



Chief Executive's Management Report

14th of September, 2020

Item 45

CHIEF EXECUTIVE'S MANAGEMENT REPORT – SEPTEMBER 2020

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CORPORATE AFFAIRS AND GOVERNANCE (CAG)

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Meetings with Elected Members

Throughout the last few months we have continued to hold virtual meetings with the Elected Members. Given the ongoing pandemic Area Committee meetings were held in July, as well as the County Council and SPC meetings.

Major Emergency Management



The **Major Emergency Planning** Structures in place within the Council continue to provide the framework within which the Council's Departments adapt and update business continuity plans.

The **Major Emergency Eastern Region Steering Group** continues to meet as and when required to co-ordinate services, activities and to ensure that activities across the region are informed by and in line with the national measures. The group is Chaired by AnnMarie Farrelly, Chief Executive and is serviced by Fingal's Corporate Services Department.

Locally, Fingal County Council's **Management Team** met in August to consider the introduction of new

measures announced by the Government to limit the spread of Covid-19.

HUMAN RESOURCES



Guidance and FAQs for Public Service Employers during COVID-19

In relation to working arrangements and temporary assignments across the Public Service

WITH EFFECT FROM 24 August 2020 unless otherwise stated

The Human Resource Department continues to plan for and respond to the challenges brought by Covid19. As a result a variety of working arrangements including working from home, shift arrangements (early morning starts, late evening shifts), weekend working and staggered rosters continue to be available to staff with a view to ensuring that social distancing and national health protection guidance can be followed. Staff continue to be kept up to date on relevant Government directives and are provided with useful information through text alerts and a dedicated staff information webpage.

Training and development of our staff, including statutory Health & Safety training, has continued throughout the pandemic ensuring that critical services are not adversely affected. Many of the Council's structured training programmes have now moved to online platforms and courses are well underway with over 390 staff undertaking training across July and August.

The Council's Recruitment processes which had been held in abeyance for a period of time during the crisis are now also back up and running. The Human Resource Department successfully conducted 13 competitions in July & August receiving 683 applications and interviewing 405 candidates.

Health & Safety Unit (HSU)

The HSU used staff messages to update all staff on the guidelines relating to meetings and events. Administrate day to day meetings fall under the guidance within the 'Return to Work Safety Protocol - Covid-19 Specific National Protocol for Employers and Workers' with a preference given to virtual meetings [MS Teams] in the first instance. Cultural, community and social events fall under the revised public health guidance of 6 indoors and 15 outdoors. Use of the HSE's Covid Tracker App was also highlighted on staff messages.

Customer Services

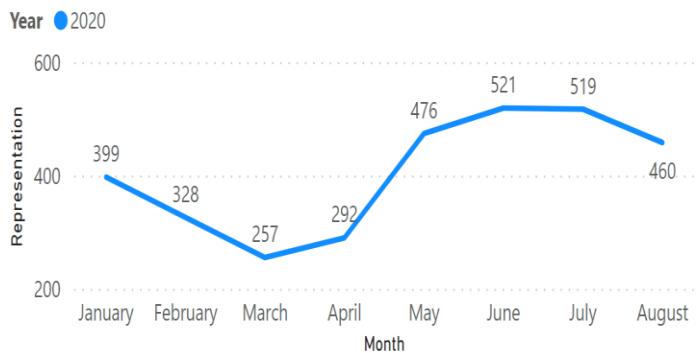
From the 1st July to 31st August, our Customer Care Agents continued to provide a first point of contact service to the public dealing with –

- **17,122** phone calls
- **5,736** in person callers to County Hall and Civic Offices
- **2,340** emails.

CRM

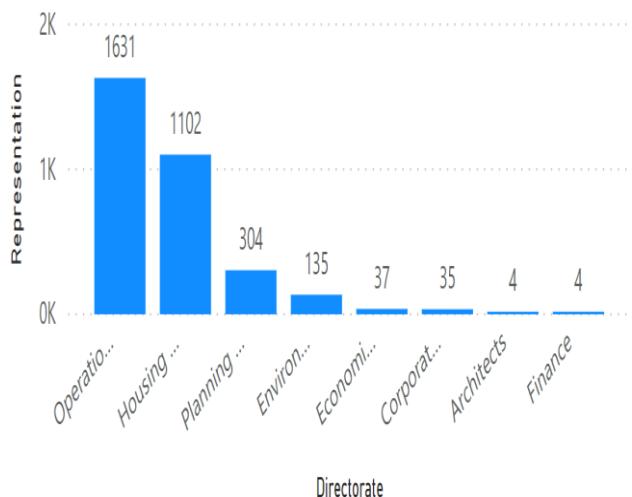
Staff continue to work on the Customer Relationship Management System (CRM) and issue responses to Councillors representations and complaints submitted by the public.

Representation by Month and Year



The months of July and August had a total of 979 representations. The table below shows the number of Councillors representations assigned to each Directorate to date this year.

Representation by Directorate



Information Technology

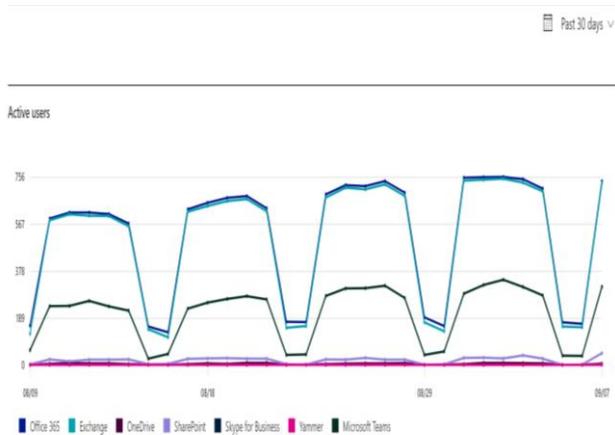
During August, the Information Technology Department completed the phased rollout of laptops, Microsoft Teams and email migration to the cloud for staff. The "Not So Different" creative hub launched in the Blanchardstown Library building and public WiFi preparatory work has commenced.

Remote Working

The rollout programme to enable digital remote working for all remaining office staff including laptops, Microsoft Teams and cloud email has now concluded.

141 additional laptops have been issued to staff since the July Chief Executive's report. In addition, Microsoft Teams has been rolled out to an additional 163 staff who were also migrated to cloud email.

The graph below illustrates the growth in the number of staff using Microsoft cloud applications over the past month.



Use of MS Teams conferencing has continued to enable the Council to operate effectively while staff are working remotely with 2,373 virtual meetings held in the months of July and August.

"Not So Different" Creative Hub

Located on the first floor of the Blanchardstown Library building, the "Not So Different" Creative Hub provides a wide range of services to bring together both neurotypical and neuro-atypical individuals to collaborate and develop the confidence to showcase their talent and make friends while exploring innovation and creativity.

Fingal County Council Community Department and Digital Fingal team have worked alongside "Not So Different" to support the creation of the Hub into a creative community space. The Hub was awarded €40,000 in funding, under the Department of Rural and Community Development Digital Innovation Programme, to create 12 creative digital workstations.



"Not So Different" promotes equality and inclusion of people who are neurodiverse, such as those on the Autism Spectrum, and their families. They support them to realise their full potential through education and employment and to live a good life in community. The "Not So Different" team works with individuals to progress to their chosen career path providing jobs skills workshops and personal development training. "Not So Different" invites employers and industry professionals to work with the individuals to increase their understanding of their neurodiversity as a being competitive advantage in the world of work.

For more information on the Creative Hub and the services that "Not So Different" offer, visit: <http://www.notsodifferent.ie/ability-programme/>

Public WiFi preparatory work



Preparatory work has begun for the installation of a minimum of 48 public WiFi hotspots in 13 towns and villages throughout Fingal.

The following towns and villages will receive free outdoor public WiFi as part of this rollout: Swords, Malahide, Skerries, Rush, Howth, Portmarnock, Blanchardstown Village, Lusk, Donabate, Santry, Castleknock, Blanchardstown Town Centre and Clonsilla.

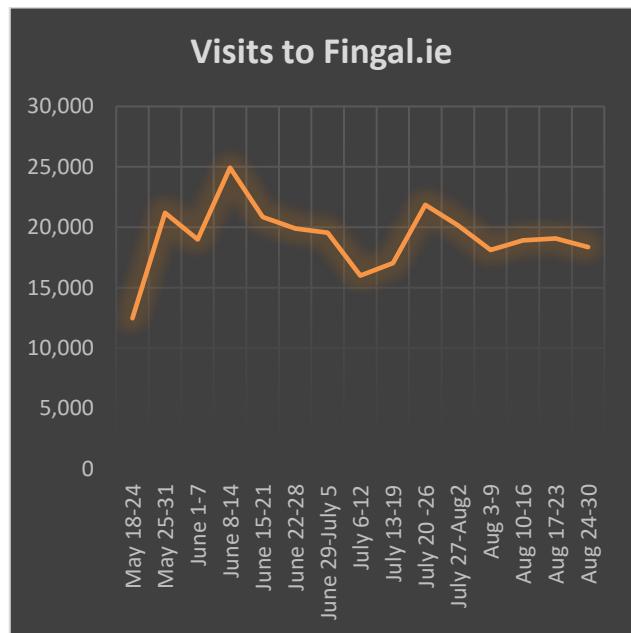
Magnet Networks has been awarded the contract to install the access points in Fingal. Fingal County Council staff, as well as representatives from Fingal Dublin Chamber and Magnet Networks, have been visiting local businesses with a view to identifying suitable access point locations in order to enable the public WiFi service.

The initiative, led by the Digital Fingal team, is supported by the WIFI4EU voucher scheme. The aim is to provide high-quality internet access to citizens and visitors via free of charge WiFi network in public spaces such as town and village centres, parks and civic spaces.

COMMUNICATIONS

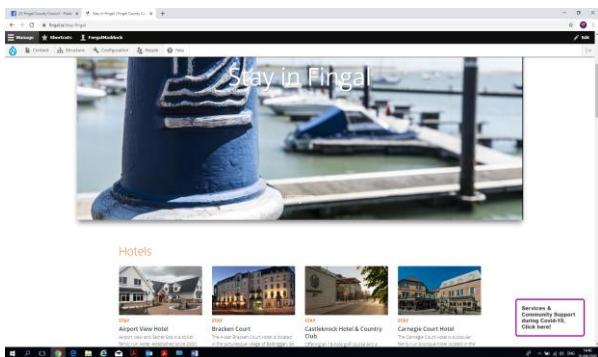
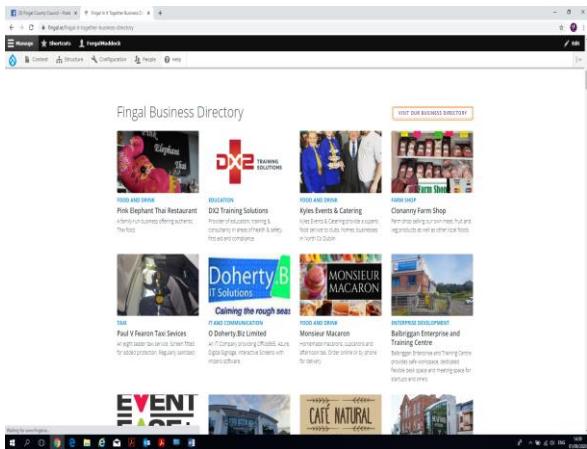
Website

Our website fingal.ie continued to draw large numbers during July and August. In July there were 84,000 unique visitors and 230,700 page views, while in August there was 81,400 unique visitors and 220,300 page views.



Most popular pages over the two months were View/Search Planning Applications, Job Opportunities, Civic Amenities, Find a Book, followed by the Housing, Council and Visitor sections.

The Communications Unit also worked with the Economic, Enterprise and Tourism Development department to develop both the www.fingal.ie/visitor and www.fingal.ie/business sections. We are listing all the businesses that sign up to the Fingal In It Together Charter and are also listing all the hotels, bars and restaurants that were on the Wine, Dine and Stay sections of the visitfingal.ie website.



Social Media



Figures remained strong on our social media accounts during July and August with followers on both Twitter and Facebook continuing to grow steadily. During July and August, our posts on Facebook reached an audience of 834,482. On Twitter, there are now 18,680 followers. In July our posts on Twitter had a reach of 931,000 with a 1.9% engagement rate, while in August, there was a 2.1% engagement rate and a reach of 833,000. Our Facebook had a reach of 834,482 over the two

months and by the end of August the number of followers had grown by 3.4% to 19,814.

Our Instagram account continues to grow and now has 2,652 followers.

Fingal News

The latest edition of Fingal News was published online in both English and Irish. A limited number of copies were also printed in both languages.



Communication Materials

The Communications Unit worked with the Housing Department to produce a leaflet specifically aimed at assisting new tenants in the Holymount estate in Swords.

**HOLYMOUNT,
RATHBEALE RD,
SWORDS.**

**SOME SIMPLE DO'S AND
DON'TS FOR OUR
NEW TENANTS**

DO'S

DON'TS

SOLAR PANELS:

• Solar panels are fitted onto the roof which generate electricity from the sun. This means the power generated will be supplied directly from the grid to provide electricity to the house which will result in a bill being sent to the tenant's bill.

• Solar panels generate sufficient power for most houses - this is known as net metering. If finding yourself in situations like boiling a kettle or using a hairdryer you will need to pay more than the normal bill.

• If the immersion is used the hot water in the tank is turned on, the solar panel will provide a good proportion of the electricity needed to provide hot water, but only during daylight hours.

PHONE LINES & BROADBAND:

There are two sets of cabling provided in the estate, one for the provision of phone lines (FTT) and the other for broadband or cable television, including:

- The service providers own and maintain their cables within the building, so the cables are not owned or maintained by Fingal.
- All service providers - SingTel, Digicable, Pure Telecom, Sky and Virgin Media are free to make use of the generic ducting for broadband/fibre optic cables that do not use the phone lines, but in most cases you will have to install a telephone line first before you can get broadband or fibre optic.
- Phone cables are installed by Digicable or Virgin Media. Fingal Council charges the first few months for a cap fee for a phone line and any delays in providing it should be taken up with either Fingal has no control over this process.

Videos

Videos team assisted EETD and the Heritage Office to produce supporting videos for their campaigns.

Two tourism videos, one aimed at the Staycation market and the other at DayTrippers were produced. As Heritage Week was moved online due to Covid-19, videos were produced to assist the department make the change.



Press Releases

A total of 47 press releases and statements were issued by the Communications Unit during July and August.

ECONOMIC, ENTERPRISE AND TOURISM DEVELOPMENT (EETD)

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Tourism

Heritage Properties

Local Enterprise Development

Economic Development

Economic Development

Balbriggan Socio-Economic Strategy

LEADER Programme

Local Community Development Committee

Town & Village Renewal Scheme

Enterprise Centres

EVENTS



It is intended to hold the 'Festival of Fire' at the locations set out above subject to the Covid guidelines set down by the Department of Health and HSE.

EVENTS AND FESTIVALS 2021

The application process for financial assistance for events and festivals taking place in 2021 will open shortly and the closing date for completed applications under the scheme is Tuesday, 15th December 2020. The holding of Events and Festivals in 2021 will be subject to guidelines set down by the Department of Health and HSE at that time.



EVENTS & Festivals 2021

Fingal County Council's Events Unit is pleased to announce that it is accepting applications for financial assistance for Festivals and Events taking place in 2021.

Applications will be accepted for existing and/or new events or festivals which animate public spaces in creative and innovative ways and which are focused on developing measurable tourism impacts in the County.

All applications should include a Covid compliance plan in adherence with current government guidelines.

For more information and an application form, please email events@fingal.ie or <http://fingal.ie/events>

The deadline for completed applications is 3pm on Tuesday 15th December 2020

HERITAGE PROPERTIES

UPDATE ON WORKS TO HERITAGE PROPERTIES

SWORDS CASTLE



Kelbuild Ltd. have been appointed to undertake upgrade works to the front perimeter of Swords

Castle. Works include re-surfacing, street furniture and extension to the floodlighting. It is expected

that these works will commence in mid-September.

HOWTH COURTHOUSE



Construction works for the refurbishment of the courthouse to house the tourist office and provide additional community space is now complete. Fit out and Covid audit of the internal space will now commence with a view to re-opening the building late October.

MALAHIDE CASINO



The Casino Model Railway Museum in Malahide is featured in the Autumn edition of the Irish Arts Review. The article showcases the extensive renovation of the Model Railway Museum as well as giving a detailed history of the Casino building itself.

NATIONWIDE

Malahide Castle & Gardens hosted Anne Cassin and the Nationwide team on the 6th of August. The programme aired on the 19th of August and

featured the Castle, Gardens, Fairy Trail and the Casino Model Railway Museum.



HERITAGE PROPERTIES

Due to the extensive impact of Covid on the Tourism and Hospitality sector we expect there to be additional costs associated with the management of our heritage properties which will have budgetary implications.

TOURISM

FOOD TOURISM

Following participation in Fáilte Ireland's Building World Class Networks Programme 2020 and working with a mentor assigned to us by Fáilte Ireland, a steering group for the Fingal Food Tourism Network has been established.

A network structure is currently being formalised, with roles and objectives and timeframes / KPIs. This will enable the network to create transparent criteria for joining, define clear benefits for membership and engage new potential members.

Next steps include

- Completing a survey of potential members

- Running a series of networking events to engage potential members (online options)
- Creating a food and drink strategy for Fingal region
- Engaging with established food networks for advice on developing a network
- Creating and implementing an overall marketing and PR plan

MEDIA CAMPAIGN

In association with the Tourism & Hospitality Working Group (which is made up of members of the Tourism & Hospitality industry in Fingal), a targeted promotional campaign has been rolled out. The Council engaged Spark Foundry as media buyer and a two-week radio promotional campaign ran in July on national, local and regional radio stations to promote Fingal as a daytrip and staycation destination. In tandem with this a week-long promotion on the Dermot & Dave Show on Today FM from the 27th of July.

In addition, Ripple marketing are managing a social media campaign on the Love Fingal Dublin platforms. This campaign includes Google search & display advertising, Facebook & Instagram campaigns, sponsored content and Youtube advertising.

This collaborative effort with local businesses is raising the profile of our Tourism offering and has included many competitions with prizes sponsored by local businesses encouraging day-trippers and staycationers alike.

RE-START GRANT

Fingal County Council has paid out €7.39m to 1,510 businesses in the Fingal area for the Restart Grant which gives direct grant aid to micro and small businesses to help them with the costs associated with either staying open or reopening and reemploying workers following COVID-19 closures.

This scheme closed on the 22nd July and the Restart Grant Plus Scheme was subsequently launched. The Council has paid out €2.75m to 429 businesses under this scheme.

The Restart Grant Plus, in most cases, will be the amount of the rates assessment for the premises for 2019 with a minimum grant of €4,000 and a maximum grant of €25,000 (or maximum of €15,000 for businesses that received the maximum €10,000 under the original Restart Grant Scheme).

To avail of the Restart Grant Plus a business must:

- Be a commercial, trading, entity;
- Operate from a premises that is commercially rateable by a local authority (but see FAQ 10 re certain B&B establishments);
- Have 0 - 250 employees;
- Have a turnover of less than €100k per employee to a maximum of €25m (certain criteria applies);
- Have suffered a 25%+ loss in turnover between 1 April and 30 June 2020.
- Commit to remain open or to reopen if closed; and
- Intend to retain employees that are on The Temporary Wage Subsidy Scheme (TWSS).

Full details of the scheme can be found at <https://www.fingal.ie/business>

Local Enterprise Office Fingal



LEO Fingal continues to help small businesses and start-ups through the impact of COVID-19, with a broad suite of practical support services. Over July and August commercial activity increased as the economy reopened. The LEO adapted its services to the rapidly changing needs of Fingal businesses and start-ups. Some of the highlights are as follows:

Evaluations and Approvals Committee

LEO Fingal has announced that 24 Fingal businesses have been approved funding totalling €443,002 year-to-date in 2020.

Business Continuity Voucher (BCV)



The BCV scheme (valued at €2,500) was introduced to enable companies and sole traders to develop short- and long-term strategies to respond to the COVID-19 pandemic.

LEO Fingal received 621 applications, with 476 businesses approved for assistance with a combined value of €1,190,000.

Trading Online Voucher (TOV) scheme



Funded by DCCAE as part of the National Digital Strategy, the TOV scheme supports small businesses to enhance their online offering by providing a grant of up to €2,500 for ecommerce and digital marketing activities.

Two TOV information webinars were held in July/August with 876 participants.

To date in 2020, LEO Fingal has approved 479 TOV applications; compared to 64 in the whole of 2019. The total value of TOV applications approved to date is €1,138,509.

There are 51 further applications in review.

Microfinance Ireland COVID-19 Loans

Following a short hiatus due to full subscription, the Microfinance Ireland COVID-19 Business Loans were reinstated on August 31st with new conditions.

As businesses prepare for the reopening of the economy, there has been a significant increase in applications for loans from businesses that have difficulty raising finance from their bank. LEO Fingal promotes and assesses loan applications on behalf of MFI, assisting clients with the application process and enabling businesses to access funding.



Fingal Enterprising Women Network



Marketing Your Business Like a Pro!

Tuesday 14th July 11:00 - 12:15
Featuring motivational Marketing Expert
Jill Lush



The Fingal Enterprising Women Network (FEWN) continues to provide online learning and networking opportunities for women in business and enterprise.

FEWN hosted a networking event on the 14th July with 148 female entrepreneurs in attendance. The

next online networking event is planned for 30th of September 2020.

Sport to Start-up - Start Your Own Business (SYOB)



Following the success of the pilot, a new date was announced for the 28th September. Recruitment will for the second cohort will commence shortly.

Brexit – Change is Coming



With the impending departure of the UK from the EU on the 1st of January 2021, LEO Fingal is actively helping small businesses to prepare for the impact of Brexit by providing information, customs training, advice and mentoring.

A new "Prepare Your Business for Customs" series of monthly online workshops is planned, the first of which will be held on the 25th September.

Start Your Own Business (SYOB)



The 10-module SYOB programme has been adjusted for online delivery. Three SYOB courses with 55 participants commenced in July/August.

Two more courses are scheduled for delivery in September.

The SYOB is designed to provide a solid grounding in how a business is set up. It will help participants to plan and prepare for a successful career in enterprise and importantly will advise how to navigate this through the COVID-19 era.

Business Advice Clinics and Mentoring

Clinics and mentoring continue to be offered over the phone and online to help individuals respond to the disruptive impact on business due to COVID-19.

In July/August 2020, 26 business clinic days were held, offering advice to 207 Fingal businesses. This brings the cumulative figures for 2020 to date to 97 days clinics and 701 attendees. In addition, 42 businesses were assigned a Business mentor in July/August, this brings the cumulative figure to 160 individual Mentoring assignments delivered year to date.

A tender for a new LEO Fingal panel has been announced with a deadline of the 22nd of September for applications.

LEO Fingal COVID-19 Training Update

LEO Fingal continues its delivery of programmes to support SME and Micro Enterprise clients through the current challenges. To date, LEO Fingal has had over 3,500 people sign up to avail of the training and supports available.

Programmes currently on offer include pertinent topics such as:

- Instagram for Business
- Leadership Masterclass
- Cashflow and Pricing Management
- Tax returns

The demand for these courses has been substantial with all scheduled courses booking out rapidly. Additional programmes continue to be organised to meet the demand.

Dublin Breakthrough Innovation Programme



The Business Innovation Programme is now looking for expressions of interest for cohorts from September to December 2020.

The programme brings established businesses through a disciplined framework to discover where the innovation potential lies in their enterprise and how they can capitalise on those opportunities. This programme is delivered by the four LEOs in the Dublin Region in partnership with the Dublin Business Innovation Centre.

Fingal Student Enterprise Programme

The Fingal Student Enterprise Programme (SEP) for 2020/21 has started, with recruitment for student enterprises currently ongoing. The programme will feature new enterprise requirements for the COVID-19 era.

The SEP is Ireland's biggest student competition. Each year over 26,000 secondary students take part in this programme by setting up and running their own student business. 25 Second level schools with over 2,500 students across Fingal will participate in the Fingal SEP 2020/21.

Food Starter

The 'Food Starter programme' is an intensive programme designed to help those with a food idea or those at a very early stage of starting up a food business (typically the first 24 months).

LEO Fingal hosted the July 2020 Food Starter programme with 16 participants from the Dublin Region.

LEAN Business Programme

The Lean Business Programme is designed to encourage clients to adopt Lean business principles in their organisations to increase competitiveness.

The next LEAN programme in 2020 run by the four LEOs in the Dublin region will commence on Thursday 17th September.

Plato Dublin

Recruitment is ongoing for the next Plato Dublin Programme.

Plato Dublin is a 9-month online Business Development Programme for Owner Managers of SMEs funded by the Local Enterprise Offices in the Dublin region.

Local Enterprise Office Response: Communications



For businesses currently affected by COVID-19, the Local Enterprise Office has compiled a useful guide on the supports and advice available. The website is updated continuously with new developments, so Fingal clients are encouraged to check back regularly. (www.localenterprise.ie/Response).

In addition, regular ezines are published and disseminated to over 7,000 clients and other registered service users in Fingal. Each of the various social media platforms are continually updated with important messages for SMEs concerning dealing with COVID-19.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

FINGAL IN IT TOGETHER

The Economic Development Section in association with Fingal Dublin Chamber, Balbriggan Chamber of Commerce, Malahide Chamber of Commerce

and Shop Malahide, continues with the Fingal In It Together initiative which was launched in June 2020 to support the reopening of businesses across the County. This initiative binds businesses in Fingal together in support of one another to provide customers with safe access, encourage people to shop local, encourage collaboration and co-operation between businesses, promote social media support of local businesses and understanding while we adapt to new social distancing requirements. Businesses can sign up to the Charter on the Council's website and receive decals of the Charter logo for their windows, a pdf copy of the Charter and have a link to their website added to a business directory of those who have signed up to the Charter on the Council's website. 238 businesses are currently listed in the directory.



As part of this initiative the Council is producing brochures to promote local businesses in towns and villages across the county and to support the Shop Local concept. The brochures highlight businesses and services in the local community and encourages citizens to support local business. To date brochures have been produced for Blanchardstown, Malahide, Skerries and Clonsilla & Coolmine. Brochures are currently in progress for Swords and Balbriggan with brochures planned for more towns and villages in the County over the coming months.



Sustainable Business

The Economic Development Section in association with the Environment & Climate Action Department launched a call for expressions of interest in collaborating with the Council on the EPA's call for Green Business Projects which offers funding of up to €100,000.00 for projects demonstrating innovation in the Circular Economy. Projects are required to focus on the themes of: Food Waste, Construction & Demolition Waste, Plastics and Resources & Raw Materials. The application submitted for funding is being led by The Socratics Consulting Ltd. in Balbriggan and seeks funding to develop a technology platform to reduce food waste in Fingal.



Social Enterprise Supports

The Local Development Section continues to support the new [shoplocal.irish](#) website initiative, a social enterprise which provides an online service to the community highlighting businesses that provide delivery services locally.

BALBRIGGAN SOCIO-ECONOMIC STRATEGY

Balbriggan Rejuvenation Strategy 2019 – 2025



Work has completed on the fit-out of the Our Balbriggan Hub Office in the town, it was not possible to officially mark the opening due to Covid-19 restrictions. The Our Balbriggan team have a presence in the Hub and it will be open to the public when Covid-19 restrictions allow, creating an important link between the Plan and the people of Balbriggan. Artworks have been installed in the Hub by the Arts Department, among them a piece by local artist Thomas Brezing, which will feature as a virtual piece on Culture Night in September.



Pillar Implementation Groups are due to meet again in Q4 2020 and will continue to progress work across the plans four pillars: Local Economy, Public Realm, Education, Training & Employment & Community Affairs & Integration. Staff are liaising directly with the four pillar chairs to ascertain new and emerging needs in light of Covid-19 restrictions and to formulate any new responses arising from these. In response to concerns raised by the local community over the summer months the Council is increasing its focus on the Community Affairs & Integration Pillar.

SICAP

The LCDC supported and endorsed a new SICAP Response Plan to deal with COVID-19, which has been implemented by Empower and has been central in responding to emerging challenges in the community. A review of the SICAP Budget for the remainder of the year and the realignment of the programme's actions has been considered and recommendations on changes will be made to Pobal later in the year when there will be a structured review of all SICAP budgets nationally. The Fingal LCDC SICAP Programme going forward is also strategically aware of an increasing unemployment rate locally and the implications this will have on service provision

through the programme into the future. The required mid-year review of the Fingal SICAP Programme has been carried out and approved by the LCDC Chief Officer.



LEADER PROGRAMME



The Fingal LEADER Programme continues to accelerate the funding of eligible projects in the administrative areas of Fingal, Dun Laoghaire Rathdown and South Dublin.

The Programme's overall budget for supporting projects is €4.77 million, with €4.4 million already committed to approved projects leaving approximately €330,000 remaining to support new projects to the end of 2020. The most recent Dublin Rural LEADER Action Group meeting was held in June 2020 where almost €100,000 was formally approved for 3 new projects in Rural Dublin. This included €89,000 approved solely in the Fingal area.

In the programme to date, 76 projects have been approved with 53 in Fingal, 5 in Dun Laoghaire Rathdown and 17 in South Dublin. There is also one project that is split across the 3 LEADER Local Authority areas; FCC, SDCC and DLR, for a Community Rewilding and Biodiversity Training Programme.

Completed project claims continue to be paid out to promoters. At the LAG Meeting in June, the LAG formally approved the review of the current Rural Dublin LEADER Local Development Strategy (LDS). The LDS is the 6-year LEADER Programme for Rural Dublin. The review of the LDS was extremely positive with the programme performing very strongly over the last two years. The reallocation of funding within the programme's thematic areas

was approved to reflect the requirements of the project pipeline to the end of the current programme.

The pipeline of new projects to be brought to the LAG for consideration at its next meeting in October is extremely strong and 8 potential new projects will be brought to that meeting. The pipeline currently has over €4 million in eligible projects.

Fingal County Council continues to deliver the financial and administrative oversight responsibilities for the approval and drawdown of LEADER funded projects following the national transfer of the LEADER Article 48 Administrative Checks from Pobal to the Local Authority Sector. There has been no interruption to the delivery of the LEADER Programme or the Article 48 Checks as a result of Covid-19.

LOCAL COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE

The Fingal LCDC continues to oversee and administer the key areas of LEADER and SICAP and the various Local Development and Community Development funding programmes under its remit. The LCDC is also represented on the Fingal Community Call Forum and is supporting many of the LCDC member agencies that are also members or the Community Call in the delivery of their programmes. The LCDC is also supporting the work of the Community Call through the Healthy Ireland Initiative and the many projects up and running under that funding stream.

The 2020 Community Enhancement Programme was announced at the end of June by the Department of Rural and Community Development. The Fingal LCDC was allocated €68,000 in funding for 2020 and details of the programme, and how Community Groups can apply to the fund were advertised from mid-July onwards. Applications to this scheme are now closed and are currently being evaluated. The fund helps community groups in funding small capital items and equipment. The 2020 funding scheme will also be supporting small capital costs associated with adapting to COVID-19.

A second Community Enhancement Programme 2020 Fund for Community Centres and

Community Buildings was announced in August and is currently open for applications. The Fingal LCDC invites community groups to apply for a share of €192,805 in funding. This new fund seeks to stimulate local economies by providing capital grants towards the maintenance, improvement and upkeep of community centres and community buildings, and adaptations and equipment needed as a result of COVID-19 may also be included. Similar expenditure on other community-based facilities will also be allowed. The new scheme operates under the existing CEP rules and creates an added opportunity for active Community Groups to access funding for the upgrade of their facilities. The funding is targeted at measures that stimulate local economies, while enhancing community facilities for use by individuals and communities. The programme can fund or partially fund larger-scale capital projects to address disadvantage. 30% of available funds have been ring-fenced to provide small capital grants of €1,000 or less. It is envisaged that the remainder of the allocation will fund projects up to €10,000. The funding covers capital projects only. In cases where both current and capital works are carried out together, only the capital element can be funded through this Programme. The online application form and guidelines are currently available on the Fingal County Council Website and enquiries can be directed to lcdc@fingal.ie. The Closing date for receipt of completed online applications is 4.00pm Friday 25th September, 2020.

TOWN AND VILLAGE RENEWAL SCHEME

A number of projects are currently under consideration for eligibility and deliverability for the Standard Town and Village Renewal Scheme 2020. The closing date for submissions to the standard scheme is 30th September 2020.

Fingal County Council submitted 4 applications on the 28th August under Round 3 of the Town and Village Accelerated Measure (Large Towns) for the towns of Swords, Skerries, Balbriggan and Malahide. These applications are for circa €43,000 each. A decision on these is expected in September.

Fingal County Council submitted an application under Round 2 of the Town and Village Accelerated Measure (Small Towns/Villages) for Manowar. A decision on this is expected in September.

Fingal County Council has received approval for three projects under Round 1 of the Town and Village Accelerated Measure (Small Towns/Villages)

1. Donabate & Portrane for the Halloween Festival of Flame

Measures to support safe public attendance at two pyrotechnic events for the Halloween 2020 Festival of Flame at Tower Bay, Portrane and at Donabate beach. Fingal County Council has engaged extensively with the Donabate & Portrane Summer Festival Committee on the project and the project will be delivered by FCC's Events team in the EETD Dept. The total cost is €27,500 with grant aid of €25,000 awarded to inform residents about the events and to ensure events run safely with safety personnel, signage, barriers, lighting and PA system.

2. The Naul for the Séamus Ennis Arts Centre

Provision of equipment and services to enable the Arts Centre to re-open safely and to extend its outdoor space to provide for social distancing at public events. Grant aid of €24,750 has been approved for the supply and fit of a pergola type cover to increase the covered area in the Piper's Garden to make it useable for events in all weathers and for easily sanitised outdoor furnishings along with Covid-19 safety equipment including queuing control. It is expected that the works will be completed by the end of the year.

3. Balrothery Village

Investment of €27,000 to repurpose open space in Balrothery Village and Glebe Park to facilitate outdoor use by local traders & food outlets and to provide for social distancing. Fingal County Council has engaged with the Balrothery Community Association and Balrothery National School to

develop this project and to implement it before the end of this year. The project will see two new benches, one Smart Bench, new Bicycle Stands and lighting on the green opposite existing retail units. A circular seat will be constructed using a natural stone base wall to match the existing walls & planters. In Glebe Park, four new picnic benches will be provided close to the playground. In addition, the bollards at Balrothery National School will be replaced.

Enterprise Centres

Occupancy rates at the Council's three enterprise centres at the end of August were Drinan 84%, BASE 88% and Beat 88%. The three Enterprise Centres currently support 62 businesses. A number of businesses in the Centres had been accommodated with rent moratoriums to help them through lockdown cashflow difficulties but most businesses have now returned to normal rental arrangements. All tenant businesses are being assisted in accessing financial and non-financial supports currently available through COVID-19 support measures. There has been a net loss of two businesses across the centres since the beginning of the COVID19 crisis but enquiry levels have improved in recent weeks and a number of new start-up businesses are currently being evaluated for units in the centres.



OPERATIONS

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- KN Projects Drogheda-Dublin Cable Fibre Project Update
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- Street Lighting LED Programme

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- Traffic Section
- Road Opening Licences
- Bridge Rehabilitation Project

Routine Operational Matters

The Operations Department continue to provide essential services to the residents of Fingal such as litter, cleansing, grass cutting, road maintenance, recycling facilities and continue to work through the various works programmes and Annual Programme of Works. The Operations Department also continues to work with and support local resident groups and Tidy Towns to improve and enhance their local area.



Howth Celtic Railings

The Operations Cleansing Crews continue to clear increased volumes of fly-tipping at Dunsink Lane.



Flower planters recently installed in Castleknock Village and Blanchardstown by Operations Crews



New footpath –
Melville Road/St. Margarets Road

Resurfacing of
Castleknock Road

Footpath Repairs



The Boulevard, Clonsilla Road



Pecks Lane, Castleknock.

Works Programme

New Landscaping Scheme at pedestrian entrance to St Molaga's National School.



Loughshinney Yawl Sculpture

The Loughshinney Community Association funded a new sculpture to commemorate the historic Loughshinney Yawl. The Operations Department facilitated by assisting with suitable location and

installation. It was officially launched for Heritage Week in August 2020.



Portrane Cliff Walk

The first section (Tower Bay-HSE lands) of the Portrane cliff walkway has been reopened following a diversion onto new land recently acquired by Fingal County Council. Further works will be carried out to enhance the drainage and environs on this section. However, in the interim walkers are once again able to come, visit and experience Portrane Cliff Walk and enjoy the beautiful views of Lambay Island.



Solar Powered Compactor Bins

PEL Waste Reduction Limited (Irish owned manufacturing company) whom were awarded the contract through a successful procurement process, by Fingal County Council installed smart solar bins in Swords, Donabate, Rush, Lusk, Skerries and Balbriggan in recent weeks. The smart technology in the bins is powered entirely by solar panels can communicate data in a more efficient refuse collection through the compaction of the waste.



Works Programme: In July new lighting was installed on a section of pathway from Kenure Park towards Palmer Road in Rush. Additional street lighting was also installed on the R130 at Kilcoskan National School in time for reopening.



Kenure Park Rush



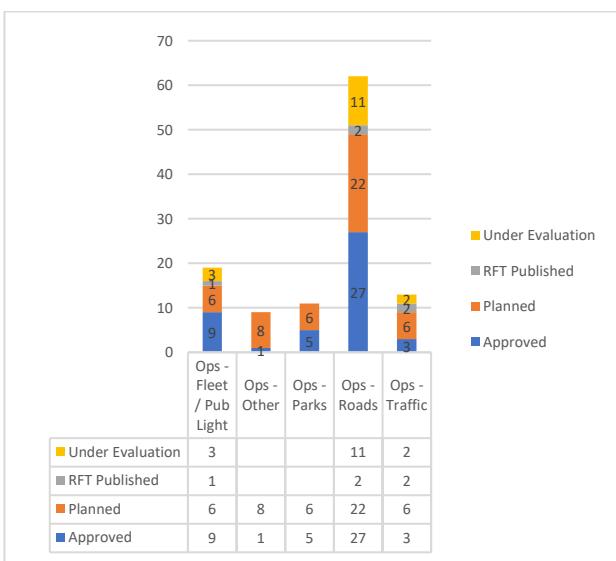
R130 Dunmucky

Column Replacement: Column replacement works begin in River Valley in Swords in July with both contractors and ESB Networks on site.



River Valley Avenue Swords

Works Programme - Procurement



Parking Control Bye-Laws 2020

Following the adoption of the Fingal County Council Parking Control Bye Laws 2020 by the Members at the Council Meeting in June, the Parking Bye Laws have now been signed and sealed and come into operation from 1st September 2020. Bye-Law 56 provides for the extension of parking enforcement countywide, which will allow for the enforcement of illegal parking beyond specific Pay and Display areas, increasing protection for vulnerable road users. The Car Parking Services Section are currently in the process of procuring additional parking wardens to patrol these areas.

Age Friendly Parking Bays

An additional 6 Age Friendly parking bays have been installed in Malahide - two located in Bridgefield Car Park, two located on The Mall / Dublin Road adjacent to Malahide Library and the Village Shop, and a further two located on Old Street, to assist elderly or less mobile residents, visitors and users of Malahide Demesne.





Contactless Bottle Filling Stations – Howth

The first of nine Ecofil units - Europe's first contactless bottle filling stations, was installed in Howth village and is now in operation at the junction of Harbour Road and Abbey Road.

The new bottle filling stations provide contactless, clean and safe water without the risk of touching high-use buttons that could increase the spread of infection. Users can simply place a water bottle into the holder and the sensors will pick up on movement and activate the machine. To further reduce the potential spread of pathogens, the 'no touch' design prevents the bottle rim from coming into contact with the nozzle.



Over the coming weeks, the additional units will be installed across the Fingal area in Newbridge Demesne, Malahide Demesne, Ardgillan Demesne, St. Catherine's Park, Swords Castle, Millennium Park, Santry Park and Hartstown Park.

The units being installed in Fingal have digital water flow meters with remote monitoring built in, which monitors the output to determine the amount of plastic water bottles which have been prevented from entering circulation in Ireland. An analysis of fifty Ecofil public water stations in local authorities, conducted in 2019, found that 365,000 litres, or 730,000 bottles, are saved from landfill on an annual basis.

Fleet Management & Plant Hire Unit Hires put in Place

There were 128 hires put in place from 1st July – 31st August, engaging 24 suppliers.

Orders have been placed for the following purchases as part of 2020 fleet replacement programme

1. 15 fully electric Nissan eNV 200 vans
2. 2 fully electric 3.5 ton LDV tipper trucks
3. 3 fully electric Goupil G5 utility vehicles for the 3 Demense

Harbour Works at Balbriggan, Loughshinny and Rush

The Annual Fishery Harbour and Coastal Infrastructure Capital Programme provides funding for safety, maintenance and new development works at harbours all around the Country. Tenders have been awarded and upgrading works have commenced at Loughshinny which will include the installation of new ladders and the reconditioning of the paving area at the Northern section of the pier. Further reconditioning works at Loughshinny Pier are at design stage.

Irish Lights Audit

Fingal County Council are the Local Lighthouse Authority responsible for the monitoring and maintenance of their own navigational aids (AToN's) within its functional area. AToN's are essential for ensuring marine traffic stay within the appropriate navigational channels and ensuring that all boats and vessels avoid all hazards. On the 13th of August 2020 Fingal County Council's was audited by Irish Lights. Fingal County Council were found to comply with their responsibilities in relation to the monitoring and maintenance of their AtoN's as required. The findings of the audit will be published in due course.

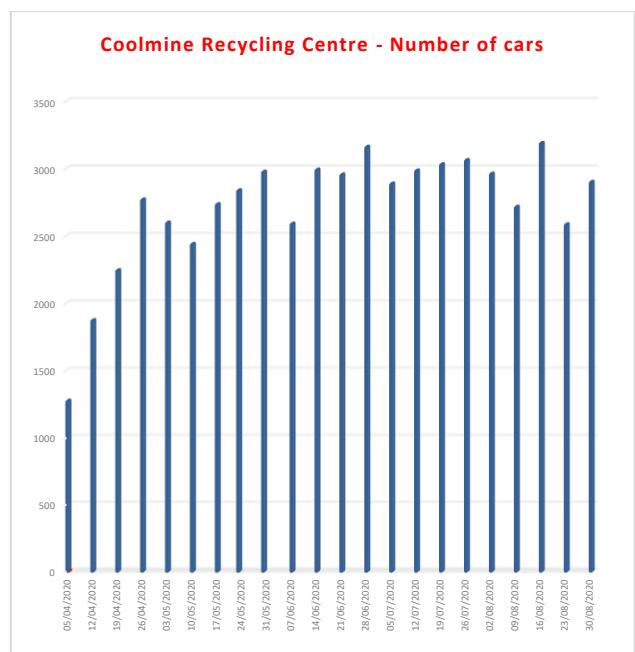
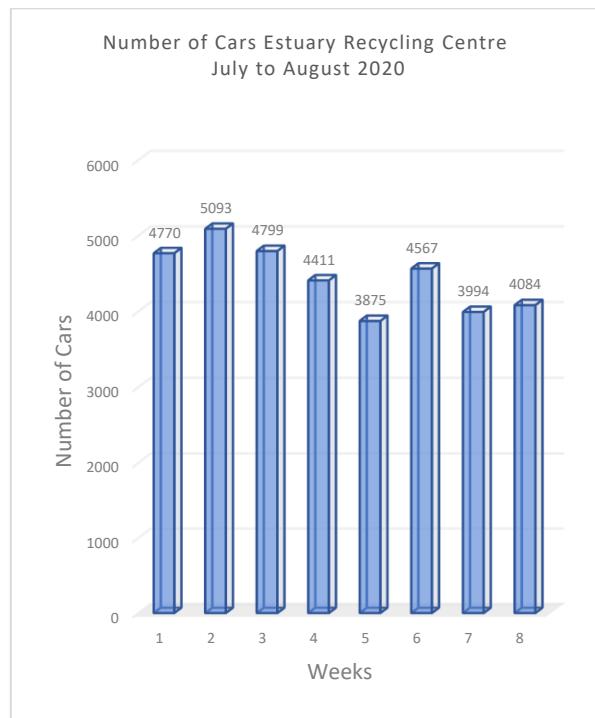
Grid View								
AttnNumber	AttnAltNumber	AttnName	AttnTypeName	AttnClassName	PositionLatitude	PositionLongitude	TALACategoryName	LLAOrganisation
LA0131.6080		Malahide No 10	Buoy (Lighted)	Permanent AtoN	53°27.158'N	006°08.752'W	3	Fingal County Council
LA0131.7000	5903	Malahide East Jetty	Beacon (Lighted)	Permanent AtoN	53°27.236'N	006°09.049'W	2	Fingal County Council
LA0131.8000	5903.1	Malahide West Jetty	Beacon (Lighted)	Permanent AtoN	53°27.203'N	006°09.142'W	2	Fingal County Council
LA0133.0000		Loughshinny Buoy	Buoy (Lighted)	Permanent AtoN	53°32.636'N	006°04.764'W	3	Fingal County Council
LA0134.0000	5906	Skerries Pier Head	Beacon (Lighted)	Permanent AtoN	53°35.092'N	006°06.492'W	2	Fingal County Council
LA0134.1000		Cross Rock Buoy	Buoy (Lighted)	Permanent AtoN	53°35.306'N	006°06.551'W	3	Fingal County Council
LA0135.0000	5908	Balbriggan	Beacon (Lighted)	Permanent AtoN	53°36.779'N	006°10.840'W	2	Fingal County Council

KN Projects Drogheda-Dublin Cable Fibre Project Update:

The KN Projects 59-kilometre cable fibre link installation, linking Drogheda to Ballycoolin, Damastown and Tyrellstown, has been moving down through the North of the County at a significant pace. Operations Department's Engineers and Parks Team have been extremely busy in supervising road and verge trench openings in order to prevent any adverse impacts of the construction on Fingal's assets. To date approximately, 38 kilometres of the ducting for the cable fibre link has been laid. KN Projects and Fingal County Council are now in the process of

carrying out a conditioning survey on the project routes in order to allow the project to move into its final stage, carriageway reinstatement. Road reinstatements are planned to commence in early September which is a number of weeks ahead of the initial programme schedule.

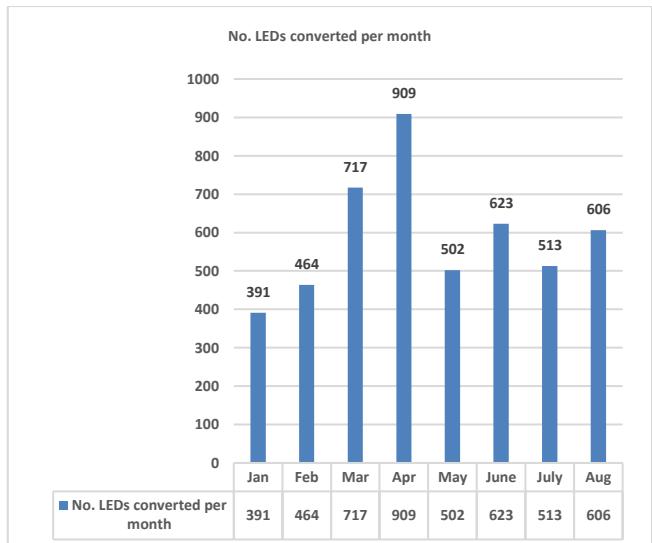
Estuary & Coolmine Recycling Centres



Street Lighting LED Programme:

In July and August 2020 the LED Upgrade Program saw 1,119 LED Upgrade works carried out in the following locations:-

- Castlelands Park, Balbriggan
- Red Arches, Bald Doyle
- Ballycoolin Road, Blanchardstown Road North, Blanchardstown Road South, Blanchardstown
- The Grange, Ballyboughal
- Glebe Manor, Balrothery
- College Road, Porterstown Road, River Road, Roselawn Road, Park Drive Crescent, Castleknock
- Linnetsfield Road, Manorfields Road, Littlepace Distributor Road, Clonee
- Beaverstown Road, Donabate
- Creston, Mayeston, Finglas
- Garristown Orchard, Garristown
- Rathoath Road, Hollystown
- Baldongan Cross to Featherbed Lane, Featherbed Lane, Loughshinny
- Regles Court, Remount, Lusk
- Millview Road, Malahide
- Delvin Banks, Weston Close, Naul
- Blackwood Lane, Carrickhill Road, Portmarnock
- Golden Ridge, Hoskyn Bank, Seabrook, Rush
- College Court, Kellys Bay, Moorings Cove, Skerries
- Applewood Village, Roganstown, Swords



Road Safety Section

Bleepper Bike Share Scheme –

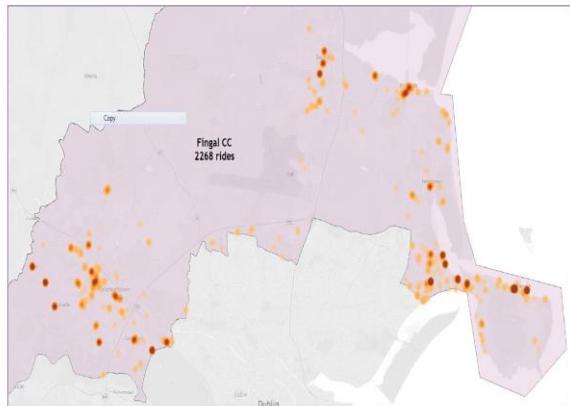
There has been a further decrease in the number of rides since the peak of Bleeperbike usage in May. Usage in June dropped from 4438 to 2154 in July. Figures for August have shown a stabilisation in the numbers with 2268 rides in August. The downtrend is in line with numbers seen elsewhere which are stabilising after the initial peak in May and the wet weather in June and July. 71 bikes are now in operation in Fingal, as of end July 2020. Despite the drop this month from the previous month, there is a latent desire within the public to cycle. Increasing facilities such as protected cycle tracks, pedestrianised areas and bike parking facilities will be a focus for Operations Department. See graph below showing usage.

Howth and Bald Doyle continue to be the most popular areas for Bleeperbike use in August.

Fingal Bike Share Scheme – August Bike Rides

- Heatmap of the locations where a trip started.

Comhairle Contae
Fhine Gall
Fingal County
Council



4

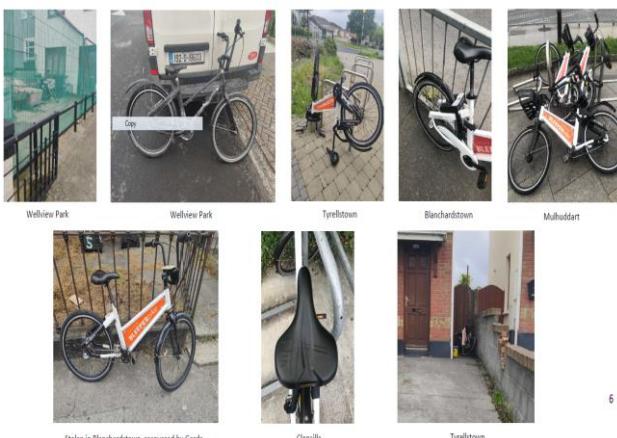
We will continue to promote awareness of Bleeperbike through our social media platforms.

Vandalism and theft continue to be an issue in Dublin 15.

Fingal Bike Share Scheme – August Vandalism & Theft

Bikes which were vandalised and recovered in the month of August.

Comhairle Contae
Fhine Gall
Fingal County
Council



6

Bleeperbike is FREE to all Fingal County Council staff as advertised on Staff Messages with 39 Fingal staff members signed up.

Bike Racks - Sheffield Stands & Toast Racks

All of the bike racks, including 9 toast racks, 297 single galvanised sheffield stands and 45 stainless steel sheffield stands have now been delivered and a POW is in place to have these installed throughout the County.



Park Lodge bus stop, Castleknock



Bus stop 1847 on the Navan Road

“Gearing Up For Training”

Mayor of Fingal, Cllr. David Healy launched the “Gearing Up For Training” initiative on Tuesday, 4th of August. The cycle training was provided by the Irish Centre for Cycling to U11, U12 & U13 players from St. Finian's GAA club in Swords over 3 days. The aim of the training is to provide the children with necessary skills and knowledge to cycle with confidence, to encourage children and their families to cycle to training and home games using a more sustainable form of transport and to alleviate issues with road safety, traffic congestion and parking at sportsgrounds.





Mayor of Fingal Cllr David Healy commented: 'I was delighted to launch the cycle training based in St. Finian's GAA club and Loreto College Swords this morning. Fingal is committed to improving the roads and streets for people cycling, especially to go to local schools and sports facilities. Cycle training is an important complement to this infrastructure provision. It builds skills and confidence of people using bicycles on the roads. It is ideal to deliver this training to primary and secondary school students through their sports clubs and schools. We are lucky in Fingal to have Irish Centre for Cycling, who provided the training today, based in Malahide, offering cycle training to both adults and children.'



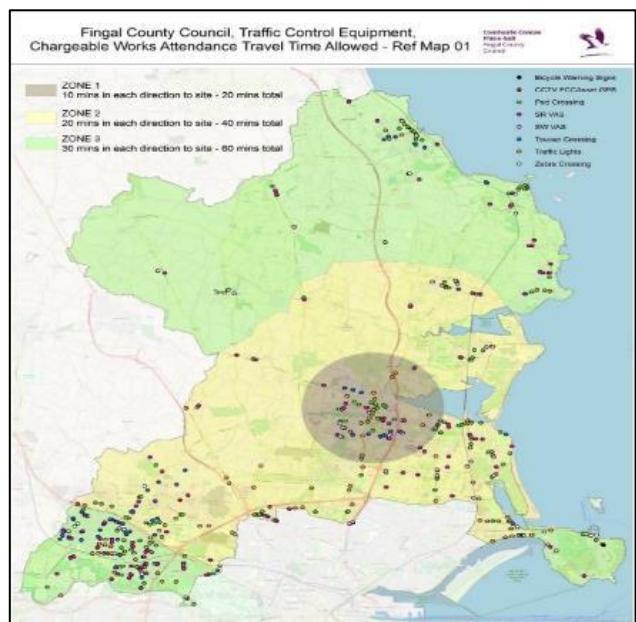
Traffic Section

Speed Limits Project

The draft of the Speed Limit Bye-laws for the entire county is now complete. The draft document went out for public consultation in February and closed on the 20th March. Almost 200 maps have been generated for the review at a very high level of detail. Approximately 58 submissions were received. A report on the submissions received has been drafted and has been presented to each of the Local Area committees in July, along with "Draft B" of the Speed Limit Bye-Law Drawings. The TII have written to FCC to confirm their agreement with the proposed Speed Limit Bye-laws. Agreement to be reached with the Howth Malahide Area Committee, before it is intended to bring the Bye-Laws before the full council for adoption.

Traffic Control Project

Fingal County Council's Traffic Signals Maintenance Contract (2020) FCC/028/19 was published on the 25th February 2020 on e-tenders. The Contract is for the provision of Traffic Control Equipment Maintenance and Emergency General Works Contract for a minimum two-year period which can be extended to a maximum period of four years. The tender was awarded to Traffic Solutions in July.



Map indicating Fingal's Traffic Control Equipment

Traffic Infrastructure Mapping

A tender was published in April on e-tenders for the commissioning of a report to identify the extent and possibilities arising from the duct infrastructure in the county. The Report will be focused on the urban areas in Fingal which have Traffic Signals/Assets. The tender submissions has been evaluated and tender will be awarded in the coming weeks.

Expansion of Fingal County Councils Duct infrastructure

Discussions are ongoing on various projects, both internally and through 3rd parties, throughout the county, to identify strategic locations where ducting can be provided to add to FCC's ducting assets in order to provide Fibre Optic connectivity to remote locations, and interconnectivity of Fingal's assets. Mapping of this infrastructure is also ongoing on G.I.S. so that it is recorded for future use.

Works are under investigation for the development of the fibre optic link along the Hearse Road to connect from the Lissenhall junction to the Donabate Distributor Road (DDR), and to continue the linkage along this new Road to Portrane. This will allow the visibility of the Hearse Road which will be beneficial for key events in Newbridge House via CCTV and the assessment of traffic on the new DDR.

Discussions are well advanced with 3rd parties in getting traffic ducting infrastructure installed in key strategic routes around the airport and Swords to the Rathbeale Road and sections around Dublin Enterprise Zone (DEZ) which will form part of a vital asset going forward with the aim of improving traffic management and ensuring the DEZ continues be the sought after destination with regards to ease of commutability.

Traffic Control Centre Project

Work is ongoing to ensure informed decisions are made for the roll out of the FCC Traffic Control Room Project. Discussions are ongoing with all relevant stakeholders on its implementation: IT Department, Corporate Affairs - Building Facilities/Information & data (GDPR)/Architects, FCC's Traffic Signals Maintenance Contractor – Traffic Solutions, FCC's CCTV Maintenance

Contractor – SKS. Identification of a suitable location in Blanchardstown Civic Offices for the new Traffic Control Centre is being progressed at present. Design drawings have been developed and discussions with the Architects Department and facilities took place in June. Works have commenced to relocate drawings cabinets and the cleaning room to facilitate the construction of the traffic control room.



R132 Cycle Lane Study

Contract and associated tender documents were completed in May a tender was published on e-tenders; Consultancy Services - (Traffic and Road Safety Design) for the Study of the R132 between Blake's Cross and Minister's Road (2.7KM) for the incorporation of a cycle lane - FCC/268/20. The tender was awarded to Atkins in August, and works have commenced to design an appropriate scheme for this section of the R132 which also has Corduff National School on it.

Stimulus Package

The following projects were identified in the Stimulus Package for funding from the NTA.

Stimulus: 2020 Allocations			
No.	Project Name	Description	Est. 2020 Funding
Fingal County Council			
1	R108 Sillogue	Road Network upgrade including advisory cycle lanes	€175,000.00
2	R132 Lissenhall, Ministers Road - Blakes Cross + Kilhedge Lane	Improve cycle connection from Lusk to Blakes Cross via Corduff NS. Traffic calming to reduce speeds and redesign of former National road for reduced volumes of traffic and increased cycling/ped activity.	€1,300,000.00
3	Naul GAA signalled crossing R108 Naul GAA Club	Junction Improvement required for all road users including cyclists	€85,000.00
4	Malahide Estuary cycle connections Seatown Rd & Estuary Road	Improve cycle connection from Swords to Malahide	€1,000,000.00
5	Royal Canal Royal Canal Clonsilla to R149	Temporary footpath/cycle track 2m wide on existing grass surface as a means of encouraging people to use this location as an amenity	€100,000.00
6	Huntstown Way / Huntstown Rd Huntstown/Hartstown	Light segregation of existing cycle lanes	€70,000.00
7	Swords Swords - Rathingle Road / River Valley Road	Light segregation of existing cycle lane on Rathingle/Rathbeale Road	€55,000.00
8	R809 R809 - Grange Road	Light segregation of existing cycle lanes through Bald Doyle	€30,000.00
9	R105 Howth Road	Light segregation of existing cycle lanes from Sutton to Howth village	€100,000.00
10	R127 Skerries Road	Light segregation of existing cycle lanes but may look to close off road and allow for local access only	€350,000.00
11	Various Locations	Light segregation of existing cycle lanes at various other locations	€500,000.00
12	Skerries Coast	New Cycleway beside existing walkway	€125,000.00
Total			€3,890,000.00

Road Marking and Lining Contract (County Wide)

Selected road marking works in the Howth-Malahide, Swords and Dublin 15 Areas have commenced County Wide. Requests are based mainly on Public, Local Representatives and Traffic section involvement. Works will continue until the 2020 list is exhausted.



Example of new lining on Strand Road, Sutton



Existing disabled parking bay reconfigured/relined on Blanchardstown main street



Cycleway and bus stop outside Rokeby estate lined

Ramps

The 2020 Ramps Contract (FCC/279/20) is underway with focus on the ramps located at schools being a priority. The Ramps Scheme 2020 consists of 30 no. Traffic Calming Ramps as follows:

Ramps Scheme 2020	No.	Progress
Baldoyle/Sutton/Malahide		
New Ramps		
Strand Road, Howth - Bus friendly flat top ramps x 1	1	
Strand Road, Howth at St Fintans Road - Asphalt Speed cushions x 2 (1 set)	1	
Strand Road, Portmarnock - Asphalt Speed cushions x 4 (2 sets)	2	
Back Road/Castlefield junction, Malahide, Table ramp, buildout and new drainage	1	
Repair Ramps		
Portmarnock asphalt speed cushions by 2 (1 set)	1	
Castleknock/Mulhuddart		
New Ramps		
Castleknock Drive - Standard round top ramp x 2	2	
Allendale to Ravenwood estate - Asphalt Speed cushions x 4 (2 sets)	2	
Glenville Road - Standard round top ramp x 3	3	
Repair Ramps		
Hollystown & Tyrellstown - Asphalt Speed cushions x 14 (7 sets)	7	
Swords/Balbriggan		
New Ramps		
Donabate - Carrs Mill/ Rahillion - Standard round top ramp x 3	3	
Swords - Brackenstown Road - Standard round top ramp x 2	2	Installed
Donabate - Junction of Portrane Rd, Beaverstown Rd & Ballisk Lane - Raised Table Junction Ramp	1	
The Avenue, Rush, at St Catherine's National School - Standard round top ramp x 2	2	Installed
Repair Ramps		
Various locations x 2	2	
Total Number of Ramps	30	

Kettles Lane/Feltrim Road Junction

The procurement procedure for appointment of a Traffic Consultant necessary for the junction assessment and options report for above junction took place over July-August. The study is expected to begin in September with a planned 10 week duration for report completion.

St. Sylvester's School Traffic Management Project
Street Furniture installation has been installed along the Malahide Road by St Sylvester's School (Yellow Walls Road). The project purpose is to stop illegal parking on the footpath between the old

Telecom Box and the Casino Entrance on the Malahide Road. This will facilitate pedestrians especially during morning and evening times. Bridgefield Carpark is the alternative parking area with 2 hr free parking allowed for school going activity.

Approximately 35m of concrete footpath was removed and laid with a higher kerbline (125mm) at the junction of Yellow walls and Malahide road. This has the purpose of deterring parking on the footpath along this length. The street furniture as shown below consisted of bollards and timber planters. The Parks department assisted with procuring the plants for each planter. The project was undertaken in cooperation with Tidy Towns - Malahide and the local residents.



Street furniture example along the Malahide Road

Castleknock Laurels

The junction at Castleknock Avenue and Castleknock Laurels was upgraded during August 2020. The upgrade works includes reducing the radius of the junction, new extended footpaths complete with dished tactile paving. Additional pedestrian barriers have been installed at the pedestrian lights which will further enhance safety for pedestrian and motorists alike at this junction.



**Junction of Castleknock Avenue & Castleknock Laurels
upgrade works**



**Junction of Castleknock Avenue & Castleknock Laurels
upgrade works**

New Signals Installation (county-wide)

The 2020 New Signals Installation Contract is commencing on the 7th September. The contract consists of the supply and installation of 5 No. Signalised Pedestrian Crossings, 2 No. Signalised Toucan Crossings and 2 No. Zebra Crossings within the administrative area of Fingal. The Contract includes both the civil and the electronic/electrical works for the project.

The schemes include the provision of traffic lights, traffic calming ramps, appropriate road signage and road markings. Pedestrian Crossings are at the following locations:

Traffic Signals for 2020	
Description and Locations	Type of Crossing
Baldoyle/Sutton/Malahide	Signalised Pedestrian Crossing
St Sabina, Sutton, Dublin 13	Signalised Pedestrian Crossing
Carrickhill Road Lower, Portmarnock, Co. Dublin	Signalised Pedestrian Crossing
Castleknock/Mulhuddart	Type of Crossing
Barnwell Road, Hansfield, Dublin 15	Zebra Crossing
St. Margaret's Road, Ballymun, Dublin 11	Signalised Toucan Crossing
Diswellstown Road, Castleknock, Dublin 15	Zebra Crossing
Swords/Balbriggan	Type of Crossing
R127, Link at Racecourse Common, Lusk	Signalised Pedestrian Crossing
Fancourt Road, Balbriggan	Signalised Pedestrian Crossing
Balbriggan Road, Skerries	Signalised Pedestrian Crossing
St Cronans Avenue, Swords	Signalised Toucan Crossing

Traffic Signals Contract 2020

As part of the 2019 Signals Installation, the upgrade works at Skerries on the Barnageeragh Road was postponed until 2020 due to issues with electrical poles. The upgrade is almost complete with regards to civils works. It is anticipated that the 3-arm roundabout will be fully commissioned in Q4 of 2020.



**Barnageeragh & Dublin Road Junction Skerries junction
upgrade**



Barnageeragh & Dublin Road Junction Skerries junction upgrade

VAS Contract (County wide)

The 2020 Vehicle Activated Signs (VAS) Contract works will commence in mid-September as a contractor has now been appointed.

Vehicle Activated Signs are located at the following location:

Vehicle Activated Sign 2020
Description and Locations
Baldoyle/Sutton/Malahide
Feltrim Rd, Streamstown Wood, Co. Dublin - Left turn warning sign
7-9 Malahide Rd, Streamstown Wood, Malahide, Co. Dublin - Speed sign
72-76 Balglass Rd, Howth, Dublin - Flashing right bend ahead sign
Railway Cottage, Back Rd, Broomfield, Malahide, Co. Dublin - Flashing pedestrians ahead sign
Robs wall heading to Malahide - Cycle sign
Thormanby Road from Howth - Cycle sign
Malahide road heading to Malahide - Cycle sign
Castleknock/Mulhuddart
Clonsilla Road (Between Coolmine & Roselawn) - Speed sign
Lower Road, Lucan - Speed sign
Carpenterstown Road/Burnell Park - Cycle sign
Lucan - Clonee Road (outside St. Catherine's Park) - Cycle sign
Castlecurragh Road - Mulhuddart - Cycle sign
Swords/Balbriggan
Garristown - Speed sign
Man O War - Speed sign
Old Road, Rush - Speed sign
R122 at intersection L5085 - Speed sign
Fieldstown R125/R122 Junction approach- Speed sign
Donabate, Portrane Road – Speed Sign
Hearse Road - Donabate bound - Cycle sign

Balheary Road - Cycle sign

R122 - Balbriggan to Naul Westbound - Cycle sign

R108 - Ballyboughal to Naul Northbound - Cycle sign

VAS Signs Contract 2020

MapRoad Licensing

Ongoing engagement and conditioning of MapRoad Road Opening Licences including review of temporary traffic management plans and operations. Apply licence conditions to ensure efficient traffic management of Fingal County Council Road network.

Engagement with Contractors on the following major works schemes:

- Hearse Road, Donabate Closure - Glenveagh Developers/Shannon Valley Further signage and lining has been requested and agreed upon to promote safety and speed compliance.
- Swords Pipeline – Irish Water/John Craddock

Major infrastructure is now currently scheduled to begin January 2021 affecting Swords Main Street junction with the R106 and the R106/Malahide Road up to Mountgarry roundabout (Applegreen). MS Teams discussions are ongoing with Irish Water & contractor John Craddock Ltd. to establish overall works duration and phase locations and durations for the installation of a water main. Their exploratory works were completed in August.



- Finglas to Airport - 110 kV Cable Circuit - ESB

Major infrastructure proposed for 2021. ESB will be commencing the detailed design phase of the project and have

engaged with Operations Traffic Section with regard to the latest route drawings that impact FCC roads.

- **Loughshinny Foul Sewer Rising Mains.**
Irish Water 1.5Km Installation of a Rising Mains on Harbour road and Mine Road. Road closure required on Harbour Road. Major infrastructure scheduled from August 2020. Site meeting scheduled for July 3rd.
- **Stamullen to Balbriggan (on the R132) Foul Sewer Rising Main Pipeline**
Irish Water 2.1Km Installation of Twin Rising Mains on the R132 from Delvin Bridge to Cardy Rock, Balbriggan. Major infrastructure scheduled from September 2020. MS Teams discussion scheduled for Thursday July 2nd.

Road Opening Licence Jan – August 2020

A road opening licence is required to open the public road, footpath or grass verge for water/sewer connections, lowering of footpaths, footpath reconstruction and pipe laying etc. All road opening licences are applied for through the Road Management Office and the application is then inspected and conditioned by our Engineers. 849 licences have been granted to date in 2020.

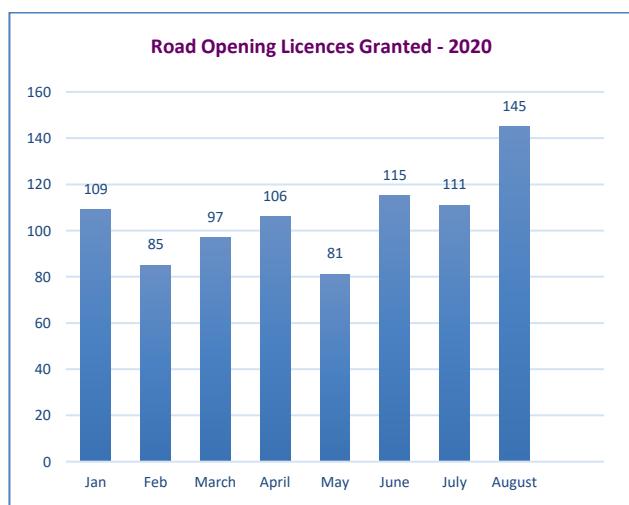


Figure 0-1 Road Opening Licences Jan – August 2020

Bridge Rehabilitation Project

Rehabilitation of Curragh, Curragh West & Clonshaugh Bridges

The Engineering Consultant carried out the design of the bridge rehabilitations and prepared the tender documents on 14th May 2020. FCC advertised the tender on 15th May 2020 in Etenders with a queries deadline of 1st of June and Closing date 15th of June 2020. Tender Assessment meeting held on 3rd of July 2020.

Contractor commenced works in 18th July 2020. This is a significant milestone in terms of commencement of works to meet the in-stream fisheries requirement in order to have all work complete in 2020.

Rehabilitation of Church Road Bridge, Blanchardstown, Wyanstown Bridge & Wimbletown Bridge Royal Oak Santry Footbridge, Effelstown and Ratharten Bridges Rehabilitation

Successful/ unsuccessful letters sent to the tenderers on 13th May 2020, two weeks stand still period, post tender meeting, letter of acceptance followed. Contractor have sent FCC the programme of works and methodology. Due to the requirements to work within the Regional Fisheries requirements from July to end of September for all instream works it is, at this moment envisaged that this will take place to ensure works are completed in the available window in 2020. Contractor commenced works on first week of July 2020.

Royal Oak Santry Footbridge, Effelstown and Ratharten Bridges Rehabilitation

The contractor due to complete the works in by end of September 2020.

PLANNING AND STRATEGIC INFRASTRUCTURE (PSI)

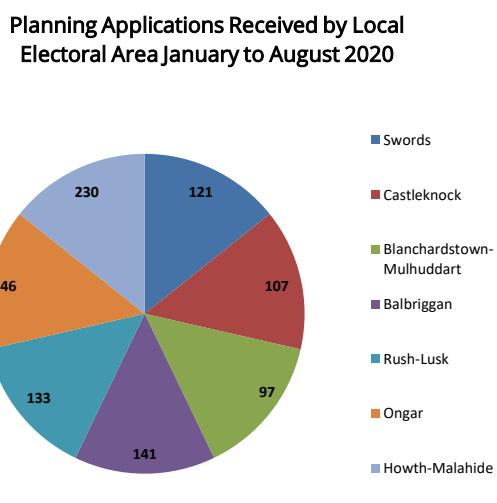
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Planning Applications

There have been 875 planning applications received to the end of August 2020, 132 of these applications were invalid leaving a total of 743 valid applications. The volume of applications received by Local Electoral Area (LEA) is detailed in the table below.

To date in 2020, 4 Strategic Housing Development (SHD) applications (for 616 units) were made to An Bord Pleanála. The Board granted permission for 12 SHD's (2457 units); 3 in January, 5 in March, 2 in April and 2 in August. The Board refused permission for 2 SHD's (531 units) in February and July. There is 1 SHD (198 units) currently in the formal application process.



Planning Decisions

A total of 693 planning decisions have been made to the end of August 2020. There have been 545 decisions to grant permission (79%) and 148 refusals of permission (21%). There have been 53 grants of permissions in respect of single house construction, 294 grants of permission for domestic extensions, 147 commercial/retail grants of permission and 35 grants of permission in respect of housing developments - 16 of which related to development 2 - 20 housing units, 3 of which related to development 20 - 50 housing units, 4 of which related to development 50 - 100 housing units and 12 of which related to developments of 100 + housing units.

Building Control

There were 101 Disability Access Certificates submitted up to the end of July 2020, of these 71 have been granted and 18 are currently on time extension. There were 128 Fire Safety Certificates submitted up to the end of July 2020, of these 60 have been granted and 44 are currently on time extension.

A total of 580 building control decisions were processed up to the end of July. There were 206 decisions to grant, 1 refusal and 373 extensions of time.

Planning Enforcement

219 Warning Letters and 17 Enforcement Notices have issued in 2020. There are 12 cases at varying stages in the legal system at present and additional 2 cases referred to the Law Department for legal advice.

Transboundary Environmental Public Consultation

In accordance with the provisions of the 1991 United Nations Convention on Environmental Impact Assessment in a Transboundary Context (“the Espoo Convention”), the Minister for Housing, Planning and Local Government received notification from the UK Planning Inspectorate (“PINS”) in relation to a development consent application (“the planning application”) by NNB Generation Company (S2C) Limited for a proposed Nuclear Power Station at Sizewell C, Suffolk, England, UK. The proposed development includes two UK European Pressurised Reactor UK EPR™ reactor units, giving a total output capacity of approximately 3,340MW, along with associated development required for the construction and operation of the Sizewell C Nuclear Power Station, including the mitigation of any potential impacts. The Project comprises the main nuclear power station facility and associated development in order to facilitate construction and operation of the nuclear power station. Construction of the new nuclear power station is anticipated to last for 9 to 12 years and the proposed development has an operational design life of 60 years.

The proposed development has been identified as a project within the scope of paragraph 2 of Appendix 1 to the Espoo Convention as implemented by the Infrastructure Planning (Environmental Impact Assessment) Regulations 2017 (“the EIA Regulations”) (UK legislation). Consequently, the UK Secretary of State has twice screened the proposal, once at pre-application stage and a second time on receipt of the application. On both occasions, the screening determination specified that the proposed

development is not likely to have significant adverse transboundary effects on the environment in the UK. However, the Secretary of State decided to notify Ireland as if the development would be likely to have significant adverse transboundary effects on the environment in this State, as provided for in Article 3(1) of the Espoo Convention.

Members of the public may make a written submission or observation to their local authority in relation to the potential transboundary environmental effects of the project. Information on the consultation and contact details are displayed on the Council website and a notice has been published in a local newspaper. Submissions or observations should be submitted by close of business on the 28th October 2020. Following consultation with the Minister for Housing, Planning and Local Government, each planning authority will forward to the UK’s PINS all submissions or observations it receives through this public consultation, and may also forward a summary of the submissions or observations.

Donabate Urban Framework Plan Update

We have commenced an extensive consultation process in Donabate as part of our plans to prepare an Urban Framework Plan (UFP) for the town. Following on from earlier consultation in 2020 with sports and community groups and with local school children, we held five online workshops on Thursday 20th August 2020 to consult local businesses and residents association groups.

Approximately 34 people attended, including councillors, local businesses, representatives from residents associations and members of the Donabate Portrane Liaison Sub-Committee.

The period for receipt of submissions on the Donabate UFP was extended (Consult Fingal) up to 4th September. A total of 37 no. submissions were received.

Fingal County Council, as part of their Donabate Urban Framework Plan process, prepared a Request for Tender Document for the preparation of a *Public Realm and Traffic Management Strategy* to form part of the Donabate Urban Framework Plan. A tender brief was placed online (e-tenders), with the deadline for receipt of tenders being Thursday 13th August 2020. Fingal County Council are currently reviewing the tenders received with a view to appointing consultants and commencing work in September 2020.

Rush Signage

Rush received funding under the Town and Village Scheme (2018) for heritage / information signage at a number of locations in the Village. We have successfully designed and procured signage with expected delivery from the signage company in early September. The signage includes 6 x lecterns, 1 x map board and 2 x plaques. We are liaising with the Operations Department on an ongoing basis to schedule the installation of these signs at agreed locations in the coming weeks.

The R126 Portrane Road Enhancement Project

Details of this scheme were presented to Councillors at the March Area Committee Meeting just as COVID-19 related restrictions were being introduced. The Part 8 process was then delayed. This project will now go on public display within the forthcoming weeks with a view to bring it to the Full Council Meeting in December. The project includes:

- Widening of the section of the R126 road between the entrance to Carr's Mill estate and Martins Lane to 6.5m;
- Resurfacing of the section of the R126 road between the entrance to Carr's Mill estate and Martins Lane;
- Widening of the footpath on the northern side of the R126 to 2.5m along this section, from the entrance to Carr's Mill estate to Martins Lane;
- Partial demolition and setting back of the gable end of a building currently set to the edge of the existing footpath between Carr's Mill estate and St. Patrick's National School;

- Demolition of associated auxiliary buildings next to the building currently set to the edge of the existing footpath between Carr's Mill estate and St. Patrick's National School;
- Junction improvement at the Carr's Mill estate junction onto the R126;
- Introduction of a signalised crossing next to St. Patrick's National School;
- Introduction of a raised table next to St. Patrick's National School;
- Widening of the existing bus lay by at St. Patrick's National School;
- Provision of new gulleys and gulley collectors to improve surface water drainage;
- All associated site works.



Hole in the Wall Road

Construction works on site are progressing. Earthworks are 60% complete. All of the off-line excavations have been completed for the road works. The only largescale excavations remaining is the reconstruction of the existing Mayne Road which is programmed for October. The new stone flood defence wall on Mayne Road and Drumnigh

Road is 60% complete. Various traffic management will be required over the remainder of the scheme site works.



The Green Malahide



Significant progress has been made on the Village Green Improvement Works project in Malahide, which is expected to be completed before the end of the year.

The project led by the Council's Parks and Green Infrastructure Division is set to re-invigorate and improve the quality of the village green and to enhance the open space as an area to visit and enjoy.

The works have been undertaken by Malahide-based company Peter O'Brien & Sons Landscaping Ltd, which was awarded the contract following the conclusion of a competitive tender process.

The scheme forms part of the Public Realm Strategy for Malahide undertaken by Fingal County Council in 2014. The approved plan for the Village Green resulted from an extensive public consultation process and was designed by Murray and Associates Landscape Architecture. The project reflects the important link between the built and natural environment, providing a wonderful redesigned space for people to enjoy both the village and the sea.

National Heritage Week 2020

National Heritage Week, one of Ireland's largest cultural events took place between 15th – Sunday, 23rd August 2020. Mainly digital in nature it featured virtual projects with the theme 'heritage at your doorstep'. The Heritage Officer worked with members of the Fingal Heritage Network to produce *Snapshots of Fingal's Past* an online exhibition with pieces to camera. The Digital Officer and Heritage Officer collaborated on *Heritage from the Above: Skerries Islands*, the first in a series of films and *Colouring Fingal's Heritage*, a colouring book based on the places and people of Fingal was launched. Projects can be viewed on the Heritage & Conservation section of Fingal website <https://www.fingal.ie/national-heritage-week-2020>

Development Management/Forward Planning (Water Services)

- Development Management – our work as internal consultee on planning applications continues remotely and has resulted in 80 reports being prepared in August.
- Pre-planning consultations – During August staff from Planning (Water Services) have engaged in discussions with developers at pre-planning stage to discuss issues related to the provision of water services and to ensure the implementation of flood risk management and sustainable drainage systems on site. These meetings have also included the following discussions on drainage and flood risk management relating to the following strategic infrastructure project - Fingal Coastal Way, Metrolink. All these meetings are being conducted online using Microsoft Teams.
- Flood Risk Assessments and Drainage Strategies to inform Local Area Plans (LAP) - FCC staff are currently managing the preparation of the surface water management plan to inform Belcamp LAP and Kellystown LAP.

- SHDs – staff are engaged as internal consultees in discussion on approx. 10no. SHD applications
- CDS – staff continue to provide planning review of water/wastewater connection applications on behalf of Irish Water. Staff have remote access to IW's network and as such this process continues as normal.

Building Control/Taking in Charge

- Building Control Inspections are currently being carried out on a business-as-usual basis within the guidelines from the HSE, CIF and FCC's Corporate safety systems. Inspectors and engineers continue to engage with developers by other means to deal with building control.
- BCMS – While the BCMS site remained very busy through the lockdown, there was a decrease in the number of applications. This trend has turned and there has been a significant increase in commencement notices (38 in August) which are required to be validated prior to commencement of construction. In addition FCC staff validated 54 Certificates of Compliance on Completion, which are required post construction and prior to occupation.
- BCMS expansion – FCC staff have engaged in extensive collaborative work and training with the National Building Control Office in preparation for the implementation of the final module of the BCMS (Building Control Management System – an online forum for Building Control documentation). This new applications module went live on 13th July 2020 and has brought Fire Safety Certificates, Regularisation Certificates and Disability Access Certificates all online. We are continuing engagement with NBCO to resolve outstanding issues we have identified in practice. This completes the paperless conversion of building control documentation, which is particularly welcome given recent circumstances.
- Dangerous Structure/Places inspections – each complaint continues to be assessed

on a case by case basis. During August we have received 9 notifications and we have conducted 7 site visits, where we deemed this absolutely necessary.

- Taking in Charge of Legacy Developments
 - Bond claims have been submitted and verified by IBRC through 2019/2020. FCC have prepared tender documentation for works contracts in line with the DBEI/Dept Health - Return to Work Safely Protocol COVID-19 Specific National Protocol for Employers and Workers and CIF - Construction Sector C-19 Pandemic Standard Operating Procedures. This work will lead to the Taking in Charge Statutory process.

HOUSING & COMMUNITY, CULTURE & SPORTS (H&CC&S) & LIBRARIES

Housing	Community, Culture & Sports Community Development Office Sports Office Arts Office Libraries
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Housing Supply Report

Fingal County Council continues to deliver social housing units and continues to provide housing solutions in accordance with the Rebuilding Ireland Action Plan through a range of delivery mechanisms including construction, Part V, acquisitions, leasing and Housing Assistance Payment Scheme (HAP).

Construction Programme

The Council has an ambitious construction programme underway with 29 sites across the county and 318 homes already delivered.

The initiation of the Part 8 public consultation planning process has commenced for two schemes in July. Details of the two proposed schemes, the former Leonards Garage, Lusk and Church Road, Lusk were presented to local Councillors at the Area Committee meeting on the 9th July.

The following table outlines the various stages that construction projects are currently at;

Project	Units	Status
St Cronan's x 2 schemes	15	Completed
Cappaghfinn I	14	Completed
Balrothery - North + East	9	Completed
Wellview, Dublin 15	20	Completed
Racecourse Common	74	Completed
Ballyboughal	8	Completed
Pinewood, Balbriggan	20	Completed
Estuary Road - V de Paul	8	Completed
Castlelands, Balbriggan	24	Completed

Ravenswood, Coldwinters, Peter McVerry Trust	8	Completed
Rivermeade	2	Completed
Pinewood CC, Balbriggan	2	Completed
Avondale, Dublin 15	42	Completed
Church Road, Dublin 15 - FCC	22	Completed
Rolestown Phase 1	26	Completed
Rathbeale Road, Swords	24	Completed
Church Road, Dublin 15 - Cluid Housing	65	On Site
College St. Baldoyle - Cluid Housing	4	On Site
Tucketts Lane, Howth	8	Tendering Stage
Wellview Cul de Sacs, Wellview, D15	20	Tendering Stage
Cappagh, Dublin 11	69	Tendering Stage
Outlands, Swords, Co Dublin	11	Tendering Stage
Church Fields Phase 2B, Mulhuddart, D15	70	Tendering Stage
Kilhedge Lane - Tuath Housing Association	48	Planning Stage
Former Leonards Garage, Lusk	10	Planning Stage
Church Road, Lusk	5	Planning Stage
Garristown – North and East Housing Association	6	Planning Stage
Hayestown, Rush	65	Planning Stage
Infill Site adjacent to 169 Clonsilla Road, D15	1	Planning Stage
	700	

Church Fields, Dublin 15

Detailed design and the pre-planning process has commenced in relation to 498 discounted purchase, discounted rental and social properties. Progress on delivering the housing potential of the site continues;

- An initial phase of the housing development of Church Fields has been approved and is out to tender – 20 homes.
- The next phase of development consisting of 70 social houses has been approved and will be tendered in the coming weeks.
- Funding has been approved under the Serviced Sites Fund (SSF) to enable delivery of key road and green infrastructure to facilitate the development of the site.
- Part XI for the road link between Damastown Road and Wellview Avenue including the upgrade of the existing Wellview Avenue and a cycle way adjacent to Church Road was approved at the Council meeting in June and detailed design is now underway.
- The green infrastructure design is also underway as outlined in the Land Management Plan.

The Area Committee will continue to be briefed in relation to development of the overall site.

Land Development Agency

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

Hackettstown Lands:

- The LDA has lodged a planning application for the road infrastructure upgrade which is funded through the Serviced Sites Fund.
- Design of the housing is currently underway by the LDA. They propose to deliver 346 housing units of mainly affordable/cost rental and dwellings available for affordable purchase. Housing will also be provided for families in need of social housing.

- Further information will be brought to the Area Committee when available.

Part V Delivery

The Housing Department continues to work closely with developers to secure a steady delivery of social housing units through the Part V process.

Approved Housing Bodies

The delivery of social housing by the Approved Housing Body sector is an important delivery stream which delivers quality housing across the county. The Housing Department continues to work closely with all AHBs in relation to finalising delivery and the allocation process.

Other Development Opportunities

The Housing Department continue to meet with developers who are building across the county with a view to exploring opportunities to bring forward proposals to increase the supply of social housing. All opportunities and proposals to provide much needed additional turnkey housing are considered.

Affordable Dwelling Purchase Arrangements

The Affordable Dwelling Purchase Scheme is a national initiative that will see affordable homes built on state owned land in co-operation with local authorities.

The procurement process for the developed design, construction, delivery and sale of 39 affordable residential units at Dun Emer, Lusk is nearing completion and it is proposed to appoint a contractor shortly. An online application process will be opened once the contractor has been appointed.

Further detail and updates on the scheme will be brought to the local Councillors in the coming weeks.

Leasing Schemes

The Housing Department continues to operate the various leasing schemes to provide much needed properties for social housing. There has been a noticeable increase in the number of properties and leasing proposals being offered to the Council

over the past few months. This is to be welcomed and every effort is made to secure long term leases with interested property owners and developers.

Covid19 Employment Loss Rebuilding Ireland Home Loan

Number of applications received to date	1001
Number of applications approved	448
Value of the loans approved	€98,940,781
Number of loans drawn down	229
Value of loans drawn down	€50,240,949

Mortgage holders who have lost employment due to the Covid19 crisis and are experiencing difficulties making repayments should contact the Council immediately on www.loans@fingal.ie. Subject to proof of job loss or reduced hours, Fingal County Council may offer a solution to make reduced or deferred payments that are proportionate to the loss of income.

As a minimum, Mortgage Protection Insurance payments must be made so as not to break the continuity of cover. Fingal County Council will endeavour to find an individual solution with each borrower.

Failure to make mortgage repayments without an agreement with Fingal County Council may affect credit ratings and limit ability to access credit in the future.

Further details are available on the Council's website www.fingal.ie

Rent Payments – Council Tenants

Council tenants who have temporarily lost employment due to Covid19 crisis, may have their rent temporarily re-assessed based on Social Welfare payments until their employment situation becomes clearer. Tenants should contact the Council immediately at email; rentaccountD15@fingal.ie or rentaccountnorthcounty@fingal.ie. Further details

are available on the Council's website www.fingal.ie

Private Rented Inspections

In February 2018, all local authorities were issued with targets for the Inspection of Private Rented Properties by the DHPLG in conjunction with its Strategy for the Private Rental Sector – a key component of Rebuilding Ireland. The aim is to increase the national average inspection rate from 6% to 25% of registered rental properties by 2021. The targets are based on the percentage of tenancies registered with the RTB, which within the Fingal County Council administrative area was 21,034 at end of 2018. Similar to other Local Authorities, the Housing Department is now working to restart mainstream private rented inspections and evaluating the level of inspections that can be achieved for 2020 in the context of Covid 19 constraints.

The annual targets are as follows:

2018 (10%)	2019 (15%)	2020 (20%)	2021 (25%)
2,072	3,155	4,207	5,259



Construction of 4 dwellings commences at College Street, Baldoyle by Cluid Housing - funded under the Capital Assistance Scheme

Housing Tenancy Services Report

Housing Support

STATUTORY HOUSING NEEDS ASSESSMENT 2020 Return Date of Wednesday 30th September 2020

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

All Local Authorities are required by the Department of Housing, Planning and Local Government to complete this assessment for all persons who have applied for social housing support. The purpose of the Assessment is to capture the total number of households qualified for social housing support across the county whose social housing need is not being met, in order to understand the level of need for such support.

The Housing Support Team are in the process of contacting certain applicants who have applied for social housing support *prior to 10th April 2019* to confirm that they still require social housing support. Each applicant **must** confirm their requirement to the Council by completing and returning the assessment form which will be issued. Applicants who have applied after 10th April 2019 will not be contacted due to the recent nature of their application.

Transfer applicants, HAP and RAS tenants are **not** included in this assessment.

In light of restricted visitor numbers to Council Offices, during Covid-19 Housing, applicants are requested to return the completed assessment form either by post in the pre-paid envelope provided, or directly to the Drop Box provided in Swords and Blanchardstown Offices **no later than Wednesday 30th September 2020**

Details of the assessment are also available on Fingal's Website via <https://www.fingal.ie/council/service/housing-needs-assessment>

The Housing Support Team Contact Details	
Phone	01 890 5902 /01 890 5000
Email	Housing.allocations@fingal.ie
Website	www.fingal.ie

Housing Unit	Contact Details
Homeless Services	01 890 5090 homeless@fingal.ie
HAP	01 870 4515 HAP@fingal.ie
Estate Management (Maintenance, ASB & Special Projects)	01 890 5588 Estatemanagement@fingal.ie
Lettings	01 890 5380 Housing.allocations@fingal.ie
Housing Support	01 890 5902 Housing.allocations@fingal.ie
Customer Care Team	01 890 5000 CustomerCareUnit@fingal.ie

The Lettings Team have continued to provide offers of social housing support right throughout the recent **COVID -19 Lockdown** period and this is demonstrated in the table below. The supply of housing is continuing through a number of mechanisms, allowing Fingal County Council to continue to make offers of housing support across Approved Housing Bodies, Standard Social Housing as well as the provision of a number of transitional housing options.

Month	Offers of Housing Support 2020
January	117
February	103
March	137
April	114
May	97
June	90
July	72
August	144
TOTAL	874

Housing Assistance Payment (HAP)

The HAP team in Fingal County Council continues to operate as normal with the public contacting us through email and phone during COVID-19 restrictions. Additional resources have been deployed to assist with the volume of calls/emails from those who have been affected by the current crisis (in relation to a change in income).

Since its inception in Fingal County Council in 2017, the HAP team have set up over 2,000 tenancies with 194 in place during 2020 to date. 100 tenancies are being progressed to sign up stage and a further 250 are progressing through the system.

Homeless Services

The Council's homeless team continue to engage with those experiencing homelessness to offer advice and support. Homeless Assessments by appointment have resumed at the Homeless Clinic in the Blanchardstown Office. In August there were 32 new homeless presentations, 13 of which were families.

34 families exited homeless circumstances during August into various forms of social housing or, into private rented tenancies under Homeless HAP.

Since 1st January 2020, a total of 401 households have exited homelessness through the various means of housing support. Homeless HAP accounts for 272 of these tenancies.

Traveller Specific Supports

Covid-19 Continued Support

Measures have continued within Fingal to ensure that Traveller families receive as much assistance as possible during these unprecedented times.

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

We continue to engage and work in conjunction with a variety of advocacy groups working on behalf of the Traveller Community.

With the easing of restrictions under Phase 3 of the Government's Roadmap, the planning and implementation of refurbishment works on various sites can continue with works progressing at St Mary's, Cappagh and Meakstown Close.

Returning Dwellings to Productive Use

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

Voids	At 31 st August 2020
In letting process	46
Undergoing re-let repairs	39
With County Architect for procurement of pre-let repairs	25
TOTAL	110

Planned Maintenance Programmes

Boiler Servicing

The Council provides an annual boiler servicing facility, including all maintenance and upgrade works, for a nominal fee of €3 per week to participating tenant. The 2020 servicing programme is underway and a total of 2,307 properties have been serviced to date. It is anticipated that any delays incurred with the programme during the Covid Lockdown period will be addressed during the remainder of 2020.

Cyclical Maintenance

This programme provides for external painting and joinery repairs to council housing stock and this currently operates on a 6/7 year cycle. The next phase of the cycle has been procured and the contractors will begin painting works in the Castlecurragh and Dromheath estates in early September. The remaining estates to be completed as part of the current programme which will be carried out between now and early summer of 2021 are listed below:

Estate	
Dromheath	Dublin 15
Castlecurragh Heath/Vale	Dublin 15
St Patricks Park	Donabate
Shamrock Park	Oldtown
Windmill Estate	Skerries
Toberburr Avenue	St Margarets
The Bawn Grove/ The Hill	Malahide
Kirkfield Cottages	Clonsilla
Lambeecher Estate	Balbriggan

Housing Welfare Service

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

In response to **Covid-19**, the Housing Social Workers have been actively engaged with their most vulnerable cases at this time providing support, information and inter-agency linkages when and where required. Tenants were identified by the Social Workers and Housing Inspectors who may be considered particularly vulnerable during **COVID-19** and follow-on action has been initiated through a number of mechanisms including the Fingal Community Response Forum.

In addition, there are currently 25 cases being provided with supports by the Tenancy Sustainment Service, on an ongoing basis.

Anti-Social Behaviour/ Inspectorate/ Stock Management

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

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



Stock Management

53 cases under review – 10 regularisations, 15 breaches (allegations of sub-lets, abandonments, occupants without permission to reside) 14 Miscellaneous including illegal occupants, 14 downsizing.

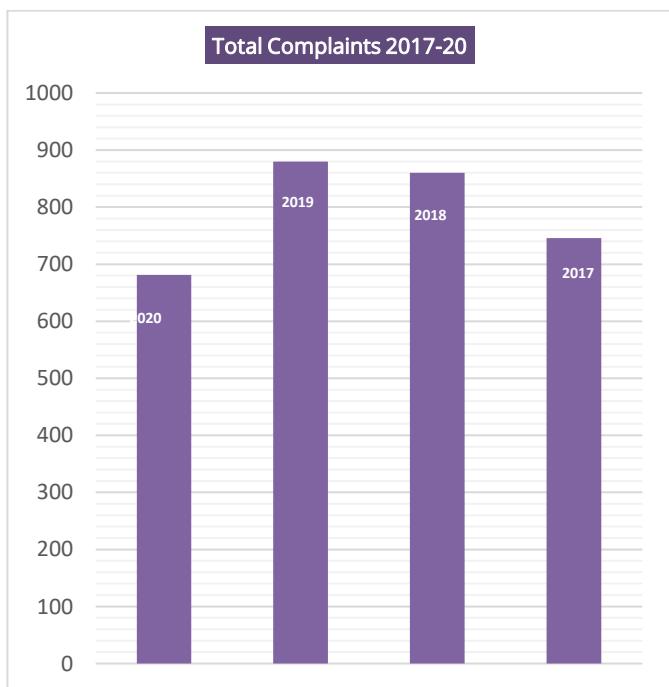
Surrenders on EM Grounds – 1 (Jan), 3 (Feb), 3 (March), 3 (April), 1 (May), 1 (June), 1 (Aug)

Anti-Social Behaviour

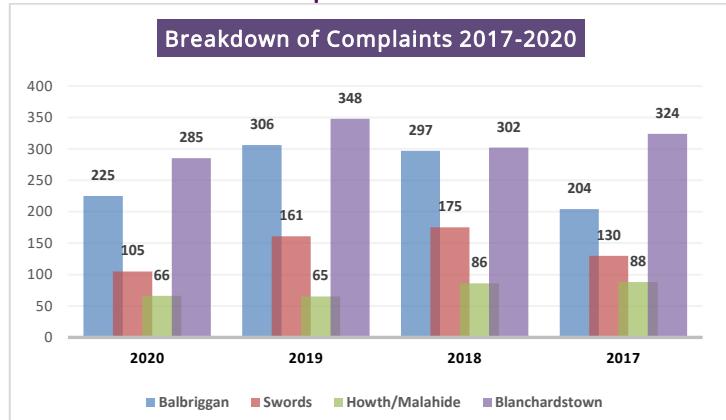
August 2020	Active Investigation	Active Monitoring	Closed
Dublin 15	47	52	18
North County	21	33	6
TOTALS	68	85	24

ASB complaints are still being received and are being followed up and investigated as normal, even within current COVID-19 related restrictions. Residents are formally reminded of their obligations under social distancing, where it comes to the attention of the ASB unit that breaches have occurred within our estates.

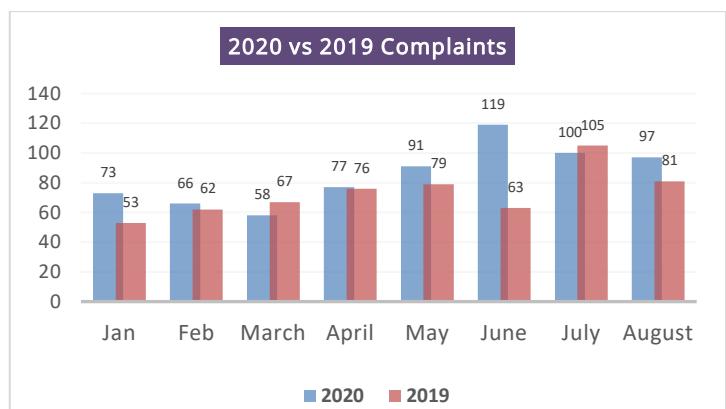
Total ASB Complaints Received



Area Breakdown of Complaints



Monthly Breakdown of Complaints



Anti-Social Interventions

Interviews Held 2019	123
Interviews Held 2020	92
Tenancy Alerts 2019	30
Tenancy Alerts 2020	27
Tenancy Warnings 2019	4
Tenancy Warnings 2020	3
Tenant Induction Training 2019	12
Tenant Induction Training 2020	3

Housing Inspections

Traveller Specific Inspections 2019	1818
Traveller Specific Inspections 2020	1105
Estate Inspections 2019	944
Estate Inspections 2020	380
EM/ASB Inspections 2019	3858
EM/ASB Inspections 2020	2059

Community Culture & Sports Division

Community Development Office:

Pride of Place 2020

Judging in the 2020 IPB Pride of Place Competition took place in August. Supported by the Community Development Office, three Fingal communities took part in this year the competition, showcasing the best in community development, by way of online submissions in 2020 due to COVID 19. Swords Tidy Towns, Ballyboughal Hedgerow Society and Skerries Age Friendly Initiative all represented Fingal in the respective categories of Populations over 5000, Creative Place and Coastal communities. Video calls from the two judges with representatives of each group and the Fingal Pride of Place liaison officer took place late in August, and the results will be announced at a gala online event in November, fingers crossed for the three Fingal entries this year.



Ballyboughal Hedgerow Society



Skerries Age Friendly

Sheepmoor Community Mural

Following an outbreak of xenophobic graffiti in the Blakestown area of Dublin 15 in early summer, the Sheepmoorians community group and local school's completion project embarked on community mural in the estate, with support from the Community Development Office and Housing Department. The mural was created by local young people in conjunction with renowned graffiti art outfit SUBSET. The mural was launched by Cllr Pamela Conroy, with the young artists who completed the work alongside representatives from the Sheepmoorians group and local councillors. The launch was carried out using strict social distancing guidelines.



Hartstown Community Youth Project Artwork in Hartstown Park

The Huntstown Community Youth Project, with support from the Community Development Office and Operations Department, delivered a community arts project over the summer in Hartstown Park, as part of the 2020 summer project run by the HCYP. Young people came up with a slogan and artwork which reflected current

concerns worldwide and in the local community, in conjunction with a local community artist. This was turned this into a permanent piece of artwork now located at that entrance to Hartstown Park. This project will be launched by the Mayor of Fingal later in September.



Fingal County Council's Community Division/Public Sector & Human Rights Duty – Covid 19 Response

Times of crisis can exacerbate existing inequalities and render people more vulnerable. Covid-19 has a disproportionate impact on certain groups in society, for example older people, people with disabilities, minority ethnic groups and women. The following report outlines the Community Division's response to incorporating equality and human rights considerations in a Covid-19 response and recovery for the benefit of the citizens of Fingal, under the Public Sector Duty.

Developing Responses
The COVID-19 Blakestown/Corduff Community Response Meals Project – provided 350 meals per

week over a 3-week period to vulnerable cocooning people during covid-19 lockdown.

70 Clients were selected on referral basis with key criteria as follows: -

- Living alone
- Vulnerable (with special needs, mental health issues) referred by PHN, Social worker or key community workers
- Local authority areas were prioritized with 92% of the recipients living in local authority estates



Fingal's Community Call Forum was established in response to the Covid-19 crisis and is comprised of national and local public bodies and community organisations. The Forum has met since 31 March in the presence of the Mayor and the Chief Executive who chairs the group. The Community response helpline continues to operate 9am – 5pm seven days a week. Work has begun on a review of the Covid help line requests to establish if there have been multiple requests received from vulnerable individuals. This will help the community division in setting targeted supports in areas where there may be gaps i.e. befriending supports, older people's social groups etc.

Over 600 volunteers have been involved in the Fingal Community Call response to Covid and these volunteers provided vital and essential services to the vulnerable and older members of Fingal who needed their shopping done, their prescriptions collected etc., As the country moved through the phases of the roadmap for the Reopening of Society & Business some of these volunteers returned to work. The Council and the Community Development Office expresses its sincere thanks to these volunteers who in the middle of this pandemic made themselves available to assist those who had to cocoon.

The Civil Defence is represented on the Fingal Community Call Forum and experienced an extremely busy period over the 20 weeks of the response period. Their work included tasks from both the HSE and the Community call helpline. Over the four Dublin local authority areas the Civil Defence had a daily deployment of 1,102 volunteers deployed to 693 tasks which equated to 5,055 person hours. They transported patients for Covid19 testing, vulnerable people to hospital appointments, managed the Mass Fatality Tents and were also involved in five searches for missing persons.

Fingal Covid 19 Emergency Funding - The Fingal 2020 COVID-19 Emergency Fund (formerly known as Fingal Community Response to COVID-19 Funding) is a grant programme to provide funding to groups/ organisations that are directly involved in the Fingal Community Call response and or responding locally to the COVID-19 pandemic.

- Clear criteria and procedures for community funding is available to ensure decision making is transparent and non-discriminatory
- Supports are provided by the Community Division to groups to ensure that they can meet the criteria for funding

20% of the 122 groups applying for funding were from those protected under the Equality Act. The following are some of the organisations who availed of the funding:



- Balbriggan Women's Development Group
- Balbriggan Traveller Project
- Musicantia (Roma community in Balbriggan)
- Blanchardstown Centre for independent Living
- Forget-Me-Nots Choir – supporting individuals and families affected by dementia
- Children 4 World Children
- Acquired Brain Injury
- Afro in Diaspora Centre
- Sickle Cell Society Ireland
- Active Age 4 All
- Donabate Portrane Men's Shed
- Rush men's shed
- Skerries men's shed
- Sophia Housing
- MIND Ireland (Malayalee Indians Ireland)
- Kurdish Art Nergz Group Ireland
- Marycare Foundation

Africa Day - in association with the Department of Foreign Affairs & Trade the Community Office coordinated a Virtual Africa Day celebration 2020 which provided an opportunity to showcase African culture and communities living in Fingal. In a video some of the groups who usually celebrate Africa day through community events are featured as a flavour of Africa is brought to you from Fingal homes. Encompassing seven videos shared by six groups, we are introduced to African song and dance, as well as food and beautiful natural scenery and we hear stories of personal journeys coming to Ireland.



Development of Public Sector Duty Training Resource for Staff. Full day Intercultural Diversity and Public Sector Duty Training developed in collaboration with the Immigrant Council of Ireland. This training was developed initially as a 1-day Training Course in-house however in April due to Covid19 Pandemic was further developed to a virtual medium.



Migrant Integration Forum – work has begun on progressing the establishment of this forum with guidance from Fingal PPN with support and capacity building for members to engage in the process.



Intercultural training for FPPN members – provision of training to members on recognising unconscious bias and working interculturally.

Failte Isteach - ongoing supports to the Failte Isteach programme during COVID 19. The Tyrrelstown project continued, with students and volunteer tutors using a mixture of zoom and WhatsApp which provided a space for Community Office and local community members to link in with vulnerable members of the migrant community in the Tyrrelstown area throughout the pandemic.

Community Facilities Management Support Unit



Reopening of community centres:

Community Centres have been working to prepare for the reopening of their facilities to the local community. each facility has its own Covid response plan that sets out a suitable time frame that aimed to support the safe reopening of community facilities in line with government measures. Most of the centres are now reopened.

Most community facilities are now open to accommodate childcare and youth activities. Adult groups and sports groups are meeting in pods of six indoors and groups of 15 outdoors, whereas larger groups with low levels of activities such as art classes and meeting groups are following guidelines adapting social distancing measures. Other user groups are now slowly returning to their activities adapting new ways of working.

The centres are paying very close attention to all government measures and are insuring that all FCC supported facilities are compliant. Community centres are trying to open up their sources of income generation in an effort to ensure that they can remain solvent. They are individually applying for funding to various schemes such as the stability funding scheme, Covid funding, activities funding and LCDC funding in an effort to help them to cover the mounting costs associated with remobilisation. There have been varying levels of successful applications. They are looking forward with great positivity and are taking every precaution to

ensure that the facilities operate safely and in line with government guidelines.

Two facilities in Dublin 15 Parslickstown House and Castleknock Community Centres were successful in securing funding under the pobal stability funding. Parslickstown House received €29,000 and Castleknock Community Centre received €45,000. Other centres have received confirmation that they are being considered for funding.

Covid training organised by Community Development Department on behalf of the Fingal Community Facilities Network - Covid related training courses were rolled out by Community Development Office to support Community Centres in their efforts to recommence services following Covid closures. Training has been ongoing since June and the following courses were rolled out: -

- Covid 19 Compliance Officer Programme
- Covid 19 Return to Work Induction Training (free for compliance officers to share in their workplace after completed training).
- First Aid & Covid-19 in the Workplace Online Upskilling Course
- Covid 19 Employee Awareness & Infection Control Training

Eriu College have requested to use some space in Luttrellstown Community Centre from August to December 2020. This will enable the school to accommodate its one classroom school until they are ready to move into their new premises later in the year. This will assist in generating some additional income for the Community Centre.

A Master Class on Project Management is planned for October 2020. This will be run by NCU and will be delivered in Ongar Community Centre. Several managers and supervisors from FCC facilities will participate in this training which will result in a QQI level 6 qualification for those that successfully complete the course.

The Fingal Community Facilities Network is to set up a working group that will oversee and lead the direction of the network into the future. This will

open a number of funding opportunities for the network and will enable the network to grow and develop to meet the needs of facilities from across the county. The network is currently working on developing a website that will provide extensive information in one place on all of the community facilities registered with the network.

Special Fingal Memory Makers Publication



The COVID-19 Community Response Team as part of their work to support vulnerable citizens during recent lockdown had a call out to cocooners during Covid-19 to submit short stories or poems. The theme was a special memory or event that is connected to cocooning during COVID-19.

A memory of a moment in time or a special event that connects in some way to what is happening in Ireland today, or experiences during the COVID-19 lock down. It can be fiction or can tell a personal story. Deadline for submission was 15th June 2020 and since then judging of works has been completed and editing and design work has begun on a special Fingal Memory Makers book.

It is envisaged that publication will be launched, and prizes formally announced at an event in October. The publication will be an important historical record that will be part of the Fingal archives.

Fingal PPN

Fingal PPN's Summer Training Calendar for PPN members and groups concluded at the beginning

of August. Over 7 weeks, 133 participants took part in a range of capacity building training sessions which included:

- Charities Governance Code Principles/GDPR
- Hosting online meetings (Secretariat & Facilitators only)
- Media Relations
- Using Social Media to promote your work – Beginners
- Cyber Security issues & COVID-19

Fingal Migrant Integration Forum

Following the inaugural meeting of the Migrant Integration Forum in November 2019, Fingal PPN has recommenced the project in August to further build the capacity of communities to become engaged in the process of establishing the Fingal Migrant Integration Forum. Due to Covid 19, this process had been placed on hold, but it is anticipated that a robust work plan for 2021 will be created with all collaborative partners by December 2020. Further details on how to become involved will be circulated shortly.

PPN Linkage Group Meetings Round 4 2020



The 4th round of Fingal PPN Linkage Group meetings takes place from 1st to 24th September 2020. Linkage Groups are an opportunity for community organisations from across Fingal to meet in networks, to highlight issues or concern and organise collective advocacy campaigns. In a new departure and in response to Covid 19, these meetings will enter a pilot phase of being hosted online.

Foróige Coastal Group Graffiti Art Project



Foróige Coastal Group Graffiti Art Project in Lusk delivers impressive Black Lives Matter art mural. The Foróige team used the Cottage Community Centre carpark to create this impressive mural for its Lusk Summer Camp Project. Pictured Left to right, Darren Finnegan (Rask), Olivia O Flaherty, Princess Okosun, Mary Okun, Amy Darkwah, Favour Okosun, Sylvia Ehi, J FitzGerald, Deputy Lord Mayor Cllr. Rob O Donoghue

Balbriggan Harbour Mural



Local Balbriggan artist Lizzy Noone has been working hard creating a mural that has been painted on one of the containers at Balbriggan harbour. People from the local community added

positive messages and their own personal designs to the mural including members of the Balbriggan Integration Forum. Pictured is Ayodele Yussuf, chairperson of the Balbriggan Integration Forum adding her personal message. The project was delivered in conjunction with Balbriggan Tidy Towns and is particularly special given the hands-on participation by members of the community of Balbriggan.

Fingal Comhairle na nÓg:

Fingal Comhairle na nÓg met on 15th of August in County Hall for their first physical meeting since March 2020. This meeting was important for the young people to engage in a physical setting again as the fatigue of Zoom had reduced participation over the last number of weeks. The meeting followed rigorous preparations to reduce COVID-19 risk to attendees and their families. Face masks were worn at all times and social distancing was observed. The meeting began with icebreakers to relax everyone into the day. Their Climate Action and Peer Pressure topics were worked on and the script for their video was finalised.

As the AGM will take on a new format this year due to the COVID-19 a lot of work will go into the preparation for this event. This year they will develop a video to promote Comhairle in the schools prior to the AGM, then expression of interests will be sought before the event with elections and the AGM hosted in a virtual medium. This has been a difficult year for our young people, but they have risen to these challenges and shown strength and resilience.



Arts Office

Sack of Balbriggan Commemorative Mural



Commissioned a mural commemorating the Sack of Balbriggan in the town with artist collective Subset. This work is scheduled to align with the Sack of Balbriggan Centenary Date 20th of September 2020 and will be located on the prominent gable wall of the Central Lounge in co-operation with the owner. The final decision and design were developed and agreed by the Balbriggan Commemoration Committee which comprised of local councillors, historical society members and town representatives.

Resort Residency Lynders Mobile Home Park



The Arts Office hosted the collective Other People's Practices at Lynders Mobile Home Park safely in August – the group have a specific interest in the context of the St. Ita's site as they have been artists in residence at Central Mental Hospital and Ushers Island and are hoping to develop an initiative that will become a complementary care for the clients of the new hospital while being part of the community. Exploring possible examples and approaches for this model with the HSE representatives for the site.

Anthony Haughey and the Global Migrant Collective Balbriggan



Rehearsals re-commenced in August for the final films sequence featuring young people dramatizing their stories in Balbriggan as part of Anthony Haughey's Public Art Commission in the town. These works will be accompanied by large scale film posters to be located on the JC Deceaux sites in the town this autumn.

Fingal County Art Collection Goes to new Our Balbriggan Hub



Works from our county arts collection have been installed in the newly opened Our Balbriggan Hub, the team were especially happy to have a work by local artist Thomas Brezing "Leaving Nineveh" and PAX a series for prints from Graphic Studio Dublin. Thomas Brezing's work at the Our Balbriggan Hub will also be part of the towns offering for Culture Night where they have commissioned the artist to present a reflection on the work at the space.

Arts-in-Education

The Arts Office's Youth & Education Programme was impacted by the advent of Covid-19. School closures impacted on thirty-nine 'arts-in-education'

projects within Fingal's programme. As schools begin to reopen in line with Government Guidelines the Arts Office is focusing attention on the safety of artists, children and teachers, and assessing if a return to practical in-school delivery is welcomed by all stakeholders and viable in a Covid-19 context. Artists are receiving support to reframe artistic content and schools are communicating their new routines, procedures and physical landscape. Our 2020 arts-in-education programme includes learning across Music, Art, Dance and Literature - vital components of holistic education, supporting children's wellbeing, language development, play and inquiry-based learning, while reducing anxiety and improving creative thinking. The Government has identified these areas as educational priorities following the unprecedented lack of classroom contact time. Our arts-in-education initiatives are well placed to support children and young people make this transition back to school life.

Music Generation

The Arts Office is working in partnership with DDLETB to make an application to Music Generation for funding to extend each partners' commitment to the music education of children & young people in Fingal. A Public Consultation Campaign was conducted to gather data to support this application. Music Consultant Karan Thompson has been engaged to develop content for programme development and the submission to Music Generation which will focus on: Local Context for Music Education; A Framework Plan for Proposed Music Programmes in Fingal; Governance & Staffing Structures; Financial Plan. The application to Music Generation will be submitted mid-September for consideration by the Board of Music Generation.

Exploring & Thinking

Fingal Arts Office is a partner in a Dublin region local authority collaborative framework for supporting the development of early years arts practice. Meetings have commenced to discuss the second iteration of a unique Bursary Award that was launched this time last year by the partnership.

Sports Office

Pitch and Putt Championship - This year's annual Fingal and East Meath Pitch & Putt Championship is being played over three Friday evenings at three different venues across Fingal and East Meath. The Championship players are adhering to the HSE & PPUI Guidelines for Social Distancing with a limit of players in attendance on the Pitch Putt Course at any one time. This tournament is jointly administered by Ballyboughal Pitch & Putt and Fingal Sports Office and has now become a regular summer fixture. We are delighted that it could go ahead, albeit in a different format.

For all it is their first competition for the summer, and there is a great interest and enthusiasm in the competition. This event usually has a strong social element to competition, but this has been curtailed this year, but the Club members are delighted to have an opportunity to compete. Eight teams from four clubs are taking part in the competition with staggered Tee-off times and a round robin league table. The first night was hosted by Ballyboughal Pitch & Putt Club with Bellewstown the host for the second.

The teams are made up of four pairs with two substitute players. Teams from Ringcommons, Ballyboughal, Skerries and Bellewstown are competing the final leg of the Championship will take place in the 18-hole Ringcommons Pitch & Putt Course where a presentation will be made to the winning team but unlike previous years there will be no social event as Ringcommons Complex remains closed.



Online Dance Sessions - plans are being finalised for online dance sessions aimed at teenage girls and boys. The sessions will take place over a 45-minute period, where the participants will be taught some dance moves and given the opportunity to try them out. Each participant will receive a video of the session after the class to allow them practice.

Safeguarding Children Courses - Sport Ireland has finalised the Safeguarding 1 course, online. Bookings for a number of courses to be delivered on-line are now being taken. There is a high demand for these courses as clubs, adhering to the Covid guidelines for smaller groups are training more volunteers to assist at different levels in the clubs.

Summer Activities - Several summer camps and activities, adhering to the new guidelines, including Cricket Coaching sessions, sports summer camps and parks tennis all activities were run in pods and /or with smaller numbers. All coaches were trained in Covid protection protocols, with a high degree of sanitation taking place thorough the activities. These activities have been complimented with a high number on on-line teaching, training and coaching sessions.

Planned activities for the autumn include:

- Online Sporting Facts / Sports Con class session in primary schools
- Online teacher training
- 10 x 10 - for primary schools - ten exercises, done ten times, for ten minutes, to be done in the classroom at the desk
- Women in Sport coaching workshops. Basketball Coaching Workshop is due to take place on Friday

18th of September a visit from Mimi Troy, 20X20 ambassador

- Sports Leadership for TY Student – online
- Recreational football for adults in Tyrrelstown All Weather Pitch
- Indoor cricket competition & squad training sessions
- Coach Education sessions on-line and physical
- Halloween Sports Camps
- FAI Soccer sister camps



Age Friendly Fingal

Donabate Active Age for All group returned to Donabate Community Centre maintaining social distancing to take part in their "Stronger for Longer" activities, unfortunately shortly after this photo was taken further restrictions were imposed and there can now be no more than 6 participants at each session.



Croquet Club -Newbridge House Croquet and Active Age for All

Working with Newbridge House there are plans for Croquet on the lawn of Newbridge House in 2021. There are three main groups using this wonderful amenity and Newbridge Croquet Club are working at increasing their membership and Active Age for All using this lawn for the gentle exercise of playing croquet to be active while being socially distant from others.

Older People and the Winter:

We would ask everyone including Councillors and local Volunteers to be mindful of our older and vulnerable citizens over the coming winter months, the Council is looking at ways to support people over what can be lonely and isolating months especially during the pandemic.

Creative Ireland:

Creative Ireland supported a documentary entitled "Dear Fingal" based on various Fingal Artists from different genres and their experiences during COVID 19. The documentary was written, produced and directed by David Gilna a local Swords actor, playwright and producer and filmed in Swords Castle. It will be launched in October 2020.

LIBRARIES

COVID-19 and the re-opening of libraries update
All libraries in Fingal, except for Balbriggan which is closed for refurbishment, have now re-opened for contact and collect services, browsing, printing/photocopying and for pc usage. In line with government regulations and guidelines, we are adopting an incremental and measured approach to the re-opening process. The health and safety of the public and of our staff is of the utmost importance, so we have installed perspex screens and hand sanitising stations in our branch libraries and are limiting the number of visitors and the duration of visits. Physical distancing is now the norm and since 10th August, masks are mandatory for people coming in to our buildings.

Malahide Library opens its doors again after refurbishment

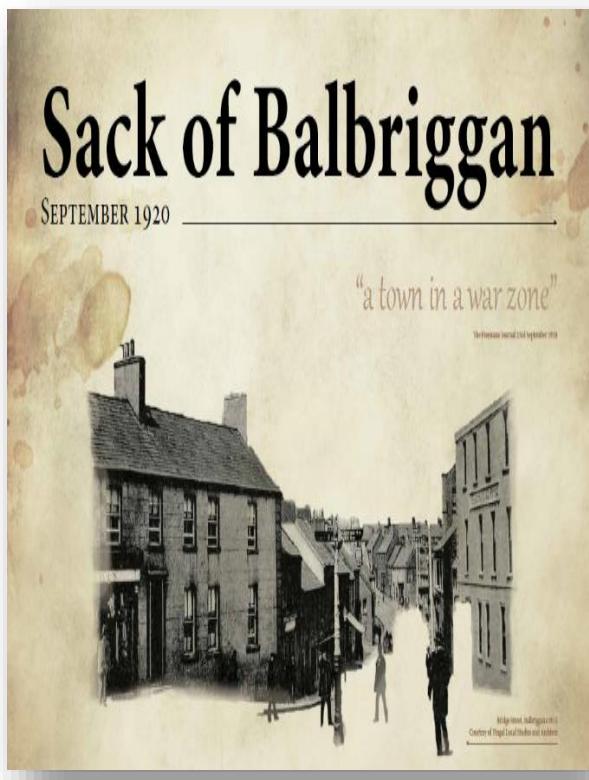
Malahide Library re-opened to the public on 4th August after a 12 week refurbishment programme. The works, funded by the Council, were a follow on from a grant from the Dept. of Rural and Community Development for investment in technology and digital services at public libraries. The refurbishment includes the installation of new equipment, such as handheld borrowable technology and digital signage, office pods, enhanced collaborative study areas and mini conference facilities. The reaction from the public has been very positive, with many commenting on the enhanced use of space and the increase in natural light into the building.

A similar programme of works is taking place at Balbriggan Library. Refurbishment works are also due to start at Blanchardstown Library later in September.



To comply with government guidelines, and for the safety of library members and staff, we will continue to hold events online this year, including the upcoming Festival of History and Writers' Festival. These and other events can be viewed on our YouTube channel and on our various social media platforms.

The Fingal Festival of History will take place this year from 12th to 19th September. The theme for this year's Festival is the War of Independence, particularly focusing on the Sack of Balbriggan. Speakers for our History at the Castle Day will be videoed and recorded at Swords Castle and this will allow us to upload the event to our social media platforms throughout Fingal Festival of History week.



Fingal Libraries has also produced an exhibition about the Sack of Balbriggan. The exhibition curated by Catherine Keane, Senior Librarian, Fingal Local Studies and Archives, will be on display in the Atrium at County Hall, Swords in September, to coincide with the centenary of the Sack of Balbriggan. This exhibition will also be available for viewing online.

Fingal Libraries fifth annual Write Time Festival will celebrate the written and spoken word in Fingal. There will be free workshops and talks throughout the month of September.

Other online events throughout Autumn / Winter include Culture Night, Healthy Ireland at your Library, Children's Book Festival, EU Code Week and Science Week.

Library Stats update

Use of our e-services reached a peak in May with 297,162 downloads of books, newspapers, magazines, online courses and music, in comparison to 163,845 downloads in March, representing an increase of 82%. Use of e-services continues to remain buoyant, with many of our members enjoying this convenient and safe way to engage with library services.

Engagement by the public with our social media platforms increased dramatically during the 3 month closure period. Engagements with our Facebook page peaked in April at 25,872 up by 165.5% on the March figure. Twitter engagements reached a peak in May at 283,509, an increase of 78.9% on the March figure. To date, we have 171 subscribers to the Fingal Library YouTube channel which was established in March. Again May was the most popular month for this service, with 8,457 views of our videos.

ENVIRONMENT & CLIMATE ACTION (ECA)

Contents	
Environment & Climate Action	
Environmental Awareness	
Circular Economy	
Water Quality Protection	
Bathing Water Quality	
	Litter Management
	Waste Enforcement
	Water Services
	Operations

ENVIRONMENT

Environmental Awareness

Litter Picking kits have been handed out to those registering with the Adopt a Patch scheme.

Fingal Cinemas are now back in operation with environmental awareness film clips showing for Biodiversity, Conscious Cup and Stop Food Waste.

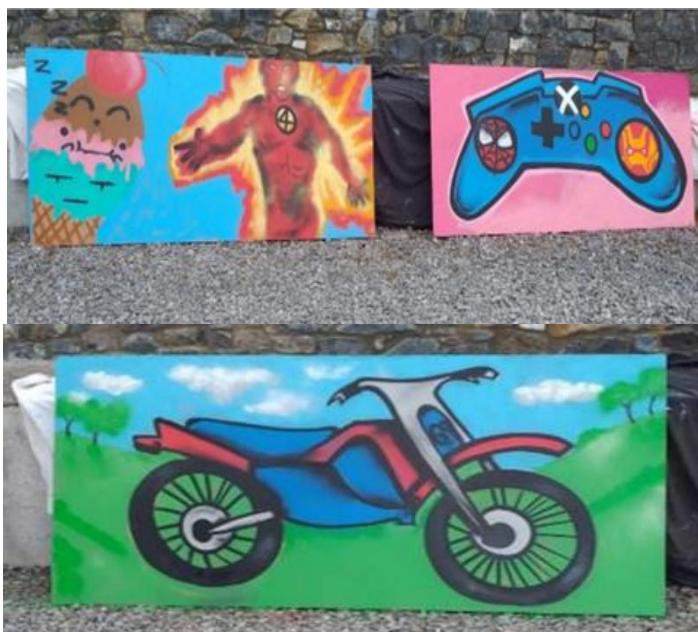
Seventeen Applications were received for the 2020 ALAG Competition. Nine Community Groups have been awarded €2,000 each for projects.

Environment Dept. Anti-Litter & Anti-Graffiti funded projects - Young people of Foróige Coastal North Dublin took part in Lusk's Graffiti Summer Programme. Images chosen reflect some of the issues affecting young people in 2020. One group chose the theme of "Black Lives Matter"



Images shown here reflect some of the issues affecting young people in 2020. Groups completed murals that were of particular interest

to them such as dirt bikes and playstation controllers, and images they would see on games they play.



Circular Economy

Minister for Communications, Climate Action and Environment Eamon Ryan TD. has announced Ireland's National Waste Policy 2020 – 2025 which provides a roadmap to transition to a circular economy in the decade ahead.

Ireland will introduce ambitious new targets to tackle waste and move towards a circular economy under a new plan announced on 4th September by the Minister. The plan includes halving our food waste by 2030, the introduction of a deposit and

return scheme for plastic bottles and cans, a ban on certain single use plastics from July 2021, and a levy on disposable cups. Other measures include applying green criteria and circular economy principles in all public procurement, a waste recovery levy to encourage recycling, and ensuring all packaging is reusable or recyclable by 2030.

By 2050, we will need three planet earths to meet our resource demands in a business-as-usual scenario. A transition to a circular economy offers the possibility of a sustainable alternative future and is a fundamental step towards achieving climate targets. This action-focused plan will place Ireland at the vanguard of EU efforts. This new policy will require us to move beyond a position of merely managing waste, to where we question our use of resources and materials, how to reconsider product design to reduce waste generation and how we extend the productive life of the goods and products that we use.

Water Quality Protection

Areas for Action 3rd cycle River Basin Management Plan 2022-2027

A virtual workshop was held in August with the Local Authorities Water Programme Office (LAWPRO) to review the Fingal Areas for Action or the 3rd Cycle River Basin Management Plans (RBMP) 2022 to 2027. The purpose of river basin management plans is to set out the actions required to improve water quality and achieve 'good' ecological status in water bodies (rivers, lakes, estuaries and coastal waters). The current "priority action areas" (PAA) i.e The Tolka, Mayne/Santry River & Rogerstown catchment were also discussed for continued inclusion in the priority list.

The next steps involve an assessment of the proposed actions and of resource requirements, a series of meetings with stakeholders and regional committees, a further workshop to adopt a final list followed by a final report by the EPA before issuing a draft RBMP by the end of the year.

Bracken Oral History Project – the story so far.....

The screenshot shows a Facebook post from the page 'Balbriggan Tidy Towns'. The post features a video thumbnail of a man standing outdoors near a stream, with a play button overlaid. The caption reads: 'We'd love to hear about people's good memories of the Bracken or Matt river. Follow the links to upload your video. Some people's stories will be very recent but it would be great to get some of the older folklore too. If you know someone who would like to talk about the river but may not have the technology let us know and we will try to facilitate them.' Below the video, there is a link to 'Our Balbriggan - Get Involved'.

The Bracken (Matt) River – Oral History Project

Balbriggan Tidy Towns in partnership with Fingal County Council and (LAWPRO) the Local Authority Waters Programme invite the community of Balbriggan to contribute to an oral history project on the Bracken (Matt) River and its surrounding streams. We would love to hear how people used the river in the past; where people fished or swam, if people worked in the river, and any stories about the river that might have been passed down!

Recording the Stories

The project aims to collect short videos of people talking about their memories of the river. These short videos will form part of an event to celebrate the heritage of the river.

Recording Options:

- Record your own video using a smart phone/tablet or have a family member record the video.
- We record you remotely (using Zoom or Skype).

If you or a family member are interested in contributing to this project, please email carolan@balbriggantidytowns.ie before 31st July 2020, and we will be in touch to discuss further.

Partners:

- Community Litter Champions
- Local Authority Waters Programme
- Local Authority Water Officer Thomas Carolan

Bracken (Matt) River Oral History Project: Poster and screenshot of post on Facebook to launch the project

Launched at the start of July to get recordings of people's memories of the Bracken River and its surrounding streams, the closing date of 31st July, 2020 has been extended into 2021 following a joint decision by Balbriggan Tidy Towns Committee and the Local Authority Waters Programme (LAWPRO) Community Water Officer Thomas Carolan. This extension will allow for the interviewing of identified people and the capture of their stories. We look forward to the results of this project which will bring real insight into how rivers impact our lives.

A few other projects were developed and started this year by Balbriggan Tidy Towns Committee guided by Thomas as they complement the vision set out under "Our Balbriggan" consultation project and set down in the Balbriggan Rejuvenation Plan 2019-2025.

- **Bracken River Biodiversity Assessment & Management Plan and Point Source Investigative Assessment**
 - Awarded to CDM Smith - the fieldwork started in May 2020 and is nearing completion

- Written report awaited by Balbriggan Tidy Towns which they propose to share with funding partners; Fingal County Council and LAWPRO and will assist in assessing the types of current contamination to this river and facilitate identifying remedies that can improve the water quality in this river.
- **SSCA (Small Stream Catchment Assessment) course**
 - 2 members of Balbriggan Tidy Towns Committee were supported in attending this course through LAWPRO's *Community Water Development Fund*.
 - They completed this training in July. The course trained them in how to analyse the conditions of a river including the river macroinvertebrates as indicators of water quality. They will be now be able to share their knowledge and educate interested members in their Community.

Bathing Water Quality

The current bathing season runs from 1st June to 15th September. A report will ensue at the next Council Meeting reviewing the 2020 season.

Litter Management

Weekend Patrols carried out by the Litter Wardens will continue to the end of September even though the bathing season has concluded and schools have returned. There was no noticeable increase in the instances of dumping on the beaches over the bathing season notwithstanding the increased beach activity.

The enhanced Dog Warden service has ceased now the bathing season has concluded and schools returned. There are two dog Wardens on continual patrol across the Fingal administrative area and they will pay particular attention to our parks and open spaces as the focus turns from the beaches to these amenity areas for means of relaxation.

Waste Enforcement

Dunsink End of Life Vehicle Operation

The Waste Enforcement Unit undertook a major End of Life Vehicle (ELV) operation at Dunsink Lane during July comprising 80 personnel. The operation involved a multi-agency approach with An Garda Siochanna, Customs, Social Protection and the Waste Enforcement Regional Lead Authority (WERLA). With support from contractors, recovery operators and vehicles assessors a total of 200 End of Life Vehicles were removed off site and brought to authorised treatment facilities (ATF's) for recycling and disposal. A combination of CCTV monitoring, waste enforcement inspections and Garda surveillance is currently being utilised to prevent further illegal ELV activity on Dunsink Lane. As part of the operation 140 tonnes of illegally dumped waste was also removed.





Suspected ELV sites will continue to be investigated over the coming months using a multi-agency approach and closed down if found to be operating without planning permission and a waste facility permit. Unauthorised storage and dismantling of ELV's poses a significant risk to the environment. ELV's contain a range of waste oils and other fluids which can have a significant effect on the environment if not depolluted and disposed of properly. ELV's contain many hazardous materials such as lead acid batteries, fluids including lubricating oil, coolant, brake fluid, and catalytic converters, all of which must be disposed of safely in order to prevent pollution.

It is the registered owner's legal responsibility to bring an end of life vehicle to an authorised treatment facility (ATF) who will dispose of the vehicle and give the owner a certificate of destruction. A cert of destruction ensures that no further transactions such as change of ownership can be processed against the vehicle. Failure to do this can result in a €100 fine.

Anti-Dumping Initiative

Additional funding has been secured under the Anti-Dumping Initiative (ADI) to help tackle known blackspots where illegal dumping and unauthorised ELV activity is taking place. Local Gardai in conjunction with waste enforcement officers have increased patrols, inspections and checkpoints to help target unauthorised waste collectors and the illegal dumping of waste in several key areas. CCTV and drone surveillance are also being used in the fight against illegal dumping.

There has been a notable increase in the number of waste related complaints received since Covid 19 restrictions were introduced however waste enforcement officers are continuing to respond and are working closely with Local Gardai to prevent further dumping incidents. To date a total of €105,000 has been secured in funding under the ADI to help tackle illegal dumping and to investigate and clear unauthorised End of Life Vehicle sites.



WATER SERVICES

Operations

Water and Drainage Services continue to be provided as agreed in the Service Level Agreement with Irish Water.

FINANCE

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Finance

Financial Reports

Refer to Appendix 1 for the following reports:-

- Revenue Account Income & expenditure to 31st August , 2020
- Capital Account Income & Expenditure to 31st August, 2020
- Summary of Corporate Debtors to 31st August , 2020

APPENDIX 1

REVENUE ACCOUNT INCOME & EXPENDITURE SUMMARY BY SERVICE DIVISION AT 31st AUGUST 2020

	EXPENDITURE			INCOME			NET
	Expenditure	Adopted Year	Full % Budget	Income	Adopted year	Full % Budget	Raised
	€	€	Spent to date	€	€	€	€
A Housing & Building	39,250,817	64,668,499	61%	42,307,174	67,692,700	62%	-3,056,357
B Road Transport & Safety	14,434,565	23,627,200	61%	3,918,986	6,609,400	59%	10,515,579
C Water Services	11,461,974	13,535,000	85%	11,400,160	17,109,500	67%	61,814
D Development Management	15,248,225	15,538,700	98%	10,272,841	4,285,700	240%	4,975,384
E Environmental Services	27,965,958	42,952,600	65%	4,454,463	6,679,000	67%	23,511,495
F Recreation & Amenity	21,675,816	34,225,501	63%	1,183,894	1,691,300	70%	20,491,922
G Agriculture, Education, Health & Welfare	470,410	900,300	52%	152,144	210,100	72%	318,267
H Miscellaneous Services	18,839,944	29,041,500	65%	4,275,549	6,282,400	68%	14,564,395
J Central Management Charge	28,578,748	45,480,800	63%	1,840,436	3,031,800	61%	26,738,312
LG Local Property Tax / GPG				5,019,000	7,528,500	67%	-5,019,000
RA Rates				99,233,133	148,849,700	67%	-99,233,133
	177,926,459	269,970,099	66%	184,057,781	269,970,099	68%	-6,131,322

CAPITAL ACCOUNT

INCOME & EXPENDITURE SUMMARY BY SERVICE DIVISION TO 31/08/2020

		Balance at 01/01/2020 €	Expenditure YTD €	Income YTD €	Balance at 31/08/2020 €
A	Housing & Building	-36,816,097	66,156,136	-50,345,614	-21,005,575
B	Road Transport & Safety	23,162,527	18,353,702	-5,865,956	35,650,273
C	Water Services	-14,803,701	998,871	-1,113,351	-14,918,181
D	Development Management	-109,842,777	10,056,292	-7,421,855	-107,208,340
E	Environmental Services	-12,699,108	5,935,996	-5,015,235	-11,778,347
F	Recreation & Amenity	-1,575,613	8,943,035	-7,658,628	-291,206
H	Miscellaneous Services	-43,171,040	2,854,365	-16,615,161	-56,931,836
	Total	-195,745,809	113,298,397	-94,035,800	-176,483,212

SUMMARY OF CORPORATE DEBTORS TO 31/08/2020

	Balance at 01/01/2020	Balance at 31/08/2020	Current debt	> 1 Year
	€	€	€	€
RATES	4,906,810	70,395,540	68,733,835	1,661,705
LOANS	1,363,067	1,647,701	419,927	1,227,774
RENTS	5,100,489	6,168,599	3,352,146	2,816,453

Figures for rents and loans are unadjusted by credits/prepayments