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REMOVAL OF PUBLIC CONSULTATION FROM COUNCIL PROJECTS BRANDED 'UNDEMOCRATIC'

Local representatives have called the removal of public consultation from council housing projects 'undemocratic'. The comments were made by People Before Profit Councillor Madeleine Johansson after several housing projects have been proposed by South Dublin County Council under the new Part 8 derogation.

The Part 8 derogation introduced by the government means that new housing projects will not be open for public consultation and there will be no vote by local councillors. Under the normal Part 8 system the council would have to open all proposals to an 8 week public consultation before local councillors finally vote to approve, amend or not approve the planning proposal.

Under the new system housing projects can simply be decided by council management without input from either the public or

elected representatives. Several projects in the South Dublin County Council area will be going ahead under the new system including at Sarsfield Park in Lucan and Bawnogue in Clondalkin.

Councillor Madeleine Johansson commented: "The new system of planning housing projects is completely undemocratic. It means that members of the public and local councillors will have no official input into the projects. I think people should have the right to have their views heard about issues that affect them and their local area."

"While the government has said that this is a temporary measure I'm very concerned that it will be extended beyond 2024. This is yet another removal of power from local councillors to unelected council managers. Ireland has one of the most centralised systems of local government in Europe. It's

very concerning that even more powers are now being given to unelected officials."

People Before Profit TD for Dublin Midwest Gino Kenny said: "I have found that the old Part 8 system with the public consultation worked very well. People got to have a say in the proposals and often the projects were changed and amended to make them better after the input from local residents and councillors. It's not good to remove public consultations and leave people without a voice."

"The government has said that this is needed to speed up housing projects. In reality delays in housing construction has not been because of public consultations but because of the Department and the Minister for Housing. For example, the new housing being built in Balgaddy was approved by councillors in May 2019 after a period of public consultation of

about 3 months. It then took almost 4 years for construction to start because of delays in getting funding approval by the Department of Housing. This is completely unacceptable and removing the public consultation isn't going to do anything to change this."

Cllr. Shane Moynihan
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TAOISEACH OPENS NEW GROUNDS FOR CLONDALKIN RUGBY CLUB

Deputy Emer Higgins, TD for Dublin Mid West, was delighted to invite Taoiseach Leo Varadkar to Clondalkin Rugby Club recently to officially open their brand new grounds. Deputy Higgins said: "It was great to bring the Taoiseach to Clondalkin to open the Rugby Club's fantastic new grounds along with France Fitzgerald MEP, Cllr. Shirley O'Hara and Cllr. Emma Murphy, Mayor of South Dublin County Council.

"It was also great to have representatives from Irish Rugby, Leinster Rugby,

South Dublin County Council and many of Clondalkin's coaches, players and supporters," added Deputy Higgins.

Speaking at the event, Taoiseach Leo Varadkar said: "It's a real privilege to be here to mark a milestone for Clondalkin Rugby Football Club. I know it took a lot of bravery from the leaders of the club to take the risk of moving location and I know it's going to pay off. "As a rugby fan, I really want to see the game continue to develop and evolve and I

know that IRFU and Leinster Rugby are really keen for facilities around the country to develop.

"South Dublin County Council is a very progressive Council and it's great to see them continuing to invest

in clubs like this and as a Government we'll continue to invest in clubs through the Sports Capital Grants," concluded An Taoiseach. Deputy Higgins continued: "I want to say a huge well done to the club volunteers who made the move to

their new grounds happen. "Clondalkin Rugby Club are such an important part of the local community and its great to see them going from strength to strength. "I know that An Taoiseach Leo Varadkar was really impressed that they are

building such an impressive state of the art facility which will benefit local players and the community for years to come. "I know we're all looking forward to watching some winning matches on their new grounds soon," concluded Deputy Higgins.



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Advertising: Anthony Russell anthony@newsgroup.ie
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NEW PLAYSPACE AT OLD BAWN NOW OPEN

Recently, the Mayor of South Dublin County Council, Cllr. Emma Murphy officially opened the new Playspace at Old Bawn, Dodder Valley Park.

local Councillors, staff of South Dublin County Council, and guests to celebrate this event.

Speaking at the event Mayor Emma Murphy said "Play is recognised as a vital

activity for healthy child development. Children also need time in nature for their physical and mental wellbeing.

Integrating a playspace into this well used park has brought more life into it

right throughout the day."

The playspace at Old Bawn also incorporates a toddler specific playground, which was chosen and voted for by members of the local community, through the 300k Have Your Say Public

Participatory process. The playspace was designed and installed by Kompan Ireland and focuses on the play needs of all children and has a specific areas for toddlers and younger children. The playspace consists of two flat

Budget swings, two cradle swings, a basket swing, a balance trail, a wobble belt bridge, a slide, and a sand play area.

This is the first of three playspaces for Dodder Valley Park as well as the interconnecting play trail.

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Cllr Madeleine Johansson
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MENOPAUSE TALK - AN COSÁN & TRINITY COLLEGE'S APCC TALLAGHT

Operation Transformation GP, Dr Sumi Dunne, will deliver the next public talk in the Innovating Community Health series of talks An Cosán is co-hosting with Trinity College Dublin's

Academic Primary Care Centre Tallaght on Thursday 22nd June in the Russell Centre, Tallaght. The title of the talk, which will take place from 2-3pm, is 'Perimenopause/Menopause/Post-menopause - What Can We Do To Optimise Our Health?'

Cllr. Charlie O'Connor PC

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A graduate of the University of Southampton, Dr Sumi Dunne, BSc (Hons), BM, MICGP MSc, FFSEM undertook Neonatal Intensive Care and Emergency Department Paediatrics training before undertaking Specialist General Practice (GP) at the Royal College of Surgeons in Ireland (RCSI). Since then, she has maintained both an academic and clinical career in General Practice, working as a Clinical Lecturer in the Department of General Practice RCSI and as a GP in Portarlinton, County Laois.

In her clinical, academic and other professional activities, Sumi has developed a particular interest in female health and well-being. She believes strongly in the need for clinician leadership, and completed a Masters in Leadership at RCSI. Sumi was appointed for her work in health and well-being a Fellowship of the Faculty of Sports Medicine RCSI. Sumi regularly contributes to GP articles in various media outlets, and is the GP expert on RTE's Operation Transformation since 2019.

To register to attend this talk either in-person or online, please go to this link <https://bit.ly/DrSumiDunneMenopauseTalk>



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DODDER VALLEY PARK BMX PUMP TRACK



Recently, the Mayor of South Dublin County Council, Cllr. Emma Murphy officially opened the new BMX Pumptrack at Dodder Valley Park. The Mayor was joined by local Councillors, Ms. Teresa Walsh, Director of Services, staff of South Dublin County Council, Scoil Treasa's Student Council, and guests to celebrate this event. Speaking at the event Mayor Cllr. Emma Murphy said "The provision of the pumptrack and pitch is part of Dodder Valley Mount Carmel Recreational Facilities Programme, which has already seen the completion of the Ogham tree trail and a 400-metre grass athletic track, currently in its establishment phase. The BMX pump track is the first of its kind to be built by South

Dublin County Council and will promote the sport of BMX in the county. The provision of all these facilities supports the further development of Dodder Valley Park and aims to promote the health and wellbeing of the people of South Dublin County. Projects are funded by South Dublin County Council's 3-year capital budget and the pump track is supported by the Department of Tourism Culture Arts Gaeltacht Sport and Media via a sports capital grant." Aecom Ltd carried out the planning and delivery of the BMX pumptrack. The pumptrack was constructed by Trailbreaker Ltd in collaboration with Velosolutions Ltd. BMX Ireland also assisted during the design stage of the pumptrack.

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CORKAGH PARK'S SECOND EVER DARKNESS INTO LIGHT BRINGS LIGHT TO CLONDALKIN

Organised by a team of just eight local women, this year's Corkagh Park, Darkness Into Light event was even bigger and better than last years. Over 2,500 people descended on Corkagh Park in the early hours of Saturday morning to help raise over €45,000 (and counting) for Pieta through the event, proudly

sponsored by Electric Ireland. Corkagh's Darkness Into Light Ambassador Stephanie Bowden, who took part in this year's RTÉ Operation Transformation, counted the crowd down after Zumba instructor, Lorraine Smith, got them moving to the iconic song 'Time After Time'.

Local TD Emer Higgins, who was a member of the organising committee, opened the event telling attendees they are the light that will ignite hope in so many people's hearts. Co-Chair Lorraine Nugent Murphy said, "We were so thrilled with the turn out. Everything went really well and we are very grateful for the support of local musicians who helped us create such a special atmosphere -Shared Spirit Vocal Group, the RAMs in Rhythm, Taylor D, Jack Whelan, Laura Hand and Catherine Byrne.

"The 142nd Esker Scouts and St. John's Ambulance

were a tremendous help on the morning, Toners lent us a truck to use as a stage, Artastic provided our centrepiece Sun - a real feature this year, and so, so many local shops and businesses, including Securitas Technology Ireland, Bear, The Mill Shopping centre, Core Building Supplies, Dunnes Stores, Fulfill and Tesco were extremely generous to us. "And of course, none of it would have been possible without our incredible team of over 100 volunteers, half of whom were volunteers from iVol who joined us from the reception centre at City West."

Co-Chair Michelle Byrne added, "There was fantastic turn out from local schools including Coláiste Bríde, Moyle Park, Deansrath Community College, Collinstown Community College, Coláiste Cois Life, St. Joseph's and Holy Family Community School as well as Ballyfermot Youth Services,

Crosscare and Clondalkin Healthy Living. "Lots of students took part in the TikTok challenge ahead of the walk and created amazing pieces of artwork to decorate the route. All in all it was a brilliant morning. The weather was perfect, the atmosphere was amazing and the route twinkled with fairy-lights before our beautiful sunrise. "A huge thank you to everyone who came out to support the event, our fantastic volunteers and a special thank you to my fabulous Co-Chair Lorraine, to Niamh, Sharon, Dee, Grainne, Treasa and Emer who helped organise the event in collaboration with Pieta and South Dublin County Council and their Park Ranger, Ray.

"Every person and every business that supported Corkagh Park's Darkness Into Light helped raise vital funds and helped raise awareness to break the stigma around suicide," Byrne concluded.



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PLANNING PERMISSION APPLIED FOR 127 APARTMENTS IN CHERRY ORCHARD INDUSTRIAL ESTATE

Planning permission has been applied for 127 apartments on the site of the old skatepark in Cherry Orchard Industrial Estate. David Gardiner, Workers' Party representative for Palmerstown-Fonthill, has

said that issues around facilities and infrastructure, combined with the cost of renting, means the proposal would not benefit working people. Gardiner said "The proposal does not account for the issues

around infrastructure and facilities that already exist in Palmerstown. "Traffic, for example, is already an issue on Kennelsfort Road, where this site is located. Combined with the apartments being built on the old Vincent Byrne site, as well as the approved plan to turn the Silver Granite pub into apartments, this proposal could add massively to the problem."

"Furthermore, with the three developments numbering roughly 500 units and no doubt upwards of a thousand people, questions must be asked about the impact that the developments will have on access to the likes of schools, childcare and doctors. Some of these are issues that people already struggle with in the area. Building housing without putting the infrastructure and facilities in place is a recipe for disaster and a serious risk with private developments like these."

"The cost of rent, in line with the Dublin private rental

market, is likely to be sky-high. For example, the price of a one-bed apartment on the old Vincent Byrne site, now being marketed as Palmers Gate, is almost €2,000.

Why would this site be any different? These developments aren't being

built to offer working people a solution to the housing crisis, they're being built for landlords and developers to exploit it." "Unaffordable housing, with a lack of facilities and infrastructure, does not benefit renters or indeed the people of Palmerstown as a whole. Only

a system of mixed-income, universally-accessible public housing can provide people with secure and affordable homes well into the future."

You can find more details on the Cherry Orchard Industrial Estate proposal at orchardgatelrd.ie.

PALMERSTOWN CAMERA CLUB EXHIBITION

Palmerstown Camera Club will host their annual photo exhibition at the end of June. Now in its 14th year, the exhibition celebrates all levels of photographers and showcases their work. The weekend long event will take place on Saturday the 24th and Sunday the 25th of June in the Palmerstown Parish Hall on Lr Kennelsfort Road, Palmerstown, D20 K732. Why not visit the exhibition open from 10 am - 5pm each day.

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8' x 6'6"	€1450	+ €300	+ €250
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How to Know if Your Child is a Late Reader: 5 Signs to Look Out For

As a parent, it's natural to want your child to succeed in all aspects of life, including reading. However, not all children develop at the same pace, and some may be late readers. If you're concerned that your child may be struggling with reading, here are five signs to look out for:

1. **Difficulty with phonics:** Phonics is the foundation of reading, and if your child has trouble recognising or sounding out letters and words, it could be a sign of a reading difficulty.
2. **Lack of interest in books:** If your child shows little interest in books or reading, it could be a sign that they're struggling to read. Children who enjoy reading are more likely to become good readers.
3. **Poor comprehension:** Reading isn't just about recognising words; it's about understanding them too. If your child has trouble understanding what they're reading, it could be a sign of a reading difficulty.
4. **Slow reading speed:** If your child reads slowly and struggles to keep up with their peers, it could be a sign that they're a late reader.
5. **Difficulty remembering sight words:** Sight words are common words that children learn to recognise without having to sound them out. If your child has trouble remembering sight words, it could be a sign of a reading difficulty.

If you've noticed any of these signs in your child, it's important to take action. Talk to their teacher, or a reading specialist like Kip McGrath Education Centres for guidance on how to help your child improve their reading skills. With the right support and resources, your child can overcome their reading difficulties and become a successful reader!

OVER €290,000 IN FUNDING FOR BIODIVERSITY PROJECTS

Malcolm Noonan TD, Minister of State for Heritage and Electoral Reform, has recently announced a combined €2.7m in funding for local biodiversity projects, with €297,700 going to 16 projects throughout the Dublin area. Over €2.5 million is being awarded to local authorities to carry out biodiversity projects through the Local Biodiversity Action Fund (LBAF) and €193k is being granted to the natural history recording community through the Small Recording Grants scheme.

Operated by the National Parks and Wildlife Service of the Department of

Housing, Local Government and Heritage, the scheme was first launched in 2018. Since then, a total of just over €6m has been granted to local authorities through the LBAF for projects that support actions in the 3rd National Biodiversity Action Plan (NBAP). This year's grants will build on that investment.

Minister of State for Heritage and Electoral Reform, Malcolm Noonan TD: "Given that it's Biodiversity Week, I'm especially delighted to announce funding of over €2.5 million for 188 biodiversity projects. The Local Biodiversity Action

Fund is an enormously impactful scheme that supports local authorities and communities to deliver on Ireland's national objectives for nature, from invasive species to habitat restoration to awareness-raising to surveys and monitoring work. As more and more Biodiversity Officers join the ranks of our local authorities, I know that the benefits for nature and people that this Fund provides are only going to grow."

Local projects approved this year include €27,000 for the Waterstown Park Ground-nesting Birds Project.

COMMUTERS HIT BY DOUBLE BLOW OF INCREASED FUEL COSTS AND RISING TOLLS

TD for Dublin South West Seán Crowe has strongly criticised the government for their lack of action in protecting workers and families from further additional rises in the cost of living. Teachta Crowe's comments come last week where petrol and diesel excise duties were restored and the government took advantage of rising inflation to up toll prices across the road network.

Teachta Crowe said "This was a bad week for commuters. Faced with the restoration of excise duty on fuel and an imminent increase in the price of tolls on our roads, simply going to work has become a lot more expensive overnight. The M50 will see an increase of

20c-30c which means a daily commute both ways could cost over €150 extra a year. "The Government cannot fall back on their old excuses about external factors affecting the cost of living. They chose to restore the excise duty on fuel. They chose to increase the tolls on our roads. This government cannot blame anybody but themselves for their choices.

"Fianna Fáil and Fine Gael have barely lifted a finger to keep workers and families safe from crippling rises in the cost of living. Now, they are going to slap commuters with these unacceptable increases while doing absolutely nothing to encourage business to promote alternatives like remote working."

NEW SDCC COUNCILLOR APPOINTED



Community Activist Lilian Gueret has been chosen to fill a vacancy on South Dublin County Council. She is pictured (second left) with Fianna Fail colleagues Mayor Emma Murphy, Councillors Charlie O'Connor and Yvonne Collins.

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“LEARNING ON THE MOVE” WITH COLÁISTE BRÍDE

Deputy Emer Higgins, TD for Dublin Mid West was delighted to visit Coláiste Bríde in Clondalkin with

Minister for physical education, Thomas Byrne, to see their ‘learning on the move’ initiative in action.

Deputy Higgins said: Coláiste Bríde are real champions for the Active School initiative and were actually one of the

first post-primary schools in Ireland to get involved with the Post Primary Active School Flag programme.

to all students in the school and promotes the benefits of physical activity,” added Deputy Higgins. “It was great to see their “learning on the move” initiative in action with Minister Thomas Byrne, as we walked the school grounds and heard about how they are incorporating more activity into the everyday

curriculum. “As Minister for Physical Education, Minister Byrne was very impressed by how the school is leading in this space and I will be continuing to engage with him to see how we can further support the development of their “learning on the move” walkway,” concluded Deputy Higgins.



“They really do strive to achieve a physically educated and physically active school community with a broad and balanced PE curriculum that caters



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HIGH RES WINS AT NATIONAL ENTERPRISE AWARDS

High Res, who are supported by Local Enterprise Office South Dublin, were winners at this year's National Enterprise Awards. The awards, which took place at the Round Room in the Mansion House in Dublin, were in their 23rd year and run annually by the Local Enterprise Offices. The Ballymount based company took home the Dublin Region Winner and Runner Up award. Selecting High Res as Regional winners, the Judges described being deeply impressed with the expertise of the team and the exceptional successes they have already achieved globally within this highly specialized tech services sector.

High Res Lighting, trading as High Res are an award-winning, highly experienced, full service Creative Production company, specialising in Virtual Production for the global tv and film industry including major international streaming platforms and film studios such as Netflix, Amazon Prime Video and Apple TV+, Sony Pictures and Studiocanal.

Virtual Production uses technology to join the digital world with the physical world in real-time. It enables filmmakers to interact with virtual environments in the same way as they would interact with live action production, allowing them to physically shoot scenes 'in camera', rather than having to add them in in post-production. The technology used in this process assists in solving creative challenges, such as shooting on location, and is advancing the development of filmed entertainment. Although based in Dublin, High Res has a wide-reaching client base spanning the globe. Their approach, expertise and experience has allowed High Res compete on a world stage shoulder to shoulder with Virtual Production companies in the US, Canada, Germany and the UK that are much larger than them and often owned by multi-national corporations.

High Res follow in the footsteps of previous

South Dublin winners, Artisan Pizza (Regional Winner and Runner Up Award 2021) and Acutrace Limited (National Award Winner in 2017). Peter Canning said "We're absolutely delighted to win the Dublin Regional award at the National Enterprise Awards ceremony in Dublin's Mansion House. It's a great recognition of both our own teams' hard work and the amazing advice and supports we received by the team at Local Enterprise Office South Dublin. We're looking forward to continuing to grow and make big waves in the international Virtual Production market, all from our offices in Ballymount."

Director of Economic, Enterprise & Tourism Development at South Dublin County Council, Jason Frehill congratulated High Res and added "They are an inspiration to our entrepreneurs and new business in South Dublin. It is great to have these Awards taking place and shining a spotlight on the very many fantastic businesses that are growing and developing the length and breadth of the country. To see a company who are part of our Local Enterprise Office, go on to achieve on the national and international stage, must give great satisfaction to all involved."

Announcing the award winners at the Mansion House, Minister Coveney said "The National Enterprise Awards are the highlight of the small business and enterprise calendar. Year on year the diversity of businesses and the standard of companies that are coming through the process is getting stronger. We should not be surprised given the innovation and endurance that businesses have shown in the past couple of years. We have some outstanding winners but the finalists on the whole have been excellent, and this is very much the start of their journey. We will ensure they continue to get the support they need to grow their businesses as small businesses in Ireland are at the core of every town, village and community and are vital to our economy."



Pictured from L to R - Tom Rooney from Head of Local Enterprise Office South Dublin, Peter Fitzgerald from High Res, Linda Bushe from High Res, Kerrie - Ann Keogh from High Res, Peter Canning from High Res and Sandra Hickey, LEO Senior Enterprise Development Officer. Pic Credit: Conor McCabe Photography

WORK OF PUPILS FROM SCHOOLS FEATURED IN 'OUR WORLD IRISH AID AWARDS' MAGAZINE

Minister of State for International Development and Diaspora, Sean Fleming T.D., has launched the second of two 2023 editions of the popular online magazine Global Goal Getters, featuring the work of primary school pupils across Ireland taking part in this year's Our World Irish Aid Awards.

Seven individual projects from six Dublin city and county primary schools are amongst the 34 submissions from 24 schools across Ireland chosen to feature in this year's second edition of Global Goal Getters, making Dublin just one of three counties with primary schools featuring in both editions. The Global Goal Getters magazines are now available to view online at ourworldirishaidawards.ie

The Our World Irish Aid Awards form an important part of Ireland's commitment to overseas development and global citizen education. This helps to reinforce the importance of the global development work carried out by the Government on behalf of the people of Ireland.

This year the awards attracted more than 250 submissions from schools across the island of Ireland. This year's theme urged pupils to follow the lead of activists such as Pakistan's education campaigner Malala Yousafzai, who in 2014 became the youngest ever winner of the Nobel Peace Prize at the age of 17, and raise their voices in support of Equality for All.

Local schools included Our Lady Queen of the Apostles School, Clondalkin which is the only school in Dublin to feature in both editions of Global Goal Getters.

Featuring in Edition 2 are two projects. The first project saw 6th Class pupils teach their 2nd Class peers all about climate change while the second project is a presentation outlining the activities 5th Class pupils took part in within the local Clondalkin area.

Fifth Class pupils at Loreto Primary School, Grange Road, Rathfarnham submitted three pieces of art each demonstrating how important equality really is. The first is a justice/balance scale with people keeping it perfectly balanced, while the second piece shows the importance of gender equality. Their final piece illustrates a world where animals and humans should be treated the same. And third Class pupils Ellen, Eabha and Lola from St. Damian's National School, Perrystown created a wordsearch containing a series of words based on the important work carried out by Irish Aid in key countries.

Congratulating pupils and teachers, Minister Fleming said "Many congratulations to Our Lady Queen of the Apostles School, Balbriggan Educate Together National School, St. Helen's Senior National School, Portmarnock, Loreto Primary School, Grange Road, Rathfarnham, St. Damian's National School, Perrystown and St. Paul's Special School, Beaumont on being featured in our second edition of Global Goal Getters.

This reflects the hard work of both pupils and teachers, all of whom have spent time learning about and discussing the issue of equality and how each of us can make a difference to the world. "The Our World Irish Aid Awards are an important opportunity for young people

to learn about issues such as access to education and the impact of climate change.

These are vital issues that greatly impact millions of people's lives around the world. "I have recently returned from a visit to Malawi to see how Irish Aid-supported programmes are helping people there. Climate change is reducing the amount of food people can produce, while many young people, particularly girls, are not accessing education.

It is important for young people in Ireland to learn about these inequalities and about how they can make a positive change."



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New Citroën C5 Aircross - Experience Ultimate Comfort



By Breda Corrigan

Citroën has launched the facelifted C5 Aircross SUV which has undergone significant design enhancements as part of the product refresh. The new C5 Aircross offers an imposing and rugged design thanks to the newly designed front end which incorporates a new design language and interpretation of the brand logo. Significant changes have likewise been made to the rear taillight design, and lavish new interior seating also enhances the aesthetic appeal of this vehicle. The facelifted version of this C-segment SUV, which has been the best-selling Citroën passenger car in Ireland since 2020, is available with a choice of petrol, diesel or plug-in hybrid (PHEV) petrol/electric versions.

Striking New Design.

At first glance the exterior changes to the front end are evident. The new C5 Aircross proudly displays a larger chevron logo set in a black lacquer with chrome surrounds. This logo rests on a newly designed grille that features a chrome and piano black combination, and sits independently from the daytime running lights to offer a more modern and imposing look. This design is further complimented by the new styling of the air intake area which visually widens the front end, echoing the style of the new C4 and C5 X.

The facelifted C5 Aircross is available in 6 different colour options including the new Eclipse Blue option, which is a deep blue colour that can change to black depending on the external light exposure. Inside the cabin of the new C5 Aircross, a new 10" touchscreen forms the focal point of a more modern passenger compartment. This new, larger screen improves ergonomics while the air vents are now located below the screen to ensure a higher reading position. In addition, the fully customisable 12.3" digital display provides all essential and customisable

information directly in the driver's eye-line ensuring optimal road visibility at all times. The New C5 Aircross is equipped with the latest generation of Citroën Advanced Comfort® seats offering high-density foam in the core of the seat, with an extra 15mm layer of memory foam featuring a specific design to resist sagging over time.

Trim Options.

The new C5 Aircross is available in entry-level 'Feel Pack', mid-spec 'Flair', and range-topping 'C-Series Edition' trim levels, all of which benefit from a general uplift in overall build quality and cabin comfort. Citroën is particularly proud to present the 'C-Series' special edition, as it offers buyers unprecedented customisation options to further enhance the cars' distinctive design. The C-Series introduces a new Anodised Bronze colour pack, with coloured inserts on the side Airbump™ and bumper scoops, while on the front wings, a special embossed 'C-Series' badge emphasises the design of this special edition.

Progressive Hydraulic Cushion Suspension.

The new C5 Aircross retains characteristics that make it stand out in its segment, contributing to an overall experience focused on well-being and ease of use. The 'Progressive Hydraulic Cushions' suspension (exclusive to Citroën) enhances absorption of imperfections in the road and ensures that passengers travel in absolute comfort, with a real "flying carpet" effect. The C5 Aircross is the only SUV in the segment to offer three individual sliding, reclining and retractable rear seats, allowing MPV modularity in true SUV style. A class-leading boot capacity of up to 720-litres behind the rear seats in the petrol and diesel versions (up to 600-litres in the PHEV variant) ensures that a family of five can travel in ultimate comfort with ample space for their luggage in the boot. With

the rear seats folded flat, up to 1,630-litres of useful cargo space becomes instantly available when required. Special attention has been paid to the acoustic characteristics of the laminated front windows to amplify the cocoon effect within the car, and this proves very effective on the move.

Petrol, Diesel or Plug-in Hybrid.

The petrol and diesel engine offerings in the new C5 Aircross both have a power output of 130PS, with the option of a six-speed manual or eight-speed automatic transmission with both engines. The PHEV version delivers 225PS and is capable of driving up to 55km in full electric mode, with power delivered to the cars' front wheels via an eight-speed (é-EAT8) transmission. The PHEV version also benefits from a range of online connected services to facilitate delayed charging via a smartphone app and cabin pre-conditioning. Charging is fast, with a full charge completed in less than two hours from a standard wall-box connection. Alternatively, the battery can be charged via a 3-pin domestic socket in around seven hours.

Test Car Details.

My test car was a C5 Aircross PHEV in range-topping C-Series Edition specification. Finished in striking Pearl White metallic paintwork, with a contrasting Black Perla Nera roof and door mirror casings. Designed with emblematic colours, special materials and hi-tech equipment to provide unique comfort and style, the "C-Series" special edition combines every aspect of the Citroën spirit. Key standard equipment includes 19-inch 'Art' diamond-cut alloy wheels, black 'Claudia' leather and leather-effect cloth seat material with electric driver seat adjustment, Highway Driver Assist, hands-free tailgate with foot operated functionality, and a panoramic glass sunroof with electric interior blind. There is excellent headroom

both front and rear, and rear seat occupants also benefit from plentiful leg and knee space behind the front seats. Wide opening rear doors make it particularly easy to get in and out, and this is a feature that parents of small children will love. The new C5 Aircross PHEV offers optimum performance thanks to the electric motor which boosts the internal combustion engine, for a cumulative power output of 225PS, and an impressive 360Nm of torque. This enables a 0-100km/h sprint to be completed in just 8.7-seconds, on the way to a top speed of 195km/h (where permitted). The é-EAT8 electrified 8-speed automatic transmission optimises gear shifts for a supremely-smooth and pleasurable drive, while the Brake (B) regenerative braking mode boosts the recovery of energy available when braking and decelerating. A drive mode selector is ideally located on the central console, and it enables drivers to choose between Electric, Hybrid and Sport modes to suit their individual driving style. In electric mode, the C5 Aircross PHEV provides a silent, vibration-free and environmentally-respectful drive with zero CO2 emissions. With as little as 1.3-litres of petrol being used for every 100km driven on a WLTP combined driving cycle, the new C5 Aircross PHEV should prove very cost-effective to live with, and an annual road tax disc is just €140.

Verdict, Pricing & Warranty.

The new Citroën C5 Aircross is a highly commendable 5-seat family-focused SUV that combines practicality, versatility, supreme comfort and an effortless driving experience, with a distinctive style that stands out from the crowd. Pricing starts at €39,830 for the 'Feel Pack' PureTech 130PS, with my test car specification priced from €49,700 (ex-delivery). All Citroën passenger cars come with a 5-year manufacturers' warranty as standard, along with a 3-year roadside assistance package.

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Prayer to Saint Anne Glorious St Anne, filled with compassion for those who invoke thee, and with love for those who suffer, heavily laden with the weight of my troubles, I cast myself at thy feet and humbly beg of thee to take the present affair which I recommend to thee under thy special

protection. Vouchsafe to recommend it to thy Daughter, the Blessed Virgin Mary and lay it before the throne of Jesus, so that He may bring it to a happy issue. Cease not to intercede for me until my request is granted. Above all, obtain for me the grace of one day beholding my God face to face, and with thee and Mary and all the Saints, praising and blessing Him to all eternity. Good St Anne, mother of her who is our life, our sweetness and our hope, pray for us, and obtain our request. P.R.

Saint Anthony your burning love for God, your great charity and powers when earth let you be ever ready to help those in need with trouble in anxiety you made the sick better. The sorrow stricken were the object if your tender compassion. Whisper my prayer to the Infant Jesus who loved you so much. One word from you and my prayer will be answered. Speak that word and I will be ever grateful. P.R.

Prayer For The Intercession Of Saint Charles Eternal Father, you called

Saint Charles of Mount Argus to bring good news to the poor and to heal the broken hearted; you opened his eyes to see the presence of Christ Crucified in those who suffer. Through his intercession, may we come to know your compassionate love for us, by experiencing the blessing of your healing power, through Christ our Lord. Amen. Saint Charles of Mount Argus, pray for us. P.R.

DAILY PRAYER TO ST. JOSEPH FOR EMPLOYMENT Dear St. Joseph, You were yourself once faced with the responsibility of providing the necessities of life for Jesus and Mary. Look down with Fatherly compassion upon me in my anxiety over my present inability to support my family. Please help me to find gainful employment very soon, so that this heavy burden of concern will be lifted from my heart, and that I am soon able to provide for those whom God has entrusted to my care. Help us to guard against bitterness and discouragement so that we may emerge from this trial spiritually enriched and with even greater blessing from God. Amen P.R..

If you would like a Novena published please send a postal order or cheque (Minimum of €10 per prayer) made out to Laura Lynn Children's Hospice, along with your Novena to:

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EQUALITY FOR PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES STILL A LONG WAY OFF

TD for Dublin South West Seán Crowe has said that we cannot continue to pretend that we have done enough

to shape society to be truly inclusive. His comments come after local disability rights advocate Ms Carolyn

Akintola experienced severe difficulties in attending the Fifth European Parliament of People with Disabilities in Brussels last week. Teachta Crowe said "A local disability rights advocate Ms Carolyn Akintola and Tallaght resident travelled to Brussels to speak at the Fifth European Parliament of People with Disabilities.

delay was due to difficulties in boarding her onto the plane. This left her feeling upset, isolated, singled out, and very embarrassed. "Irony aside, this is all too typical of the experience of too many of our disabled citizens when they try to go about their daily lives.

long way off and we cannot pretend that we have done enough to shape society to include everyone.

how we address the unique challenges that those with a disability face every day.

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This was an opportunity for Ms Akintola to travel to an international conference to share her life lived experiences and the perspective of living with a disability in Dublin. "However, Ms Akintola requires a powered wheelchair and experienced severe difficulties in boarding her flight from Dublin to Brussels. After almost two hours, she was forced to abandon her wheelchair in Dublin and fly without it. Ms Akintola faced similar difficulties in Brussels and eventually attended the European Parliament in a borrowed wheelchair that was unsuited to her needs.

"She was even singled out by an announcement to passengers that the flight

"As Ms Akintola pointed out in her speech in Brussels, 'Anyone can acquire a disability at any point in life or as we age. Me today, you tomorrow'. Equity for people with disabilities seems a long way off still in

"Whether it is something as everyday as accessing public transport or accessing adaptation grants to alter a home to suit someone with a disability, we constantly put obstacles in the path of people just trying to live normal lives with dignity."





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