



**Comhairle Contae Fhine Gall**  
Fingal County Council



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## Mayor's Introduction

2010 has been another year of unprecedented challenges, both for Fingal as a region, and the country as a whole. I have been honoured to hold the office of Mayor, and to represent Fingal as its first citizen.

During my term I have had the pleasure of attending a number of significant events for the county. In October, with the Official Opening of the M50 Upgrade and the removal of the West Link Toll Barrier, we have seen a welcome relief in congestion and greater access to the businesses and amenities of Fingal, making it an even more attractive place to live, shop and socialise in.

Also in October, Fingal hosted the Cleaner Communities Awards. We owe a great deal of gratitude to those people who encourage the rest of us to take pride in our surroundings. There were a total of 172 entrants across all categories ranging from Best Garden to Green Business award. It is a testament to the pride Fingal residents and businesses have for their local environment.

In November 2010, I was delighted to officiate at the opening of the Rush Library. The project received the best conservation/restoration award in the Irish Architecture Awards, and is a huge resource for the people of Rush and the surrounding areas.

Finally I would like to wish my successor good luck for the following year.

Cllr Ken Farrell  
Mayor of Fingal



## Message from the County Manager



This year has been a difficult one economically and personally for all citizens and businesses in Fingal. However, Fingal County Council has, despite reduced resources, continued to deliver services in an efficient way throughout 2010.

Living and working in Fingal has many advantages that will sustain us as we work through these difficult economic times. We have some of the best tourist attractions and will continue to develop and promote them nationally and internationally over the coming year.

Fingal is the gateway to the rest of the country due to the location of Dublin Airport in our county. The first scheduled services from the new Terminal 2 at Dublin Airport started in November 2010 and when the upturn in the economy happens we are in an ideal position to promote ourselves internationally.

In 2010 Fingal County Council excelled itself in many areas. We received 3 awards from Chambers Ireland for Excellence in Local Government:

- Local Authority of the Year 2010, of which I am particularly proud.
- Innovation in Technology Award for the online Works expenditure Viewer.
- Joint Local Authority Initiative (with Dun Laoghaire/Rathdown County Council) for the online Development Plan Submissions system.

Our IT Department also implemented the First Open Government Data website in the country with the Fingal Open Data website - [www.data.fingal.ie](http://www.data.fingal.ie)

Following a detailed audit by the National Standards Authority Fingal County Council's HR Department became the first HR Department in local government to be awarded the internationally recognised ISO 9001:2008 Quality Management Standard for the provision of human resources services, another great achievement by our staff.

Fingal County Council continues to be committed to the creation and support of enterprise in the County. Our third enterprise centre opened in Drinan in Swords in March 2010. A total of 24 units are now occupied giving a 75% occupancy rate with 65 people employed in the centre to date. We will continue to develop and facilitate industry and businesses in the County and to assist in this we reduced our commercial rates by 10% in 2010.

Planning for the future of the county continued in 2010, with the final preparation of the County Development Plan 2011-2017 which is due to be completed by April 2011. This Plan will set out the policies and strategies for development in Fingal over the next five years and enable us to be ready to meet the future economic challenges ahead.

The well-established relationship that the Council has with the communities it serves will be built on over the next year. It is important that we all are aware of our responsibilities and that we continue to educate our young people to have respect for the environment they live in.

To all Council Staff I say thank you for your participation and cooperation over the last year in preparing for our new Organisational structure which will be in place early 2011. The proposed new Operations Department will allow us to consolidate our resources and provide opportunities for staff to gain experience from working in different parts of the Council. The delivery of services to the people of Fingal in the most effective and efficient way is vital to the continued development of Fingal as a place where people want to live, to work and to visit and I am confident that the new structure will help us to do this in a better way.

I would like to thank the Mayor, Councillor Ken Farrell and his predecessor Councillor Ciaran Byrne and each of the Members of the Council for their co-operation and support on so many issues during 2010. I look forward to us all working together for the future of Fingal in 2011.

David O'Connor, County Manager





### **MAYOR**

**Ciarán Byrne**

Mayor  
January 2010-June 2010



**Ken Farrell**

Mayor  
June 2010-December 2010



### **DEPUTY MAYOR**

**Tom Kelleher**

Deputy Mayor  
January 2010-June 2010



**Peter Coyle**

Deputy Mayor  
June 2010-December 2010

# Fingal County Council Elected Members

## BALBRIGGAN ELECTORAL AREA



**Ken Farrell**  
(Labour)

4 The Drive,  
Orlynn Park, Lusk,  
Co. Dublin  
Mobile: 087 755 1927  
Email: ken.farrell@  
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**David O'Connor**  
(Non Party)

Meadowlands,  
Ballyboughal,  
Co. Dublin.  
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Mobile: 087 680 3860  
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**Tom O'Leary**  
(Fine Gael)

19 Strand Street,  
Skerries, Co. Dublin  
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**Ciaran Byrne**  
(Labour)

41 South Strand,  
Skerries, Co. Dublin.  
Tel: 849 1179  
Mobile: 087 227 3060  
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fingalcoco.ie



**May McKeon**  
(Non Party)

Sheemore,  
Market Green,  
Balbriggan, Co. Dublin.  
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## SWORDS ELECTORAL AREA



**Clare Daly**  
(Socialist Party)

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Swords, Co. Dublin.  
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**Gerry McGuire**  
(Labour)

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Donabate,  
Co. Dublin.  
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**Tom Kelleher**  
(Labour)

Kilsallaghan,  
Co Dublin.  
Mobile: 087 283 7165  
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**Darragh Butler**  
(Fianna Fail)

17 Highfield Close,  
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**Anne Devitt**  
(Fine Gael)

Lispopple,  
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Co. Dublin.  
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## HOWTH / MALAHIDE ELECTORAL AREA



**Peter Coyle**  
(Labour)

8 Burrow Court,  
Portmarnock,  
Co Dublin.  
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**Cian O'Callaghan**  
(Labour)

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votelabour.ie



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

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**Alan Farrell**  
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**Joan Maher**  
(Fine Gael)

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Sutton, Dublin 13.  
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# Fingal County Council Elected Members

## MULHUDDART ELECTORAL AREA



**Ruth Coppinger**

Socialist Party

159 Castlecurragh Heath,  
Mulhuddart,  
Dublin 15.

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**Kieran Dennison**

Fine Gael

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Castleknock,  
Dublin 15.

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**Patrick Nulty**

Labour

5 Greenridge Court,  
Corduff,  
Blanchardstown,  
Dublin 15.

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**David McGuinness**

Fianna Fáil

40 Sheephill Park,  
Corduff,  
Blanchardstown,  
Dublin 15.

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**Michael O'Donovan**

Labour

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Dublin 15

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## CASTLEKNOCK ELECTORAL AREA



**Eithne Loftus**

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**Peggy Hamill**

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Oatlands,  
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**Mags Murray**

Fianna Fail

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Clonsilla,  
Dublin 15.

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**Matthew Waine**

Socialist Party

58 Woodview Grove,  
Blanchardstown,  
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# Standing Committees

## AREA COMMITTEES

### Balbriggan/Swords

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

### Castleknock/Mulhuddart

Members of Castleknock and Mulhuddart Electoral Areas

### Howth/Malahide

Members of Howth and Malahide Electoral Areas

## ORGANISATION AND PROCEDURE COMMITTEE

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

## CORPORATE POLICY GROUP

Ciarán Byrne (Mayor)  
January 2010 – June 2010

Ken Farrell (Mayor)  
June 2010 – December 2010

May McKeon (Chairperson)  
Transportation S.P.C.

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

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

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

Clare Daly (Chairperson) Housing S.P.C.

## MEMBERS OF BLANCHARDSTOWN COMMUNITY FORUM

### Councillors

Patrick Nulty  
Eithne Loftus

## MEMBERS OF COMMUNITY AND GENERAL STRATEGIC POLICY COMMITTEE

### Councillors

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

### Non Councillor Members

Aidan McGrath  
Dave Francis  
Gráinne Maguire  
Pdraig McMahon  
Brendan Sherlock  
Paul Holden  
Kevin Quinn

## MEMBERS OF EASTERN RIVER BASIN DISTRICT ADVISORY COUNCIL

### Councillors

Ken Farrell  
David O'Connor

## MEMBERS OF ENVIRONMENT STRATEGIC POLICY COMMITTEE

### Councillors

Kieran Dennison (Chairperson)  
Peter Coyle  
Clare Daly  
Alan Farrell  
Peggy Hamill  
Eithne Loftus  
Gerry McGuire  
May McKeon  
David O'Connor  
Eoghan O'Brien

# Standing Committees

## MEMBERS OF ENVIRONMENT STRATEGIC POLICY COMMITTEE

### Non Councillor Members

John Barrett  
Olive Byrne  
Valerie Henderson  
David Rogers  
Maire O'Brien  
Siobhan O'Sullivan  
Stephen Malone

## MEMBERS OF FINGAL LEADER PARTNERSHIP BOARD

### Councillors

May McKeon  
Joan Maher  
Vacancy

## MEMBERS OF FINGAL INTEGRATED TRANSPORT GROUP

### Councillor

May McKeon

## MEMBERS OF GOVERNING AUTHORITY OF DCU

### Councillor

Ciaran Byrne

## MEMBERS OF HOUSING STRATEGIC POLICY COMMITTEE

### Councillors

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

### Non Councillor Members

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

## MEMBERS OF PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT STRATEGIC POLICY COMMITTEE

### Councillors

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

### Non Councillor Members

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

# Standing Committees

## MEMBERS OF SWORDS COMMUNITY POLICING FORUM

### Councillors

Darragh Butler  
Ann Devitt  
Gerry McGuire

## MEMBERS OF TRANSPORTATION STRATEGIC POLICY COMMITTEE

### Councillors

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

### Non Councillor Members

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

## REPRESENTATIVES ON STATUTORY BODIES

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

## AUDIT COMMITTEE

### Councillors

Peter Coyle  
Alan Farrell  
Joan Maher

### Non-Councillors

Dr. Philip Byrne  
Sean Carey  
Joe Harford  
Louise O'Donnell

## COUNTY DUBLIN VOCATIONAL EDUCATION COMMITTEE

### Councillors

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

### Non-Councillors

Deirdre Doherty Ryan  
Don Tipping  
Pat Ward  
Liz Kelly

## ASSOCIATION OF CITY AND COUNTY COUNCILS

### Councillors

Alan Farrell  
Tom Kelleher  
Michael O'Donovan

## DUBLIN REGIONAL AUTHORITY

### Councillors

Peggy Hamill  
May McKeon  
Anne Devitt  
Ciarán Byrne  
Peter Coyle

# Standing Committees

## EU OPERATIONAL COMMITTEE OF THE DUBLIN REGIONAL AUTHORITY

### Councillors

Ciarán Byrne (Mayor)  
January 2010 - June 2010

Ken Farrell (Mayor)  
June 2010 - December 2010

Anne Devitt

## SOUTHERN AND EASTERN REGIONAL ASSEMBLY

### Councillors

Ciarán Byrne  
Anne Devitt

## FINGAL COUNTY ENTERPRISE BOARD

### Councillors

Peter Coyle  
Kieran Dennison  
Gerry McGuire  
May McKeon

## IRISH PUBLIC BODIES MUTUAL INSURANCES LIMITED

### Councillor

Mags Murray

## LOCAL AUTHORITY MEMBERS ASSOCIATION

### Councillor

Mags Murray

## DUBLIN TOURISM

### Councillor

Peter Coyle

## FINGAL TOURISM LIMITED

### Councillors

Ciarán Byrne (Mayor)  
January 2010 - June 2010

Ken Farrell (Mayor)  
June 2010 - December 2010

Peter Coyle

## NORTH DUBLIN DEVELOPMENT COALITION (NORDUBCO)

### Councillors

Ciarán Byrne (Mayor)  
January 2010 - June 2010

Ken Farrell (Mayor)  
June 2010 - December 2010

Anne Devitt

## FINGAL LEADER PARTNERSHIP BOARD

### Councillors

May McKeon  
Ciarán Byrne  
Darragh Butler  
Joan Maher

## DUBLIN EMPLOYMENT PACT – STRATEGIC POLICY GROUP

### Councillor

Michael O'Donovan

## BLANCHARDSTOWN AREA PARTNERSHIP

### Councillors

Kieran Dennison  
Peggy Hamill  
Matthew Waine

# Standing Committees

## LOCAL TRAVELLER ACCOMMODATION CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE

### Councillors

Anne Devitt  
Clare Daly  
Cian O'Callaghan

## BLANCHARDSTOWN DRUG TASK FORCE

### Councillors

Patrick Nulty  
David McGuinness

## NORTHSIDE PARTNERSHIP

### Councillor

Cian O'Callaghan

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

Ciarán Byrne (Mayor)  
January 2010 - June 2010

Ken Farrell (Mayor)  
June 2010 - December 2010

## CASTLEKNOCK ELECTORAL AREA:

### Councillors

Peggy Hamill  
Mags Murray  
Matthew Waine  
Eithne Loftus

## MULHUDDART ELECTORAL AREA:

### Councillors

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

## NATIONAL RURAL DEVELOPMENT FORUM

### Councillor

Ciarán Byrne

## BALLEALLY LANDFILL LIAISON COMMITTEE

### Councillor

Ken Farrell  
May McKeon  
Anne Devitt  
Gerry McGuire

## COUNTY HERITAGE FORUM

### Councillor

David O'Connor  
Peter Coyle  
Kieran Dennison  
May McKeon  
Cian O'Callaghan

## NORTH FRINGE AREA FORUM

### Councillors

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

# Standing Committees

## REGIONAL HEALTH FORUM DUBLIN AND NORTH EAST

### Councillors

May McKeon  
Mags Murray  
Eithne Loftus  
David O'Connor  
Tom O'Leary  
Kieran Dennison

## HANSFIELD SDZ STEERING GROUP

### Councillors

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

## FINGAL INTEGRATED TRANSPORT GROUP

### Councillor

May McKeon

## HEALTHY FINGAL

### Councillors

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

## JOINT POLICING COMMITTEE

### Councillors

Ciarán Byrne (Mayor)  
January 2010 - June 2010

Ken Farrell (Mayor)  
June 2010 - December 2010

Mags Murray  
Peggy Hamill  
David O'Connor  
Alan Farrell  
Cian O'Callaghan  
Eoghan O'Brien  
Eithne Loftus  
Tom O'Leary  
Kieran Dennison  
Matthew Waine  
Clare Daly  
Michael O'Donovan  
Darragh Butler  
Ann Devitt

# Standing Committees

## **FINGAL SPORTS PARTNERSHIP COMMITTEE**

### **Councillors**

Anne Devitt  
Eoghan O'Brien  
David O'Connor

## **DRINAN ENTERPRISE CENTRE**

### **Councillors**

Alan Farrell  
Gerry McGuire

## **EDGE CITIES NETWORK**

### **Councillor**

Alan Farrell

## **BALBRIGGAN COMMUNITY POLICING FORUM**

### **Councillors**

Ciarán Byrne  
May McKeon

## **DRAÍOCHT**

### **Councillor**

Peggy Hamill

## **DUBLIN NORTH-EAST DRUGS TASK FORCE**

### **Councillor**

Cian O'Callaghan

# Balbriggan Town Council

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

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

Frank Snowe Cathaoirleach 2010 -2011, Grainne Kilmurray Leas-Cathaoirleach 2010-2011, Sean Brown, Dermot Murray, Larry Dunne, Grainne Kilmurry, Terry Kelleher, Monica Harford and Peadar O'Kelly.

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

The town boundary was extended in February 2009 to reflect the growth of the town and provide an opportunity to the newer residents of Balbriggan to vote in the Town Council elections. The population of the new administrative areas is approximately 18,000.

The Town Council celebrated its 150th anniversary with a special meeting in Balbriggan Courthouse on 4th June 2010 to mark the 150th anniversary of the first meeting of Balbriggan Town Commissioners.

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

The Town Council organises the St. Patrick's Day Parade in the town and plays an active role in the decoration of the town at Christmas in conjunction with the Balbriggan & District Chamber of Commerce.

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

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



# Citizen Services Division

## FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUESTS

<b>Applications received/processed in</b>	<b>2010</b>	<b>2009</b>	<b>2008</b>
Applications received during 2010	65	72	72
Decisions made during 2010	67	76	74
Applications on Hands at 31/12/ 2010	0	2	4
<b>Nature of Information Sought</b>	<b>2010</b>	<b>2009</b>	<b>2008</b>
Personal (to applicant)	9	15	17
Non-Personal	56	57	55
Mixed	0	0	0
Granted	40	48	40
Part-granted	23	22	24
Refused	3	2	5
Transferred	0	0	0
Withdrawn/Outside FOI	1	2	5
<b>Appeals</b>	<b>2010</b>	<b>2009</b>	<b>2008</b>
Appeals to Information Commissioner	2	3	1
<b>Source of Requests</b>	<b>2010</b>	<b>2009</b>	<b>2008</b>
Journalists	10	11	2
Business	11	6	11
Oireachtas/Local Authority members	0	0	0
Other/General Public	44	54	55
Staff	0	1	4

## Citizen Services Division

<b>Ombudsman Complaints</b>	<b>2010</b>	<b>2009</b>	<b>2008</b>
Complaints received	14	13	14
Complaints responded to	14	13	14

<b>Subject of Complaints</b>	<b>2010</b>	<b>2009</b>	<b>2008</b>
Planning	2	2	2
Transportation	0	0	4
Housing	4	6	5
Finance	2	0	0
Water & Drainage	1	0	0
Community, Recreation & Amenities	2	2	0
Environment	3	2	1
Property & Economic Development	0	1	2
Corporate Affairs	0	0	0

<b>Citizen Charter Complaints</b>	<b>2010</b>	<b>2009</b>	<b>2008</b>
Complaints received	3	11	5
Complaints responded to	3	11	5

<b>Subject of Complaints</b>	<b>2010</b>	<b>2009</b>	<b>2008</b>
Planning	0	1	3
Transportation	0	0	1
Housing	0	1	0
Finance	0	0	0
Water & Drainage	0	0	0
Community, Recreation & Amenities	0	3	0
Environment	3	6	1
Property & Economic Development	0	0	0
Corporate Affairs	0	0	0

# Property Services Division

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

## PROPERTY ACQUISITION

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

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

## PROPERTY MANAGEMENT

Holders of the Council's Property Register. Work on Phase 1 of the new Property Interest Register commenced in 2010

Security and maintenance of Council land/properties

Letting of Council lands for tillage and grazing by con-acre agreements - approx 850 acres let in 2010

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

Collection of rents from the Council's residential shops - 6 in total

Disposal of land or properties which are no longer required by the Council

Lease of Lands to Sporting Organisations and Utility companies.

# Property Services Division

## WORKPLACE PARTNERSHIP

The Fingal Workplace Partnership Committee was engaged in the following projects and initiatives during 2010.

- Developed Staff Guidelines to help deal with Grief in the Workplace for Fingal County Council.
- Implemented the Business Continuity Plan to help Staff deal with the Flu Pandemic.
- Organised and managed events to encourage ideas from staff to help boost morale in the organization.
- Organised another staff suggestions scheme “Let’s Make it Better”. This was the 3rd year of the new scheme.
- Continued to organize and manage the Return to Learning Programme.
- Organised and managed FETAC Level 4 Continued Learning Programme for Outdoor Staff.
- Organised and facilitated a Summer Camp project for the children of Council Staff. This was the third year to run the project.
- Organised the Health & Safety Week which incorporated 2 Sponsored Walks in aid of The New Blanchardstown Hospice, Corporate Wellbeing Stands and the Children’s competitions and party. Workplace Partnership also facilitated the holding of office based Weight Watchers clubs.
- Organised and celebrated the Service and Loyalty of staff who have completed 25 years service in Fingal County Council.
- Supported the continuing production of the staff newsletter “Inside Out”.

The Committee also facilitated & supported Working Groups and Sub-Groups in the following activities throughout 2010:

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

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

## INTERNAL AUDIT UNIT

During 2010, the Unit provided assurance to the County Manager on the existence, adequacy and effectiveness of the Council's Internal Control system. Internal Audit also assisted Departments through audits undertaken, by evaluating and reporting on the elements of the internal control systems and making recommendations for improvement where necessary. All these Reports included a "Risk Assessment" where appropriate.

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

- Completed a number of Special Investigations.
- Continued to promote the concept of Risk Management.
- Continued the process of "Contract Partnership" Audit checks.
- Liaised with the Local Government Auditor.
- Liaised with the Council's Audit Committee.
- Submitted and received approval for the 2010 Annual Audit Plan.

## LAW DEPARTMENT

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

- Consultations with client departments in relation to statutory functions
- Advising departments in relation to any issues arising from case law and the regulatory framework governing local authorities
- Providing training to Council Departments.
- Representing the Council at arbitrations and oral hearings such as Metro North
- Dealing with acquisitions and disposal of Council properties including
  - clubs and community centres agreements/licences
  - commercial leases of the Council's industrial sites
  - dedications of open spaces
  - equity buy outs
  - first registrations
  - loans and mortgages
  - shared ownerships
  - tenant purchases under the sales schemes
  - voluntary housing schemes
- Initiating and defending cases in the District, Circuit, High Court including the Commercial Court and the Supreme Court including

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

The current economic climate has seen a decrease in conveyancing transactions and an increase in litigation and workloads are monitored to ensure the efficient provision of legal services. Review and implementation of the department's case management system continued in 2010, which has proved an effective tool in processing rates collection cases and enforcement action. In 2010, PMDS was reviewed and completed and ongoing training was provided to staff who attended a broad range of courses in the areas of professional development, legal knowledge, I.T., customer care and aggression.





## PROJECTS OFFICE

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

- **Leixlip Water Treatment Plant Extension**  
Tenders received in August 2010. Tender assessment is in process.
- **Leixlip Ballycoolen Water Tower**  
Remedial works commenced on the Water Tower in August 2010 and are due to be completed in February 2011.
- **Balbriggan Skerries Network Contract**  
Request for approval to proceed to tender for the Dublin Road Pumping Station (the first of 9 Network Contracts) has been submitted the Department of the Environment, Heritage and Local Government. We are awaiting their response.
- **Portrane, Donabate, Rush & Lusk Waste Water Treatment Scheme**  
DBO Contract – The Treatment Plant should be operational in Q4 2011.
- **Portrane, Donabate, Rush & Lusk Waste Water Treatment Scheme**  
Network Contracts – The first of 12 contracts was tendered at the end of 2010. This contract will upgrade the sewer along Chanel Road & Sandy Road in Rush and should be complete by the end of 2011.
- **Blanchardstown Regional Drainage Scheme**  
Work on 3 contracts on this Scheme are due for completion in 2011.
- **Swords WWTP Expansion**  
Work on site will commence in Q3 of 2011 and be completed by Q3 2013.

# Water Services

## DESIGN OFFICE

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

### Current Projects

- **Swords North Strengthening Scheme – Lissenhall to Jordanstown**  
Certificate of substantial completion issued in June 2010. Remaining works including mechanical and electrical works, snagging and outstanding works will be completed by June 2011.
- **Malahide Reservoir Expansion and Augmentation Scheme**  
Detailed design completed and the tender process commenced in 2010. The reservoir is due for completion in 2011.
- **Ward Water Supply Scheme**  
**Kilshane to Glebe WaterMain** – This scheme, part of the Ward WSS Scheme is being delivered under different contracts with the Irish Prison Service. One of the contracts commenced in Dec 2010 – the remaining contracts to start in early 2011.  
**Cottrelstown to Oldtown Water main** – This scheme, part of the Ward WS Scheme, was commissioned in September 2010.
- **Swords WaterMain Rehabilitation Scheme**  
A Preliminary Report and Demand Assessment report were completed by Consultants in June 2010.
- **Balbriggan Water Supply Scheme**  
Preliminary Report completed in November 2010. Design almost complete on Phase 1 (high level) and tender docs to be issued following prequalification in March 2011. In house design on Phase 2 trunk pipe line ongoing with tender documents to issue in May 2011



# Water Services

- **Ballycoolen Trunk Main (Ballycoolen/Kingstown)**  
Route selection report and planning budget submitted to the DOEHLG for approval.
- **Water Conservation**  
Clonmel/Blanchardstown DMA DRWRP Tranche 2 – Funded under the DRWRP and managed within DCC. At tender stage and expected to commence in May 2011
- **Dublin Bay Project Contract No. 5**  
(Transfer Howth sewage to Sutton Pumpstation) – Works from Howth Village to Howth Road completed in 2009. Howth Road to Sutton Pump Station section was commissioned in October 2010 and the outstanding works should be completed by the end of March 2011.
- **Rolestown Sewerage Scheme**  
The second phase of this scheme was completed in 2010.
- **Santry Pumpstations**  
The detailed design of the Santry pumpstation upgrade has been completed and Tender Documents are almost complete. Construction of the works should commence later this year and be completed early 2012.
- **Toberburr Pumpstation**  
The detailed design and contract documents have not yet been completed for Toberburr Pumpstation. It is not expected that these upgrade works will take place until Swords WWTP has been upgraded.
- **Cloghran Sewerage Scheme**  
Detailed design and Tender Documents have been completed and it is planned to commence construction later in 2011, with completion due in 2012.
- **Fingal East Meath Flood Risk Assessment and Management Study (FEMFRAMS)**  
Draft Flood Maps are available for the study area. The final Technical Report, and the Draft Flood Risk Management Plan are currently under review and will be finalised by October 2011.



# Water Services

## DEVELOPMENT MANAGEMENT SECTION

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

### Headlines 2010

- Processed 950 Planning Applications (including Additional Information submissions).
- Held 140 Preplanning meetings with prospective applicants.
- Provided Water Services input to Local Area Plans in Rivermeade/Toberburr, Garristown, Barrysparks, Naul, Cherryhound.
- Responded to An Bord Pleanala on appeals, as required.
- Liaison on Strategic Infrastructure Projects such as Metro North, Metro West, Eirgrid East-West Interconnector.
- Implementation of “The Planning System and Flood Risk Management” Guidelines for Local Authorities November 2009.
- Ongoing attendance at DASF liaison committee meetings

# Water Services

## POLLUTION CONTROL

The Pollution Control Section is responsible for the issuing of licences in accordance with the Water Pollution Acts. It is also responsible for the monitoring of water quality in rivers, lakes and estuarine waters in the County and ensuring remedial action is taken where necessary.

### Headlines 2010

- Progress on the implementation of the Water Framework Directive was maintained. The Eastern River Basin District (ERBD) River Basin Management Plan (RBMP) and Programme of Measures (POM) were adopted by Minister for Environment. Implementation phase commenced.
- Quality Management System (QMS) for Water Pollution Section is in operation.
- Farm surveys carried out in the Matt River and Mill Stream catchments.
- Septic Tank/On-site Waste Water Treatment Systems surveys carried out in Mill Stream catchment.
- FOGs licensing programme started in Malahide.
- Investigative monitoring carried out in Matt River catchment to improve Bathing Water Quality on Balbriggan Beach.
- All water pollution licence applications were processed within the 8 week timeframe with the exception where additional information was sought.
- Oil Spill Contingency Plan is under review following comments from Coastguard.
- Further locations for hydrometric stations were examined and submitted to the EPA for approval. Approval not received pending H&S review of existing stations.
- RMCEI Plan for 2010 carried out, plan for 2011 drawn up.

Pollution Reduction Programme Reports submitted under 2006 Quality of Shellfish Waters Regulations (S.I. No. 268 of 2006)

- Investigative monitoring commenced on Turvey River catchment

# Water Services

## OPERATIONS SECTION

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

### Water Supply:

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

### Headlines 2010

- Continued production of high quality drinking water from Leixlip and Bog of the Ring. Monthly drinking water quality results published on the Council's website for the treatment plants and the distribution mains.
- Continued implementation of the Drinking Water Regulations including a reporting mechanism to the EPA.
- High quality management, including reporting to the EPA, of drinking water contamination incidents.
- Leakage Section continued to locate and ensure repair of leaks throughout the County. However, recorded Unaccounted-for Water (UFW) levels remained at a high level in 2010 due to the very cold weather at the beginning of the year which caused a large number of leaks. A record number of leaks, 642, were detected during 2010. This was more than twice the amount found in 2009.

### Drainage Services:

The Council operates two large wastewater treatment facilities at Swords and Malahide with the Barnageera Plant serving the town of Balbriggan and Skerries operated on the Council's behalf by a private operator. In addition the Council operates a number of smaller treatment plants serving Portrane and the smaller villages. Wastewater from the Blanchardstown area is treated at Dublin City Council's Wastewater Treatment Facility at Ringsend. The Drainage Section is responsible for the provision and maintenance of the wastewater treatment facilities and collection systems and the provision and maintenance of public toilets.

### Headlines 2010

- Preventative maintenance programme continued in 2010 targeting the Malahide network.
- Works on a new odour control system at Swords Wastewater Treatment plant were completed in 2010.
- Discharge Licences for the agglomerations of Rush and Lusk received from the EPA.
- Certificates of Authorisation for the smaller agglomerations of Garristown and the Naul received from the EPA.

# Water Services

## DIRECT LABOUR SECTION

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

### Headlines 2010

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



# Water Services

## ADMINISTRATION SECTION

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

### Headlines 2010

- 145 applications for water and sewer connections were processed in 2010.
- A total number of 82 questions, 35 motions and 5 headed items dealt with at Council/Committee meetings during 2010.
- The use of the internet and Aertel was introduced during the severe winter conditions. These media were updated regularly throughout the day and at weekends during this time. This significantly improved awareness of water supply issues. Further development of the communications protocol for crisis situations is in progress.
- During 2010, 230 press responses relating to Water Services were issued.

These predominantly related to Severe Weather Emergency notices:  
January/February: 68 ; Dec: 61

The remainder related to queries on the Ballycoolin Water Tower, Donabate/Portrane WTP, Bathing Water Quality results, Water Conservation notices and general queries. These responses were issued on foot of queries from press, TV, radio and Councillors.

12 press releases were sent out in 2010, primarily on the subjects of beach safety and water safety during summer months and also highlighting the message of water conservation.

The Fingal News (4 issues during 2010) carried a total of 5 water related articles, and the Summer 2010 edition front cover was a Water Conservation message. Pages 4 & 5 of this issue were devoted to water messages

# Water Services

## STRATEGIC POLICY COMMITTEE

The Environment Strategic Policy Committee (S.P.C.) met four times in 2010. The committee comprises Elected Members of the Council in addition to representatives from a range of Sectoral interests including I.B.E.C., I.F.A. and the Community and Voluntary Forum representative.

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

During 2010 Water Services Department presented items on the following issues to the S.P.C.:

- Presentation on Water Conservation and Leakage in Fingal (by Lar Spain, Water Services)
- Presentation on Drinking Water Telemetry System (by Lar Spain, Water Services)
- Presentation on the Dublin Region Major Water Source. (Tom Leahy, Dublin City Council)
- Presentation on the proposed Greater Dublin Regional Drainage Project – Regional Wastewater Treatment Plant, Outfall and Orbital Drainage System. (Peter O'Reilly, Water Services)
- Presentation on FEMFRAMS (Fingal East Meath Flood Risk & Management Studies) update report. (Denise Treacy, Water Services)

## KEY PERFORMANCE INDICATORS /NATIONAL SERVICE INDICATORS

### Complaints concerning water pollution:

	2008	2009	2010
No. of Complaints/ Incidents received/ identified.	80	52	37
No. investigated	80	52	37
No. of complaints resolved with no further action required	17	39	31
No of formal enforcement (Section12) procedures taken	6	7	1
No. of prosecutions initiated	0	0	0
Prosecutions successfully concluded	0	0	0

# Water Services

## KEY PERFORMANCE INDICATORS

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

	2008	2009	2010
12 Hours	95%	91.2%	89%
24 Hours	4%	3.15%	2.5%
Greater than 24 Hours	1%	5.65%	8.5%

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

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

### Levels of Unaccounted for Water (UFW)

	2008	2009	2010
UFW	21.62%	27.35%	31.98%

### % compliance with Urban Wastewater Treatment Regulations

	2008	2009	2010
Swords WWTP	71.80%	77.30%	79.48%
Malahide WWTP	78.85%	81.76%	94.5%
Portrane WWTP	90.88%	58.83%	53.92%
Villages WWTP	91%	75.45%	65.58%
Barnageera WWTP	N/A	100%	91.1%

	2008	2009	2010
Sewage overflows from Pump Stations	25	58	TBC

### Length of Watermain Replaced

	2008	2009	2010
Metres of watermain replaced	20,868	8,328	12,750



## COMMUNITY, CULTURE & SPORTS DIVISION

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

### THE COMMUNITY OFFICE

The Division's Community Development Officers worked on a variety of programmes and supported a wide range of community organisations during 2010. A comprehensive support and advisory service is provided to voluntary community-based bodies throughout the County.

The Community Office was instrumental in the delivery of a number of Programmes and activities in 2010 the Units worked with 114 priority groups on a monthly basis.

### Capital Projects Unit (CPU)

During 2010, the Capital Projects Unit has played a leading role in further developing the roll out of Fingal Schools Model through the completion of a number of Shared Schools & Community Facilities. October/November 2010 saw the completion of Ongar Community Centre and Phibblestown Community Centres. Other work includes:

- Development of improved operational standards in existing and future shared facilities
- Implementation of community consultation to engage local community representatives
- Completion of a capital fit-out program for shared facilities that have been handed over by the Dept. of Education and the VEC
- Liaising with Dept of Education, VEC and their respective legal teams in the establishment of a legal agreement for shared facilities

### Community Development Unit (CDU)

The main focus of the Community Development Unit's work is in supporting and enabling community and voluntary groups in Fingal to effect change and combat social exclusion within their own communities. In 2010, the Unit delivered supports and training, information and mentoring services to over 45 voluntary residents groups. The Unit delivered 7 community education programmes to 70 participants in the area of committee skills. On average, 48 levels of support were provided to community groups such as programme planning, policy development and staffing supports and a further 36 groups were supported in preparing funding applications. The working of the Unit grew with the development of the Fingal Hello Neighbour initiative and the development of the Know Your Council training programmes.

# Community, Recreation and Amenities

## Community Facilities Support Unit (CFSU)

The CFSU provides information, mentoring, advice and models of good practice in various disciplines. The Unit works with all community facilities that avail of the Council's management assistance funding

## The Network Development Unit (NDU)

In 2010, 5 community networks, as well as the Fingal Community Voluntary Forum, were supported by the NDU. Each of these has delivered on their extensive Action Plans for the year. The Unit participated on a wide range of working groups, committees, SPC's and the organising and delivery of events.

## The Funding and Information Unit (FIU)

The FIU report on all funding applications received under the Activities & Summer Projects Programme. In 2010, the FIU was successful with an application to the Office of the Minister for Integration, with a fund of €74,900 being made available to support integration initiatives through the Council's Integration Funding Scheme.

### Funding Provided to Community and Voluntary Organisations in 2010

Area	Activities funding	Summer projects	Total
Balbriggan/Swords	€30,950	€27,470	€58,420
Castleknock/Mulhuddart	€6,600	€25,720	€32,320
Howth/Malahide	€12,700	€5,140	€17,840
County (aggregate)	€50,250	€58,330	€108,580

In 2010, it is estimated that over 4,000 young people participated in these Projects.



# Community, Recreation and Amenities

## SPORTS OFFICE

The Sports Office has been involved in a number of sports and physical activity programmes over the last year and works very closely and in parallel with the Community Office.

The main programmes were:

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

The Office continued its Sportscon programme in Primary Schools. Sportscon mainly targets children aged 6– 9 years and teaches basic sports skills in a way that allows them to excel at their own level.

### **School & Youth Sport**

The Office has supported and resourced the Buntús, and rolled out a number of Buntús Start programmes in pre-school settings. During 2010, the Office organised Soccer & Tag Rugby blitzes, an indoor cricket league, Primary School cross-country events and school badminton blitzes. A Late Night Soccer initiative was run in four locations, aimed to encourage young adults to engage in positive pastimes. This year, the coaches were assisted by the local Gardaí Síochána, which helped them to build relationships with the young people on the programme. A “kidgloves” project, aimed at 9 – 13 year old boys and girls, was run to introduce them to the sport of boxing

### **Coach Education programme**

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

### **Activity programmes**

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

### **Joint-funded Sports Specific Development**

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

### **Women in Sport**

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

### **Disability Sports**

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

## Community, Recreation and Amenities

### Harmony Cup

This invitational soccer tournament, which was again run by the Council in 2010, had 4 categories - boys, girls, Special Olympics and Powerchair teams.

### Sporting Fingal FC

Particular collaboration took place in the creation of Sporting Fingal Special Olympics and Powerchair teams. In 2010, the Council was awarded the Taoiseach's Public Service Excellence Awards for the Sporting Fingal initiative.

### Sporting Fingal Community Trust

Sporting Fingal Community Trust was created by the Club in 2009 as a charitable arm for its operations. The Office has supported the Trust, which uses the power of sport and, in particular, football to inspire and motivate children, young people and adults to achieve their potential. The Trust works in partnership with a range of Agencies including the Council, the VEC, the Gardaí, FAS, the HSE and others to deliver its programmes and its main aims are to increase educational attainment, support education & training, encourage greater participation in sports, discourage anti-social behaviour, support Life Long Learning, raise awareness of the importance of health & well being and support social integration. The Trust delivered 15 programmes in partnership with 17 agencies and groups and engaged with over 500 young people and adults.



# Community, Recreation and Amenities

## ARTS OFFICE

The role of the Council's Arts Office is to encourage and supports cultural activity within Fingal.

### Arts Grants

In 2010, the Arts Office awarded over €28,000 for Music, Drama, Visual Arts and Traditional Arts activities in the County. A total of €22,000 was awarded to Community Arts Festivals and Traditional Music Festivals. A further €609,000 was awarded direct to the Council's two Arts Centres, Draíocht in Blanchardstown, and the Séamus Ennis Cultural Centre, Naul.

### Cultural Centres

Fingal County Council continues to preserve cultural life and provide public access to the Arts in Fingal through the ongoing development of its two Arts Centres. Both Centres are owned and funded by the Council, Draíocht, Dublin 15 and the Seamus Ennis Centre, Naul.



### Policy Development

Following the commencement of research in 2009 into a Youth & Education Policy and Public Art Policy, involving widespread consultation, both policies were adopted by the Council in May 2010.

### Outreach and Education

A key objective of the Office is to provide equal access to Arts activity and encourage participation in all aspects of the Arts by communities in Fingal. In order to encourage wide participation in the Arts, the Office collaborates with schools, community groups and relevant statutory bodies to provide quality workshops and Artist-in-Residence programmes. In 2010, the following programmes were run by the Arts Office: Arts in Education: (Sand Sculpture in Portmarnock); Artist in Residence Schemes; Community Projects: Arts in Health: (Reminiscence Project).

### Bursaries for Professional Artists

In its continued commitment to professional artists, the Office offered a fine art print residency at Graphic Studio Dublin for artists with printmaking skills.

### Public Art

Two major projects characterised the year: Réalt na Mara, Robert McColgan (Howth) & The Hide, Garrett Phelan (Broadmeadow Estuary).

# Community, Recreation and Amenities

## **Completed Public Art projects during 2010 were:**

### **Efflorescence, Martina Coyle**

This temporary sculptural installation was launched on Railway Street, Balbriggan recreating a bridge which once linked the Smyth & Co factory's two main buildings using silk, cotton and original beadwork patterns associated with the factory's famous silk stockings - "Balbriggans".

### **O'Machine, O'Machine, Brian Duggan**

The publication element of this project happened in October 2010. Taking the 1909 novella "The Machine Stops" as a reference, the artist mapped a journey through Fingal to create a narrative about its landscape. The film will be launched in May 2011.

## **Arts Office Initiatives during 2010 included:**

### **Drawing Day**

A series of events to celebrate National Drawing Day 2010 took place at Malahide Castle in May 2010.

### **"In Colour" Exhibition and Education Programme**

The Office curated a unique exhibition which focused on providing resources to students and teachers of the Irish Leaving Cert Art History and Appreciation Syllabus. Work borrowed from the collections of the Arts Council, AIB and Limerick Gallery went on exhibition in Draíocht.

### **Spréacha**

The 7th International Children's Arts Festival, Spréacha, took place at Draíocht. The Arts Office and Draíocht combined expertise and resources to plan this hugely successful event. International theatre companies from Europe headlined the event which took place in June to sell-out audiences.

### **Amharc Fhine Gall**

The 7th annual Amharc Fhine Gall (The Fingal View) took place in Draíocht, featuring the work of two young Arts graduates from Fingal. This event was accompanied by a professional development day for recent graduates and students called "What Next?".

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

During 2010, this Unit continued to play a driving role in promoting an awareness amongst developers of the importance and commercial benefits of ensuring that the sustainability of new communities, through facilities provision, are given sufficient thought in the preparation of plans.

The Division was proactive in encouraging greater community access to and use of school facilities. The Division continues to play a very significant role in assisting the Dept. of Education & Science in the delivery of new school buildings by directly negotiating and acquiring a number of new sites in the county. Under the Fingal Schools Model, two new schools were completed, St. Benedict's N.S., Ongar and Pobalscoil Setanta, Phibblestown, both in Dublin 15, each of which has a major Community/Recreation Centre for the benefit of the wider community.

# Community, Recreation and Amenities

## LIBRARIES DIVISION

Fingal County Libraries is operated through nine branch libraries at Balbriggan, Baldoyle, Blanchardstown, Garristown, Howth, Malahide, Rush, Swords, and Skerries. The Mobile Library service is headquartered in Coolmine and visits 56 locations throughout the county on a weekly basis. Fingal County Libraries also provides a service to the Housebound. The Local Studies/Archives Section is located in Clonmel House, Swords.

### Rush Library

Fingal County Council officially opened Rush Library, now homed in the magnificently restored St. Maurs Church, Rush on Monday 29th November 2010.

The restoration of St. Maurs was the winner in the Best Restoration / Conservation category at the RIAI Irish Architecture Awards 2010. Mayor of Fingal, Councillor Ken Farrell officially offered the library to the community in Rush. Rush library first opened its doors to the public on 12th July 2010. It was the first Fingal library to offer many new technologies such as self service and console games. This wonderful new facility, which is fast becoming the lynchpin at the heart of the Rush community opens six days or 50 hours per week. By years end this busy library boasted 3,500 members.

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

In July 2010 Fingal Libraries converted to a new self service system in both Blanchardstown and Rush Libraries to a record public uptake of over 90%. These self-check terminals enable all library users to fast track their own transactions. RFID incorporates a cash handling system which allows users to pay their fines on overdue items without the necessity of staff intervention. This conversion to RFID self service enhances library visits and library workflow by increasing the speed of checking books in and out, enabling staff members to engage more with library users.

### Online Registration

Fingal Libraries launched "Online Registration" in the summer of 2010- citizens can now join up as a member of Fingal Libraries from the comfort of their own homes. This new system also allows for greater opportunity to connect with users through email and or text.

### Downloadable Talking Books

An exciting new service for Fingal Library registered users went live in September 2010.

Downloadable Talking Books, digital versions of audio books, can now be checked out and downloaded to a computer through the Net Library platform via the Internet by all Fingal library members. Users can enjoy this free service and listen to eAudiobooks anywhere/ anytime.

# Community, Recreation and Amenities

## Console Games

Bestselling console games, compatible with all major consoles, was launched free to borrow in Fingal in 2010 and was received exceptionally well by our youthful population.

## Assistive Technology

Assistive Technology hardware and software has been rolled out to 4 additional branch libraries within our system during 2010 and will increasingly become available throughout our branch library network thus making access happen.

## Europe Direct Centre

The Europe Direct Centre at Blanchardstown Library is a local link to Europe for the citizens of Fingal. It offers access to information, free of charge, on a broad range of topics using a dedicated PC, a free telephone service, leaflets, booklets and magazines.

In 2010, it was decided by Europe Direct Centres in Ireland to run a National Event. A Soapbox Event was planned on the theme of "Wind Energy – the future or a blot on the landscape?"

It was a large event with MEP Joe Higgins chairing. This event attracted a large media attention and was filmed and also recorded for radio.

## Events 2010

3,970 Free events and activities catering to all age and interest groups took place in Fingal Libraries during 2010. The diversity of the programme of events was huge, ranging from Hip Hop dance and French classes for teens, to life coaching sessions for adults, storytelling, art and author readings for adults and children alike. Fingal Libraries continued with its ongoing support of and involvement in national promotional campaigns such as Seachtain na Gaeilge, Bealtaine, Library Ireland Week, Children's Book Festival and National Science Week.

## E Learning at the Library

FÁS eLearning at the Library is a national community based programme which provides a free facility for citizens to learn computer skills on their own doorstep.



## Writing 3.0 Fingal's Annual Writers' Festival

A highlight of Fingal Libraries' programme for 2010 was Writing 3.0 Fingal's Annual Writers' Festival co-programmed by Fingal Libraries and Fingal Arts Office. Focusing on the writing process in the 21st Century Writing 3.0 was a great success. Highlights included a public event: The Drivetime Diarists Live from Farmleigh House and an Open Mic Session in Fingal Council Chamber.

## Community, Recreation and Amenities



### Launch of Writing 3.0

According to one attendee the Open Mic Session, which took place in the Fingal County Council Chamber was 'one of the best ever Open Mic Nights in recent times'

<b>LIBRARIES DIVISION</b>	<b>2010</b>	<b>2009</b>	
Items borrowed	1,229,879	1,201,342	
Registered members	129,020	88,616*	
Internet usage hours	112,753	96,984	
Website visits	63,216	33,571	
<b>Performance indicators</b>	<b>2010</b>	<b>2009</b>	<b>2008</b>
Average number of public opening hours per week for Full time libraries	49.0	48.93	48.93
Average number of public opening hours per week for Part time libraries (where applicable)	23	29	29
Number of registered library members as a % of the local population (2006 Census)	53.8%	36%	36%
Number of items issued per head of population (County wide):			
(a) Books	3.97	3.98	3.84
(b) Other	1.16	1.03	0.97
(c) Total: Books plus Other	5.13	5.01	4.81
% of Libraries that offer Internet Access to the public	100%	100%	100%
Number of Internet Sessions provided per 1,000 population	470.71	404.10	428.61
Book Fund expenditure per capita	4.15	5.83	7.18
Visits by the public to Fingal Libraries	1,043,983	1,003,683	986,988

\* Registered members generated from new management information scheduler which accurately records all current members

# Community, Recreation and Amenities

## **PARKS DIVISION**

The Parks Division is principally responsible for the planning, provision and maintenance of some 5,000 acres (2,000 Ha.) of public open space in Fingal. The Division manages regional and neighbourhood parks, historic houses and sporting facilities across the County.

The Division provides extensive recreational and leisure opportunities for Fingal's residents and visitors alike. It also maintains the median and boundary areas of much of the motorway network in the County. The Division also carries out an advisory/design services for other Council Departments as well as carrying out works when requested.

### **Achievements during 2010**

#### **Playgrounds and Multi-Use Games areas**

During 2010 new playgrounds were opened and/or taken in charge at Waterville and Corduff in Blanchardstown, and Holywell and Ridgewood in Swords. New Multi-Use Games Areas (MUGAs) were opened at Rivermeade and Thornleigh in Swords and at Seabury, Malahide.

#### **Bio-diversity information**

The first Fingal Biodiversity Plan was adopted. This is the first mapped Biodiversity Plan in the state. Biodiversity Day in May 2010 attracted 15,000 visitors to Newbridge Demesne, Donabate and included the first Bioblitz event. Dune conservation works were completed at Rush.

#### **Tree Works**

'The Forest of Fingal' – A Tree Strategy for Fingal was adopted in November 2010 and will address how the trees and woodlands in Fingal are managed and developed. A full street tree planting programme has been completed during the winter works programme, as well as emergency and complaint based remedial works to existing trees. Survey work for the Ezy-Treev tree management system was expanded during 2010.

#### **Growing Places**

The Fingal Growing Places Initiative was piloted across over 40 parks and open spaces in Fingal. This approach involves matching maintenance resources to open space usage patterns and increasing the involvement of local communities and residents groups in decisions about how their open spaces are developed and maintained. During 2010 over 300 acres were maintained as wildflower meadows and 80,000 flowering bulbs were planted on open spaces in Fingal.

#### **Santry Demesne**

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

# Community, Recreation and Amenities

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

Works were completed on the provision of new sports pitches in this park.

## **Malahide Demesne**

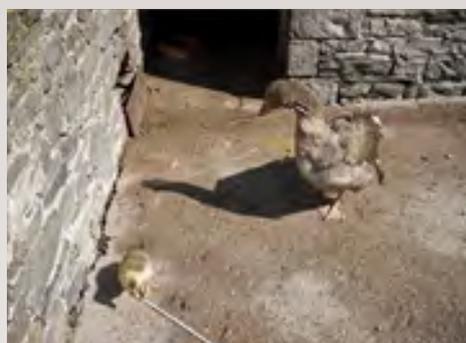
A major grant aided improvement scheme was progressed at Malahide Demesne during 2010 which when completed will see significant improvements to the Castle, Botanic Gardens and Visitor Facilities

## **Intoxicating Liquor Notices**

A total of 98 Fixed Payment Notices were issued under the Council's Intoxicating Liquor Bye-Laws

## **Regional Parks Managed and Maintained:-**

- Ardgillan Demesne, Balbriggan
- Malahide Demesne, Malahide
- Newbridge House and Demesne, Donabate
- Ward River Valley
- Tolka Valley
- Santry Demesne
- Liffey Valley Regional Park – St Catherine’s



## **Visitor Attractions Provided**

A wide variety of visitor attractions are provided and managed by the Parks Department throughout the County. Malahide and Ardgillan Demesnes boast extensive botanical gardens. Guided tours of Fingals historical buildings are run regularly, along with traditional farms at Newbridge, and Frys Model Railway (managed with Dublin Tourism) at Malahide, and Skerries Mills Industrial Heritage Centre. A number of tearooms and coffee shops dotted throughout the County also provide a popular amenity for the local community and visitors alike.

## **Playgrounds**

Major parkland playgrounds were provided and maintained in 8 locations throughout Fingal, including The Ward River Valley, Newbridge Demesne, Red Island Skerries, and Millenium Park Blanchardstown.

# Community, Recreation and Amenities

## Sports Facilities

- A total of 175 pitches were maintained for a range of team sports including Hurling, Camogie, hockey, Gaelic, Soccer, Rugby and American football.
- 4 all-weather pitch facilities were available in Balbriggan, Skerries, Corduff, Blanchardstown and Broomfield, Malahide.
- Cricket grounds were provided at Malahide Demesne and at the Town Park, Balbriggan.
- A Bowling Green administered by the Skerries Bowling Club was in operation in the Town Park, Skerries.
- 46 tennis courts, 30 of which are floodlit, were maintained at many locations throughout the county

## Golfing facilities

Golfing facilities are available at:-

- The Elmgreen Golf Centre, Castleknock (18 hole Golf Course, 18 hole Pitch & Putt Course and 24 Bay Driving Range)
- Corballis Golf Links, Donabate (public links golf course). Three new golf holes and a realigned 4th hole were opened to the public in May 2009.
- Malahide Demesne. (9 hole par 3 Golf Course and Pitch and Putt Course)



## Restoration Projects

Projects at:-

- Bremore Castle and Church yard, Balbriggan, in association with FÁS, the Skerries Development and Community Association and the Balbriggan Cultural and Heritage Society continued during 2010.
- Swords Castle, in association with FÁS and Swords Castle Restoration Committee, and the restored chapel was officially opened to the public.
- Anna Liffey Mills, Industrial Heritage Project.

# Community, Recreation and Amenities

## Tree Planting and Civic Decoration

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

## Development of Open Spaces

- The taking-in-charge and the basic and refined development of new open spaces continued throughout the year.

## Events in Parks

Shakespearean plays were performed on the West Lawn of Malahide Demesne and in the walled garden at Ardgillan Castle during the summer of 2010.



## Allotments

During 2010 2 allotment sites were maintained at Powerstown in Dublin 15 and at Turvey Avenue, Donabate. A total of 450 new allotments were provided at these locations. Works commenced also on the provision of an additional 200 allotments at Golf Course Road, Skerries. Co. Dublin.



## 1. CONSTRUCTION

There were a total of 4 new social housing units provided under our 2010 Construction Programme. This Programme also provided a further 18 affordable housing units giving a total of 22 units provided in the following schemes-

- Oldtown, Co Dublin
- Main Street, Rush

In addition 10 social units were acquired under the Private House Purchase Scheme.

Housing construction was ongoing on an infill dwelling at St Cronan's Court, Swords.

38 Affordable/Shared Ownership housing units were provided under part V of the Planning & Development Acts 2000-2002.



## 2. HOUSING STOCK

### Rental

At 31st December 2010 the Council had 4,457 properties in its housing stock. The Rental income collected from these properties was €13,059,384.

At 31st December 2010 1,933 live mortgage accounts yielded payment of €12,851,663.

## 3. ESTATE MANAGEMENT

A total of €5.33m revenue expenditure was incurred on response maintenance and general upkeep of the Council's Housing Stock and estates. 8,400 maintenance requests were dealt with during 2010.

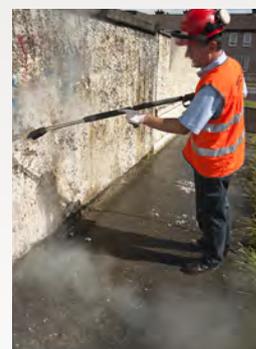
In addition 3,400 boilers are part of the Council's boiler servicing programme.

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

Estate Management attended 29 Residents Association meetings during 2010.

Capital expenditure of €4m was incurred on planned maintenance programmes and other improvements such as:-

- Pre-Let Repairs completed in 173 dwellings.
- Central Heating installation and upgrading in 129 dwellings.
- Fire blankets were installed in 4,457 dwellings.
- 559 complaints of Anti-Social Behaviour were dealt with during 2010.
- Refurbishment works were carried out in 22 dwellings in Mourne View Estate.



# Housing Department

## 4. ALLOCATIONS

A total of 415 dwellings were allocated to applicants from the housing list.

This is broken down as:-



There were 7,991 applicants on the housing list at 31/12/2010.

A total number of refusals of housing accommodation was 240. This is broken down as:-



## 5. AFFORDABLE HOUSING

There are now a total of 431 applicants approved on the Affordable Housing List. 203 applicants were approved in 2010 with 14 applicants refused. Despite an extremely challenging environment 127 sales closed and there are currently 37 properties with deposits paid that should close in the early part of 2011.

## 6. RAS

The Council procured an additional 191 properties for the scheme in 2010 bringing the total number of RAS properties to 557. The Council has continued to review rents downwards in light of changing market conditions resulting in a saving of €1.58 million over the remainder of the contracts reviewed.

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

There were 292 private grants approved totalling €2,415,012.

## 8. TRAVELLER ACCOMMODATION

Two new sites were completed and occupied in 2010:-

- Barnlodge – 10 Bay Halting Site.
- Ardla – 10 Unit Group Housing Scheme.

In addition the Council provided the following accommodation to Travellers:-

# Housing Department

INDICATOR	2010	2009	2008
<b>H: Housing</b>			
<b>H.1 Housing Vacancies:</b>			
Total number of dwellings in local authority stock	4,459	4,464	4,273
Overall % of dwellings that are let	98.09%	98.53%	98.65%
Overall % of dwelling that are empty	1.91%	1.47%	1.35%
% of empty dwellings subject to major refurbishment schemes	n/a	12.12%	0%
% of empty dwellings unavailable for letting	95.29%	84.85%	95%
% of empty dwelling available for letting	4.71%	15.15%	5%
<b>H.2 Average time taken to re-let dwellings available for letting</b>			
	1 week	37 days	34 days
<b>H.3 Number of repairs completed as a percentage of the number of valid repair requests received</b>			
	95%	94%	98.15%
<b>H.4 Average time taken to inform applicants of Local authority's decision on applications for:</b>			
The shared ownership housing scheme	n/a	5.1 days	26 days
Housing loan schemes	n/a	15 days	10.3 days
Local authority housing	n/a	70 days	25 days
<b>H.5 Traveller Accommodation</b>			
Total number of traveller families accommodated as a percentage of the targets set in the local traveller accommodation programme	66.67%	57%	78.3%
<b>Rev: Revenue Collection</b>			
<b>Rev.1 House Rent</b>			
(a) Amount collected at year as a percentage of amount due:	90.98%	93.26%	94.07%
(b) Percentage of arrears			
4 – 6 weeks old	6.7%	9.3%	9.24%
6 – 12 weeks old	16.42%	18.02%	13.57%
More than 12 weeks old	67.86%	59.69%	61.31%
<b>Rev.2 Housing Loans</b>			
(a) Amount collected at year as a percentage of amount due:	95.25%	96.59%	97%
(b) Percentage of arrears:			
1 month old	12.59%	10%	13%
2 – 3 months old	10.15%	4%	3%
More than 3 months	77.26%	86%	84%



The Architects' Department provided architectural design, quantity surveyor, conservation, planning and building procurement services to all departments of the Council during 2010.

## PROJECTS

### CIVIC BUILDINGS

#### Rush Library

Fit out contract was completed during 2009 and the library was opened in 2010.

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

The department was involved in ongoing discussions and assessments with the Community Recreation and Amenities Dept to explore ways of interacting with a view to progressing the development of schools projects in the Fingal area in a more coherent way. The first two projects of the programme were handed over in 2010 at St. Benedict's School Ongar Dublin 15 and at The VEC Community School at Phibblestown Dublin 15.



#### Malahide Castle

This development of this project continued in 2010 for the redevelopment of the visitor facilities and gardens at Malahide. The project is a joint one with the Heritage Properties Section and Architects Department of the council.

#### Drinan Enterprise Units

Two contracts for the fit out of Phase 2 and 3 were carried out in 2010.

#### Portmarnock Scout Den

This preparation of tender documents for this project commenced in 2010

#### Seamus Ennis Centre Naul

A major upgrade of the centre was undertaken in 2010 in order to comply with licensing and fire requirements.

#### Martins Shop Rush

Phase 1 of refurbishment works were carried out in 2010 so that the building can be used as a community resource.

#### Consultancy Services

The Architects Department have provided Architectural Consultancy services to Meath County Council, Louth County Council and Drogheda Town Council during 2010.

# Architects' Department

## HOUSING

### Social & Affordable Housing completed in 2010

#### **Main Street, Rush**

This 4-dwelling scheme infill scheme was completed in 2010.

#### **SONAS Main Street, Blanchardstown, Dublin 15**

This 8-unit scheme was completed in March 2010.

#### **Ardla, Skerries**

This ten-house group scheme for the Travelling Community started construction in December 2009 and was completed in November 2010, nearly four months ahead of schedule.

#### **New Road, Barn Lodge, Dublin**

Construction of this ten-bay halting site was completed in early November 2010.

#### **Purchase Reports**

Purchase reports on 41 houses were completed in 2010.

#### **Part V Inspections**

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

### Housing projects currently under construction

#### **NABCO Tyrellstown, Dublin 15**

A mixed tenure scheme dwellings is due for completion in July 2011.

#### **Remedial Works Scheme at Mourneview Estate Skerries (Ph. 1a)**

A second phase of work to 14 one-bedroom houses and 3 two-bedroom houses was started in 2009 and should be complete in May 2011.

#### **Remedial Works Scheme at Mourneview Estate Skerries (Ph. 2)**

Contracts were signed for this scheme of works to 30 houses in December 2010.

#### **House at St, Cronan's Court, Swords**

A single infill dwelling was commenced in mid-October 2010.



# Architects' Department

## Schemes in Preparation

### **Remedial Works Scheme at Mourneview Estate Skerries (Ph. 3)**

This scheme of 31 houses was tendered in December 2010.

### **Two houses at Fortlawn Avenue, Blanchardstown**

These houses are to be put to tender in March 2011.

### **Cappagh Phase 1**

This scheme has been revised due to changes in the brief and changes in DoEHLG policy on construction of new social housing.

## **Social Housing Construction**

Schemes in a number of locations throughout the county have been submitted to the Department of the Environment, Local Government and Heritage for approval. The much-altered budgetary circumstances and the apparent over-supply of housing nationally, have meant that the Department has become much more cautious in allowing construction schemes to proceed; relying, instead, on long-term leasing as the principal means of provision of social housing.

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

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

Thirty-six adaptations for persons with special needs were completed.

Two extensions were completed, construction of one extension was commenced and seven others were put to tender in 2010.

# Architects' Department

## Housing Maintenance

The number of dwellings in the Council's stock as of February 2011 was 4466.

8,576 maintenance requests were responded to during 2010, with a further 116 maintenance requests for the Traveller Accommodation Unit.

173 vacant houses were repaired prior to re-letting in 2010 with a further 42 in progress at the close of the year.

External painting and repairs were carried out to 607 dwellings.

The Council's Central Heating Installation, and Insulation and Ventilation Programmes continued through 2010.

Central heating boiler maintenance was carried out in 2710 houses. New Contracts were let for central heating installations, maintenance and heating works associated with re-let repairs



## Building Energy Rating (BER)

The Architect's Department is a registered assessor for Building Energy Ratings. In 2010 it provided BER certificates for 191 dwellings.

As well as the above, the department offers services or advice on the following:

- Mapping services -The Architects Department provided a mapping service for affordable and tenant purchase houses on request.
- Way leaves – 227 way leave reports were carried out

## Dangerous Buildings

16 new dangerous building inspection files were opened in 2010. Approximately 300 inspections / re-inspections also carried out in 2010.

# Architects' Department

## Conservation

Advice provided on an ongoing basis to the Planning Department in relation to protected structures and planning applications, as well as planning enforcement issues.

• Number of pre-planning discussions	circa 30
• Number of verbal reports on planning files	6
• Number of written reports on planning files	115
• Number of Compliance files	11
• Number of Declaration Requests (Sec 5 & Sec57)	3
• Number of Section 59 cases	2
• Number of Enforcement Cases	4

### Operation of Conservation Grant Scheme

• Number of grant applications received	18
• Number of grant applications approved	13
• Amount of grant assistance provided	€110,500

A Civic Structure Grant was obtained for works to Balbriggan Lighthouse for the re-instatement of the historic windows.

Record of Protected Structures - Ongoing review of record of protected structures.

• Number of protected structures listed	798
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The Conservation Office has worked with other Council Departments throughout the year in particular the Parks Division through participation on the Heritage Advisory Committee. It has advised on the management of Historic and Protected Structures in the Councils ownership. It has also participated in the Heritage Forum and steering group of a number of Heritage Plan Projects including:

- Archaeological Resources Project
- Coastal Architectural Heritage Project
- Industrial Heritage Project

Briefs for the preparation of two Conservation Plans for Bremore and Swords Castles and Newbridge House were drafted by the Conservation Office in 2010.

The Department organised "Energy Efficiency in Historic Houses Seminar" in Nov 2010 in conjunction with Irish Georgian Society to provide guidance to owners of Protected Structures on energy up-grade of their properties.

# Architects' Department

## PLANNING

### Architectural Reports

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

### Draft Development Plan 2011-2017

The department has participated in the preparation of the Draft Development Plan for the County. In particular, the Conservation Office drafted the chapter on "Archaeology & Architectural Heritage" and appendix on "Record of Protected Structures".

The department also had a significant input into the chapters on Urban and Rural Fingal, and the appendix on Rural Housing Design Guidance.



The Transportation Department is responsible for the efficient management or movement of people, vehicles, animals and goods in a safe, efficient, economical manner from place to place within Fingal via the public road network system.

The management of Fingal County Council's Transportation Department is in line with policy documents including the National Development Plan 2007-2013, DTO Strategy 2000-2016, Transport 21, and current Fingal County Council Development Plans and Strategies.

The main pieces of enabling legislation are:

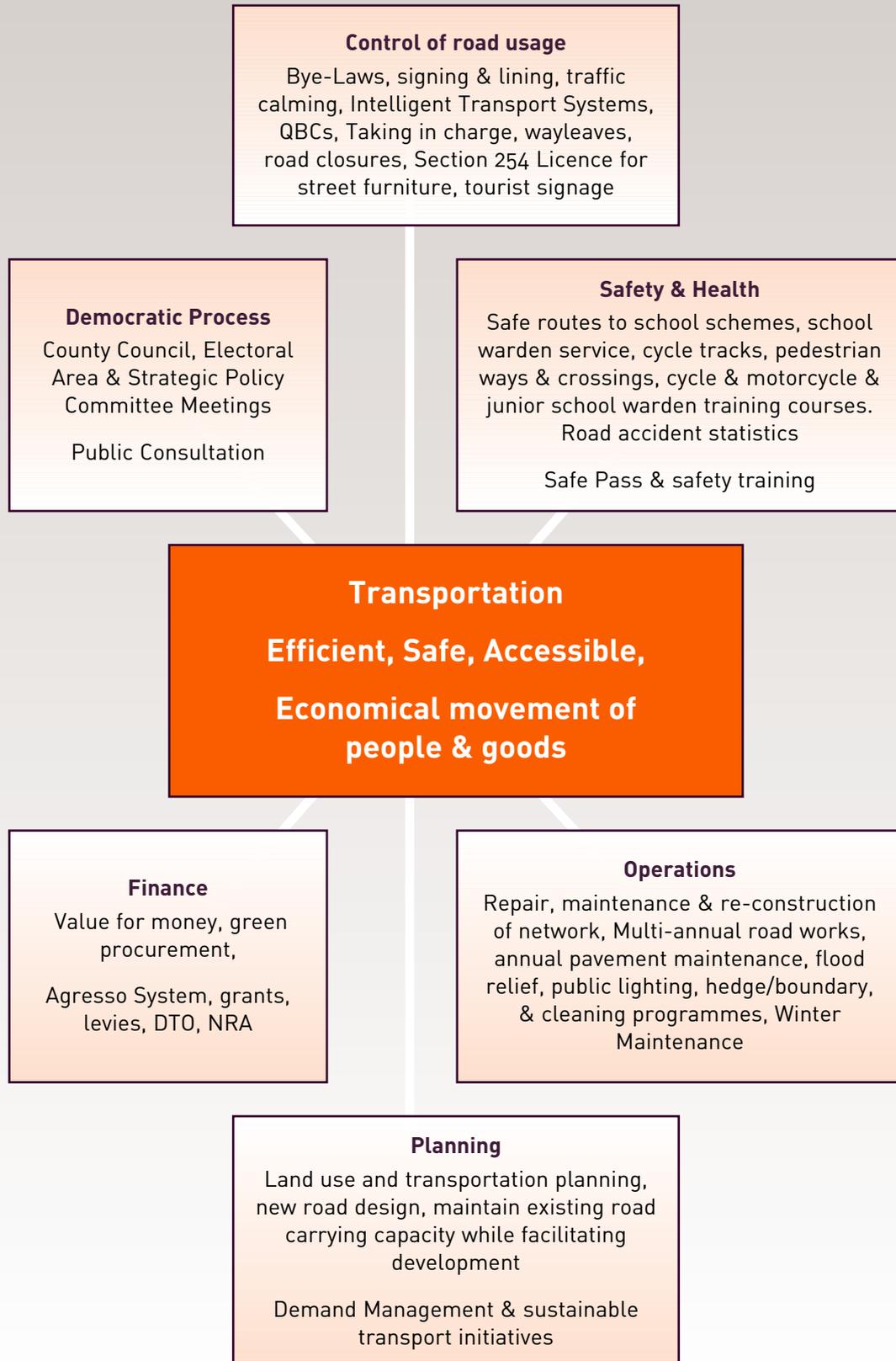
- Roads Act 1993 - 2007
- Road Traffic Acts 1961 to 2008
- Local Government (Planning & Development) Act 2000 - 2007



# Transportation Department

## TRANSPORTATION PROCESS/RANGE OF SERVICES

The Transportation Department provides a wide range of services for the County of Fingal, as illustrated below;



# Transportation Department

## Road Design and Construction.

This Section is responsible for the preparation of the detailed designs and contract documentation for major road schemes throughout the County.

During 2010, construction works were completed on the Ballycoolin – Cappagh Road Improvement Scheme. Environmental Impact Statements for the R132 Upgrade Works at Dublin Airport and for the Donabate Distributor Road were submitted to An Bord Pleanala. A decision from the Bord is awaited in both instances.

A Part VIII approval was granted by the Council to a proposal to widen portion of the M1 to three lanes in each direction. Work is currently underway on this scheme.

Work will commence early in 2011 on the replacement of Mulhuddart Bridge.

The bridge replacement will be funded by the Office of Public Works as part of the Tolka Flood Relief Scheme.

Work will commence in 2011 on the New Porterstown Link Road in Dublin 15 and the Upgrade of the Ward Cross

## Traffic and Planning Control

The Traffic Section deals with a wide range of traffic control, traffic planning and traffic management issues including,

- Forward planning of Transportation and Roads Issues, which includes the maintenance of the carrying capacity of the Roads Network.
- Assessing Transportation issues and providing recommendations for the County Development Plan and associated Local Area Plans
- Assessment of transport implications of planning applications
- Travel Demand Management, the basic principle of which is to promote sustainable alternatives to the use of the car, i.e. park and ride facilities, walking, cycling and mobility management plans etc.
- Traffic calming and management schemes,
- Facilitating the provision of the Quality Bus Network (QBN) for the National Transport Authority (NTA)
- Smarter Travel is the Government policy for transport in Ireland. “Smarter Travel, “A Sustainable Transport Future, A New Transport Policy for Ireland 2009 – 2020”, Complemented by “Ireland’s First National Cycle Policy Framework” The purpose of this project is to develop route to promote sustainable modes of transport. A Pilot project -Balbriggan, Skerries, Coastal & Rural Circulation Route was commenced in 2010



# Transportation Department

## Traffic Elements in 2010

	Details
Traffic Signals	101 (91 on Remote Monitoring System)
Pedestrian Signals	86 (81 on Remote Monitoring System)
Toucan Crossings	19 (13 on Remote Monitoring System)
School Warning Signals	21
Zebra Crossings	3
Bus Gates	1

## Quality Bus Network

Castleknock QBC construction ongoing – completion date 2011

Huntstown Way construction ongoing – completion date 2011

R132 North of Swords was advanced throughout 2010 and now at detailed design stage with tender due 2011.

## Pay and Display

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

## Planning Control Section

The Planning Control Section is concerned with the Forward Planning and Planning Control of Transportation, Roads Matters and the Roads Network. The section contributes to the Fingal County Council Development Plan, Local Area Plans as well as Planning Control. The section dealt with 911 files during 2010.

# Transportation Department

## TRANSPORTATION OPERATIONS

The Roads Maintenance Section operating from Depots at Balbriggan, Swords and Coolmine undertook an extensive Programme of Works throughout 2010 comprising resurfacing, surface dressing, strengthening, drainage and flood relief works, remedying defects arising from wear and tear and pot-hole repairs on the county roads most in need of repair. Winter maintenance is a sophisticated and integral part of the operations programme, spanning from the beginning of November to the end of April.

A system of Thermal Mapping has been undertaken on the Main road network and based on readings from strategically located weather stations along the routes, which is fed into the computer system, the local authority carries out precautionary salting/gritting accordingly.



## BUILDING CONTROL SECTION

The primary purpose of Building Regulations is to provide for the health, safety and welfare of people in and around buildings. In addition, the building regulations make provision for the special needs of disabled persons in relation to buildings and for the conservation of fuel and energy.

Under the Building Control Act, 1990 - 2009 the Council is obliged to monitor and carry out inspections in respect of all new developments. The primary responsibility for observing the requirements of the Act falls on the persons who actually design and construct buildings and on the owners of buildings, who normally start this process. The inspection and enforcement powers conferred on Fingal Building Control Authorities are essentially supplementary to this primary statutory obligation.

Fingal Building Control Section carries out random inspections of buildings and if necessary, the related design plans, to promote compliance with the Building Regulations.

In 2010 32 estates comprising of 3558 dwellings and 26km of roads were taken in charge

## Fingal County Council and the National Disability Strategy

The Disability Act, 2005 strengthened Fingal County Council's commitment to serving its customer. The Council adopted the Barcelona Declaration in 2002. The promoting of social inclusion, universal accessibility, encouraging the creation by means of good design of a safe and barrier-free environment, which is easily negotiable by all our customers is embedded throughout Fingal County Council's Development Plan 2005-2011.

# Transportation Department

## Accessibility Works for 2010

During 2010 "Fingal Access for All" group met 4 times to promote the objectives set in the "Fingal County Council Implementation Disability Plan 2008 – 2010".

Projects completed in 2010 include:

- Rivervalley, Swords - New Pedestrian Crossing for mobility and vision impaired residents within the Estate
- Audio Visual Tours of Nature Conservation Areas and Regional Parks and Coastline in Fingal
- Hamlet Lane, Balbriggan – Accessible Road and Footpath construction for residents and school children
- Fingal County Council website went live with the Interactive Map of Disabled Car Parking Spaces. From the map, it is possible to search by area (Swords, Malahide, Blanchardstown, etc.) to view locations of spaces and their adjacent services (hairdresser, supermarket, train etc.). It is also possible to search by a service and view the associated Disabled Parking spaces.

<http://maps.fingalcoco.ie/locationpublisher/Layout1.aspx>



- 27 Minor Accessible Works were completed to improve the quality of life for people with disabilities. These disabilities included physical, cognitive, sensory, aging etc,

# Transportation Department

## **Mechanical and Electrical Division**

The Mechanical Section managed a fleet of 253 vehicles and plant associated with Road Maintenance, Water Services and Environmental services in 2010 and carried out its own vehicle repair service from depots at Swords and Coolmine. The section was also responsible for the maintenance of water and drainage pumping stations and treatment plants.

During 2010, the Electrical Section managed the maintenance of 32,000 public lights throughout Fingal.

## **Road Safety Section**

The Road Safety Section managed the School Warden Services. The total number of Wardens employed in 2010 was 90 fulltime wardens and 26 reserve wardens. Managing and maintaining the School warden programme is an important aspect of the Road Safety Programme and this was done in 2010 through:

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

Road Safety in the County in 2010 continued through:

- Schools competition, art competition on road safety, judging and prize giving
- Production of information/campaign materials, leaflets, armbands, rulers and pencils with the safety message
- Motorcyclist Training Courses/Pedal Cyclist training course
- Road Safety Week, Walk to School Day
- Road Safe Road Show in Helix Theatre for transition year students
- Promotion of the safe routes to schools and walking bus multi-agency approach
- Bike for your Breakfast mornings in schools
- Cycle and motorcycle events during Community Safety Week

# Transportation Department

## Transportation Administration

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

During 2010, the Administration Section also dealt with:

	2010	2009	2008
Wayleave / Communications, Applications Road Opening Licence Applications	393	392	219
Temporary Road Closure Applications	31	21	28
Taking in Charge Certificate Applications	357	303	406
Abnormal Load Permit Applications	417	565	771
Pay and Display Applications: Residents permits, Visitor's discs, Special permits	616	754	847

## ROADS AND TRAFFIC DEPARTMENT KEY STATISTICS

### Road length by category

National Roads including Motorways	60km	60km	60km
Regional Roads	225km	225km	225km
Local Roads	1002km	976km	960km

### Service Indicators

Cost per sq. m for surface dressing roads	€3.2	€5.2	€5.2
Percentage of Local and Regional Roads surface dressed (Per square metre of road)	1.4%	1.1%	2.0%

## **Waste Recycling & Disposal**

A detailed annual report on the progress of the Regional Waste Management Plan is available on the Fingal County Council website.

The Council operates a three bin kerbside collection service (Dry Recyclables, Organic Waste & Residual Waste), 2 recycling centres and a network of 73 bottle banks.

The Domestic Waste Recycling Rate for 2010 was 59%



## **Kerbside Dry Recyclable Collection (Green Bin)**

The green bin is collected by Greyhound Recycling on behalf of the Dublin Local Authorities. The material is brought to the Material Recovery Facility in Ballymount

## **Organic Waste kerbside collection (Brown Bin)**

Organic waste collected in the brown bin was sent to O'Tooles Composting in Carlow, Miltown Compost and Acorn Recycling in Tipperary. The material is composted indoors to a standard suitable for agricultural use.

## **Residual Waste Kerbside Collection**

Collection of household waste for disposal in landfill by way of the black bin collection system from customers availing of the Fingal bin collection service.

## **Annual Household Waste charging System**

- €8 each time 240L bin is presented for collection.
- €4 each time 140L bin is presented for collection.
- The Annual Waste Charge for 2010 was €110.00.
- Waiver scheme in operation (13,836 Waivers Issued in 2010).

# Environment, Economic and Social Development

## Recycling Centres and Bottle Banks

The Council operates two recycling centres (Estuary & Coolmine) and a network of 73 bottle banks throughout the county. The following table give tonnages of weights collected in 2010.

	2010 (Tonnes)	2009 (Tonnes)
Glass	5,441	5,327
Mixed Dry Recyclables (Plastic, Cardboard Alu cans, Food Tins, Mixed Paper, Tetra Pak)	569	728
WEEE (include fridges)	1,303	1,486
Clothes	350	393
Bric a brac Enable Ireland for resale / reuse	25	23
Wood, Metal, Bulky Waste, C&D, Gypsum / plasterboard	3,749	4,464
Green Waste	1,045	1,185
Batteries (Lead Acid & Primary)	37	51
Engine & Cooking Oil	24	24
Gas Cylinder	5	4
Household Hazardous Waste (Paint, medicines, cleaners / detergents, pesticides / herbicides, aerosols)	156	172
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>12,704</b>	<b>13,857</b>

## Waste Electronic and Electrical Equipment

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

	2010	2009
Above on Per Capita basis	5.43 kg/person	6.19 kg/person
WEEE collected from retailers by ERP*	687 tonnes	615 tonnes

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

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

## WASTE INFRASTRUCTURE

### Landfill

- Annual Audit and site inspection of waste licence W0009-03 issued by the Environmental Protection Agency for Balleally Landfill resulted in no non compliances. The capping of the landfill extension is complete for most of cells 5 and 6. The remaining void space capacity for Balleally at the beginning of 2011 is approximately 120,000 tonnes.
- An Bord Pleanála gave consent to the development of a new landfill at The Nevitt, Lusk and approved the compulsory purchase order in October 2009. The Environmental Protection Agency granted a waste licence for the facility on May 27th 2010. The decision of the Agency is being challenged by way of Judicial Review.

### Enforcement of Waste Management Act and Regulations

- 5 separate prosecutions for breach of the Waste Management Acts 1996 were successful in 2010 with fines and costs of approx €15,259 being imposed by the Courts.
- 52 businesses were inspected for compliance with the Waste Management (Packaging) Regulations, 2007.
- 19 Companies registered as self-compliers in 2010.
- 13 Waste Permits and 1 Certificate of Registration was granted in 2010 for waste recovery facilities under the Waste Management (Facility Permit and Registration) Regulations, 2007-2008.
- 2898 movements of hazardous waste consignments monitored and tracked in accordance with the Waste Management (Movement of Hazardous waste) Regulations, 1998.

### Environmental Awareness

Ongoing Public Awareness Campaigns have been used to promote and encourage household, business and youth waste reduction and recycling

- 10 Household Composting & Recycling Seminars and Information.
- An Taisce Green Schools Programme - 68 Green Schools in Fingal in 2010, 5 first flags awarded. A total of 155 flags, have been awarded to Fingal schools.
- An Taisce National Spring Clean.
- Repak National Recycling Week.
- LA Environmental Partnership Fund - awarded a total of €27,446 in 2010 to 9 local environmental projects.
- Education Programme continued in the Estuary Recycling Centre with 3 schools visiting in 2010.
- Anti Litter and Graffiti calendars compiled from winning entries submitted by Fingal County Council primary and secondary school students.

# Environment, Economic and Social Development

- Fingal Eco Week was launched in 2010 as an informative, interactive, interesting way of promoting environmental issues in the Fingal area
- 15 Sustainable Energy Ireland workshops facilitated for local schools
- ERP in association with the Environmental Awareness team organised Santa's grotto in Swords and Blanchardstown to promote battery recycling
- Assisted businesses in hosting green days for their employees
- Produced and ran anti litter and anti graffiti adverts for all of the cinemas in Fingal.

## Litter Control

The Litter Management Section is responsible for road sweeping, litter picking, fly tipping removal, and emptying and replacement of litter bins.

- 1,111 fines issued in 2010
- National Litter Pollution Monitoring System.
- 4 abandoned vehicles and 8 burned out vehicles were removed in 2010. Additionally 27 residents availed of our service to have their end-of-life vehicle removed

## Air Quality Control

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

- 5 air monitoring stations in Fingal measuring air quality. These are located at Cloghran, Swords, Malahide Balbriggan and Blanchardstown.
- A new Regional Air Quality Management Plan has been adopted in conjunction with Dublin City Council, Dun Laoghaire Rathdown County Council and South Dublin County Council. Measurements to date indicate all targets in the Plan are generally met
- 90 complaints were received in 2010

## Noise Control

Complaints are investigated by Environmental Health Officers.

- 152 complaints received in 2010.
- Residential complaints dealt with directly by householder in District Court under Section 108 of the Environmental Protection Agency Act 1992.

## Burial Grounds

- 34 Burial Grounds operated and maintained by the Environment Department.
- The statutory process for the development of the new burial ground at Flemington, Balbriggan commenced in late 2009. Expected commencement date 1/3/2011 and handover date 31/8/2011.

# Environment, Economic and Social Development

## Beaches & Bathing Water

- 48 kilometres of coastline in Fingal.
- 9 designated beaches considered to be valuable recreational facilities.

Balbriggan, Skerries South, Loughshinny, Rush South, Portrane, Donabate, Malahide, Portmarnock, Sutton (Burrow Road).

Beach cleaning.

Access facilities.

Regular monitoring of seawater samples carried out to ensure compliance with EU Regulations.

- 36 lifeguards employed at 10 stations from June to early September 2010.



## Dogs & Horses

- 313 horses impounded at the Council's pound in 2010.
- 479 dogs seized and 98 surrendered to the Dog Pound in 2010.
- 4,584 dogs licensed in Fingal in 2010.
- Since 1st October 2010 when the payment method was introduced, 170 dog owners have paid their licence fee on line.

## Harbours

- Repointing of the harbour walls at Balbriggan was carried out during the year.
- Removal and disposal of contaminated vessels in all harbours.
- Renovation of Balbriggan lighthouse and demolition of ice plant at Skerries.
- Maintenance of navigation aids at Balbriggan, Skerries Loughshinny and Malahide

# Environment, Economic and Social Development

## FINGAL COUNTY COUNCIL RECYCLING AND WASTE MANAGEMENT ENVIRONMENT PERFORMANCE INDICATORS 2010

PERFORMANCE INDICATORS	2010	2009	2008
<b>Waste Arisings (WA) and Recycling</b>			
Tonnage Household Waste to Landfill	31,232	37,789	54,458
Tonnage Household Recycled	29,811	29,325	27,839
Tonnage Composted (Brown Bin)	15,701	16,785	9,481
Domestic WA from household (landfill & recycling)	76,744	83,899	91,778
% Domestic Waste Recycled	59	55	41
<b>Waste Management Resources (LA)</b>			
No. Civic Amenity	2	2	3
No. Bring Banks	73	73	77
Households with Green Bins	61,890	65,301	86,600
<b>Litter Enforcement</b>			
No. Litter Wardens	6	6	6
No. Litter Fines issued	1,111	1,397	1,180
No. Litter Fines Paid	591	708	712
Total Value Litter Fines Paid	€915.70	€109,260	€107,220
<b>Litter Pollution</b>			
% Litter Free	N/A	13.50	3.55
% Slightly Littered	N/A	63.00	63.45
% Moderately Littered	N/A	23.00	30.97
% Significantly Littered	N/A	0.50	2.03
% Grossly Littered	N/A	0.09	0
<b>Environmental Complaints</b>			
Total Number of Complaints	3,587	4,511	4,240
No. of complaints investigates	3,314	4,189	3,943
No. of Enforcement Procedures Taken	45	72	80

# Environment, Economic and Social Development

<b>Waste Packaging Regulations (e.g. packaging or permit regs)</b>	<b>2010</b>	<b>2009</b>	<b>2008</b>
No. Businesses member of Repak	350	342	355
No. Self Compliant Businesses (to Fingal County Council)	19	20	21
<b>Schools Participating in Environmental Programmes</b>			
% of Primary Schools with Green Flags	85	82	78
% of Secondary Schools with Green Flags	92	92	83
No. Blue Flag Beaches	1	0	1

## ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT DIVISION

### Fingal County Council Industrial Parks

Damastown Industrial Park	38 firms operating within the Park. An additional 18 hectares available for disposal.
Coolmine Industrial Estate	55 small firms operating within 12.14 hectares.
Cappogue Industrial Lands	13 hectares of land available for disposal.
Stephenstown Industrial Park, Balbriggan	7 Companies operating within the Park. 10 acres of General Industry Lands available for disposal. Urban Design and Landscape Masterplan completed for Science & Technology lands with 40 acres available for sale
Bay Business Park, Balbriggan	Passport Office, Bridgestone Ireland, and 22 other own door units within the Park.
College Business & Technology Park	Joint venture with I.D.A.Ireland. The Institute of Technology, Digiweb and a crèche operate within the 93.07 hectare park.
Lanistown, Turvey	40 hectares of Industrial land on the R132 within 1 kilometre of the M1 at Lissenhall. TESCO is operating a major logistics centre on the site.

# Environment, Economic and Social Development

## Enterprise Centres

The Council opened its third Enterprise Centre in March 2010. This centre in Drinan, Swords joins the two other centres, in Mulhuddart and Balbriggan, in providing start up space and training facilities for Fingal based businesses.

The Drinan Enterprise Centre won the Fingal Chamber of Commerce “Best Public Service Excellence Award” in 2010 and was also shortlisted for both the Chambers Ireland “Economic

Development Award” and the Local Authority Members Association “Best Commercial Building Award.” 62 companies are located at the Enterprise Centres and 227 jobs are supported



## Promotion of Tourism

Financial support by the Council to the administration and operation of Fingal Tourism continued through its membership on the board and participation in programmes of trade and consumer fairs, in-store

promotions, targeted advertising, public relations and direct mailing campaigns and tourism guides. [www.fingaldublin.ie](http://www.fingaldublin.ie)

## Economic Planning / Marketing and Promotion

### Metro North Economic Corridor

The Economic Development Division continues to develop the Economic Development Strategy for the Metro North Economic Corridor and the identification of long term economic and employment opportunities that will arise from the construction of Metro North. The Metro North Economic Corridor comprises the one kilometre of lands on either side of the proposed Metro North Line, and includes the areas of Lissenhall, Swords, Dublin Airport and the City Fringe.

### Marketing of Fingal

The Economic Development Division carried out numerous marketing campaigns that promoted Fingal as a business friendly location. The division also continued its support of the Fingal Day of Enterprise which proves very popular with existing small businesses and those considering setting up new businesses in Fingal.

### The Fingal Business & Employment Survey 2010

The fourth Fingal Business and Employment Survey was carried out during 2010. Over four and a half thousand businesses in the county were asked their views on issues such as competitiveness, trading conditions and employment. Many of the issues identified will be used to inform the decision making process within Fingal County Council in the future.

# Environment, Economic and Social Development

## **The Fingal Economic Forum**

The Fingal Economic Forum event was held in November 2010, where the Managing Directors of many of Fingal's largest businesses met with the Fingal County Manager and senior executives from the main business development state agencies. The issues identified at this forum this will inform future economic policy decisions in the county.

## **Commercial Property Listing**

The web-based Fingal Commercial Property Listing continued to prove popular with Fingal businesses. The listing is a free service to Fingal businesses, and lists Commercial and Enterprise space, Industrial Units and Lands available to rent, lease or buy in Fingal. This database is available through the Fingal County Council and [www.fingalworks.ie](http://www.fingalworks.ie) websites to help businesses find space suitable to their requirements.

## **Fingalworks Website**

The [www.fingalworks.ie](http://www.fingalworks.ie) website continues to be developed and expanded. Fingalworks is an online resource providing information for jobseekers, business start-ups, existing businesses, investors and those with an interest in doing business or living in Fingal. The site was launched during 2009 with the cooperation of the Department of Social & Family Affairs, IDA Ireland, Enterprise Ireland, Fingal County Enterprise Board and many of the education and business support agencies in Fingal.

Fingalworks.ie provides Fingal specific information on social welfare, redundancy, business finance, training, mentoring, feasibility studies and research and development in an easy to access format. Feedback since the launch of the website has been extremely positive with the website also winning the national Chambers Ireland 'Partnership with Business Award' at the Local Government Awards 2010.

## **European Section**

### **The Edge Cities Network**

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

### **Dangerous Structures/Places/Derelict Sites**

64 properties rendered safe/non-derelict in 2010.

One property was entered in the Derelict sites register at the 31st December 2010.



## PLANNING APPLICATIONS

The number of planning applications received was 1192, (of which 162 were declared invalid). This represents a decrease of 11% on the 2009 figure of 1340.

## STRATEGIC INFRASTRUCTURE APPLICATIONS

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

### **SID/02/08**

Metro North - Granted 27/10/2010

### **SID/01/09**

Visual Control Tower Dublin - Granted 12/02/10

### **SID/01/10**

Alteration to route for Eirgrid - Granted 06/08/10

## DEVELOPMENT PLAN 2011-2017

Preparation of the Fingal Development Plan is one of the most important functions of a County Council. The Development Plan provides the strategic framework for all new development in the County over the period of the plan, for the protection and enhancement of the County's amenities, and for the co-ordination of infrastructural provision with existing and future land use.



During 2009 significant pre-draft public and stakeholder consultation took place in respect of the draft development plan. The first draft of the Development Plan went on public display from 2nd April 2010 to 14th June 2010 (10 weeks). 1058 submissions were received during this consultation period, 225 web based submissions and 883 manual submissions. The consultation process comprised four elements – Displays, Open Days, Press and Website. The number of submissions received highlights the significant and welcomed level of public interest in the plan making process.

Following the 10 weeks display period, a Manager Report summarising the issues raised in the 1058 submissions and giving recommendations in respect of these submissions was prepared. The Report was issued to the Elected Members on the 3rd September 2010.

Members considered the draft Development Plan and the Manager's Report over a 12 week period (up to 26th November 2010). The draft Plan and Manager's Report and Motions submitted by Members were considered at October meetings, during which the Council resolved to amend the draft Plan in accordance with s.12(6) of the Planning & Development Act 2000, as amended.

The draft Plan, comprising the material amendments proposed during the October Council meeting was placed on display on the 17th December 2010, up to and including the 24th January 2011.

# Planning Development

## Local Area Plans

Local Area Plans for Broomfield, Garristown, Fosterstown and Oldtown-Mooretown Swords were adopted in 2010.

## The following Non-Statutory reports were produced in 2010

- Blanchardstown Village Urban Framework Plan
- Lusk Rush Railway Study
- Donabate Urban Centre Strategy
- Housing lands availability returns to Dept of environment
- Fingal County Council – submission to Dept of Environment Planning Guidelines
- Burrow Study

## Building Control

A total of 229 applications for Fire Safety Certificates were received and dealt with during the year.

433 Commencements Notices were received.

Road naming and number schemes were received and approved in respect of 6 schemes.

## Outside Bodies

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

- Airport Regions Conference (ARC), comprising local authorities of the European Union and the Accession States having major airports located in their area. The President of the ARC is currently held by Fingal County Council.
- QLAIR – Quality of Life in Airport Regions
- Economic Development Action Plan for the Dublin Region
- School Liaison Committee - Department of Education and Science
- North Fringe Development Forum - Dublin City Council and Fingal County Council.
- National Committee for International Year of Biodiversity 2010
- Archaeological Policy and Practice working group established by Department of Environment, Heritage and Local Government.
- Heritage Council Working Group.

# Planning Development

## Bonds and Contributions

Planning and Development Act 2000 – Section 48 Development Contribution Scheme

A sum of €7.5 million was collected under the Scheme and phasing arrangements are either agreed or under negotiation in respect of all live applications as provided for by legislation.

A total of 138 warning letters were issued in 2010 for the non-payment of development levies.

## Fingal Heritage Plan

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

The Heritage Plan is a partnership plan prepared with the active involvement of the Fingal Heritage Forum, which represents the wide range of statutory and voluntary organisations concerned with heritage issues in Fingal. The Plan was formulated by the Forum and the public also had an opportunity to input to the process. The Plan was adopted by the Council in July 2005. The implementation of the Plan is led by the Council's Heritage Officer. A total of €78,660 was spent by the Council on Heritage Plan projects in 2010. The Council also successfully competed for and received funding of over €37,000 from The Heritage Council.

During 2010 work was undertaken on a wide range of heritage projects including the following:

### Heritage Projects 2010

1. Balbriggan Public Realm Plan.
2. Coastal Heritage GIS Project.
3. Management Plan for the Bog of the Ring.
4. Heritage Appraisal of the emerging Fingal Development Plan 2011-2017
5. Industrial Heritage Project
6. Heritage Week:
7. Antiquities of Old Fingal: The Archaeology of North County Dublin
8. Discovering Medieval Fingal Seminar.



# Planning Development

<b>Performance Indicators</b>	<b>2010</b>	<b>2009</b>	<b>2008</b>
New Applications Registered	1192 (162 invalid)	1340 (191 invalid)	2235 (471 invalid)
Number of Applications Determined	1103	1320	2116
% of Grants	83%	80%	75%
% of Refusals	17%	20%	25%
% Determined within 2 months	70%	72%	75%
Number of A applications received	747 (118 invalid)	1028 (139 invalid)	1474 (326 invalid)
Number of B applications received	445 (44 invalid)	312 (52 invalid)	761 (145 invalid)

## **Enforcement Statistics**

<b>Enforcement</b>	<b>2010</b>	<b>2009</b>	<b>2008</b>
Total number of cases subject to complaints that are investigated	322	466	456
Total number of cases subject to complaints that are dismissed	144	236	323
Number of enforcement procedures taken through warning letters	124	223	280
Number of enforcement procedures taken through enforcement notices	76	85	104
Number of prosecutions	28	27	28
(District – 157)	(15)	(23)	(19)
(High Court/Circuit 160)	(13)	(4)	(9)



## ISO 9001

In 2010, following a rigorous audit by the National Standards Authority of Ireland, the Human Resources Department became the first HR department in the Local Government Sector to be awarded the internationally recognised ISO 9001:2008 Quality Management Standard for its Provision of Human Resource Services.

2010 also saw the Human Resources Training Section being announced as the overall winner in the Public Sector Category of the National Training Awards at the Irish Institute of Training and Development. This award recognises best practise and ongoing commitment to training and development in Ireland and was awarded to Fingal County Council in recognition of its development of inhouse capability to be innovative and to generate efficiencies through its well trained and highly skilled staff.

Both of these achievements demonstrate our strong commitment to excellence and continuous improvement in our service provision



## RECRUITMENT

Fingal County Council employed 1444 staff (FTE) at the 31/12/2010 as detailed in the following table:-

	Permanent	Temporary	Total
Administration	531	6	537
Professional	139	8	147
Technical	187	-	187
Craft	81	-	81
General Workers	492	-	492
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,430</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>1,444</b>

# Human Resources

## RETIREES

39 staff retired in 2010. Of these, 1 retired under the Incentivised Scheme of Early Retirement

## STAFF TRAINING

87 Training Courses were run in 2010 which provided a total of 1031 training places for staff.

99 employees availed of the Staff Education Scheme in 2010.

### Performance Indicator

Corporate Health - Percentage of days lost to sickness absence: 5.11%

### Industrial Relations

Council maintained its good industrial relations record.

## HEALTH & SAFETY

The following activities were carried out during 2010;

- A NISO Safety Award was achieved for the Leixlip Water treatment Plant
- 108 safety inspections were carried out
- 33 safety audits were conducted
- The Corporate Safety Statement was fully revised and issued to all members of staff.



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

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

## Projects

The IT Department carried out a number of major projects in cooperation with various Council Departments during 2010, including –

- Upgrade of Core Network Infrastructure in County Hall, Swords
- Tender for Windows Platform consolidation and Virtualisation
- Upgrade of Wide Area Network links
- Upgrade and increase of capacity of Internet connection
- Implementation of I.T. infrastructure for Major Emergency Plan
- Implementation of Electronic Vote Counting for Council Meetings
- Increase in Public Value through –
  - o Use of Twitter for public notifications
  - o Introduction of self-service facility in Libraries
  - o Provision of Works Expenditure Viewer
  - o Launch of Fingal Open Data website
- Increase in Corporate Value through –
  - o Implementation of CRM in Transportation

# Information Technology

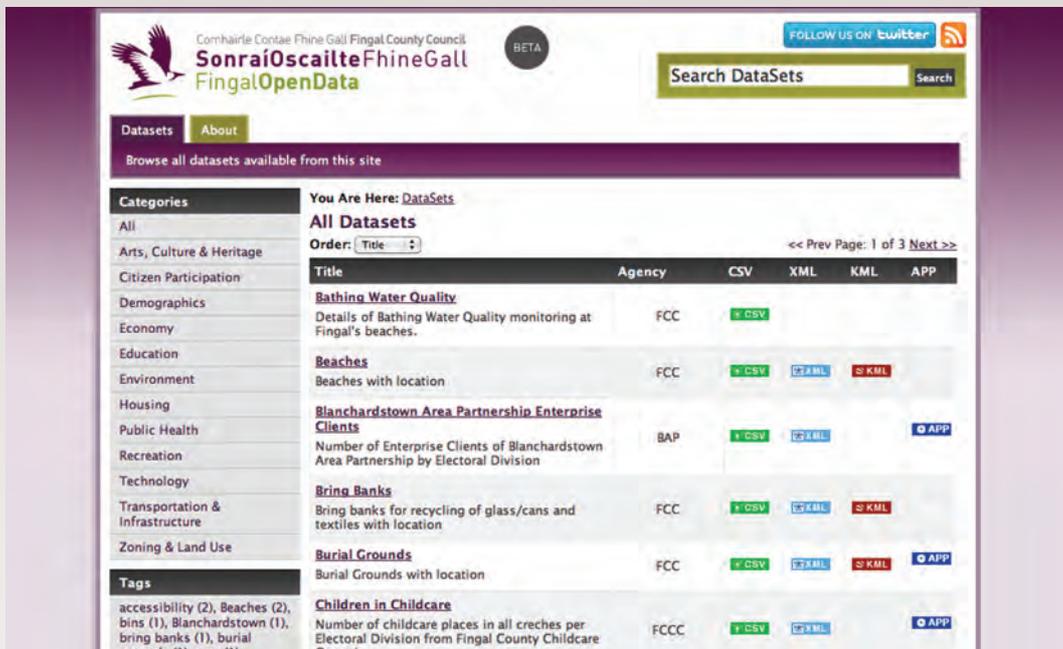
## ACHIEVEMENTS

Two Fingal County Council IT projects were successful at the Chambers Ireland Excellence in Local Government Awards 2010 –

- Innovation in Technology Award for the online Works Expenditure Viewer
- Joint Local Authority Initiative Award jointly to Fingal and Dún Laoghaire/Rathdown County Councils for the Online Development Plan Submissions system.

Fingal County Council also achieved a national first in 2010 –

- 1st Open Government Data website in the country with Fingal Open Data <http://data.fingal.ie>



The screenshot displays the Fingal Open Data website interface. At the top, there is a logo for 'Comhairle Contae Fhine Gall Fingal County Council' and 'Sonraí Oscailte Fhine Gall Fingal Open Data'. A search bar labeled 'Search DataSets' is visible. Below the search bar, there are navigation tabs for 'Datasets' and 'About'. The main content area shows a list of datasets under the heading 'All Datasets'. The list includes columns for Title, Agency, and download options for CSV, XML, KML, and APP. The datasets listed are:

Title	Agency	CSV	XML	KML	APP
<b>Bathing Water Quality</b> Details of Bathing Water Quality monitoring at Fingal's beaches.	FCC	CSV			
<b>Beaches</b> Beaches with location	FCC	CSV	XML	KML	
<b>Blanchardstown Area Partnership Enterprise Clients</b> Number of Enterprise Clients of Blanchardstown Area Partnership by Electoral Division	BAP	CSV	XML		APP
<b>Bring Banks</b> Bring banks for recycling of glass/cans and textiles with location	FCC	CSV	XML	KML	
<b>Burial Grounds</b> Burial Grounds with location	FCC	CSV	XML	KML	APP
<b>Children in Childcare</b> Number of childcare places in all creches per Electoral Division from Fingal County Childcare Commi...	FCCC	CSV	XML		APP

# Information Technology

## SERVICE DESK

Call Statistics	2010	2009
Service Desk Calls Logged	5,952	8,736
Average calls per month	496	728
Average calls per day	23	31
Resolved with 24 hours	57%	-
Satisfaction Rating by Users		
<b>Satisfied with Service</b>	91%	90%
Dissatisfied with Service	3%	3%
Neither Satisfied nor Dissatisfied with Service	6%	7%

## BREAKDOWN OF SERVICE DESK CALLS 2010



Hardware	33%
Network & Remote Access	21%
Web	14%
Email	12%
Applications	11%
Miscellaneous	7%
Maps & GIS	2%



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

This involves:-

- monitoring and controlling income and expenditure in all areas
- arranging borrowing and leasing requirements and
- investment of funds

The Finance Department also ensures that statutory and financial accounting principles, which apply to all money, paid by, or to, the Council are complied with. The Annual Financial Statement (end of year accounts) are prepared on the basis of full accruals accounting i.e. expenditure and income and the balance sheet.

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

- Commercial Rates
- Government Grants
- various other forms of income such as :-
  - housing rents
  - household waste charge
  - commercial water charges
  - planning application fees
  - non principal private residence charges

The amount of capital money available is dependent on Government allocations in the areas of Housing, Transportation, Water Services and Environmental Services

### **Prompt Payment of Accounts Act 1997**

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

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

In the course of the year 2010 no interest penalties were incurred by the Council.

<b>Performance Indicators</b>	<b>2010</b>	<b>2009</b>	<b>2008</b>
Commercial Rates (Amount collected as % of amount due)	83.85%	88.52%	94.97%
Commercial Water/Wastewater Charges (Amount collected as % of amount due)	71.7%	67.9%	78.83%

# Finance Department

## REVENUE ACCOUNT STATEMENT

for year ended 31st December 2010

<b>Expenditure</b>	<b>DRAFT 2010</b>	<b>2009€</b>
Housing & Building	33,720,849	36,846,448
Roads Transportation & Safety	27,351,570	29,553,356
Water & Sewerage	41,088,150	46,156,846
Development Incentives & Controls	14,285,351	17,522,848
Environmental Protection	46,189,059	54,905,605
Recreation & Amenity	31,194,419	35,184,022
Agriculture, Education, Health & Safety	18,625,866	17,531,108
Miscellaneous	21,064,454	15,548,524
<b>Total Gross Expenditure</b>	<b>233,519,718</b>	<b>253,248,757</b>
<b>Income</b>		
Housing & Building	34,261,654	33,012,531
Roads Transportation & Safety	11,415,655	10,560,821
Water & Sewerage	14,941,840	17,790,624
Development Incentives & Controls	2,600,805	2,594,490
Environmental Protection	16,486,465	19,168,296
Recreation & Amenity	3,689,198	4,089,418
Agriculture, Education, Health & Safety	17,387,224	16,292,840
Miscellaneous	5,758,335	6,223,371
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>106,541,176</b>	<b>109,732,391</b>
<b>Net Expenditure</b>	<b>126,978,542</b>	<b>143,516,366</b>
Which is funded by:		
County Rates	118,535,544	128,955,984
Local Government Fund	24,835,290	27,159,837
Pension Related Deduction	3,787,063	3,244,861
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>147,157,897</b>	<b>159,360,682</b>
Surplus/(Deficit) for Year before Transfers	20,179,355	15,844,316
Transfers from/(to) Reserves	(19,977,331)	(13,762,390)
	202,024	2,081,926
Incoming Balance @ 1st January	17,448,786	15,366,860
<b>Closing Balance @ 31st December</b>	<b>17,650,810</b>	<b>17,448,786</b>