

# Fingal News

Issue  
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## SHINING A LIGHT FOR FINGAL

Heritage properties and council buildings light up - P12 & 13



## WONDERFUL COMMUNITY RESPONSE

Local groups show true colours P4-8

# ON CALL TO HELP OUR COMMUNITIES



## INSIDE Fingal Covid-19 Community Forum responds to crisis

Comhairle Contae  
Fhine Gall  
Fingal County  
Council



Your Council,  
working for you

## Mayor's Message



I hope this message finds you and your family safe and well. It is hard to believe how much our world has changed since the last edition of Fingal News was published.

The COVID-19 pandemic has swept across the globe and

unfortunately Ireland has been affected like many other countries.

I would like to take this opportunity to offer my sympathies to all those families who are grieving the loss of a loved one at this time and I also pass on my best wishes to those battling this deadly virus.

We owe an awful lot to those working on the frontline against COVID-19, in particular our health-care workers, but also to those who are employed in the essential work that is needed to keep our country going.

I am mindful that this is a worrying time for employers and employees. Many businesses, big and small, have had to shut down or downsize and are fearing an uncertain future. Our Local Enterprise Office here in Fingal has switched its focus in response to the crisis and are assisting businesses trying to come to terms with what has happened.

Citizens too are having to adapt to a wide range of restrictions in a bid to slow the spread of COVID-19 and I would like to thank everybody who is following the Public Health advice in relation to hygiene, social distancing, travel and cocooning.

It is quite clear that your sacrifices have saved lives and it is important we maintain our discipline in the weeks ahead and don't get complacent.

Myself and my fellow councillors are still at the end of a telephone or an email address and are still in the business of representing you, our constituents. Please feel free to contact any of us if you have any concerns. Our details are on the back page of this magazine.

Cllr Eoghan O'Brien  
Mayor of Fingal

## Chief Executive's Message



We are working hard to deliver as many of our services as possible during COVID-19 and to ensure that important services remain available for our citizens.

The nature of the threat facing us has meant that our public offices, libraries,

heritage properties, sports facilities, community centres and other facilities have had to close but our staff are still on duty, with some of them redeployed either within the Council or to another part of the Public Service.

One of the tasks that Government asked local authorities to do as part of the response to the current crisis was to set up and co-ordinate the COVID-19 Community Call Forum. This body is made up of a wide range of community organisations and the first phase of its work was to establish a Helpline for those vulnerable members of our community in need of assistance.

**Our Freephone 1-800-459-059 is open 7 days per week to support our housebound and cocooning citizens.**

The second phase is to establish a community wellbeing programme and I am pleased that the investment Fingal County Council has made down through the years in areas like Libraries, the Arts, Sports, Heritage and Events is already reaping a rich dividend for our citizens as we promote physical and mental well-being through a variety of programmes and, in this era of restricted travel, through an array of communications channels.

I cannot impress enough the importance of every citizen taking personal responsibility for looking after their physical and mental health at this very stressful time.

I also want to appeal to everybody to keep an eye out for those most vulnerable members of our community who are cocooned and need support. A small gesture of a phone call or a note through the door may be of great benefit to a neighbour at this time.

AnnMarie Farrelly  
Chief Executive

# DEDICATED COMMUNITY CALL HELPLINE UP AND RUNNING TO ASSIST THOSE AT RISK

A dedicated Covid-19 Community Call helpline has been established in Fingal to assist at risk members of the public in accessing non-emergency and non-medical supports and advice during the current public health emergency

The Community Call is an unprecedented mobilisation of both State and voluntary resources to combat the effects of Covid-19. The purpose of the Community Call is to coordinate community activity, direct community assistance to where it is needed, and marshal the volunteering energy of the country.

The Fingal forum includes over a dozen agencies and organisations and is ensuring that within Fingal there is co-ordination around the operation to ensuring that vulnerable members of the community or those living alone can access deliveries of groceries, medicine and fuels.

Included in the COVID-19 Fingal Community Response Forum are:

- Fingal County Council
- Mayor of Fingal
- HSE
- Fingal Local Community Development Committee
- An Post
- Community Welfare Service
- Tusla
- Garda Síochána
- Fingal Volunteer Centre
- Muintir na Tire



- Order of Malta
- Dublin Civil Defence
- GAA
- Local Link
- Citizens Information
- Fingal Public Participation Network
- ALONE
- TU Dublin
- Fingal Chamber of Commerce
- Empower
- Fingal Leader Partnership
- Irish Farmers Association

Mayor of Fingal, Cllr Eoghan O'Brien said: "There are a number of agencies currently doing excellent work in delivering care to older and vulnerable people in our communities. These groups are currently operating independently of each other and Fingal County Council's role is to provide a targeted, integrated and coordinated approach to the delivery of these much-needed services to our more vulnerable citizens across the county during

the COVID-19 pandemic."

The Chief Executive of Fingal County Council, AnnMarie Farrelly, said: "Fingal County Council is ideally placed both statutorily and regionally to channel this great work and provide the governance structure in partnership with all stakeholders. This public health crisis has changed life for so many, and we are there to help with that change. Our own staff whose day-jobs have changed due to this crisis, will be a key resource in the management and operation of this community support programme along with our partner agencies/groups."

**The Fingal Community Response number is 1 800 459 059 or 01-8905000 with the lines open from 8am to 8pm seven days a week. The dedicated email address is [covidsupport@fingal.ie](mailto:covidsupport@fingal.ie).**

# GAA clubs show their true colours as part of Coronavirus response



**Emma Webster, volunteer with St. Finians GAA Club delivering groceries to an elderly member of the community.**

In these most challenging of times GAA members across the county have been assisting Fingal Council's Covid-19 Community Response by supporting people in their local communities.

The response to this crisis by our clubs, urging everyone to adhere to the public health and government recommendations and in assisting older and vulnerable people is an example of the best of the GAA community spirit in action. This public health crisis has changed life for so many and the GAA clubs are there to help ease the burden on individuals.

St. Finian's, being just one example, are doing a variety of tasks including grocery shopping, collecting prescriptions from pharmacies, newspaper and meal deliveries to people who are cocooning at the moment, collecting pensions from the local post office and providing social support and contact to individuals who are living alone.

Here volunteers from the club took time out to tell Fingal News how their response efforts are going so far.



Volunteers with St. Finians Dave Dodd, Ger Edwards, Miriam Satell, Denise McDermott (Club Chairperson), Ken McDermott and Aine McLaughlin.

## St Finian's answers the Covid call

The GAA's slogan is 'Where We All Belong' and this is particularly apt at a time when we are all united in the fight against COVID-19.

Clubs the length and breadth of the country are playing a vital role in the Community Call and are offering their services to the elderly and vulnerable in their localities. St. Finian's GAA Club in Rivervalley is usually a hive of activity with training sessions, matches, fundraising activities and social events taking place. Of course, like every other GAA Club in the country, St. Finians is temporarily closed, so members have found other ways of keeping in touch in these unprecedented times.

Coaches are posting energetic and fun skills challenges for their players, teams are running competitions for the younger members and committee meetings are taking place online. Some members have become Community Call volunteers and have been running errands and doing shopping for people in the locality that need assistance. It's a way of giving back to the community and

is an important gesture of solidarity with all those who supported the club since it was founded in 1983.

Emma Webster volunteered with St. Finians as soon as the scheme was announced: "I have lots of free time to help people in our community who are cocooning. I am someone who likes to keep busy, so I have found it hard being at home so much and I am delighted to be able to make some peoples' lives a little less stressful during this pandemic."

Emma, who works with children and who has been at home since the closure of schools and creches on March 13, sees the impact the situation is having on people: "I hope some of the restrictions will be able to be lifted soon. The people I help are finding it hard as they are losing their independence being so isolated at home."

Club Chairperson, Denise McDermott, is very proud of the overwhelming response to the Community Call: "We have a phenomenal group of members and supporters in St Finians who immediately came forward and

signed up for the initiative. On behalf of the club, I would like to sincerely thank the volunteers who embody the spirit of the club through their willingness to assist those who need help."

She continued: "I'd also like to thank Donal O'Ciobhain from our local SuperValu for his invaluable support and offers of help with our community response. If you or anyone you know needs assistance, please contact the Community Support Helpline on 1800-459 059 or email [covidsupport@fingal.ie](mailto:covidsupport@fingal.ie).

St. Finian's GAA Club wish all our members and our local community the very best at this time and we look forward to welcoming you back to sport and to our club in the near future."

While none of us know what the coming weeks will bring or if there will be a requirement for long-term adherence to the current restrictions, one thing is certain – St. Finians volunteers are standing by and ready to assist anyone in the local community who needs their help.

# Empower running two initiatives during Covid-19 emergency

As a member of the Fingal Covid-19 Community Call Forum, Empower Fingal is helping to deal with the many problems that our communities face with the current health emergencies.

Empower Fingal which provides employment support, English language classes, IT support, health and parenting courses across Fingal, is currently running the Connect & Include and the Donate a Plate initiatives to help support the Fingal community during the current COVID-19 emergency.

Connect & Include is a digital inclusion initiative that seeks to support families who may be experiencing digital exclusion now. Digital exclusion occurs through a lack of access, or use of, digital technologies, low quality of digital infrastructure in their area or having a lack of knowledge in the workings of digital technologies. This exclusion has increased more than ever during the COVID-19 crisis as the community continues social distancing restrictions.

As educational and social supports have moved online, this has caused a Digital Divide for children and young people from disadvantaged families, particularly those



with special needs. The Connect & Include programme is seeking support from the business community to try and bridge the digital divide.

Another service that Empower is supporting, alongside Northside Home Care Services, is Donate a Plate. Northside Home Care Services are extending their Meals on Wheels Service Delivery in areas of North Dublin, to assist those in need of meals delivered to their homes during the COVID-19 Pandemic. Empower is looking to help any individuals affected by the pandemic by reaching out to the community to assist in providing meals for those who are the most vulnerable.

To do this, Empower is asking people who can to donate to this initiative so as to raise enough money to provide this service to as many people as possible. With the enormous generosity of the public in donating the cost of these meals will be covered for those who simply cannot afford to avail of the service every day to feed themselves and/or their family.

The cost of a single delivered meal is €5. The goal is to raise €10,000 which will allow Empower to deliver 2,000 meals. This joint venture will support the provision of meals and deliveries to those who are most in need across a wider area.

Adeline O' Brien, CEO of Empower, said: "As a member of the Fingal Covid-19 Community Call Forum, Empower is doing its part to help the Fingal community during this health crisis. We are supporting two services to the community, Connect & Include which will address digital poverty for families across Fingal and Donate a Plate which will provide meals for those in our community who are cocooning at this time."

A yellow poster for the Fingal County Council COVID-19 Community Call Helpline. It features a white house icon with a person inside. The text includes: 'Fingal County Council COVID-19 Community Call Helpline', 'Collection &amp; delivery of food, other items', 'Social isolation supports', 'Garda related issues', 'Other medical or health needs', phone numbers '01-890 5000' and '1-800-459-059', and email 'covidsupport@fingal.ie'. At the bottom, it says 'Comhairle Contae Fhine Gail Fingal County Council' with a logo of a bird.

## Leader Partnership assists response effort

The Fingal Leader Partnership is a member of the Fingal Covid-19 Community Response Forum which came together to provide support to the Fingal community during the Covid-19 crisis. Alongside several other community organisations Fingal Leader Partnership is helping those most vulnerable at this time by providing the logistics to reach people where they need to be reached.

The mission of Fingal LEADER Partnership is to promote local development and social inclusion across County Fingal north of the N2, and in the rest of Rural Dublin. LEADER normally run numerous programmes to promote local development and one of the programmes they offer to the

community is the Care & Repair Programme.

The Care & Repair Programme was established by Age Action to carry out minor repairs for older and vulnerable people free of charge, to give them access to reliable tradesmen for larger jobs and to provide a befriending service. This service is now being used to provide grocery or prescription pick up for people cocooning as well as the continued minor DIY work such as cutting the grass where it is needed.

The Care & Repair programme has been in operation for some time and anyone can ring up to ask for assistance during the year. Through this service the Partnership

Some of the jobs that the Care & Repair programme is providing now are:

- Grocery pick up
- Prescription pick up
- Gardening, such as cutting the grass
- Logistic support
- Minor DIY

Elis Harrington, CEO of Fingal Leader Partnership, said: "We were delighted to be asked to be part of the Fingal Covid-19 Community Response Forum so that we could do our part in tackling the health emergency. We are delighted that we can do our bit in helping those most vulnerable in our communities and through our Care & Repair programme we can reach those who most need them."

# Coronavirus COVID-19



**Everyone stay at home.**  
Everyone has the power to **Stop COVID-19.**



**If you MUST go outdoors**  
Stay 2km/30 mins walking distance from where you live when exercising

Ireland is operating a delay strategy in line with WHO and ECDC advice



Rialtas na hÉireann  
Government of Ireland



**Members of the Civil Defence are assisting with the Community Call efforts.**

## Civil Defence and Fingal Volunteer Centre answer the Community Call

The Fingal Community Response Forum has spearheaded the effort to assist the county's communities during the Covid-19 pandemic.

Dublin Civil Defence has been a vital part of this initiative, drawing on a long tradition and experience in volunteer mobilisation.

With 125 volunteers per week either hailing from or operating within the Fingal area, Civil Defence have been active in providing transport for hospital appointments and deliveries of medicine and food products.

Dublin Civil Defence Officer James McConnell explained: "Over the last two weeks we have been involved in providing various services to the HSE, including assisting in setting up test centres and transport of up to 1000 tests to labs per day.

"Volunteers from our Swords unit

were involved in assisting the Irish Blood Transfusions Service in Fingallians GAA Club over three consecutive evenings."

Supporting the maintenance of blood transfusion services during the pandemic is an example of the very necessary work that voluntary and community organisations have engaged in as part of the Fingal Community Response Forum.

One organisation instrumental in making such efforts possible is the Fingal Volunteer Centre. Its role is to recruit and place volunteers within organisations to fill volunteering roles arising directly in relation to Covid19 and with existing organisations that provide support to vulnerable members of the community.

In addition, the Centre plays a role in advising and assisting volunteer-involving organisations on volunteer management best practice,

safeguarding, and Garda Vetting. Daiga Martins Borges of the Centre said: "Over 900 volunteers from across Fingal have registered with Fingal Volunteer Centre to assist specifically with Covid19.

"We also realise that due to the wonderful but substantial number of people wanting to help, volunteer opportunities may be limited and not everyone can leave home to volunteer."

To fill this gap the Fingal Volunteer Centre is working with groups to develop roles that can be carried out from the volunteer's own home. This has been called 'virtual volunteering' and 'microvolunteering', and is associated with the hashtag #volunteerfromhome.

Daiga added: "If you are a volunteer wanting to help or organisation seeking volunteers please contact us on 018991921 or [www.volunteerfingal.ie](http://www.volunteerfingal.ie).



# COUNCIL ENGAGING WITH BUSINESSES OVER RATES DEFERRAL

Fingal County Council is continuing to engage with businesses impacted by the current COVID-19 crisis following the announcement by the Government that local authorities should agree to defer rates payments from the most immediately impacted businesses until the end of May.

Small and medium-sized businesses in Fingal having difficulties with their rate payments should contact their rates collector to discuss the matter and agree an appropriate arrangement. Ratepayers that can continue to pay their outstanding rates should continue to do so in the normal way.

The Mayor of Fingal, Cllr Eoghan O'Brien, said the opportunity to defer would be a help to small businesses trying to survive the current crisis. "This is very good news for the butchers, the publicans, the hairdressers, the café-owners and other small business-owners who are battling to survive the current crisis. We are fortunate in Fingal to have ratepayers who are in a position to maintain their payments, but I am very aware that there are a lot of smaller businesses that are struggling and need all the help they can get.

"People also need to support those small businesses that have managed to stay open and still



provide a safe environment for their customers. They are an important part of the community and we need to keep them going," said the Mayor.

The deferral of some rate payments will have implications for the Council in terms of cash flow and Chief Executive AnnMarie Farrelly said that she will be trying to minimise the impact on the delivery of critical services

"Local Authorities are, along with the HSE and An Garda

Siochána, one of country's three Principal Response Agencies and we are involved in the co-ordinated response to the current emergency while we also continue to provide critical services in areas such as housing and homelessness. We are already dealing with small businesses who have approached us seeking a deferral and we will continue to deal with affected rate-payers on a case by case basis while at the same time maintaining as many of our 380 services as possible," said Ms Farrelly.

# FINGAL'S LEO HELPING BUSINESSES SURVIVE COVID-19



Fingal Local Enterprise Office (LEO) has been at the forefront in the implementation of urgent and actions to help address the crisis local businesses face.

An expansion of the €2,500 Trading Online Voucher Scheme through Local Enterprise Offices (LEOs), for businesses employing up to 10 people has been announced. A substantial reduction in interest rates on MFI loans was also announced, bringing the rate down to 4.5%, where applications are made through LEO Fingal COVID-19 Business Loans of up to €50,000 are available from MFI with no repayments and no interest charged in the first six months, for eligible businesses that employ less than 10 people.

The Business Continuity Voucher, worth up to €2,500 in third party consultancy support, is another new measure available for businesses through LEOs. It is designed for businesses across every sector that employ up to 50 people and can be used by companies and sole traders to develop short-term and long-term strategies. The goal is to help companies make informed decisions about what immediate measures and remedial actions should be taken, to protect staff and sales.

In addition, LEOs have also moved most of the training programmes, workshops and networking online, making them as accessible as possible for those working remotely. LEO Fingal is now offering programmes in leading your business through the COVID-19 emergency; cashflow management during a crisis; developing an ecommerce strategy; adopting lean six-sigma work practices; and managing remote teams.

More details about small business supports available through LEO Fingal can be found at [www.localenterprise.ie/Fingal](http://www.localenterprise.ie/Fingal), and by emailing [info@leo.fingal.ie](mailto:info@leo.fingal.ie).

A guide to LEO supports nationwide can be found at [LocalEnterprise.ie/Response](http://LocalEnterprise.ie/Response), along with details of Enterprise Ireland supports.

Speaking on measures to address the COVID-19 emergency, the Chair of the LEO Network and Head of Enterprise in Fingal, Oisín Geoghegan said: "We have responded decisively to this immediate challenge through the implementation of urgent and necessary actions focused on addressing the crisis to our SMEs. Businesses need to know there is support available to them and we are working with many businesses impacted to provide sound advice so

they can assess their options and make the best decisions."

Speaking on the importance of engaging with your Local Enterprise Office, Mayor of Fingal, Cllr Eoghan O'Brien said: "Most of the businesses in Fingal are SMEs and provide a lot of jobs, so it is important they get every support they can. The Local Enterprise Office is there to support Fingal businesses and will be a valuable resource for our SMEs in the weeks and months ahead as they deal with this unprecedented crisis".

Chief Executive of Fingal County Council, Ms. AnnMarie Farrelly, concluded: "It is important that business owners and operators know that the LEO Office is still supporting them and their services during this emergency. They have changed focus from assisting businesses to grow, to helping them survive and protect as many jobs as possible."

More details about small business supports available through LEO Fingal can be found at [www.localenterprise.ie/Fingal](http://www.localenterprise.ie/Fingal), and by emailing [info@leo.fingal.ie](mailto:info@leo.fingal.ie). A guide to LEO supports nationwide can be found at [LocalEnterprise.ie/Response](http://LocalEnterprise.ie/Response), along with details of Enterprise Ireland supports.

# Coronavirus **COVID-19**



Coronavirus  
**COVID-19**  
Public Health  
Advice

## Max 4



### **Groups**

should be no more than four  
people unless all are from the  
same household

Ireland is operating a delay strategy  
in line with WHO and ECDC advice



Rialtas na hÉireann  
Government of Ireland

Swords Castle



# FINGAL SHINES A BRIGHT LIGHT



County Hall

Fingal County Council lit up six iconic buildings across the county as part of the national initiative to shine a light for all the sick, frontline workers and anyone affected by Covid-19.

The buildings lit up included four heritage properties – Swords Castle, Bremeore Castle, Ardgillan Castle and the Casino in Malahide – as well as County Hall in Swords and the Civic Offices in Blanchardstown.

The Mayor of Fingal, Cllr Eoghan O'Brien, who attended the lighting up of Swords Castle along with the Director of Economic Enterprise and Tourism Development, Emer O'Gorman, and members of Fingal County Council's Emergency Management Unit, praised the initiative.

"I think the idea of shining a light for everybody affected by the Covid-19 pandemic is an excellent idea and it sends out the message that across Fingal and across Ireland we are all united in the fight against this virus."

Civic Offices, Blanchardstown



Casino, Malahide



Ardgillan Castle



Bremore Castle



# Housing Department providing supports

Fingal County Council's Housing Department is continuing to provide services across its range of Housing Support and Tenancy Services sections.

For those who may have queries in relation to their accommodation circumstances, please find a helpful guide below.

The Council will continue to provide services such as:

## **HOUSING SUPPORT:**

Fingal County Council provides social housing support for people who can't provide a home for themselves. You can apply for a house in the Fingal area and if you meet the eligibility requirements, you'll be placed on the Housing Waiting List.

## **HOUSING LOANS:**

Mortgage still needs to be paid as normal. Any difficulties can be discussed with the mortgage support team by contacting [loans@fingal.ie](mailto:loans@fingal.ie)

## **HOUSING RENTS:**

Rent still needs to be paid as normal, proportional to a household's income. If you have temporarily lost work, you may be temporarily assessed for rent based on Social Welfare payments until your employment situation becomes clearer.

## **HOUSING LETTINGS:**

Please be assured, the Letting Process is active, and we wish to re-assure you the Council has not stopped allocating properties.



## **HOUSING ASSISTANCE PAYMENT (HAP):**

An approved applicant with Fingal County Council may submit a request for approval for the Housing Assistance Payment (HAP). Please contact Fingal County Council's HAP Section (01-8704515 or email: [HAP@fingal.ie](mailto:HAP@fingal.ie)) and an Eligibility Assessment Form will be issued to you.

## **HOMELESS SERVICES:**

Please be assured that the Homeless Services team still are available. We would ask that you connect with us by phone, post or e-mail and the Homeless Support Team will be available to assist you at this time

## **ESTATE MANAGEMENT SERVICES:**

Fingal's Maintenance Department are contactable via 01 890 5588 and via e-mail [estatemangement@fingal.ie](mailto:estatemangement@fingal.ie).

Please be aware that while phone lines are operational, it will be necessary to prioritise urgent or emergency works, including those related to electricity, heat and water. All other maintenance queries will be addressed on a staged basis, once emergency works are completed.

## **ANTI-SOCIAL BEHAVIOUR**

As a local authority Fingal County Council will continue to do its utmost to deal with the problem of anti-social behaviour. All reports relating to serious anti-social behaviour and criminality should also be reported to An Garda Síochána.

Please see our website at <https://www.fingal.ie/news/housing-support-and-tenancy-services> to get further information on these services.

# Online services at Fingal Libraries have something for everyone

Fingal Libraries may be closed in line with Government but that doesn't mean there's not lots to do.

All our e-services are still be available at <https://fingal.ie/fingallibraries>. Head to our website to find out how you can use our e-services during this period. As a member of Fingal Libraries, you have access to plenty of digital resources. These include:

### TOUCH-TYPE READ AND SPELL:

TTRS is a multi-sensory online course assisting students of all ages to learn at their own pace in the library or at home. TTRS helps with reading, writing, spelling and computer skills useful for those with literacy difficulties, dyslexia, dyspraxia, ASD, ADHD, working memory and processing weaknesses.

### FREEGAL MUSIC:

Freegal Music is our digital music service from Fingal Libraries. We offer you access to 15 million songs, including Sony Music's catalogue of legendary artists. You also get access to over 40,000 music videos. Streaming is unlimited and you can download up to 5 tracks per week.

### BORROWBOX - EBOOKS AND EAUDIO

BorrowBox, from Bolinda, offers a huge range of adult and junior eBooks and eAudiobooks. You can access this service via our website.

### PRESSREADER

Access over 7,000 digital newspapers and magazines from all over the world.

### RB DIGITAL MAGAZINES

Huge range of the latest magazines available for you to enjoy free.

### RB COMICS

Free access to a huge range of top-quality comics & graphic novels, including Marvel & IDW titles.

### TRANSPARENT LANGUAGES ONLINE

Free access to online language courses.

### UNIVERSAL CLASS

Over 500 courses on a range of subjects from Accounting and Bookkeeping to Spiritual Studies.

### ARTISTWORKS

Free Music and Art lessons - members can access high quality instructed music and art lessons online free.

## Top 10 Kids Reads!



1. Harry Potter and the Philosopher's Stone J.K. ROWLING



6. The Witches ROALD DAHL



2. Diary of a Wimpy Kid Wrecking Ball - JEFF KINNEY



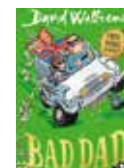
7. Dork Diaries - RACHEL RENÉE RUSSELL



3. The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe - C. S. LEWIS



8. The 117-Storey Treehouse, - ANDY GRIFFITHS



4. Bad Dad - DAVID WALLIAMS



9. The Bed and Breakfast Star - JACQUELINE WILSON



5. War Horse - MICHAEL MORPURGO



10. Lily and Lissadell - JUDI CURTIN

**KEEP YOUR 2-METRE PHYSICAL DISTANCE**

SOCIAL DISTANCE

**ANY CLOSER IS 2 CLOSE**

Comhairle Contae Fhine Gall  
Fingal County Council

#COVID-19  
#FLATTEN THE CURVE

# Businesses urged to donate PPE gear

Businesses across Fingal have been urged to answer the Community Call against Covid-19 by donating Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) for use by Community Call volunteers.

The Fingal Community Call Forum, in a joint initiative with Fingal Dublin Chamber of Commerce and Fingal County Council's Economic Enterprise and Tourism Development Department, are seeking donations of new and unused PPE for the volunteers who are engaged in carrying out services such as grocery and prescription deliveries to vulnerable citizens and older people who are cocooning.

There is a need for face masks, gloves (small, medium and large sizes), face shields, goggles and hand sanitiser. Offers of donations can be placed through the Covid Support telephone numbers of 01-8905000 or 1800 459 059 or by email to covidppe@fingal.ie.

Fingal County Council will arrange pick-up of the donations from donors and delivery to Community Call volunteers.

The appeal to the county's businesses comes after Fingal County Council donated 30,000 items of PPE to Beaumont Hospital, loaned two 3D printers to Surfbox for use in PPE production, and donated acetate sheets for face shield production by a volunteer 3D printer.

The consignment to Beaumont Hospital comprised of face masks and protective suits which has provided vital protection for staff caring for those most in need of medical attention. It was greatly appreciated by hospital staff who said they had been overwhelmed by the kindness, generosity and support shown to them by the



public and other public sectors.

Fingal County Council was also pleased to donate raw materials that will be used to create PPE face shields for frontline workers.

A group of volunteers from across Ireland are putting their skills to use creating 3D-printed plastic visors which can be worn over normal glasses and facemasks for an added layer of defence.

Local 3D printing volunteer Paul Quinn is creating face shields with A4 acetate sheets the Council has

donated. These face shields have been delivered to the National Ambulance Service in Swords and will be distributed around the country as needed.

Fingal Libraries have also answered the call to help out, with Blanchardstown Library supplying two 3D printers to SurfBox along with libraries in Kildare, South Dublin and Kilkenny. Blanchardstown Library's contribution will increase Surfbox's production of face shields.

**Comhairle Contae Fhine Gall Fingal County Council**

**Fingal Dublin Chamber**  
Advancing business together

## #CommunityCall for PPE

We're asking businesses across Fingal to donate any new or unused PPE for use by frontline workers.

If you can help, contact us now:

**FREEPHONE: 1800 459 059**  
**PHONE: 01-8905000**

**#CommunityCall**  
**#FingalCommunityResponse**



# Ancient skeletal remains found in Swords Park



Fingal County Council have acted quickly to secure the site where historical skeletal remains were discovered in a Swords park.

Locals out walking in River Valley Park, Swords were amazed to see the exposed remains on the banks of the Ward River.

An Garda Síochána were alerted but following an examination by a forensic anthropologist the remains were confirmed as ancient and the focus shifted to the protection of the site until further investigations could take place.

Christine Baker Fingal County Council Archaeologist inspected the site on Tuesday morning along with archaeologists from the National Museum of Ireland. Due to the present COVID-19 directives the site cannot be excavated and has been secured until such time as this is

possible. The National Monuments Service of the Department of Culture, Heritage and the Gaeltacht and the National Museum of Ireland will advise and support.

There were some concerns with regard to a lack of Social Distancing as passers-by stopped to look at the site, and Fingal County Council reminds people of the importance of following Government guidelines and Public Health advice in relation to this at all times.

Commenting on the discovery, Christine Baker, Fingal Heritage Officer, said: "The site where the remains were found is a recorded monument and archaeologists from the National Monuments Service excavated six skeletons there in 1999. These were medieval in date and now riverbank erosion has caused another skeleton to be exposed. These remains and the

site have the potential to provide valuable insights for archaeologists and historians when a full study can be done."

Ms. Baker is well aware of the wealth of archaeological remains which lie beneath the open spaces of our housing estates and public parks.

In 2019 she conducted the "What Lies Beneath: Fingal Geophysical Survey Project" with the local community to help discover the sub-surface remains in Fingal parks and also raise awareness of archaeological sites of interest. She has also directed community archaeology excavations at Swords Castle, Bremore Castle, Naul and the Drumanagh Promontory Fort.

The site has been secured by Fingal County Council Operations team.

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## Commencement of additional interim works to combat coastal erosion in Portrane

In response to ongoing serious coastal erosion problems at The Burrow Beach, Portrane, Fingal County Council is implementing additional Interim emergency measures to protect at risk sections of the coastline there with an estimated costs of €900,000.

Fingal County Council has engaged contractors to install an additional 800 "SeaBee" reinforced concrete units along the beach in Portrane above the Mean High Water Level. The "SeaBees" are designed to reduce the force of waves impacting the coastline during stormy conditions.

Members of the Fingal Coastal Liaison Group, comprising local councillors and members of communities affected by coastal erosion, were briefed about the project in recent weeks and are supportive of the additional measures.

Installation will be carried out during April and early May. It should be noted that these works are considered critical in the context of the COVID-19 restrictions and associated construction exemptions apply. The works will be progressed in line with the HSE recommendations and requirements.

Three lines of "SeaBee" units will be placed along the Beach to protect an additional 565 linear meters of the coastline vulnerable to erosion during storms and high tides.

Fingal County Council has had extensive engagement with the Office of Public Works (OPW) and the National Parks & Wildlife Service (NPWS) in relation to the emergency measures. The Council is applying to the OPW for grant funding to cover the cost of the works.

In addition to these Emergency Works, consultants appointed by Fingal County Council have prepared a plan to address significant and long-term Coastal Change in the Rogerstown Outer Estuary including the Rush coastline. Due to the ecological sensitivity of the site and the complexity of the issues involved, it is likely that the assessment of this plan which will include extensive public consultation, environmental evaluation and the relevant consent processes will take over a year to complete.



A black graphic with a white speech bubble at the top containing the text "LET'S STAY TOGETHER". Below the speech bubble, the text "Fingal Arts Office are available online" is written in white. Underneath that, "CONNECTING PEOPLE AND IDEAS DURING COVID 19" is written in a smaller white font. At the bottom right, there is a logo for "arts.fingal.ie" with a stylized bird icon.

## ARTS OFFICE LAUNCHES "LET'S STAY TOGETHER"

Over the coming weeks Fingal Arts Office as part of its "Let's Stay Together campaign" will present several projects online through its digital media platforms including ongoing clinics with Artists and Communities, alongside a schedule of live and recorded elements announced weekly.

The programme launch

Event took place last Thursday, to be streamed through our social media platforms.

Fingal Arts will be participating with the Covid-19 Community Support Helpline on a 7-days-a-week basis, while continuing to work on our objectives as set out in our recently published Arts Strategy 2019 – 2025: Connecting People and Ideas and

Bringing Fingal to Life Through the Arts. The Fingal Arts Office is dedicated to delivering our programme of work and are available to our stakeholders and communities. It hopes for a full return as soon as it is safe to do so, as we understand that art remains a vital part of people's lives.

Mayor of Fingal Cllr Eoghan O'Brien said: "This initiative from the Fingal Arts Office is an innovative way to bring people together through the arts. The Arts Office is contributing to the wellbeing of families, individuals and communities by showing that creativity can strengthen community in Fingal."

Fingal County Council Director of Housing & Community Margaret Geraghty warmly welcomed this initiative saying that: "Now more than ever it is important to support our artists,

and in turn our artists can continue to bring positivity and hope to our communities."

Programme Information: Clinics for artists and communities are being held every Wednesday 11am – 12noon,. These meetings must be booked in advance to the relevant areas:

Professional Artists: Sarah O'Neill – sarah.oneill@fingal.ie / 018906237  
 Youth & Education: Julie Clarke – julie.clarke@fingal.ie / 01 890 5960  
 Public Art: Caroline Cowley – caroline.cowley@fingal.ie / 01 870 8449  
 Community Sector: Rory O'Byrne – rory.obyrne@fingal.ie / 01 890 5099

Live / recorded programme of performances, talks, projects and tutorials will be announced every Monday and will be aired every Thursday at 11am -12pm.

## Fingal Sports Office creates a series of at-home workout videos

The Fingal Sports Office has released a series of home workout videos to help people exercise and keep fit during the current crisis. Five videos have been released so far, showing how to perform the perfect chair squat, leg raises, push ups, shoulder presses, bicep curls and more.

We need to keep up with our physical exercise while we are going through social distancing or self-isolation. These Home Workout Video Series have great step-by-step instructions on simple exercises you can do in your own home. We hope you have been following our great videos and enjoying the exercises.

Each video gives a new workout session for people to follow at home with different exercises for each session. This is

to provide variety in the exercises and provide new challenges to people while at home.

Alongside the workout sessions the Sports office has also created Skill Session videos setting out skill challenges for people to test themselves against and learn a new physical skill in the process.

Now more than ever it is important to keep up your fitness not just for your physical health but also for your mental wellbeing. Following both the Workout Sessions and Skill sessions can add to your routine during the day and give you goals to strive towards.

You can follow all our sessions here on the Healthy Fingal Learning Portal: <https://learning.fingal.ie/course/view.php?id=136>

## INFORMATION GUIDES FOR COMMUNITY AND VOLUNTARY GROUPS LAUNCHED

The Department of Rural and Community Development has produced a Communications information pack for community and voluntary groups and members of the public as part of its response to COVID-19.

This pack contains:  
 • Department of Rural and Community Development COVID-19 Government Action Plan to Support the Community Response

- Information leaflet "You, Your Community and COVID-19"
- How can I volunteer?
- Sensible volunteering – Do's and Don'ts
- Advice for local community groups – how can we get volunteers?
- Advice for vulnerable people who need supports
- How to guard against fraud and generate trust

An email helpdesk facility is available to assist you with advice or queries and is open seven days a week – C&VSupports@dracd.gov.ie

And just a reminder that the HSE website is the key source for health advice: [www.hse.ie/coronavirus](http://www.hse.ie/coronavirus). It also includes posters and other resources that can be used in your community.

## Housebound library service to be reintroduced across Fingal

Missing a good read? The Housebound library service is planning a resumption of services to residents who are currently cocooning. The service will deliver books to your door observing all current Health and Safety and HSE guidelines in relation to social distancing.

There is a wide range of books available including fiction and non-fiction books across a variety of subjects. We also have talking books, large print books and a large selection of childrens' books. Library staff will pick and pack books based on your preferences and up to 15 items can be borrowed at any time.

Don't worry if you're not a member of Fingal libraries or you haven't used the library in a long time, staff will look after the details.

Call the Fingal COVID-19 Community Helpline on 1-800-459-059 any day between 8am and 8pm to register.

Due to restrictions on travel during this time, we may not be able to fulfil specific requests but if you have a favourite author, subject matter or type of book e.g detective or romance we can help.

Meanwhile, Fingal Libraries has recorded a 52 per cent increase in demand for its e-services since the beginning of the Covid-19 crisis. E-services, including audiobooks, e-books, newspapers, magazines and music streaming service have proved incredibly popular since the branch network closed at the beginning of the outbreak.

## PHOTOS FROM AROUND FINGAL

Main photo: A view from Portrane; High Rock, between Malahide and Portmarnock; Portrane beach; Ardgillan Demesne; Skerries Mills; Newbridge Demesne; & Broadmeadow Estuary.



## Council commences public consultation on proposed traffic calming schemes



### TRAFFIC CALMING SCHEME PUBLIC CONSULTATION

Fingal County Council has commenced a public consultation process on proposed traffic calming schemes it is planning to roll out across Fingal.

| In the Dublin 15 Operational area, the following works are proposed:  | In the Swords-Balbriggan Operational area, the following works are proposed:  | In the Malahide-Howth Operational area, the following works are proposed:   |
|---|---|---|
| <p><b>CASTLEKNOCK DRIVE</b><br/>2 Traffic Calming Ramps</p> <p><b>GLENVILLE ROAD, BLANCHARDSTOWN</b><br/>3 Traffic Calming Ramps</p> <p><b>MANORSFIELD ROAD, ONGAR</b><br/>4 Sets of Traffic Calming Speed Cushions</p> <p><b>BARNWELL ROAD, ONGAR</b><br/>1 Traffic Calming Ramp</p> <p><b>DISWELLSTOWN ROAD, CASTLEKNOCK</b><br/>1 Traffic Calming Ramp</p> | <p><b>DONABATE - CARRS MILL/RAHILLION</b><br/>3 No. Traffic Calming Ramps</p> <p><b>SWORDS - BRACKENSTOWN ROAD</b><br/>2 No. Traffic Calming Ramps</p> <p><b>DONABATE - JN OF PORTRANE RD/BEAVERSTOWN RD/BALLISK LANE</b><br/>1 Traffic Calming Raised Table Top Ramp</p> <p><b>RUSH - THE AVENUE AT ST CATHERINE'S NATIONAL SCHOOL</b><br/>2 Sets of Traffic Calming Ramps</p> | <p><b>STRAND ROAD, SUTTON</b><br/>1 Traffic Calming Ramp &amp; 1 Set of Traffic Calming Speed Cushions</p> <p><b>BACK ROAD, AT CASTLEFIELD MALAHIDE</b><br/>1 Traffic Calming Table Top Ramp</p> <p><b>STATION ROAD, PORTMARNOCK</b><br/>2 Sets of Traffic Calming Speed Cushions</p> |

**TO VIEW THE PROPOSED SCHEMES AND TO MAKE A SUBMISSION, VISIT:**  
<https://consult.fingal.ie/en/browse>

Fingal County Council has commenced a public consultation process on proposed traffic calming schemes it is planning to roll out across Fingal.

Measures are being proposed for a total of 12 roads in Donabate, Swords, Rush, Castleknock, Blanchardstown, Ongar, Malahide, Sutton and Portmarnock. The work includes the provision of traffic calming ramps, appropriate road signage and markings where necessary.

The public consultation process has now commenced and the plans, which will only be available online due to the Covid-19 restrictions, can be viewed at <https://consult.fingal.ie/en/browse>.

In the Dublin 15 area, the following works are proposed: Castleknock Drive – 2 Traffic Calming Ramps; Glenville Road, Blanchardstown – 3 Traffic Calming Ramps; Manorsfield Road, Ongar – 4 Sets of Traffic Calming Speed Cushions; Barnwell Road, Ongar – 1 Traffic Calming Ramp; Diswellstown Road, Castleknock -1 Traffic Calming Ramp.

Representations in relation to the schemes may be made in writing to: Administrative Officer, Castleknock-Mulhuddart Area, Operations Department, Fingal County Council, Grove Road, Blanchardstown, Dublin 15 not later than 4.30p. on Tuesday, May 26.

In the Swords-Balbriggan Operational area, the following works are proposed: Donabate - Carrs Mill/ Rahillion - 3 No. Traffic Calming Ramps; Swords - Brackenstown Road - 2 No. Traffic Calming Ramps; Donabate-Jn of Portrane Rd/Beaverstown Rd/Ballisk Lane -1 Traffic Calming Raised Table Junction Ramp; Rush - The Avenue at St Catherine's National School - 2 Traffic Calming Ramps

Representations in relation to the Schemes may be made in writing to: Senior Executive Officer, Balbriggan Swords Area, Operations Department, Fingal County Council, Grove Road, Blanchardstown, Dublin 15 not later than 4.30pm on Friday, May 22.

In the Malahide-Howth Operational area, the following works are proposed: Strand Road, Sutton – 1Traffic Calming Ramp & 1 Set of Traffic Calming Speed Cushions; Back Road, at Castlefield Malahide – 1 Traffic Calming Table Top Ramp; Station Road, Portmarnock – 2 Sets of Traffic Calming Speed Cushions.

Representations in relation to the above Schemes may be made online at <https://consult.fingal.ie> or in writing to: Administrative Officer, Howth-Malahide Operational Area, Operations Department, Fingal County Council, Grove Road, Blanchardstown, Dublin 15 no later than 4.30pm on Tuesday, May 26.

# County Hall hosted Irish musicians during Seachtain na Gaeilge

Prior to the Covid-19 restrictions, Fingal County Council hosted a night of traditional Irish music, as part of celebrating Seachtain na Gaeilge. Musicians Paudie O'Connor, Aoife Ní Chaoimh and Caoimhín Ó Fearghail performed in County Hall along with musicians from Craobh Sean Treacy Comhaltas.

Paudie O Connor and Aoife Ní Chaoimh are an accordion and fiddle duet from County Kerry. Their music is heavily influenced by The Sliabh Lauchra musical tradition of East Kerry and North Cork. Caoimhín Ó Fearghail is a multi-instrumentalist who comes from An Rinn in the west Waterford Gaeltacht. Caoimhín was the 2012 recipient of the TG4 Young Musician of the Year award (Gradam Ceoil TG4).

The night started off with music and song from the very talented young musicians of Craobh Sean Treacy Comhaltas. Paudie O Connor, Aoife Ní Chaoimh and Caoimhín Ó Fearghail then performed an array of wonderful Irish tunes and songs including Midstream and the Letter Home. The attendance included Mayor of Fingal Cllr Eoghan O'Brien and Fingal County Council Chief Executive AnnMarie Farrelly.

During his opening speech in Irish, Mayor of Fingal Cllr. Eoghan O'Brien spoke about the importance of the Irish Language to him saying: "The Irish language is very important to me as it is at the heart of our culture. Over the last number of years, I have



been working to revive the good standard of Irish I had when I was at school, so I can use it with my children who I will be sending to a Gaelscoil."

Fingal County Council Chief Executive AnnMarie Farrelly said: "Fingal County Council is committed to supporting the promotion of the Irish Language within the Council and the County. To this end we provide training for staff to ensure that they can provide a quality Irish language service, as well as organising and

hosting Irish Language events and Pop up Gaeltachts at festivals. Events like tonight provide a great way for our community to celebrate the Irish language as well as enjoy this wonderful traditional music."

The concert was one of several Irish Language activities that took place in Fingal for Seachtain na Gaeilge with events in Swords Castle, Ardgillan Demesne and in Fingal County Libraries. Local community groups also organised events throughout the county.

# FINGAL KEPT ST PATRICK'S DAY FLAG FLYING HIGH

The community of Fingal celebrated St Patrick's Day in unique fashion this year overcoming restrictions imposed by the Coronavirus crisis that saw the curtailment of festivities on our national holiday.

Fingal County Council's Events Team, whose plans for parades across Fingal were cancelled, instead organised a Virtual St. Patrick's Day Parade that invited people across the county to post pictures of how they were celebrating the day.

Hundreds of residents across Fingal got involved in the fun initiative, sharing images and videos from the day, including mini - but elaborate - St Patrick's Day parades around living rooms and gardens as well as numerous displays of window art, funny costumes and displays.

All contributors were entered into a raffle for a €100 One4All gift card with prizes awarded to the seven best contributions.

The winners were:  
Fiona McGarrigle along with her children Garreth and baby Rya from Balbriggan;



Lambourne Residents Association;  
Edel Woods, Swords;  
Annabel Fitzgerald, Portmarnock;  
Amy Lawson, Tyrellstown;  
Emma Devlin Jameson, Lusk;  
Karina Russell, Rush.

Mayor of Fingal, Cllr. Eoghan O'Brien said: "A huge thank you to all who entered and got involved in our Virtual St. Patrick's Day which showed great community spirit during this challenging time. At this time of national crisis, can I remind people to please follow HSE guidelines and help keep each other safe."



# Your Councillors



## Local Electoral Areas



### Balbriggan

1. Cllr. Tony Murphy  
Independent  
[tony.murphy@clrs.fingal.ie](mailto:tony.murphy@clrs.fingal.ie)  
086 277 2030
2. Cllr. Grainne Maguire  
Independent  
[grainne.maguire@clrs.fingal.ie](mailto:grainne.maguire@clrs.fingal.ie)  
087 943 6650
3. Cllr. Seána Ó Rodaigh  
Labour Party  
[seana.rodigh@clrs.fingal.ie](mailto:seana.rodigh@clrs.fingal.ie)  
085 831 3801

4 Cllr. Tom O'Leary  
Fine Gael  
[tom.oleary@clrs.fingal.ie](mailto:tom.oleary@clrs.fingal.ie)  
087 245 9897

5. Cllr Karen Power  
Green Party  
[karen.power@clrs.fingal.ie](mailto:karen.power@clrs.fingal.ie)  
089 965 4529

### Rush- Lusk

6. Cllr. Robert O'Donoghue  
Labour Party  
[robert.odonoghue@clrs.fingal.ie](mailto:robert.odonoghue@clrs.fingal.ie)  
083 322 7472

7. Cllr. Adrian Henchy  
Fianna Fáil  
[adrian.henchy@clrs.fingal.ie](mailto:adrian.henchy@clrs.fingal.ie)  
087 681 4485

8. Cllr. Brian Dennehy  
Fianna Fáil  
[brian.dennehy@clrs.fingal.ie](mailto:brian.dennehy@clrs.fingal.ie)  
085 229 8201

9. Cllr. Cathal Boland  
Independent  
[cathal.boland@clrs.fingal.ie](mailto:cathal.boland@clrs.fingal.ie)  
086 257 7672

10. Cllr. Paul Mulville  
Social Democrats  
[paul.mulville@clrs.fingal.ie](mailto:paul.mulville@clrs.fingal.ie)  
086 378 7395

### Swords

11. Cllr. Darragh Butler  
Fianna Fáil  
[darragh.butler@clrs.fingal.ie](mailto:darragh.butler@clrs.fingal.ie)  
087 959 5378

12. Cllr. Ian Carey  
Green Party  
[ian.carey@clrs.fingal.ie](mailto:ian.carey@clrs.fingal.ie)  
086 307 4004

13. Cllr. Dean Mulligan  
Independents4Change  
[dean.mulligan@clrs.fingal.ie](mailto:dean.mulligan@clrs.fingal.ie)  
087 966 6260

14. Cllr. Joe Newman  
Independent  
[joe.newman@clrs.fingal.ie](mailto:joe.newman@clrs.fingal.ie)  
087 245 7729

15. Cllr. Brigid Manton  
Fianna Fáil  
[brigid.manton@clrs.fingal.ie](mailto:brigid.manton@clrs.fingal.ie)  
086 247 6596

16. Cllr. Ann Graves  
Sinn Féin  
[ann.graves@clrs.fingal.ie](mailto:ann.graves@clrs.fingal.ie)  
087 272 4359

17. Cllr. James Humphreys  
Labour Party

[james.humphreys@clrs.fingal.ie](mailto:james.humphreys@clrs.fingal.ie)  
083 8560832

### Howth - Malahide

18. Cllr. Eoghan O'Brien  
Fianna Fáil  
[eoghan.obrien@clrs.fingal.ie](mailto:eoghan.obrien@clrs.fingal.ie)  
086 858 0562

19. Cllr. David Healy  
Green Party  
[david.healy@clrs.fingal.ie](mailto:david.healy@clrs.fingal.ie)  
087 617 8852

20. Cllr. Brian Mc Donagh  
Labour Party  
[brian.mcdonagh@clrs.fingal.ie](mailto:brian.mcdonagh@clrs.fingal.ie)  
086 385 8979

21. Cllr. Jimmy Guerin  
Independent  
[jimmy.guerin@clrs.fingal.ie](mailto:jimmy.guerin@clrs.fingal.ie)  
086 014 3346

22. Cllr. Aoibhinn Tormey  
Fine Gael  
[aoibhinn.tormey@clrs.fingal.ie](mailto:aoibhinn.tormey@clrs.fingal.ie)  
087 754 6258

23. Cllr. Anthony Lavin  
Fine Gael  
[anthony.lavin@clrs.fingal.ie](mailto:anthony.lavin@clrs.fingal.ie)  
087 993 1329

24. Cllr. Joan Hopkins  
Social Democrats  
[joan.hopkins@clrs.fingal.ie](mailto:joan.hopkins@clrs.fingal.ie)  
083 1031541

### Castleknock

25. Cllr Emer Currie  
Fine Gael  
[emer.currie@clrs.fingal.ie](mailto:emer.currie@clrs.fingal.ie)  
085 8161306

26. Cllr. Ted Leddy  
Fine Gael  
[ted.leddy@clrs.fingal.ie](mailto:ted.leddy@clrs.fingal.ie)  
087 327 6630

27. Cllr. John Walsh  
Labour Party  
[john.walsh@clrs.fingal.ie](mailto:john.walsh@clrs.fingal.ie)  
087 648 6228

28. Cllr. Howard Mahony  
Fianna Fáil  
[howard.mahony@clrs.fingal.ie](mailto:howard.mahony@clrs.fingal.ie)  
087 0506146

29. Cllr. Natalie Treacy  
Sinn Féin  
[natalie.treacy@clrs.fingal.ie](mailto:natalie.treacy@clrs.fingal.ie)  
085 128 5493

30. Cllr. Pamela Conroy  
Green Party  
[pamela.conroy@clrs.fingal.ie](mailto:pamela.conroy@clrs.fingal.ie)  
086 8462891

### Ongar

31. Cllr. Tania Doyle  
Independent  
[tania.doyle@clrs.fingal.ie](mailto:tania.doyle@clrs.fingal.ie)  
085 780 9292

32. Cllr. Tom Kitt  
Fianna Fáil  
[tom.kitt@clrs.fingal.ie](mailto:tom.kitt@clrs.fingal.ie)  
086 199 5801

33. Cllr. Daniel Whooley  
Green Party  
[daniel.whooley@clrs.fingal.ie](mailto:daniel.whooley@clrs.fingal.ie)  
087 397 8024

34. Cllr. Kieran Dennison  
Fine Gael  
[kieran.dennison@clrs.fingal.ie](mailto:kieran.dennison@clrs.fingal.ie)  
087 259 5949

35. Cllr. Aaron O'Rourke  
Sinn Féin  
[aaron.orourke@clrs.fingal.ie](mailto:aaron.orourke@clrs.fingal.ie)  
087 7042783

### Blanchardstown- Mulhuddart

36. Cllr. Mary McCamley  
Labour Party  
[mary.mccamley@clrs.fingal.ie](mailto:mary.mccamley@clrs.fingal.ie)  
087 650 1441

37. Cllr. Breda Hanaphy  
Sinn Féin  
[breda.hanaphy@clrs.fingal.ie](mailto:breda.hanaphy@clrs.fingal.ie)  
087 162 0917

38. Cllr. John Burtachaell  
Solidarity  
[john.burtachaell@clrs.fingal.ie](mailto:john.burtachaell@clrs.fingal.ie)  
087 102 9372

39. Cllr. Punam Rane  
Fine Gael  
[punam.rane@clrs.fingal.ie](mailto:punam.rane@clrs.fingal.ie)  
089 254 4372

40. Cllr. Freddie Cooper  
Fianna Fáil  
[freddie.cooper@clrs.fingal.ie](mailto:freddie.cooper@clrs.fingal.ie)  
087 052 5628