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# CALL FOR REINSTATEMENT OF 'BULKY WASTE' COLLECTION SERVICE

A Dublin Mid-West councillor has renewed calls for the household 'Bulky Waste' collection service to be reinstated by the Council. The call comes amid massive and growing costs of removing illegally dumped materials that are costing in the region of €1.4m annually. Councillor Derren Ó Brádaigh represents the Lucan and Palmerstown-Fonthill area and was speaking ahead of Halloween - a period that produces significantly increased levels of material waste and post bonfire clean-up costs.

removal of illegally dumped materials. These costs include substantial wages costs, together with the cost of provision of vehicles complete with lifting equipment, fuel costs and the cost to dispose of the waste. In my view, bulky items such as household furniture, doors, wardrobes, beds, mattresses, etc account for a substantial percentage of the overall amount, whether in their originally dumped state or in the eventual embers of illegal burning.

Cllr Ó Brádaigh said "The Council spends approximately €1.4m per year on the collection and

Cllr Ó Brádaigh also said "Whilst there be may be some disagreement about the exact percentage that 'bulky waste' is responsible

for within the illegally dumped figures recorded, it is nonetheless significant. The impact on our environment is a problem that still exists since this service was discontinued in 2008. I also support the re-municipalisation of domestic waste collection services for the simple reason, that I believe privatisation of services has been responsible for a further sizeable portion of the ongoing problem in terms of the 'black bag' dumping element.

Cllr Ó Brádaigh added "The equated annual cost previously for providing a bulky waste service to households on a semi-annual basis was in the region of

€500k - €600k. This service covered 20,000 homes at the time removing 1,500 tonnes per year, and whilst any reintroduction could be expected to have increased costs with more homes, it is worth remembering that many householders have adopted better and more responsible recycling practices in the intervening years. Also, and importantly, this would help to provide an essential service for householders, trying to properly dispose of larger and more difficult items through environmentally conscious and cost-friendly methods.

Cllr Ó Brádaigh concluded "Whilst I recognise and fully



support our efforts toward a circular economy that promotes re-use, rather than disposal or recycling of items, we are still awaiting development of schemes and facilities where the preparation of items for re-use can happen. Until we have reached this ideal

scenario, I believe that there remains a requirement to provide a service to the community that tackles unwanted bulky household waste in a favourable way and that removes potentially environmental damaging build up from homes and back gardens."

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# 'LOOK AFTER YOUR HEART' - LOCAL MUM RELIVES HEALTH TRAUMA

A local woman diagnosed with heart failure days after having her first baby, has turned her life around and urged other women to listen to their bodies. Emma Connors, 35, from Clondalkin, had a healthy pregnancy, with gestational diabetes to manage but was overjoyed when she and her partner Chris welcomed their son JJ in February 2021.

After returning home from a traumatic hospital visit during which JJ was admitted with jaundice, her

legs doubled in size and she woke up during the night feeling breathless.

"I was unsure if I should go to the hospital because I thought it might be COVID, but I felt that if I didn't get to a hospital soon that very shortly, I wouldn't be able to breathe at all," said Emma. "My partner brought me straight to the hospital, where I really struggled to walk to the door. I stopped and leaned up against a railing to catch my breath. "When I entered the

Emergency Department tent at the Mater Hospital, the triage nurse took my vitals, oxygen, blood pressure, and heart rate, all of which were alarming. The triage nurse immediately admitted me.

"Within 20 minutes I had a COVID-19 swab taken, a chest x-ray, and blood taken. The x-ray showed that I had fluid in my lungs which needed to be removed. "The catheter removed over 8kgs in weight of fluid from my body over the five days I was in the hospital - I felt like a deflated balloon. I lost a further 8kg in fluid over the next few weeks."

Later that day, Dr Emer Joyce, the heart consultant in the hospital, diagnosed legal secretary Emma with post-natal heart failure. Emma relived her experience as part of the Irish Heart Foundation's 'Her Heart Matters' campaign, which urges women to find

the time to prioritise their heart health through small, sustainable lifestyle changes. Following the diagnosis, Emma is keeping well and managing her condition. She has made changes to her lifestyle, including eating more oily fish, being more physically active, ensuring she takes her medication each day, weighing herself daily to monitor fluid gain, reducing salt and alcohol intake, and restricting her fluid intake to 1.5ltrs a day. She emphasises that it is so important to take time for herself and enjoys getting outdoors for walks with JJ and the dog and socialising with friends.

"I thought I did all the research when I was pregnant, but I didn't see anything about post-natal heart failure anywhere. "It's so important for women to listen to their bodies. I wrote off my breathlessness so many times, but my body

was drowning in fluid. "I feel so lucky to be able to return to normal life. Your heart does matter, look after it."

The Irish Heart Foundation's 'Her Heart Matters'

campaign highlights that one in four women dies from heart disease and stroke. For practical tips and support and further information about the campaign, visit [irisheart.ie](http://irisheart.ie).



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# SDCC SCOOP TWO IRISH PLANNING AWARDS

The South Dublin County Council Planning Team scooped two awards and were highly commended under 3 separate categories at the Irish Planning Institute's Irish Planning Awards 2023. The Irish Planning Institute

(IPI) has announced the winners of its 2023 Planning Awards at the Institute's first awards gala dinner since the Covid-19 pandemic. There were 24 entries recognised at the awards, including South Dublin winning in the

Workplace of the Year and Research and Innovation categories. The IPI awards acknowledge a diverse range of projects and plans nationally taking place at a local, county and regional level in complex and dynamic environments. This year's Awards recognised innovation and excellence in Irish planning in eight categories.

Speaking at the awards, IPI President Mary Mac Mahon said: "The Irish Planning Institute's Irish Planning Awards serve as a testament to the invaluable role of planning in our society. They celebrate our diverse, dynamic, and sustainable projects, showcasing the positive impact of planning on our communities.

As President, it's been my privilege to elevate the profile of planning and to honour the achievements, diversity, and potential within our sector. With entries spanning the island, our winners from Dublin to Donegal exemplify excellence. I extend my gratitude to all entrants,

congratulate the winners, and acknowledge our sponsors for making these awards possible."

The South Dublin County Council Projects which won were in Workplace of the Year, South Dublin County Council - #Making it Work @ SDCC Planning. And Research and Innovation, South Dublin County Council - 'Instantaneous Data' - A South Dublin Approach to Active Land Management

South Dublin County Council also received commendations for the following projects: Plan Making, Highly Commended - South Dublin County Development Plan 2022-2028. Urban Regeneration and Heritage, Commended - The Street - Kick starting the Tallaght Innovation Quarter. And Climate Action and Biodiversity, Commended - South Dublin County Council - South Dublin's Green Space Factor. Mayor of South Dublin County Council, Cllr Alan Edge said "All of us in South Dublin County Council are really proud of this achievement by our Planning

Team and this recognition of the wide range of innovative projects that are currently underway in the county. South Dublin County Council has always been a progressive and ambitious council, it continually seeks out new and innovative ways to serve the people of South Dublin.

I'd like to congratulate the team for these well-deserved awards and commendations.

It's particularly exciting to have won the Workplace of the Year award. It is a hugely rewarding place to work. Planning in South Dublin is front and centre in helping to meet the various housing, climate change and place making challenges we face. It is a collaborative team and rewarding experience where people are given a real opportunity to learn and to work on a raft of interesting plans and projects."

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## O'CONNOR WELCOMES GRANTS TO LOCAL GROUPS

Tallaght Councillor, Charlie O'Connor has welcomed the approval of Community & Sports Development Grants to local Groups at the October meeting of the Council. The local Groups approved for Grants were: Dominics Active Mens Social (DAMS) €1000, Dominics Ladies Crochet Group €1000 and St Mark's Youth Club €3500.

He also added that Dublin Community Games, who held their Athletics Final at Tallaght Athletics Club, are to receive €1450. According to Councillor O'Connor these Grants are important for local organisations and he wished the successful Groups well.

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# KEY IMPROVEMENTS ANNOUNCED FOR W6 HAZELHATCH BRIDGE TO BOOST PUBLIC TRANSPORT

National Transport Authority (NTA) and South Dublin County Council have confirmed they are preparing

a detailed construction plan to extend the W6 bus route.

decision is expected soon.” Cllr. Shirley O’Hara said, “These improvements are an essential step towards a more efficient and safer transportation system for our residents. We’re hopeful for a seamless transition to the construction phase upon approval.”

Deputy Emer Higgins, TD for Dublin MidWest, has highlighted the importance of upcoming construction work on the W6 route. This development will pave the way for the route to span Hazelhatch, Celbridge, and Maynooth.

Deputy Higgins also stated, “Upon formal approval, we are optimistic about quick progression to procurement and construction. I’ve been briefed that the detailed design phase should conclude within 10-12 weeks. A contractor is expected to commence work early in 2024, aiming to conclude before the summer. The exact timeframe of the construction will be dependent on initial ground inspections”.

“The current positioning of the traffic lights for the one-way system over the Hazelhatch Bridge presents challenges for larger vehicles which is why the appropriate road widening works to facilitate a safe two-way operation is needed. Such modifications are crucial for the safety standards expected of a scheduled public transport route”, Higgins stated. “Both the National Transport Authority (NTA) and South Dublin County Council are actively working together to see this become a reality. The Council, with the support of Cllr. Shirley O’Hara, has been engaging with the community to discuss these proposed changes and a

“The W6 route has undeniably benefited our community.” “This extension of the W6 route is a vital lifeline for those commuting to town, the students in Maynooth, children in Celbridge schools, and for workers in Greenogue.”



# NOMINATIONS NOW OPEN – WOMEN OF SOUTH DUBLIN

South Dublin County Council’s Women’s Caucus are delighted to invite nominations to their new initiative, “Women of South Dublin”.

This initiative aims to highlight and celebrate the amazing women of South Dublin County by creating an exhibition, digital record and social media campaign which will launch for International Women’s Day 2024. The South Dublin County Women’s Caucus are asking the public to nominate South Dublin women who show leadership, enhance their communities or are inspirational, for whatever reason. Nominees can be from any walk of life including the arts, music, sports, or a local community or voluntary group.

Nominations can be made through <https://consult.sdublincoco.ie/en/content/nominations-open-women-south-dublin> between now and 19th November 2023.

A judging panel made up of the Women’s Caucus members and an independent chairperson will put forward the best nominees for an exhibition during the week of International Women’s Day 2024.

Cllr Vicki Casserly, the Chair of the Women’s Caucus said “I’d encourage everyone to look around your community, what woman inspires you, who do you look up to? Who stands out in her own unique way. Women empowering women day to day should be celebrated, so get involved and help us create Women of South Dublin.”

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# PROGRESS ON NEW HERITAGE CENTRE FOR TALLAGHT WELCOMED

Local Tallaght Councillor, Charlie O'Connor, a long time campaigner for the proposed Heritage Centre for Tallaght, has welcomed the decision taken at the October meeting of South Dublin Council to proceed with what he sees as "a significant project

for Tallaght". The Council dealt with the results of the public consultation in respect of the matter.

The Part 8 report presented to the Council sought planning consent to construct

the Heritage Centre on a site located on existing SDCC lands, adjacent to the existing Civic Theatre. The site is currently part of an existing SDCC car park, used by council and Civic Theatre staff and customers.

The site is approximately 0.24 hectares and is bounded by an office development "Killakee House" to the east, Old Blessington Road to the south the existing SDCC car parking area to the north and the Civic Theatre to the east. In addition to containing parking the subject site contains some elements of soft landscaping, existing trees, and a variety of street furniture including lighting, bottle banks, bike lockers and boundary fencing. Some of these elements will be removed or modified to facilitate the proposed development as described on the Part 8 drawings. The site is strategically located adjacent to the Square Tallaght Shopping Centre and car-park to the south and the Red Luas line.

Tallaght (The Square) Luas stop is located 200m to the

east of the subject site. The proposed Tallaght Heritage Centre development consists of an 870m<sup>2</sup>, two storey structure which will sit alongside other facilities forming a cultural quarter including the Civic Theatre, Rua Red, County Hall, and the County Library. The Heritage Centre is divided over two floors however the overall form will be commensurate with a building of 3-4 storeys in height giving the building sufficient civic scale to sit comfortably in its context.

The proposed Heritage Centre is designed and organised to provide a series of flexible spaces which can be used in a variety of ways to accommodate a series of exhibition and gallery type spaces. The intention is to provide a mix of permanent exhibition elements and spaces to accommodate changing temporary exhibitions, events and activities.

According to Charlie O'Connor "The Heritage Centre will serve as a vital community resource, fostering engagement with

the history and legacy of Tallaght and the wider County while also helping to make tangible the future vision for the town and wider county area. This will be done through interactive and interpretive exhibitions tailored to the space by EPIC Consultants. The internal spatial arrangement will help create continuity between exhibition spaces and their respective programmes, while also allowing for flexibility for how the space is used in the future."

According to Charlie O'Connor, the proposed Heritage Centre for Tallaght is attracting strong support throughout the Region and he has had many calls and enquiries from Groups and individual. He added that there is a hope that the project will be delivered "in timely manner" and to this end, Charlie O'Connor has tabled a motion for the

October meeting of the Tallaght Area Committee and called for assurances "that everything possible will be done to improve on the announced building schedule".

The motion approved unanimously by members at the Council meeting stated that "As the proposed development is in accordance with the proper planning and sustainable development of the area, the Council approves the development of the proposed Tallaght Heritage Centre for Tallaght on SDCC land at Old Blessington Road, Tallaght, Dublin 24, situated to the east of the Civic Theatre".

Charlie O'Connor, who has supported the project from the beginning, has finally stated that he will continue to monitor the whole development on behalf of the people of Tallaght.

## Cllr. Charlie O'Connor PC

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# PUBLIC INFORMATION EVENT FOR DRAFT CLIMATE ACTION PLAN 2024- 2029

The Mayor of South Dublin County Council, Cllr Alan Edge, attended the first public information event for the draft Climate Action Plan 2024-2029 in the Edge Café, Tallaght on the 4th of October 2023.

Council staff will also be in attendance at the following libraries to speak to members of the public about the plan in the coming weeks; Ballyroan Library, Rathfarnham, D14 VY33. Wednesday 18th October, 3-5pm. Lucan library, Newcastle Road, Lucan, Dublin. Wednesday 25th October, 3-5pm. Clondalkin Library, D22 XPO3.

Thursday 26th October, 3-5pm. And North

Clondalkin Library, D22 E2Y2. Tuesday 31st October, 3-5pm.

The Council is seeking views from the public to help inform the final Climate Action Plan 2024-2029. In this Public Consultation process you are invited to provide feedback on the individual sections of the draft Plan. The Plan can be viewed at [www.southdublinclimate.ie](http://www.southdublinclimate.ie).

Observations or submissions can be made between Wednesday 20th September and Friday 3rd November 2023 inclusive, through the following two options only: A written submission can be made electronically through the Council's Online Public Consultation

Portal: <http://consult.southdublincoco.ie>

(up to 11.59pm on Friday 3rd November 2023); Or In writing, addressed to the Senior Engineer, Climate Action, Environment, Water and Climate Change Department, County Hall, Tallaght, Dublin 24 (not later than 4.00pm on 3rd November 2023).

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# FURTHER LUCAN POOL DELAY ERODING CONFIDENCE

A recent announcement of yet further delays to the much-anticipated opening of the Lucan Pool is being met with sheer frustration and calls for greater accountability and consequences for contractors failing to meet deadlines for publicly procured projects.

Cllr Derren Ó Brádaigh was speaking following the news and said "Recently, I received an email correspondence from the Director in South Dublin County Council regarding yet another postponement to the latest expected delivery time for the end of October. This really has become unacceptable. Work commenced on this pool project 5 years ago with an investment in the region of €10m.

There have been plausible reasons for delays to a point, including impacts from the Covid pandemic and challenges in the construction industry, however there is now simply no credibility remaining in the community, in terms of opening times being provided to anyone. Cllr Ó Brádaigh

said "The contractor has been unable to either increase the resources on site to a sufficient level or to effectively coordinate the work from sub-contractors to meet this month's eagerly anticipated deadline we are being told. There remains an issue with the moveable floor being delivered now and the lead-in time for this could be up to 12 weeks. It would seem to me that we won't be seeing the pool open this side of Christmas. This must bring into focus the system currently in place and consequences in terms of meeting agreed public project contractual arrangements.

Cllr Ó Brádaigh also said "Previously Council officials stated that the delays were obviously far beyond what could reasonably have been envisaged at the outset of the project. They said at the time that the well-documented significant and unprecedented challenges in construction in recent years, due to various local and global factors outside of the control of the contractor and the Council

accounted for considerable delays, but also stated that project management and performance have also contributed to the timeframe. Ó Brádaigh concluded "As a councillor, I can no longer offer a response to members of the community that I represent and when asked in general on project works. This impacts on our own credibility and people's confidence in anything else we say."

accounted for considerable delays, but also stated that project management and performance have also contributed to the

timeframe. Ó Brádaigh concluded "As a councillor, I can no longer offer a response to members of the community that I

represent and when asked about works schedules, as I have personally become somewhat sceptical about timelines that we receive

in general on project works. This impacts on our own credibility and people's confidence in anything else we say."

# NEW ASTRO FACILITY OLD BAWN



Pictured at Oldbawn Community School, Tallaght, at the Opening Ceremony of the new Astro facility were (L to R) Jason McClellan (St Pat's footballer) Cian Murphy (Dublin All Ireland winner), Councillor Charlie O'Connor, Deputy Mayor Louise Dunne, Tallaght Person of the Year Zac Moradi and Evan Caffery (Shels footballer).

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# €22,000 RAISED BY DUBLIN AMAZON CYCLISTS FOR IRISH CHARITIES

A group of Amazon employees from Amazon sites and offices across Ireland have participated in a cycling challenge between Cork and Dublin to raise money for two children's charities. Team members from Amazon's fulfilment centre in Dublin, Amazon Web Services (AWS), Amazon offices in Dublin and Amazon Customer Services (ACS) in Cork, joined forces on a charity cycle for Cliona's Foundation and Jack and Jill Children's Foundation.

The group commenced the 400-kilometre cycle, in recognition of the 400,000 children diagnosed with cancer each year, from the ACS headquarters in Cork, finishing the route at the fulfilment centre in Dublin. The team arrived at the fulfilment centre after three days, raising €22,000, including a €5,000 donation from the fulfilment centre in Dublin, which will be divided between Cliona's Foundation and Jack and Jill Children's Foundation.

Cliona's Foundation works across Ireland to support families who are dealing with financial issues whilst caring for a child with life-limiting illnesses. The foundation was set up after the passing of Brendan and Terry Ring's daughter, Cliona, from an inoperable brain tumour. In honour of their daughter, they have helped over 1,200 families across Ireland. In memory of their son, Jack, Jonathan Irwin and Mary Ann O'Brien set up Jack and Jill Children's Foundation to support families across Ireland who are in the same position they were. The charity provides in-home nursing care and respite support for children with severe to profound cognitive delay. Jack and Jill Children's Foundation has helped more than 2,600 families across Ireland.

Darragh Kelly, General Manager at Amazon's fulfilment centre in Dublin, said "We couldn't be prouder of the teams from

Amazon sites across Ireland who took part in the fundraising cycle from Cork to Dublin. This was the first-time representatives from all sections of our business in Ireland came together for a fundraising event. We are pleased to be building our relationship with the teams from Cliona's Foundation and Jack and Jill Children's Foundation. All involved should be extremely pleased with the amount they raised for these two important charities."

Dave Carney, an employee from Amazon who took part in the fundraising cycle, added "I am very proud to have completed the cycle alongside such an amazing team, as well as raising an incredible amount of money for Cliona's Foundation and Jack and Jill Children's Foundation. Weather conditions were tough on the last day, but to see everyone cheering us on at the finish line was incredible!"

Brendan, CEO and Co-Founder from Cliona's Foundation, said "On behalf of the staff and volunteers at Cliona's Foundation, I would like to say thank you to the Amazon teams in Dublin and Cork for their support. I would also like to thank and congratulate the inspiring team who took part in the cycle - their efforts mean so much to us."

The donations to Cliona's Foundation and Jack and Jill's Children's Foundation were made as part of Amazon's programme to support the communities in and around its operating locations in Ireland. Since opening its doors last year, Amazon's Dublin fulfilment centre has supported many community organisations locally. Charities supported by the team at the fulfilment centre include Jigsaw and LauraLynn Children's Hospice. The Amazon team also donated €5,000 each to Cliona's Foundation and Jack and Jill Children's Foundation when the site opened in 2022.



Pic credit: Gareth Chaney/ Collins Photos





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## GOVERNMENT MUST IMMEDIATELY REGULATE CAMHS

Mark Ward TD has called on the Government to give the Mental Health Commission the statutory powers to regulate CAMHS. Deputy Ward was speaking after a recent meeting of the Health Committee where both the Mental Health Commission and The HSE stated that they would welcome this regulation.

Teachta Ward said “The latest report by the Mental Health Commission into CAMHS is yet again another damning indictment of how mental health services are provided to our children. “Mental Health care should be based on need and not where a child lives but that is exactly what these reports highlight. A postcode lottery of care has developed under this Government. “The Mental Health Commission has made 49 recommendations that the Government must accept

and implement to reform CAMHS and improve care to children.

“We have had no commitment or direction from Government if they will implement these recommendations. “Our young people and their families cannot wait, which is why last month I have introduced legislation to the Bills Office that would give statutory powers to the Mental Health Commission to oversee their recommendations implemented.

“Whilst the Mental Health Commission can make recommendations on governance and clinical reforms in CAMHS they do not have the statutory authority to ensure that these recommendations will be implemented. “During this meeting of the Joint

Oireachtas Committee for Health with the HSE and the Mental Health Commission I was informed that there is scope within the current legislation to allow the Minister to regulate CAMHS. “The Minister must do this immediately. We need this independent oversight with the statutory powers to implement changes and recommendations.

“The implementation of the report’s recommendations must be monitored by the Mental Health Commission and that CAMHS should be immediately and independently regulated by the Mental Health Commission. “Sinn Féin are taking these reports seriously and are proposing solutions to address them. The longer the Government are in office the worse the problems become. It’s time for change.”

## GIRL FROM LUCAN LANDS THE STARRING ROLE VOICING NEW ANIMATION CARTOON LU & THE BALLY BUNCH



Local girl Freya McLaughlin from Lucan lands the starring role voicing new animation cartoon Lu & The Bally Bunch and is tipped for huge success. Lu and the Bally Bunch has already gone international after its release just a few weeks ago, most recently has been picked up by my CBeebies to air over the next months.

The series premiered earlier this year on Cartoonito UK and LatAm and CBC Kids Canada, and will be launching on Cartoonito US, and across EMEA in the near future. Lu & the Bally Bunch has also been licensed to ABC Australia, TVNZ+ (New Zealand), SVT (Sweden), YLE (Finland), RTÉ (Ireland), and PCCW (Hong Kong).

Freya is a member of Talent agent Thomas Spratt’s Dance-Act-Sing Agency @ dasacademy and was only 4 years old when

started with Thomas at DAS Academy Lucan and was 8 years old when she first auditioned for the role along with many other children up for it, then all was put on hold for over a year to then have to re audition for the role and was successful to be then offered the as leading role Lu and the excitement to record a whopping 75 episodes over 13 months. Produced by 9 Story’s award-winning studio Brown Bag Films with the participation of Warner Bros. Discovery and CBC Kids.

The show was released to the public only weeks ago with huge success not only internationally and now we got the news that CBeebies will be taking on her show and upcoming launches across the EU, ME and Africa. Fun Fact: Freya also inspired one of the episodes asking to do a story about horse riding so they wrote one where Lu goes horse fly riding with friends.



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Carol's favourite meals are, spaghetti bolonese, lasagne, curries and really loves the chips. She could eat all this food and still lose weight Carol explained. I continued through Covid with the online support and remained at my target.

Last year carol retired from work and while she enjoyed the free time I was looking to do something different. "My consultant mentioned an Opportunity event and I logged in to hear all about the role".

Following on from an interview Carol travelled to Slimming World Head Office to do all the training, "I am so excited to start supporting members to reach their full potential".

Carol's group starts on Thursday November 2nd in the Plaza Hotel Tallaght at 9.30am. For more information call me if you have any questions on 089 20 20 210.



Carol Before



Carol now

## NATIONAL WOMEN'S ENTERPRISE DAY SHINING A SPOTLIGHT ON FEMALE ENTREPRENEURSHIP

South Dublin's female entrepreneurs and businesswomen are being encouraged to "Empower Business Together" and register for this year's National Women's Enterprise Day (NWED) event taking place on Tuesday, October 19th at the Maldron Hotel, Tallaght. Organised by the Local Enterprise Office (LEO) South Dublin in collaboration with Dublin Region (DLR, Fingal, and Dublin City Council), this regional event is part of the wider national initiative, "Empower Business Together."

This Local Enterprise Office (LEO) initiative, now in its 17th year, will take place with events across 14 events nationwide, featuring a range of successful businesswomen, up and coming female entrepreneurs and amazing speakers in areas of sustainability, innovation, networking and marketing. The theme of this year's event "Empowering Business Together" will embrace a range of themes and challenges that are being faced by women in business and will outline the key supports that are available from financial and consultancy to training and mentoring. Attendees

at the South Dublin event can expect a lineup of dynamic speakers and influential figures from the world of business, including Ellen Kavanagh Founder of Waxperts, renowned for creating Ireland's beloved waxing brand and co-hosting the "Ask My Mentor" podcast.

Sile Walsh An expert in leadership and organisational development, Sile brings a wealth of experience in coaching psychology and inclusivity to the event. And Cathriona Hallahan With 35 years of experience as Managing Director for Microsoft in Ireland, Cathriona is a seasoned leader with a passion for change management and leadership development.

These speakers will be joined by ambassadors, or "Leading Lights," from the various regions, including South Dublin's Aine Kennedy of The Smooth Company Ltd, the creator of the innovative Smooth Stick™ hair taming wand, recognised as one of Ireland's top 30 under 30. Dun Laoghaire's Denise Cullen of Enterprise Solutions, a visionary leader specialising in IT solutions and modern leadership.

Dublin City's Laura McCarthy of Drink Botanicals Ireland, a brand revolutionising home cocktail experiences with award-winning products. And Fingal's Giselle Makinde of Cream of the Crop, a pioneering food tech company dedicated to combating food waste.

Tom Rooney, Head of Enterprise, comments "National Women's Enterprise Day allows us to shine a much-needed spotlight on female entrepreneurship. It's a day dedicated to celebrating the achievements of women in business, addressing real-life challenges faced by women entrepreneurs, and offering a blend of education, motivation, and inspiration."

Some of those involved in events across the country include Broadcaster and Entrepreneur, Anna Daly, Beauty Businesswoman Marissa Carter, Head of the Ploughing Championships, Anna May McHugh, MD of Ardmore Studios, Elaine Geraghty, Entrepreneur, Businesswoman and Broadcaster, Norah Casey, Smooth Company founder, Aine Kennedy and National Enterprise Awards Winner, Noreen Hackett of Advanced

Cosmetics. The Local Enterprise Offices also run a number of initiatives to foster entrepreneurship across the country. These include Local Enterprise Week, the National Enterprise Awards, the Student Enterprise Programme, National Women's Enterprise Day and Local Enterprise Showcase. The Local Enterprise Offices in local authorities are funded by the Government

of Ireland through Enterprise Ireland.

Established in 2014, the Local Enterprise Offices are the essential resource for any entrepreneur looking to start a business or any small business that is looking for support or advice to help them grow. Since their inception eight years ago, the Local Enterprise Offices have helped create

over 25,000 jobs across the country. The LEOs work with thousands of client companies across Ireland in a diverse range of sectors offering mentoring, training, expert advice and financial supports to small businesses. Don't miss the opportunity to be part of this inspiring event. For more information on what events are on go to [www.LocalEnterprise.ie/NWED](http://www.LocalEnterprise.ie/NWED)



Pictured at the launch of South Dublin's National Women's Enterprise Day (NWED) event which takes place in Maldron Hotel Tallaght on Tuesday, October 19th, from left, Aine Kennedy (South Dublin LEO) of The Smooth Company Ltd, Denise Cullen (Dun Laoghaire LEO) of Enterprise Solutions, Laura McCarthy (Dublin City LEO) of Drink Botanicals Ireland and Giselle Makinde (Fingal) of Cream of the Crop.



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# AN COSÁN'S PARTNERSHIP WITH SOUTH EAST TECHNOLOGICAL UNIVERSITY RECEIVES A €1 MILLION BOOST FROM HEA

The partnership between provider based in Jobstown, (SETU) has received a boost of An Cosán, Ireland's largest Tallaght, and South East €1million in funding from the community education Technological University Higher Education Authority

## TWO LUCAN WINNERS NAMED AT HIDDEN HEARING HERO AWARDS

Malawian born Dylan Rebello, a Special Needs Assistant (SNA) at Lucan Community National School, was named a Hidden Hearing Hero at this year's national awards presentation recently. The Immigrant Hero Award is a new award category this year, created to celebrate non-nationals living in Ireland who are making a positive difference in their new community.

Dylan has been described as the most amazing SNA who supports students with additional needs, as well as assisting teachers with their workload. Known as kind, caring, and someone who goes out of his way to get to know the children and their parents, Dylan says his homeland is the 'Warm Heart of Africa' where, despite struggles, Malawians show gratitude, resilience, and warmth.

Although he completed a business degree when he came to Ireland, Dylan Rebello was not happy in the corporate world. His wife, a teacher, encouraged him to re-train, and now he is proud to be part of the Lucan CNS team, providing an inclusive education for the young students who are open-minded, culturally sensitive, and responsible citizens with a strong sense of shared values. Colleagues who nominated Dylan noted how he motivates, encourages, instils confidence and provides a sense of belonging for the children in the school community, regardless of background.

"Our Immigrant Hero, Dylan Rebello is a remarkable man who knows the importance of fostering a sense of community and belonging in a school system. Dylan's dedication to his students, school and community is inspiring. He puts in the time and extra effort to ensure his students are cared for, and shares a positive life-affirming ethos with them," Stephen Leddy, Managing Director of Hidden Hearing, said at the awards presentation.

Elaine Taylor from Lucan was named 2023 Hero For Families Facing Adversity. As a specialist children's and general nurse, Elaine has dedicated most of her life to supporting those with disabilities and illness. She has volunteered with the Order of Malta Ambulance Corps for over 40 years, assisting with training, treating members of the public, and providing community care.

In 2005, she established the 'Share to Care'

project, which sees children and young adults with disabilities spend weekends at Share Village in Lisnaskea, County Fermanagh. With access to the skills of Order of Malta volunteers, and her own nursing background and passion for holistic care, Elaine wanted to create a safe space for respite care that fostered friendship in a meaningful way. Elaine Taylor's work helping families deal with adversity comes on top of working full-time at Cruimlin Children's Hospital, and giving all her free time and energy to others who are in need.

She encourages volunteers to bring their own children on respite weekends, ensuring these young people accept others with disability, and grow and develop in a society that embraces inclusivity and everyone's unique ability. "Elaine Taylor has volunteered most of her life to help others. Her work, opening a safe space for less able children, providing healthcare in the community, and educating others, while holding down a full-time nursing job, is truly remarkable. Elaine deserves very special recognition today," Stephen Leddy, Managing Director of Hidden Hearing, said at the awards presentation.

Dylan and Elaine were among eleven national winners, recognised for ordinary and extraordinary acts of kindness, community, and determination that make a difference in Irish society.

Celebrities from the world of TV and entertainment turned out to congratulate the winners. Kin star, Yasmin Seky, singer Daniel O'Donnell, TV personality Mary Kennedy, actress and new mum, Jenny Dixon, and TV presenters Emer O'Neill, Nuala Carey, and Alan Hughes, were among guests at the gala ceremony to acknowledge Ireland's everyday superheroes, who do extraordinary things.

Congratulating the winners, ceremony MC, Mary Kennedy told guests that the heroes awards scheme is supported by Hidden Hearing because, like our hearing, special people can sometimes be taken for granted and not fully appreciated. "It is important to also acknowledge everyone who nominated these wonderful people. Our winners deserve recognition because, too often, we forget to recognise the ordinary people, doing extraordinary things, quietly, within their community or family," Mary Kennedy said.

(HEA). The announcement was made recently by Minister for Further and Higher Education, Research, Innovation and Science, Simon Harris TD, at the HEA's System Performance Framework launch hosted at SETU's campus in Carlow.

This was one of five HEA Performance Fund grants announced for higher education institutions across Ireland. The funding was awarded on the strength of a case study submitted to the HEA titled: 'SETU and An Cosán: Using the power of community education to create transformative higher education pathways for social inclusion and sustainable development'. An Cosán has worked in collaboration with SETU Lifelong Learning since 2008 in the development and delivery of higher education courses. The collaboration has been recognised nationally as a model of engagement that breaks the cycle of educational disadvantage and reaches learners who would not traditionally have had access to third-level education. An Cosán's learner-centred,

holistic, and transformative educational model was initially based around targeting priority groups in the local community in West Tallaght. Through its partnership with SETU Lifelong Learning and network of over 220 community partners, this was expanded to establish a national Linked Provision programme that has demonstrated leadership in equity of access, participation, and success. An Cosán now provides third-level opportunities for over 100 learners annually, who study across a range of disciplines and award levels. The provision of online course delivery combined with An Cosán's extensive offering of wraparound supports, including hospitality and childcare, flexible scheduling, tutor support and mental health services, facilitates greater access, inclusion, and participation on courses.

Speaking following the announcement of the award, Heydi Foster, Chief Executive Officer at An Cosán, said, "We are thrilled our valuable

Linked Partnership with SETU has been recognised in this way by the Higher Education Authority. The Performance Fund grant will ensure we continue to reach the furthest behind first through our progressive pathways to higher education. We look forward to further collaboration with SETU and to expanding our successful community-based higher education programmes so that more adult learners from marginalised communities across Ireland can achieve empowerment through education."

Rosemary Flynn, Director of Lifelong Learning at SETU in Carlow, commented, "This award recognises our learner-centred, holistic, and transformative model of education and consistently ensures priority groups' access, participation, and personal and academic achievement. This award is focused on our learners - they are leaders in their homes, families and their communities and we look forward to working with An Cosán in this new phase of our partnership."



*Pictured: L-R Dr Helen Murphy, Head of School of Education and Lifelong Learning at South East Technological University (SETU); Thomas Murray, Higher Education Lead at An Cosán; Rosemary Flynn, Director of Lifelong Learning at SETU; Heydi Foster, CEO at An Cosán, Adelaide Nic Chárthaigh, Adult Community Education Manager at An Cosán.*

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# BUDGET 2024 CUTS THE COST OF CHILDCARE FOR FAMILIES

Government is tackling the cost of living for families with major investment in childcare and early education in Budget 2024, said a Fine Gael Senator. Senator Mary Seery-Kearney, spokesperson on children, said that the significant investment in childcare in Budget 2024 will substantially benefit families across the country. "Families throughout Ireland have been facing rising household bills and we want to make it easier for those really feeling the squeeze. If you're looking after a family, you're facing higher energy bills, grocery bills and the added cost of childcare, which for many, can be a very real source of stress.

"Fine Gael is committed to putting more money in people's pockets by cutting tax and USC. This is the tenth Budget in a row this has happened to reward work and help people keep more of their hard-earned wages. "Particularly important for families is the fact that the National Childcare Scheme will see a further 25% reduction

in fees. This reduction in childcare fees builds on Budget 2023, when childcare fees were also reduced by 25%, which means that in 2024, parents will pay 50% less for their childcare than they did in 2022. The scale of this measure will not be underestimated by parents around the country.

"The double payment of child benefit before Christmas will significantly help parents and guardians. This will provide additional funds for families at a time where finances are strained. In addition, extending the Child Benefit payment to 18-year-olds in full time education will give parents a continuous payment of €140 per month until their child has completed secondary school.

"There is also a major expansion of the hot school meals programme. In April 2024, the programme will be expanded to a further 900 primary schools, building on Minister Humphreys' ambition that every child born today will receive a free hot meal at school by

the time they are going to school. "Free school books will be provided up to junior cycle and child benefit will be extended to 18-year-olds in full time education. "With

regards to children with special educational needs, Fine Gael committed to prioritising Special Education in this Government, appointing Minister Madigan

as the first ever Minister of Special Education and Inclusion. "The provision of 1200 additional SNAs will further strengthen supports already in place

for children who require them and underscores Fine Gael's commitment to providing the best start for every child," Senator Seery-Kearney concluded.

## DFB PARTNERS WITH OSCAR'S KIDS CHARITY



Dublin Fire Brigade (DFB) has launched a new partnership with a wonderful childhood cancer charity called 'Oscar's Kids'. For more information on the 'Oscar's Kids' charity visit [www.oscarskids.ie](http://www.oscarskids.ie)

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## MAYOR OF SOUTH DUBLIN COUNTY COUNCIL OPENS THE TEENS SPACE AT KINGSWOOD



On the 6th of October, the Mayor of South Dublin County Council, Councillor Alan Edge officially opened Teenspace at Kingswood. Speaking at the event Mayor Cllr Alan Edge said "This new facility is a welcome part of SDCC's innovative Teenspace Programme which is being delivered across the county. The Council engaged with teenagers who told us that their needs are and how those needs can be best met in South Dublin. We know that our physical and emotional wellbeing is improved by spending time in the outdoors and with the Teenspace programme we are providing areas for teenagers to relax and simply hang out and make friends. At every location we talk to teenagers from that area and ask what type of space they would like and what activities they like to see included. This has resulted in the teenspace you see before you today, located in a safe, high-profile location with plenty of seating and with access to large informal activity areas nearby". The Mayor paid tribute to the local community for their support and the work of Council staff in managing the project and maintaining the Teenspace. Pic Credit: Ben Ryan.

## CALLING PRIMARY SCHOOL STUDENTS WITH BRIGHT IDEAS

BT Ireland is delighted to announce that it is searching for the next generation of young scientists in Ireland, as applications are now officially open for the Primary Science Fair.

The Primary Science fair will run alongside the 60th BTYSTE and takes place on Thursday January 11th and Friday January 12th 2024 in Dublin. 3rd to 6th class students are encouraged to come together and turn their curiosity into projects for the opportunity to represent their school at the 2024 Primary Science Fair. Class sizes of up to 30 students are eligible to enter and schools must submit their entries by Monday, October 23rd at 5pm.

The projects can explore a wide range of interesting scientific areas from living things, environmental



Pictured are primary school students Olivia Leonord (age 9), Conor O'Toole (age 12) and May Hanrahan (age 9). Pic credit: Naoise Culhane.

awareness and care, energy forces to the make-up of materials. If more than one of these areas interest students, the good news is schools can enter multiple times! Participating schools will find out in November if they will be showcasing their projects at the Primary Science Fair in January 2023.

the world of science in a fun way and to ignite a lifelong passion in research and innovation. At BT Ireland, it is our mission to give young people the opportunity to explore the wonders of science, and welcome some of the brightest young minds of tomorrow to the Primary Science Fair in Dublin this January."

Speaking ahead of the BTYSTE 2024 deadline, Mari Cahalane, head of the BTYSTE said "The Primary Science Fair is an opportunity for curious young minds to explore and participate in

For more information on the Primary Science Fair at BTYSTE 2024, please visit <https://btyoungscientist.com/the-primary-science-fair-at-btyste/>

# CHILDREN'S DISABILITY SERVICES ARE SHAMEFUL

Paul Murphy TD slams Government over shameful Children's Disability Services. A public meeting is being organised in Tallaght for parents "dealing with the horrors of navigating children's disability services", according to local TD Paul Murphy. The People Before Profit representative has been working with parents who have had to take high court cases in order to receive services they

believe their child should be automatically entitled to.

He has stated; "Parents are having to fight for these services which are considered basic human rights in most countries. Our Government is failing the most vulnerable in our society. We need huge investment in every area of children's disability services; from assessment of need to financial and respite support for parents and

carers, also support for staff working in the children's disability sector. These workers are underpaid and overworked.."

The Ombudsman for Children recently accused the state of a "profound violation of children's rights" in the areas of mental health and disability care. Nowhere to Turn, a report released by the Ombudsman for Children's Office (OCO)

described how children with complex disabilities are left in inappropriate settings for months as the government has failed to provide them adequate home supports.

The meeting will be addressed by Rachel Martin who founded FUSS (Families Unite for Services and Support) Ireland after two of her children were left in limbo. In a statement she said "For decades, services for our disabled and neurodivergent children/young people have been grossly underfunded and neglected. Every child deserves timely access to assessment, interventions, and appropriate educational settings. It is time for the government to be held accountable for their failures."

The meeting will be held in The Maldron Hotel, Tallaght on Thursday 19th October, 7:30pm. Speakers will include; Rachel Martin founder of FUSS (Families Unite for Services and Support), a solicitor specialising in High Court cases against the state in relation to children's disability services and Paul Murphy TD.

## RAMS IN RHYTHM ENTERTAIN AGAIN



The Newcastle group RAMS in Rhythm recently visited and entertained at the Capuchin Fathers Day Centre, Bow Street.

## SOUTH DUBLIN COUNCILLORS VOTE FOR CONTINUED 15% REDUCTION IN LOCAL PROPERTY TAX

At the October Council meeting South Dublin councillors voted to reduce the Local Property Tax by the maximum 15%. People Before Profit councillor Madeleine Johansson expressed her support for the reduction of the tax.

With the cost of living steadily rising, Councillor Johansson believes it is crucial to provide relief to hardworking families and individuals who are grappling with the economic impacts of these changes. The proposed reduction is a strategic step towards supporting local residents in the face of financial challenges exacerbated by recent developments.

One of the key arguments put forth by Councillor Johansson is the disconnect between the Local Property Tax and an individual's ability to pay. "The tax burden should not disproportionately fall on the shoulders of our residents, especially when it is not directly tied to their financial capacities," she emphasized. The councillor is pushing for a fairer system that takes into account the economic realities faced by the diverse population of South Dublin. She suggested at the meeting that a wealth tax on the richest 5% in Ireland could raise approximately €5.9 billion.

In addition to the increased cost of living, Johansson highlights the soaring energy bills and other household expenses that residents are grappling with. "We cannot ignore the fact that energy prices and basic living costs are on the rise. Our duty as representatives is to mitigate the impact on our community members," she declared.



# CITYWEST & LUCAN SCHOOLS ARE FIRST FOR FITNESS

Four local schools - Citywest Educate Together, Citywest & Saggart Community National School, Adamstown Castle Educate Together National School and Lucan and Griffeen Valley Educate Together National School were amongst the first in the country to host the popular children's fitness

initiative 'Fit Squad' as it resumed its new programme of in-person school visits following the Summer break. Supported by Irish-banana distributor Fyffes and delivered by Irish fitness expert Sharon Flanagan the visits saw almost 400 pupils participate in an active age-appropriate workout

designed to improve their general fitness during which advice on the importance of healthy eating was given. Running until next March, the new series will see some 10,000 pupils participate from schools throughout Ireland, north and south, increasing to almost 40,000 the number that will have

taken part in the programme since it was introduced in

2018. Schools interested in receiving a similar visit can

find details online at [www.fyffesfitsquad.ie](http://www.fyffesfitsquad.ie)



Pictured: Pupils from Citywest & Saggart Community National School.

## PALMERSTOWN CAMERA CLUB WINNING IMAGES



At Palmerstown Camera Club they hold a weekly meeting in person, every Wednesday from 8 pm to 10 pm in the Palmerstown Parish Hall. People interested in joining the club or even attending one or two meetings **FREE** of charge to see how their photography could benefit from being a member can do so by contacting [secpcc@mail.com](mailto:secpcc@mail.com). Recently in Palmerstown Camera Club, they held a judging night for a themed competition "Open". Two winning images featured namely 'Reflections Dun Laoghaire' by Linda Ffrench in the novice category and 'Dancing Tulip' by Michelle Butler in the advanced category.

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