questions section and additional queries can be emailed to affordablehousing@fingal.ie.

Applications for the Dun Emer Affordable House Purchase Scheme will be accepted via an online portal. A video demonstrating the application process and documents to be uploaded with the application will be available on the website in the coming days. In accordance with the Scheme of Priority adopted by the Council, priority will be given to eligible applicants in the order in which they applied. The opening date for receipt of applications will be announced very shortly. Guide prices for the development are set out below;

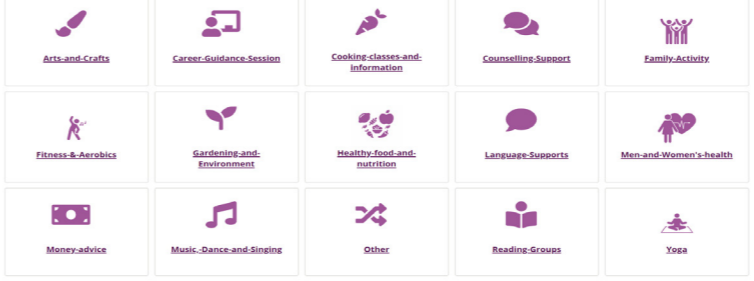
DWELLING TYPE	NUMBER	
2 Bed Apartment	8	From €166,000
3 Bed Duplex	8	From €206,000
3 Bed Terrace	15	From €250,000
3 Bed Semi	8	From €258,000

Women in Sport Coaching Series Event

Fingal Sports Office & Tyrrelstown / Muthuddart Community Sports Hub
Women in Sport Coaching Series Masterclass 4
 Cliona Foley in conversation with Juliet Short & Larissa Muldoon (Ireland & Leinster Rugby) live on zoom 29th March 2021 at 7pm

The 4th Women in Sports Coaching Series will take place on Monday 29th March. Cliona Foley, well known Sportswriter and Podcaster will host a discussion with Dublin City Community Rugby Officer, Juliet Short, Leinster Rugby and Ireland Women's Back Row & Leinster Women's Development Officer Larissa Muldoon, Leinster Rugby & Irish Scrumhalf and successful member of the 2014 Women's Six Nation's winning squad.

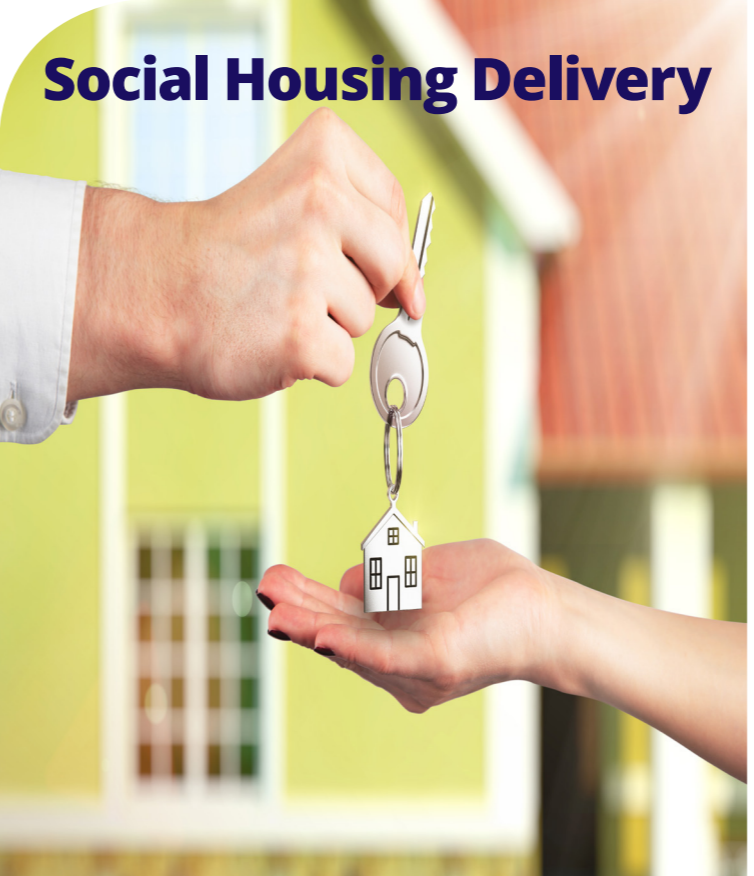
The aim of the series of discussions is to encourage more women to step forward with confidence into coaching roles in their local sports clubs. Plans have been developed to try to encourage the formation of a soccer club in the Tyrrelstown area and targeting the set-up up of both a boys and girls section. This series will be part of a strategy to encourage women to step forward and volunteer. This will be followed up with a practical session (when restrictions allow).



Virtual Community Centre Established

A Fingal Virtual Community Centre has been established by the Community Development team with support from Fingal Communications Department in an effort to keep connected with the community while facilities are closed due to the current Covid-19 restrictions.

A 'Community Engagement Programme' has been operating for the past 8 weeks on this virtual platform aimed at identifying taster sessions for adults and children on a range of topics. This programme has proven to be very successful with high engagement across the county. It was advertised via the Council's community facilities' social media platforms and the Council's Communication Unit and a large percentage of participants are living in the vicinity of a community centre. Phase 2 of the Community Engagement Programme is currently in development. The virtual community centre's programme of activities may be found here: <https://www.fingal.ie/Virtualcommunitycentre>



Social Housing Delivery

Green Paper on Ageing

Age Friendly Fingal along with Age Friendly Programme managers across the country are working on a submission for the green paper on Ageing. The purpose of this green paper is to launch a broad policy debate on ageing to discuss options on how to anticipate and respond to the challenges and opportunities it brings, notably taking into account the UN 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and UN Decade for Healthy Ageing. Competences for dealing with the effects of ageing are largely in the hands of Member States and the EU is well placed to identify key issues and trends and support action on ageing at national, regional and local level. It can help Member States and regions develop their own, tailor-made policy responses to ageing. The European Pillar of Social Rights² sets out a number of principles that relate directly or indirectly to areas impacted by ageing, such as on old age income and pensions, long-term care, health care, inclusion of people with disabilities, social protection, work-life balance

This green paper takes a life-cycle approach that reflects the universal impact of ageing and focuses on both the personal and wider societal implications of ageing. These include everything from lifelong learning and healthy lifestyles to how to fund adequate pensions or the need for increased productivity and a large enough workforce to sustain healthcare and long-term care for older people.

Age Friendly Fingal are well placed in supporting this submission as we work closely with members of our older population and we link in with members of our active Older Peoples Council.



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

The following table details the delivery against the targets set by the Department of Housing, Local Government & Heritage:

Delivery Mechanism	Target	Delivery
New Build	312	313
Leasing	90	107
Acquisitions	No target	100
HAP/RAS	No target	798
TOTAL		1,318

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

Build: 431
Leasing: 130

For the Love of Your Dog!

New dog fouling social media campaign images have been created and are being used on Fingal social media to promote good dog ownership and responsibility. A Regional campaign is also being developed. Resources are available and being promoted to communities in Fingal for using on WhatsApp groups and social media at this link: <https://www.fingal.ie/council/service/green-dog-walker-initiative>

Bleper Bike Rides Continue to Increase across Fingal

Bleper's bike rides increased from 741 rides in January to 1097 rides in February. This amounts to a 148% increase in the last month and a 204% increase in rides on the same period in 2020.

This number shows the immense increase in the popularity of cycling during the last 12 months. Saturday and Sunday remain the most popular days for rides and accounted for 25.98% and 19.05% of the months total use respectively. Bleper had 80 bikes in operation in Fingal during February, an increase of 15 bikes on last month.

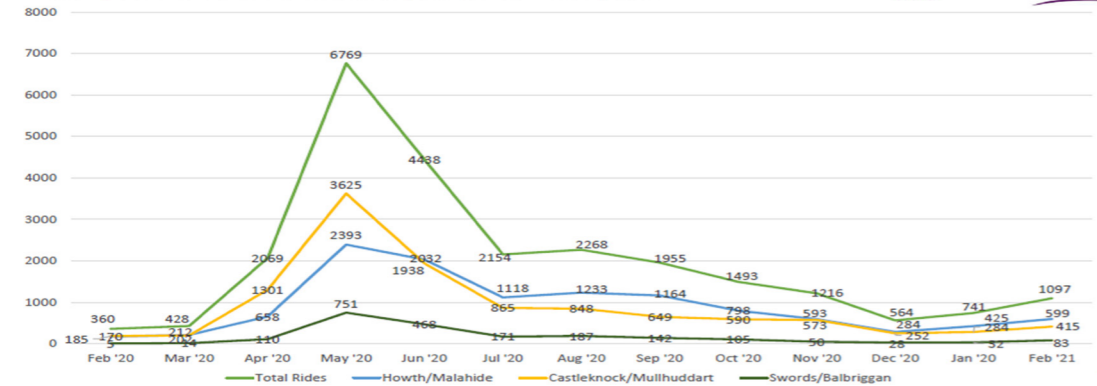
Howth train station was the most popular location to hire a Bleper bike during February and there was a high level of usage along coastal routes with a longer duration of bike hire. We will continue to promote usage of Bleper through our social media platforms. The hire of Bleper's bikes continue to be free for all Fingal staff.

20 Expression of Interest submissions from bike share and micro mobility companies are now being shortlisted with a view to those shortlisted presenting their plans to collaborate with Fingal County Council in a new bike share/micro mobility scheme



Fingal Bike Share Scheme - Monthly Bike Rides Started in Fingal - Bleper

February 2021 recorded a 204% increase compared to that of February 2020.



Comhairle Contae Fhine Gall Fingal County Council

Congratulations!

BLEPERbikers in Fingal

you travelled **2,902,417 metres**

IN THE MONTH OF FEBRUARY

you saved **725,496 (g) carbon emissions**

you burned **604,590 calories**

Environmental Awareness Campaigns and Initiatives



Have you got unwanted Musical Instruments?
The Fingal Instruments Project can use them!! We clean and mend instruments and give them to those who will benefit from them. They can be handed in at Recycling Centres, Estuary Swords and Coolmine.
Further info: <https://www.fingal.ie/instruments-project>

The Instruments Project has had lots of donations of mainly guitars, drums and fiddles, these are being cleaned, mended and repaired where necessary and will be offered to individuals and groups in Fingal who will benefit. We are actively seeking groups that are interested in receiving instruments.

A Swift-nesting project has been funded in Castleknock in cooperation with Castleknock Tidy Towns, Swift Conservation Ireland and four local schools. This will increase the existing population of Swifts and increase awareness in the schools and locally about the importance of wildlife and our role in protecting and enhancing nature.

The 'Keen to be Green' collaboration between Environmental Awareness and Community Department Facilities Network has begun and we are looking forward to introducing measures in the centres that will demonstrate sustainable leadership.

An arrangement has been agreed with the Rediscovery Centre whereby paint for community projects will be provided and delivered to Fingal locations as requested by community organisations.

The Re-Paint project will see the recycled paint used throughout Fingal for estate walls and mural projects.

Adopt a Patch litter kit has been delivered to numerous locations around Fingal to enable residents to keep their areas litter free.

Installation of Bike Racks Continues

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

Due to a number of bike thefts from Powerstown Educate Together in Dublin 15 recently, a bespoke bike cage with roof has been gifted to the school to enclose the existing 100 bike racks on site. The cost of this enclosure will be funded by the NTA.

Bike racks will continue to be installed throughout the County throughout 2021 as cycling continues in popularity.



Bike Racks recently delivered to St. Benedicts NS in Ongar



Bespoke bike cage at Powerstown Educate Together, D15

50

The number of households who signed up to the free Table Tennis at Home Programme which was run by the Fingal Sports Office in conjunction with Table Tennis Ireland.



17,618

The number of vehicles that visited Estuary Recycling Centre, Swords throughout the month of March. In the same period, 11,120 vehicles were received at Coolmine Recycling Centre, Dublin 15.

44

The number of Electric Vehicle charging points currently installed at Fingal depots to aid the transition to an electric fleet.

Below photo shows the installation of electric vehicle charging points taking place at Coolmine Depot.



4,053

The number of maintenance requests received to date this year by the Housing Department. During Level 5 Restrictions essential maintenance works such as electrical, water and heating are being completed with all other non-essential maintenance requests being postponed pending easing of restrictions.

The Housing Department received a total of 14,219 maintenance requests in 2020.

9,394

The number of MS Teams calls which took place in the month of March as staff continued to work remotely.



1,000+

As physical St. Patrick's Day Parades were not possible in 2021, a fantastic #HomemadeParade competition was launched which encouraged children to create their own exciting parades in their homes. The competition was a huge success with over 1,000 entries.



15

The community call for proposals for inclusion in the overall Fingal Creative Ireland programme closed on the 4th March. Fifteen proposals have met the objectives as set out in the Fingal Culture and Creativity Strategy 2018-2022 and have been approved for funding in the amount of approx. €80,000.



59

The number of homes currently under construction at St. Doulagh's Oaks, Carrs Lane, Malahide Road, Balgriffin, Dublin 17



8

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

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



540

The number of planned litter patrols which have been carried out across the county this year to date.

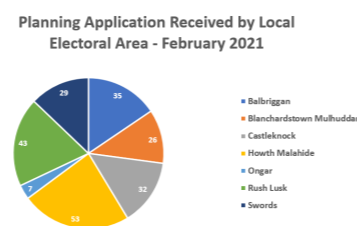
This has resulted in the issuing of 35 litter fines and 29 warning notices under the provisions of the Litter Pollution Act.



225

The number of planning applications received to the end of February 2021, 13 of these applications were invalid leaving a total of 212 valid applications.

The volume of applications received by Local Electoral Area (LEA) is detailed in the table below.



Rush Library illuminated for St. Patrick's Day



GOING GREEN FOR MARCH 17

Lusk Round Tower



Swords Castle



Bremore Castle, Balbriggan



Draíocht Theatre, Dublin 15



OUR MISSION

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

**Comhairle Contae
Fhine Gall**
Fingal County
Council

