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HSE HAVE NOT COMMITTED TO REVIEW MEDICAL CARD ELIGIBILITY IN 10 YEARS

People Before Profit TD Gino Kenny previously wrote to the Health Committee to ask if they would consider including a review into medical card eligibility for the committee's work programme. Bernard Gloster Chief Executive Officer for the HSE was before the Joint Committee on Health Sláintecare recently.

Gino Kenny TD questioned him on eligibility criteria for medical card and asked that he review recommendations from a 2014 report, Report of the Expert Panel on Medical Need for Medical Card Eligibility, to see if they have been implemented, and to see where improvements are needed.

Gino Kenny TD said: "My office regularly has constituents coming in with long term illnesses who are struggling to get the services or medicines they need. There are people coming into me whose lives have

changed due to a cancer diagnosis who are concerned that they may find themselves out of work due to the need for treatment. Many of these people are faced with a financial burden they cannot afford. I was disappointed that an opportunity today to commit at a minimum to review medical card eligibility for the first time in almost 10 years was not forthcoming by the HSE.

"It is going on 10 years since the HSE has looked at medical card eligibility on medical grounds and how effective the system of assessment for a discretionary medical card is working. "It is crucial we review the recommendations from 2014 and see if those recommendations have been implemented and if they are working and are fit for purpose in 2023.

"The medical card system means testing on income has not changed for many years,

except for changes to over 70.'s card or free GP care for under 6's. However, the list of expenses considered means testing for a medical card is limited- it does not reflect many costs of living expenses and the real net income of a household.

"In circumstances where persons have a medical condition, we need to be sure that patients are not facing undue hardship and those who need a medical card are receiving one. "My office meets patients whose real net income is not considered to qualify them for a medical card due to the limited means testing system, but because their illness is not terminal, they don't receive a discretionary medical card. In some cases, those with a terminal illness are not receiving a medical card.

"Patients are going without follow up care and are not attending appointments due to

the financial burden. It is long overdue that a review is needed for medical card eligibility. I will continue to push the health committee to look at this before the next budget and bring forward recommendations."

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PLAYSPACE AT DODDER VALLEY PARK OFFICIALLY OPENED

On the 31 May 2023, the Mayor of South Dublin County Council, Cllr. Emma Murphy officially opened the new Playspace 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 "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 open space has brought more life into it and has greatly improved its amenity value."

Natural play has benefits for children in terms of increasing mental and physical well-being, developing imagination, and allowing children to assess risk and develop their coping abilities.

The Mayor continued "Since the playspace has opened it has been really popular with park users. The regular walkers have been hugely complimentary of the work and we would like

to sincerely thank the local community for their support. It has also been very well treated by everyone."

The playspace is one of

three playspaces funded by SDCC's capital budget being built in Dodder Valley Park. The playspace at Dodder Valley Old Bawn was officially opened by the

Mayor earlier this month and the third playspace at Dodder valley Cherryfield will be officially opened by the end of the month. The playspaces, along with the

recently opened BMX pump track, have been a welcome addition to the park and have added to the activity and amenity in this beautiful riverside location.



NEWS GROUP

Published by: Newsgroup, Unit 3 Floor 2 St. Dominics Shopping Centre, St. Dominics Road, Tallaght, Dublin, D24 HK49.

Titles: Tallaght News, Clondalkin News, Lucan News and Rathcoole & Saggart News

Distributed by: Local Post Co. Printed by: Meath Chronicle

Contact Details:
Website www.newsgroup.ie Email: info@newsgroup.ie

Founder: John Russell
Advertising: Anthony Russell anthony@newsgroup.ie
Administration: Sarah Brooks admin@newsgroup.ie



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'ELDER ABUSE'- GREATER URGENCY REQUIRED TO TACKLE RISE IN REPORTED CASES

A local councillor has called for greater awareness and action, to address the rising cases of reported 'Elder Abuse'. Derren Ó Brádaigh is a South Dublin County councillor and representative for the Lucan, Palmerstown

and North Clondalkin local elected area within Dublin Mid-West.

Cllr Ó Brádaigh was commenting ahead of World Elder Abuse Awareness Day (WEAAD) and said "We all know that abuse takes different forms and there are many types of abuse that our older citizens often fall victim to. Types of abuse inflicted can range from physical, emotional, sexual, neglect and financial. Only last year figures illustrated that 16,000 cases of elder abuse were reported to the HSE over the previous 5-year period. According to advocacy groups, this strongly underestimates the true figure and does not take account of abuse in private nursing homes, hospitals or other services such as homeless units or addiction centres.

"Recently, I submitted a request to my own local authority, asking that they outline their plans to raise

awareness on WEAAD Day for June 15th. Following a subsequent discussion with the Corporate Policy Group the council agreed to a website and social media light up request to the associated colour purple, in supporting the call for an awareness initiative. However, as a country we need to be doing far more in order to expedite necessary and long-awaited Adult Safeguarding Legislation.

"Too many of our older people are being subjected to coercive control and even abandonment. Government also needs to ensure that all local authorities have the necessary funding and resources to provide ample age-friendly housing and associated supports. Currently, there are almost 200 people over the age of 65 in emergency accommodation. This represents a 40% increase in the last 2 years alone. In my view, neglect can be defined in this regard, as the failure

to meet an older person's needs.

"We don't have safeguarding legislation in the same way many other countries have. There is a lack of legislative framework, with no assessment of risk or needs and no obligation to provide the necessary services. "This year's theme for World Elder Abuse Awareness

Day is "Closing the Circle; Addressing Gender Based Violence, Older Age Policy, Law and Evidence-based Responses." As a society, I believe that we must always recognise the contribution of those that have laid the path before us, and this begins with respect and supports. Rights don't get old - so let's cherish all our older persons of the nation equally."

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Cllr Madeleine Johansson

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CALL TO REINSTATE OLD NAAS RD WALL AT GREEN ISLE

Cllr William Carey has called upon South Dublin County Council and Green Isle Hotel to reinstate the old stone wall that marks the property line of the Old Naas Rd. Following representations to Cllr Carey from individuals and residents groups in

the Greenpark area (which adjoins the Old Naas Rd - Green Isle Rd), Cllr Carey has requested SDCC to engage with Green Isle Hotel, the owner of the property to reinstate the old stone wall that marks the boundary between the property and

the road. The call comes after Green Isle Hotel had carried out works to expand their car and truck parking area.

Concerns were raised about the plans for the development when there was no sign of a planning application for the works being carried out. The stone wall is the last remaining indication of the old boundary line and as such should be reinstated.

“In recent years it would appear that no one has chosen to take care of the wall and it has been allowed to deteriorate through neglect and damage from traffic” said the local Clondalkin Councillor. He continued “This is a great shame as many locals still remember a family living in the cottage that was situated here. I believe this would also make the approach to the hotel a lot more aesthetically pleasing, and I am certain that it is in the Hotels interest to agree to this”.

Cllr Carey added, there are many changes taking place

around Clondalkin, but it is important that certain aspects of the old Clondalkin boundaries are maintained.

The wall by itself may not necessarily be relevant, but it signifies the old route through Clondalkin. I believe

should be preserved for this reason and we should try to keep the link with the past as much as possible”.

Cllr. Charlie O'Connor PC

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The Fianna Fail Team is Barry Andrews M.E.P, John Lahart TD, Cllrs Yvonne Collins, Teresa Costello, Lilian Gueret, Emma Murphy & Charlie O'Connor



FUN FOR ALL THE FAMILY AT ST. FINIAN'S GAA



Deputy Emer Higgins, TD for Dublin Mid-West and Cllr. Shirley O'Hara pictured with organisers of the successful St. Finian's GAA Club Family Fun Day, Katie Harney and Conor McCarthy.

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RESULTS ANNOUNCED FOR THE €300K- HAVE YOUR SAY

Mayor of South Dublin County Council, Cllr. Emma Murphy announced the winning projects for this year's €300K - Have Your Say campaign at

a results ceremony in the Fettercairn Community and Youth Centre, Tallaght on the 8th June. Speaking at the event, mayor of South

Dublin County Council Cllr Emma Murphy said "Congratulations to those 10 projects which now receive the allocated funding. The

projects will now go to the relevant department within the Council to be actioned over the coming year. The €300K Have Your

Say initiative has now been run in all South Dublin electoral areas and over its lifetime, projects have been completed such as the multi games wall in Lucan, the native tree trail in Sean Walsh Park and now 10 more projects will be delivered. Over the coming year you will hopefully start to see the benefits in your local area."

App for Saggart Village (579 votes), New Park Benches in Carrigmore Park (554 votes), A Public Drinking Water Pump in Saggart Village (546 votes), Native Tree Trail in Carrigmore Park, Citywest (542 votes) and Mens Shed upgrade at Fettercairn Youth and Community Centre (469 votes).

Participatory Budgeting has now been run in all South Dublin electoral areas, it is a local democratic process that facilitates citizens in a local community to directly decide how to spend a portion of a public budget in their area and over it's lifetime 104 community developed projects have been financed. SDCC would like to thank everyone from the Tallaght South and Saggart electoral areas who submitted ideas and those who voted for the various projects in this year's campaign.

The successful projects will be completed by South Dublin County Council in 2024. For further information on how the €300k Have Your Say participatory Budgeting process works, visit <https://haveyoursay.southdublin.ie/>



Pictured Cllr. Emma Murphy Mayor of South Dublin with Adam Smyth (Fianna Fail), Cllr Charlie O'Connor, TD Francis Duffy and representatives from some of the winning entrants at the results for the "€300K Have Your Say" at Fettercairn Youth & Community Centre

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MENTAL HEALTH COMMISSION REPORT ANOTHER DAMNING INDICTMENT OF UNACCEPTABLE SERVICES

Mark Ward TD, has said that decades of underinvestment in the upkeep of inpatient mental health facilities by successive governments have led to a dramatic decline in facilities meeting minimum standards.

the upkeep of inpatient mental health facilities by successive governments are coming home to roost. "These centres may lose their status as an approved centre if they do not comply and improve.

for individuals. This is not good enough. "Individualised care plans are central to the patients care and the report stated that in some cases the individual was not involved or had any input into their own care plan.

"Dr Susan Finnerty, the Inspector of Mental Health Services, has also called out the fact that larger centres are filled to capacity and that appropriately sized supported residences are not being sought. "We

have a dark history of institutionalising vulnerable people, and we cannot return to this. "This report by the Mental Health Commission must be a blueprint of where there are shortcomings in

mental health care - the government and the HSE must act immediately to bring services up to standard. "With the publication of this report, the government has been warned and cannot say that they are unaware."

Speaking following the release of the Mental Health Commission's annual report, Deputy Ward added that the HSE must properly invest in these mental health facilities and prioritise individual care planning.

"If that happens, centres could close and whole communities could be impacted as we have seen recently with the threat of closure of the Owenacurra Centre in Cork. "Only 27% of centres were compliant with regulations for premises, with others being described as 'not fit for purpose' by Mr Farrelly. "This is a damning indictment on how successive governments view mental health care.

Teachta Ward said "The Mental Health Commission annual report made several worrying findings, particularly regarding the inspection of approved inpatient centres, individual care planning, risk management and staffing. "These four areas had compliance levels of less than 70%. "The Chief Executive of the Mental Health Commission, John Farrelly has described this as 'simply unacceptable'. "Decades of underinvestment in

"Individuals in inpatient facilities deserve to have modern secure places to live. That is the minimum standard to expect. "They also deserve proper treatment plans for their care. "Over 30% of centres were non-compliant with the regulation around care plans

An upgrade of Quarryvale Park in North Clondalkin was agreed by councillors at the June County Council meeting. The park, which is situated in Quarryvale near Liffey Valley Shopping Centre, has been under-utilised for many years and has become a blackspot for illegal dumping. The upgrade includes new paths, lighting, a play space, exercise equipment, new planting, seating and litter bins. The plan was agreed following extensive consultations with the local community.

People Before Profit Councillor for North Clondalkin Madeleine Johansson said: "The upgrade of the park is a really positive news story for North Clondalkin. The park is a great amenity and the upgrade will make it somewhere for the community to come together to socialise, exercise and enjoy their green spaces.

"I want to thank the council staff for the excellent public consultation that took place before designing the plan, it has given the community an opportunity to have their say about

the project. Now there also needs to be a plan put in place when the park re-opens with regular park warden visits and cleansing."

Gino Kenny TD (People Before Profit) commented: "It's great to see such a big investment into North Clondalkin. This will make a huge difference to people in the area. Working class communities are often neglected when it comes to amenities and services so it's great to see the upgrade of Quarryvale Park."

QUARRYVALE PARK UPGRADE WELCOMED BY PUBLIC REPRESENTATIVES



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GUM LITTER TASKFORCE ROADSHOW TAKES TO TALLAGHT TO TACKLE GUM DISPOSAL

The Gum Litter Taskforce (GLT) took to the streets of Tallaght on June 13th as a part of its Summer Roadshow. The interactive Roadshow works with local authorities and communities across the country to carry out fun and engaging education and awareness initiatives that demonstrate the proper means of gum disposal and raise awareness of the environmental and fiscal impacts of gum litter. South Dublin County Council were joined on the day by Tallaght Community Council/Tallaght Tidy Towns. Now in its sixteenth year, the campaign is a collaboration between Food Drink Ireland, the Department of Environment, Climate and Communications, the chewing gum industry, and local authorities.

Research published recently to coincide with the National Launch of the 2023 GLT Campaign revealed that 87% of people now report proper gum disposal, versus 49% when the campaign began in 2007- an increase of 77.5%, demonstrating the positive impact the campaign has had on attitudes towards gum litter. Peer pressure was found to be the key contributor to this shift in attitudes, followed by knowledge of the €150 fine.

However, work remains to be done to further reduce this figure, as still only 46% of people can claim to have never dropped gum on the ground, demonstrating the continued importance of the awareness and

behavioural change campaign.

Welcoming the Roadshow to Tallaght, Mayor of South Dublin County Council Emma Murphy said: "We are delighted to welcome the Gum Litter Taskforce back to Tallaght. The Roadshow is a fantastic way to show people about the sustainable impacts of responsibly disposing of gum litter and changing their disposal behaviours. This GLT campaign has seen a visible reduction of gum litter on our streets since it first began, and the Roadshow is an important reminder to the whole community that we must continue to reduce our litter and protect our local environment."

Speaking at the launch of this year's Roadshow, Minister Ossian Smyth welcomed the latest research and the return of the GLT campaign for the second year of its fifth cycle: "The Department of the Environment, Climate and Communications is proud to play a part in this important initiative. Each cycle of the campaign has delivered demonstrable progress in reducing gum litter on our streets, showing the impact that cross-collaborative initiatives such as this one can have.

I look forward to continuing with our good work with industry and local authorities to build on the continued success of the GLT campaign to ultimately eradicate gum litter." Gum Litter Taskforce Project



Manager, Jonathan McDade of Food Drink Ireland, also welcomed the return of the campaign, and praised its success to date: "We are delighted to have launched the 2023 Gum Litter Taskforce campaign with the support of the Minister Ossian Smyth and the Department of Environment, Climate and Communications. Each year of the campaign has delivered significant improvements, and we look forward to continuing our education and local authority engagements nationwide over the coming months.

We remain committed to making gum litter on the streets of Ireland a problem of the

past."

Corporate Affairs Specialist at Mars Ireland, Anne Sheeran, also welcomed the announcement: "Mars Ireland has been a proud partner of the Gum Litter Taskforce for the past 16 years. We are delighted to have kicked off the 2023 campaign with the support of the Department of Environment, Climate and Communications.

We look forward to engaging with local authorities and students across the country to highlight positive environmental messages around proper gum disposal."

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INCOME INEQUALITY AND DEPRIVATION LEAD YOUNG PEOPLE TO CRIME

TD for Dublin South West Seán Crowe has said that while the state coffers may be selling, child poverty is on the rise and that we cannot ignore the long lasting effects that that has on society, not least social exclusion and the normalisation of certain crimes.

Speaking in the Dáil recently, Teachta Crowe said “Huge factors in the causes of crime involving young people are poverty, deprivation and disadvantage and, I suppose, the normalisation of certain crime in our communities. Young people and children often fall victim to those who exploit that poverty and use them as drug couriers or sellers. My party colleague, Mark Ward TD, has introduced legislation that will make the coercion of a child into drug running or other such crimes a criminal act in itself.

“Children growing up in poverty and social exclusion

are less likely to do well in school, enjoy good health and realise their full potential later in life. They are also at higher risk of becoming unemployed, poor and socially excluded. Children living in poverty live life on the margins, are excluded from opportunities and are often unable to break the cycle of intergenerational poverty that other Members have spoken of.

“It was reported earlier this year that almost 90,000 children were living in consistent poverty in Ireland in 2022, up by more than 40% in just a year. That was at a time when the State’s coffers and the resources were never higher. We are allowing child poverty to worsen and we are ignoring the long-term effects that this will have on these children, their families and communities into the future.

We must always seek to be proactive in preventing young people from getting

involved in criminality in the first place.

“One group that I want to mention, in particular, is a group in my own area called Connect 4. The project was rolled out last year. It is a pilot project which uses street work to engage young people between the ages of ten and 24 in the greater Tallaght area. It involves a team of workers who engage with young people within the community, build up relations and direct them to support services.

“Connect 4 work with young people who are disconnected from community, family and themselves, often due to drug use, poverty, poor mental health or trauma. These young people often feel let down by the State and may be distrustful of authority figures. By going out and meeting these young people directly, Connect 4 has brought a lot of people in out of the cold, and has connected them to the

support services they need.

“This all ties in with the work of the Tallaght Drug and Alcohol Task Force, a

forum which I have been part of. If we want to build healthy, safe and resilient communities, we must tackle income inequality and

deprivation. Until then, we must mainstream, support and resource groups like Connect 4 so that we lose fewer young people.”

JOHN MULLEN COLLECTION EXHIBITION



Pictured in Castletymon Library at the Launch of the John Mullen Collection Exhibition were (L to R) Cllr Charlie O’Connor, Rose O’Keefe, John Mullen and Cllr Ronan McMahon.

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RATHFARNHAM CONCERT BAND SOCIETY WINS MAYORS COMMUNITY HERO AWARD

The Rathfarnham Concert Band Society is delighted to have been awarded the South Dublin County Mayor's Community Hero Award for their contribution to the community, to musical education for children in South Dublin and for providing opportunities for

people young and old to play music and make friendships together.

The Awards were presented to the respective recipients by the Mayor of South Dublin County Council, Councillor Emma Murphy at an event which took place on Friday

9th June at South Dublin County Council, County Chambers in Tallaght.

Nomination for the award came from South Dublin County Councillor, Fine Gael's Lynn McCrave who commented on the awards saying, "There is no better

opportunity for children in our community to play in a large group of up to ninety musicians, ranging from 12-80 years and to develop their musical skills. Some of these local young musicians who started with the Rathfarnham Concert Band have gone on to be professional musicians located all around the world."

The Rathfarnham Concert Band Society was born out of St Mary's Boys National School in Rathfarnham in 1980, and since then has brought thousands of hours of happiness to all who perform with the band and who attend their popular concerts. Children start their musical journey with RCBS from age seven learning the recorder as a base instrument. They then progress to their instrument of choice - a wind, brass or percussion instrument - and start playing as a group with the Tyro Band, then as they become more accomplished musicians they move to

Junior Band, Intermediate Band and then onto the Senior Band.

"This award is very much appreciated and the recognition so valuable to a musical society like ours", said Composer and Musical Director of the RCBS, Vincent Kennedy on accepting the Award. "Music is always there to uplift, distract, colour and comfort, it brings people and communities together and enriches lives. Thank you to South Dublin County Council for recognising and acknowledging this." "We are proud to be a big part of our community and to develop and display the talents of so many wonderful young musicians.

We are always keen to support and play at local events. But we also rely on the generosity and goodwill of the many volunteers, businesses and schools to keep going" said Ciarán Ahern, Chairman of the Rathfarnham Concert Band.

Mr Ahern continued: "We are particularly grateful to Ballyroan Boys National School where we currently conduct our rehearsals and lessons, and to St. Mary's Boys National School which was home to the Band for many years. Like many other voluntary organisations, we are run on a shoestring and rely on funding and sponsorship from local businesses for our survival. We are always seeking new members, new supporters and new opportunities to perform. Join us!"

As well as numerous local concerts, each year RCBS performs at the National Concert Hall with over 150 children from five local primary schools. Performing for a sold-out audience in the National Concert Hall is the highlight of the RCBS musical year, and is also its major annual fundraiser. Without this additional funding RCBS could simply not continue to offer its full range of music programmes.



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How To Beat Summer Learning Loss!

Summer holidays are a great time for children to relax and have fun, but it's also important to keep their minds active to prevent learning loss. Here are some ways you can help your child continue learning at home over the summer:

- Read books: Encourage your child to read books that interest them. Some great books for primary age students include:

- "The Cat in the Hat" by Dr. Seuss
- "Charlotte's Web" by E.B. White
- "The Magic Tree House" series by Mary Pope Osborne
- "Junie B. Jones" series by Barbara Park

You can also read together and discuss the story.

- Play educational games: There are many educational games available that can help your child learn while having fun. Some examples include:

- Math games, such as Prodigy or Math Playground
- Spelling games, such as Spelling City or Word Wipe
- Science games, such as The Magic School Bus or BrainPOP
- Geography games, such as GeoGuessr or Seterra

- Practice math: Math skills can be easily lost over the summer, so it's important to keep practising. You can use workbooks or online resources to help your child practise.

- Attend summer school: If you're concerned about learning loss, consider enrolling your child in a summer school programme. Kip McGrath runs summer school throughout August to tackle this very problem.

In conclusion, there are many ways to prevent learning loss over the summer holidays. Encourage your child to read great books, play educational games, practice math, and consider enrolling them in summer school if you're concerned. With a little effort, your child can have a fun and educational summer!

AN COSÁN PHOTOVOICE EXHIBITION WILL CELEBRATE THE TRANSFORMATIVE POWER OF ADULT COMMUNITY EDUCATION

A learner photovoice exhibition, which will be launched in Tallaght on 30th June by Senator Lynn Ruane, aims to celebrate the power of adult community education to transform lives. The Whirlwind and The Path comprises a collection of adult learners' photos and narratives showcasing their experience of the Personal and Professional Development Certificate programme provided by An Cosán, Ireland's largest community education organisation.

An Cosán, which is Irish for 'the path', developed this certificate programme over the past two years with its linked partner, South East Technological University. Members of the public are invited to attend the launch, which will take place in The Russell Centre, Tallaght, at 2pm on 30th June. Senator Lynn Ruane is a graduate of An Cosán, having completed several courses at the Jobstown community education centre before continuing her education at Trinity College Dublin.

Speaking ahead of the launch, An Cosán's CEO Heydi Foster said: "The Whirlwind and The Path is a collection of powerful testimonies about being open to, and embracing, change. It is the culmination of a 12-month project that saw participants take photos that, symbolically or literally, reflected their journey into and through community-based higher education. "Through the exhibition, you will discover the motivations of adult learners, the challenges they experience, and the importance of supports, as well as the impact of their participation.

Through their photos and narratives, our learners' courage, resilience, tenacity, curiosity, and hunger to learn shine through. Among the issues raised are racism, substance use, bereavement, migration, domestic violence, learning difficulties, bullying, homelessness, and mental health."

Thomas Murray, An Cosán's Higher Education Lead and Photovoice Project Lead, said "The Whirlwind

and The Path is a unique exhibition, which showcases the power of transformative community education and celebrates our third level learners at An Cosán. Participants include those priority groups most under-represented in traditional university settings.

"By showing how a diverse group of adult learners navigated very real changes and challenges ('the whirlwind' mentioned in the title), it is hoped the exhibition will encourage all adults in similar situations to consider returning to learning ('the path').

"An Cosan offers flexible provision, wraparound supports and transformative education. We are uniquely placed to welcome, assist, and encourage adult learners on their lifelong and life-wide learning journeys. We are grateful to the Higher Education Authority and to the South East Technological University for their contribution to this creative initiative."

Barbara Flood, one of the participants who is now pursuing An Cosán's BA in Leadership and Community Development programme accredited by South East Technological University, said: "When I initially heard about the photovoice project, my heart sank as I am not in any way arty or imaginative but, looking around for inspiration actually made me think about everyday things in a different light, and I ended up enjoying the project and the change in perspective it gave me. "If you'd told me a year ago I would be doing a degree, I would have

laughed," she continued. "But I'm much more positive in myself and about my future since doing the Personal and Professional Development course. It has changed my life so much for the better. I've met so many great people and had so many opportunities that I would never have had without An Cosán. I never would have been able to afford it, or to attend the classes in any other way, and I'm so appreciative of the opportunity."

Chantel Trytsman, a photovoice participant who is now working as a healthcare assistant, said: "Taking part was a great way to express myself; I could take any picture and write a story about what it meant to me. It made me think outside the box. It was a really mind blowing experience and a lot of fun.

"I totally enjoyed the Personal and Professional Development course," Chantel added. "It was something new and out of my comfort zone. Coming from direct provision, it helped me improve my confidence. Working in a group boosted my self-esteem and I have since secured a job in a local nursing home."

If you would like to attend the launch of 'The Whirlwind and the Path' exhibition in the Russell Centre at 2pm on 30th June, please register here >> <https://bit.ly/PhotovoiceLaunch>

The exhibition will run from 10th to 14th July (10am-4pm) in An Cosán, Kiltalown Village Centre, Jobstown, Tallaght, D24 R3PN. See www.ancosan.ie for details.



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€200K FOR LOCAL PROJECTS UNDER COMMUNITY SUPPORT FUND

Deputy Emer Higgins, TD for Dublin Mid West, has welcomed the announcement of the successful local projects in South Dublin under the 2022 Community Support Fund. Deputy

Higgins said: "I'm delighted that 24 local projects across Clondalkin, Palmerstown, Saggart and Rathcoole have been recognised under the Community Support Fund 2022, with a total €195,865

being invested into our local community. "This includes local community centres, residents associations, women's groups, men's groups, enterprise spaces, supports groups and other local organisations being given funding for various projects.

"The full list of recipient's includes; ACE Enterprise Park, Archways, Bawnogue Youth and Community Centre, Clondalkin Addiction Support Programme, Clondalkin Adult Morning Education, Clondalkin Autism Parents Support Network, Clondalkin Centre for the Unemployed, Clondalkin Equine Club, Clondalkin Women's Network, Knockmitten Youth and Community Centre, Áras Chronáin, Neart le Chéile, Neilstown

Community Centre, North Clondalkin Community Safety Programme, Pink Fabulous Rainbows, Quarryvale Community and Leisure Centre, Quarryvale Family Resource Centre, Rathcoole Community Council, Retired Active Men's Social, Ronanstown Community Childcare Centre, Ronanstown Women's Community Development Project,

Rowlagh Women's Group and Saggart Village Residents Association." Deputy Higgins continued, "The key theme of the fund is to support groups, particularly in disadvantaged areas, with their energy bills, as well as with improvements to their facilities. "And the recognised groups are all locally led, ground-up projects and this funding will give a helping hand with

electricity bills, insurance costs or other overheads. "I know what a big difference these groups make locally but I also know that the rising cost of living has been very challenging for them, so I hope that these grants will make a big difference by allowing local community organisations to continue carrying out much needed works in their area," Deputy Higgins concluded.

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SOUTH DUBLIN COUNTY COUNCILLORS CALL ON GOVERNMENT TO EXTEND THE BAN ON EVICTIONS

At a special meeting of South Dublin County Council on the 15th June, Councillors have voted by 12 votes to 10 to call upon the government to extend the ban on evictions. Cllr William Carey proposed the motion and seconded by Cllr Derren O’Bradaigh. The special meeting had been called by the Mayor Emma Murphy to clear outstanding motions before the annual general meeting due to be held at the end of the month.

Speaking after the meeting, Cllr Carey said he was delighted that his motion had been passed and that it sends out a signal to government that the lifting of the eviction ban has been seen as a retrograde step and needs to be overturned.

According to Cllr Carey, since the lifting of the ban on April 1st homeless figures have steadily risen to over 12,000. This figure is most likely to grow as the rate of evictions outstrips social housing output across the country.

Cllr Carey added, I believe it is important that we continue to put pressure on the government about tackling the housing crisis across the country. During the debate Cllr Carey pointed to over 7,300 notice to quit (NTQs) that were issued in the second half of 2022, the main body of which were now being executed after falling due since April 1st. Whilst proposing the motion Cllr Carey said

“this cannot remain the future for ordinary, hard-working people. From school teachers, to members of the defence forces, health workers and Gardai. All are being brought under the umbrella of being unable to afford a home in an inflated market.

Cllr Carey concluded, It has been the continued failure of successive governments to address the housing need of the people. This has brought us to where we are now. They have failed to foresee the extent of their lack of investment in social housing and instead backed the greed of speculators and investors who continue to take advantage of that failure.

HOUSING MINISTER MUST ENGAGE IMMEDIATELY WITH OWNERS OF DEFECTIVE APARTMENTS

The Minister for Housing must engage immediately with owners of defective apartments whose concerns have been heightened by a fire incident at a building in the capital recently, according to a Dublin Senator Seery Kearney. She said: “A fire which broke out recently at an apartment complex in Blanchardstown, where thankfully there was no reported injuries, has left some residents scrambling to look for alternative accommodation.

“Since then, apartment owners in my home constituency of Dublin South Central contacted me as they are extremely concerned. The fears for homeowners that I deal with on a constant basis is are they next? What would happen if their complexes had a similar incident? “Government made the decision to fund remediation works to defective apartments and duplexes in early January of this year and yet much-needed monies to carry out remediation works are still tied up in the process to create a conduit for approvals and payments.

of committees and processes when they need interim funding to get on with the necessary works to ensure safety in their complexes. “Worried homeowners living in complexes with known defects are anxious and I would go so far as to say they are traumatised by yesterday’s fire. Everyone looks to their own situation and imagines the worst.

“Minister O’Brien needs to engage directly with homeowners and give them a definite timeline of when they will have the funds in

their hands. “Week after week campaigners like Sam and Odette Doran who represent the #NotOurFault Campaign and other residents of Park West in Dublin protest outside Leinster House seeking a timeline and urgent action, their experience is that the Minister lacks any sense of the emergency that this is to these families.

“These homeowners require clarity immediately and I have written to the Minister asking him to meet them as a matter of urgency.”

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“Homeowners are completely frustrated with the creation

MAYOR HONOURS COMMUNITY HEROES AT AWARD CEREMONY

Mayor of South Dublin County Council, Cllr. Emma Murphy held a Community Hero, award night on 9th June in County Hall Tallaght. The event which was held in the Council Chambers at County Hall, was attended by Councillors and their Community Hero nominees who celebrated the wealth of community and volunteer work across the county. Each Councillor nominated a community hero from their electoral area and the Mayor spoke about each of the Heroes work, their contribution to their community and then presented them with a small token of appreciation.

Speaking at the event Mayor Emma Murphy said "I decided to hold these "Community Hero Awards" as the level of community work can sometimes go unnoticed, in fact it may only be noticed in its absence. It's important to acknowledge as many members as possible of our community who give their time and energy to benefit all our lives and make South Dublin an amazing place to live. The measure of any

location is the people that inhabit it. I asked my fellow Councillors to nominate an individual or group from their electoral area who they thought deserved recognition for making a difference to the lives of their community. I'm happy to say that each councillor struggled to nominate just one individual or group, such is the wealth of community spirit and action within South Dublin."

The twenty-seven Community Hero Award winners included Mary Stagg Ong from Palmerstown, Terry Carthy from Heatherview, Tallaght, Joe Maughan from Sacred Heart FC, Marie Mulligan from Fettercairn Youth Club, Des Bannon from Clondalkin, Clondalkin Tidy Towns, Connie Kiernan from Liffey Valley Park Alliance, The Adamstown Cricket Club, Lucan Festival, Lucan Tidy Towns, Alan O'Flaherty of Dodder Valley Cycling, Rathfarnham Concert Band Society, The Stepping Stone Forest volunteers, Teresa Harford from Firhouse, Katherine McKenna from Tallaght, Jen Donohue from



Web Project Ballyboden, Tony Delaney from Whitechurch Boxing Club, Jimmy Conlon from Wanderers GAA Club, Ballyboden, Prospect Manor

Residents Association, Tara De Buitlear of Tallaght Community Council, Tymon North and St Aongus Tidy Towns Group, Tom and Linda

O'Connor from Templeogue, Women's Collective Ireland in Lucan, Darkness Into Light Committee, Vincent Dolan from Clondalkin Youth Band,

James Casserly of Jimbos Accessible Adventures and Kilnamanagh Residents Association Clean and Green Team.

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By Breda Corrigan

The design of the all-new, all-electric Volkswagen ID. Buzz is inspired by its great ancestor, the original Beetle-based T1 Microbus, and it is the first electric Minivan/MPV from the German vehicle manufacturer as part of the Volkswagen ID series of EVs. The vehicle was first shown as a concept car at the 2017 North American International Motor Show, and the production vehicle was officially unveiled in March 2022 as a five-seater under the name ID. Buzz, and a cargo van as the ID. Buzz Cargo. The name "Buzz" was derived from the word "bus", as the original VW T1 Microbus is commonly known simply as the "Volkswagen Bus", but it is also a clever reference to the sound of electricity.

Funky & Flexible.

The styling of the ID. Buzz was chosen to be modern, fresh and exciting, while retaining some design cues of the original T1 Microbus, including the prominent front-mounted VW logo and optional two-tone paint. State-of-the-art technologies and a flexible cabin concept ensure mobile comfort that sets new standards, and it promises to be the ideal companion for almost any adventure. A large part of the likeable appearance of the ID. Buzz is the modern lighting design, which provides the vehicle with terrific visual drama. In terms of size, the ID. Buzz has an overall length of 4712mm, which is slightly shorter than a VW Passat estate, and it stands

1937mm tall, so it will comfortably fit into the majority of multi-storey car parks. For many families, the most important dimension will be the space between the front and rear axles (wheelbase), and at just under 3-metres, the result is cavernous cabin space for all occupants. Equally impressive is the cargo space behind the rear seats. With a massive 1,121-litres of space available, families can load up virtually everything (even the kitchen sink!) for fun days out, or the family holiday. However, when the split-folding rear seats are dropped, the space on offer extends to a van-like 2,205-litres.

Four Trim Levels Available.

The ID. Buzz is available with a choice of four trim levels: Life, Family, Tech and Max. The entry-level Life starts at €68,470 and comes with 19" alloy wheels, rear privacy glass, manual sliding doors, LED headlights, "BuzzBox" removable centre console with storage, dual-zone auto aircon, heated windscreen, 10" Infotainment system, App-Connect for Android Auto and Apple CarPlay (wired and wireless), navigation system, natural voice control, DAB radio, and a suite of driver assistance systems. Family trim is priced from €73,040 and also includes IQ.LIGHT - LED matrix headlamps with automatic headlight control and poor weather light function, LED rear combination lights with variable lighting function, illuminated strip

between the headlamps, armrest for driver and front passenger seats, stainless steel foot pedals with 'play' and 'pause' symbols, heated front seats, and additional driver assistance systems. In addition to Family trim, the ID. Buzz Tech (priced from €74,640) comes with 20" alloy wheels, power tailgate with 'Easy Open' function, 12" infotainment screen, "Area View" inc. rear view camera, "Side Assist", "Light Assist" and an anti-theft alarm system. Buyers who opt for the flagship 'Max' trim variant (priced from €77,640) will benefit from 21" alloy wheels, 'Easy Open' power-sliding side doors, comfort seats up front with pneumatically adjustable lumbar support, and a 30-colour ambient lighting function.

Fast-Charging Compatible.

Powering the ID. Buzz is a 150kW electric motor and a 77kWh battery pack that drive the rear wheels. Producing 204hp and 301Nm of instant torque, the 0-100km/h sprint can be completed in 10.2-seconds, on its way to an electronically-limited 145km/h (where permitted). The maximum charging power for fast charging (DC) is up to 170kW, so the battery can be charged from 5 to 80 percent in approximately 30 minutes at a fast charging station with the appropriate charging power, and for drivers who don't have 30 minutes to spare, they can boost the range by around 160km in just 10 minutes. Charging the

battery from 0-100% via a 7kW domestic wallbox charger will take around 12 hours to complete. When not needed, the charging cables can be stored under the boot floor for convenience.

Test Car Details.

My test car was an ID. Buzz Max, which was finished in striking two-tone Candy White/ Pomelo Yellow Metallic paintwork, and Lemon-Mistral 'Seaqual' seat trim. The ID. Buzz shares its underpinnings with its ID.3 and ID.4 siblings, and this enables the Buzz to deliver a smooth and refined driving experience. The perfectly-weighted steering set-up was engineered to provide the Buzz with a turning circle of just 11.1-metres, and this proves very useful when manoeuvring in and out of tight spaces. In keeping with other ID models in the VW range, the rear motor-transmission layout in the ID. Buzz won't be persuaded to succumb to power oversteer.

The Buzz's solid handling characteristics are bolstered by the perfect weight distribution provided as a result of the battery pack being located between the axles. With MacPherson-strut suspension up front and a multi-link set-up at the rear, the ID. Buzz soaks up rutted road surfaces with ease, ensuring that occupants enjoy a cosseting and pampered ride quality on every journey. Acceleration from the get-go is lively, especially given the fact that Buzz weighs over 2500kg, and

a useful thrust of torque allows for easy overtaking manoeuvres. The dashboard stretches out in front of the cab, and the large windscreen provides the driver with a terrific view of the road ahead. The seats are comfortable and supportive in equal measure, and the overall impression I got from my time with the ID. Buzz is that it feels like a car that can confidently cover long distances with ease. The gear selector in the ID. Buzz is attached to the steering column and its operation is very easy to get used to, with brake regeneration activated by selecting 'B' on the gear shifter when required. The ID. Buzz has a certified towing capacity of 1,000kg (braked) and it can be specified with a retractable tow bar for convenience.

Verdict.

The new VW ID. Buzz is fully electric, fully connected and full of new ideas for the modern age. Impressive levels of comfort, along with the muted silence within the cabin, introduces a new quality to long-distance road travel, while the magnificent blend of retro and modern styling makes the ID. Buzz one of the most distinctive vehicles on the road. It is fun to drive, funky and immensely practical too. As testament to just how good the new ID. Buzz is, it has been awarded the prestigious title of Irish Car of the Year 2023 by the Motoring Media Association of Ireland (MMAI) in association with Continental Tyres.

€51M FOR SDCC TO DISPOSE 85.01 ACRES AT GRANGE CASTLE BUSINESS PARK

Local Councillor Trevor Gilligan commented "SDCC has agreed to dispose of 85 acres to Novo Nordisk Production Ireland Ltd for construction of a

Pharmaceutical Plant for medical products for diabetes, obesity, and rare diseases.

individuals and I hope to see them get involved in this project as early as possible.

I would also ask that at least 10%-20% of the €51 million is ring-fenced for investment

into the local area, towards community & education & skills development."



Pictured Cllr Trevor Gilligan, Tanaiste Micheal Martin and SDCC Mayor Emma Murphy at the launch of the new Pfizer research facility in December 2022.

With an option to dispose of a further 21.3 acres at a future date (Which would indicate a further €12.78M boost for SDCC). The cost per acre is to be set at €600,000 totalling €51M for SDCC. For any missed payments by Novo Nordisk, there will be a daily 8% interest charged."

Cllr Gilligan has stated "Local employment must be paramount as part of this project, not just during construction & development phase but long term for both Novo and SDCC. There is a lot of local talent here in the Clondalkin, Newcastle & surrounding areas. We have highly skilled and trained

CORKAGH PARK DARKNESS INTO LIGHT COMMITTEE RECOGNISED WITH MAYOR'S AWARD



Deputy Emer Higgins, pictured with some of her fellow members of the Corkagh Park Darkness Into Light organising committee; Michelle Byrne, Lorraine Nugent Murphy, Niamh Fitzpatrick, Grainne Byrne and Sharon Green as they were recognised with a Mayor's award from Mayor of South Dublin County Council, Cllr. Emma Murphy. The committee were nominated by Cllr. Shirley O'Hara.

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MEAGHERS PHARMACY GROUP CELEBRATES TWO MORE MAJOR AWARD WINS

The team at Meaghers Pharmacy Group is celebrating again as they enjoy an award-winning few weeks receiving awards from Chambers Ireland and at the Irish Pharmacy News Awards 2023. Meaghers was delighted to win the Retail Excellence of the Year Award

at the Chambers Ireland InBusiness Recognition Awards 2023 at Clontarf Castle, Dublin, on May 26th.

The award recognises Meaghers' best practice, innovation and excellence in promoting, advertising, communicating or marketing their products and services. On the following evening, Meaghers was honoured to win the Alliance Online Pharmacy Retailer of the Year Award 2023 as well as the BOI Payment Acceptance (BOIPA) Innovation & Service Development (Chain) Award 2023 at the Irish Pharmacy News Awards at the Clayton Hotel, Burlington Road, Dublin on Saturday May 27th.

The awards come after Meaghers was named as a Great Place to Work and one of Ireland's Top 30 medium-sized Great Places to Work for the third consecutive year at the Great Place to Work Ireland Awards in April and Retail Employer of the Year at the Retail Excellence Ireland Awards

last November 2022.

Oonagh O'Hagan, Managing Director of Meaghers Pharmacy, said "It's such an honour to receive these awards from the Chambers Ireland InBusiness Recognition Awards and

the Irish Pharmacy News Awards. My team and I are so proud to receive these prestigious accolades for the work that we do in promoting proactive healthcare and education around many health conditions within our communities and for

transitioning this experience into the digital world. Thank you to all of our team members who are dedicated to making a difference to our customers lives and to all our customers who choose Meaghers as their pharmacy of choice."





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