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MINISTER MUST PUBLISH LEGAL ADVICE ON REGULATION OF CAMHS

Mark Ward TD, has said Minister Butler must publish legal advice on regulation of CAMHS. Deputy Ward was speaking after receiving a parliamentary question response from Minister Mary Butler in which she said she had received legal advice that she was not able to regulate CAMHS under the Mental Health Act, 2001. Teachta Ward said "The government have made it clear that mental health is not one of their top priorities. "They have already announced that the legislation to reform the Mental Health Act is still being drafted and will not be published until the summer session at the earliest.

"A delay in reforming the Mental Health Act 2001 has real consequences with a continued lack of regulation of CAMHS. "I introduced legislation to regulate CAMHS and give the Mental Health Commission the statutory powers to oversee the implementation of their recommendations, that they

made in following their review into CAMHS. Shamefully, the government kicked this legislation down the road. "I have since written to the Minister asking if she will give the necessary powers to the Commission under section 34 of the Mental Health Act. She has replied to say she has received legal advice that she cannot.

"Stakeholders have said that this is within her power under section 34 of the Act, so I have asked her to publish this legal advice. "This is disappointing for all of the mental health organisations that have been calling for this to be published as a matter of urgency, but it is also disappointing for the thousands of people who use our mental health services. "This Bill is an opportunity to put in place a robust, person-centric mental health legislation that will protect the rights of people with mental health difficulties in the decades ahead. "The Bill was

prioritised for drafting in the Autumn session and the government have once again put it on the long finger. The government are not treating this with the urgency that it deserves. "With the possibility that a general election could be called at any point, the delay in the publication of the Bill may mean that it may not be completed in the lifetime of this Government. "We have had review after review into CAMHS, but no urgency from Government to prioritise this legislation. This delay is letting our young people down once again.

"Pre-legislative scrutiny for the update of Mental Health Act 2001 was carried out on in October of 2022. The fact that we are over a year on and it is still not on the priority publication list shows to me that it is not a priority for Government. "The longer this is delayed, the longer that service users and frontline mental health organisations have to wait."

ST PATRICK'S DAY PARADE IN RATHCOOLE AND SAGGART



"Huge congratulations to the winners of best floats at the 4 Districts Parade in Rathcoole and Saggart. Local Councillor Shirley O'Hara, Emer Higgins TD and Lynn Tierney awarded 1st place to Rathcoole Football Club, 2nd Place to Luggwoods and 3rd Place to St Mary's GAA with special prizes being awarded to Commercial's Hurling Club and Saggart School Community Centre". "Local TD Emer Higgins and Councillor Shirley O'Hara participating in 4 Districts Parade, Rathcoole & Saggart".

FINE GAEL ★

Have a Query?
Get in touch with my office

Cllr. Shirley O'HARA *Emer HIGGINS TD*

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 Local Election Candidate

With Speakers:

-  Gary Gannon TD (Independent for Education)
-  Sinead Gibney (DUBLIN MEP Candidate)

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TYMON FOOD & CRAFT MARKET 2024

South Dublin County Council is delighted to announce that Tymon Park Food & Craft Market is returning for a third year this spring, after the great success of last year. The offerings available include street food, crafts, artisan produce and entertainment, providing all the ingredients for a fun-filled family day out.

Mayor of South Dublin County Council, Cllr Alan Edge said "I am absolutely delighted to see the Tymon Park Market return this year. The markets are growing impressively every year and are becoming a key part of the spring/summer offering for South Dublin County Council. The

addition of larger-scale events to the market run last year highlighted the huge potential of this project, and the value to residents and visitors to South Dublin County."

Last season's market run included the addition of a fantastic Intercultural Food & Craft event, on 2nd September 2023. This event showcased food, craft, artisan products, along with artistic performances from the diverse community of South Dublin County. Tymon Food & Craft Market plan to host similar events as part of the 2024 market run. The market will operate every Saturday from 11am to 4pm

and will be held for the first time on Saturday the 6th of April. The Market will be located in Tymon Park, Castletymon Road, Tallaght, next to the playground.

The market will promote local enterprise and develop a sense of community by utilising where possible local producers and crafts people, including Local Enterprise Office South Dublin (LEO)

start-up clients.

"LEO South Dublin is delighted to collaborate again with Dublin's Outdoors and Tymon Market in 2024. The experience and reactions of consumers for our food and craft producers who participated last year was invaluable. We look forward to having new producers this year who will also benefit from these

opportunities to engage and develop relationships directly with local consumers and build their confidence to grow and expand their businesses." said Tom Rooney, Head of Enterprise at Local Enterprise Office South Dublin.

Tymon Food & Craft Market is continuing to grow and gain recognition as a popular attraction for residents

and visitors to South Dublin County and the Council's tourism brand Dublin's Outdoors is excited to welcome back this fantastic market for 2024!

Small businesses wishing to be part of this exciting market can email Anne at dublinmarketevents@gmail.com or message Dublin Market Events on Facebook and Instagram.



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ROBUST POLICING PLANS ARE ESSENTIAL FOR EUROPA LEAGUE FINAL TO PREVENT CHAOS

Barry Andrews, Fianna Fáil MEP for Dublin, is calling for comprehensive policing arrangements ahead of the UEFA Europa League final scheduled for May 22nd in Dublin. This call to action arises amidst expressed concerns from UEFA General Secretary Theodore Theodoridis, who highlighted the potential challenges surrounding the Europa League final.

With the match set for the Aviva Stadium and the possibility of Croke Park, with its 82,000-person capacity, being designated as a fan zone by European football's governing body, there are concerns regarding the capacity to accommodate the influx of fans into the city.

Andrews emphasised the necessity of robust policing strategies, stating, "Given the significant fan bases of the teams vying for the final, it is essential that adequate measures are in place to ensure safety and security. With the eyes of the footballing world set on Dublin, it is crucial to avoid incidents akin to the unfortunate events involving Liverpool fans in Paris during the 2022 Champions League final."

Reflecting on past incidents, particularly the Europa League final in Seville in 2022, Andrews stressed the importance of proactive measures to prevent clashes between supporters, citing previous confrontations between Rangers and Frankfurt fans. He remarked, "We must take proactive steps to prevent Dublin from descending into chaos. We cannot afford a repeat of the scenes witnessed in Seville, where violence marred the event."

"While the economic benefits this game will have on Dublin will be immense, I cannot help but recall footage of fans clashing in the streets while locals ran for cover in the 2022 final. This cannot be the case in Dublin in May."

Andrews underscored the heightened significance of crowd control measures, noting the unprecedented convergence of fans in Dublin, with both the Aviva Stadium and potentially Croke Park set to be at capacity. He expressed concern that, should teams like Rangers and Liverpool advance to the final, the overflow of supporters onto the streets and into bars could pose significant challenges.

In conclusion, Andrews, a lifelong West Ham supporter confessed, "While I would love to see my childhood team, West Ham, in the final, the presence of Liverpool would undoubtedly enervate the city, given their passionate Irish following."

11 NEW DATA CENTRES WERE GIVEN PLANNING PERMISSION IN SOUTH DUBLIN DESPITE COUNCILLORS VOTING TO BAN NEW DATA CENTRES UNTIL 2028

In March 2022 People Before Profit Cllr Madeleine Johansson proposed and passed a motion on South Dublin County Council to ban any new data centres for the duration of the new County Development Plan 2022-2028. However, this democratic decision was overturned by then Minister of State at the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage, Peter Burke in summer 2022.

Ireland, and South Dublin in particular, has become the biggest hub of data centres in Europe. There are at least 37 already in operation in South

Dublin alone. Data centres accounted for almost a fifth of all electricity used in Ireland in 2022, as much as was used by all households in the country's urban areas.

Cllr Madeleine Johansson said "The government's insistence on increasing the amount of data centres is not compatible with achieving our climate targets. Data centres are using enormous amounts of electricity and water, when there is already a strain on the grid and water supplies." "11 new data centres have been given planning permission, that wouldn't have happened

if my motion hadn't been undemocratically overturned by the government. Some data centres have been refused permission based on the stricter rules in the plan thanks to my motion. I will continue to fight for a moratorium on Data centres in South Dublin."

Gino Kenny TD added "People are playing their part, we can see that because household

electricity usage has gone down but meanwhile, the government insists on increasing the number of Data centres. This is clearly at odds with Ireland's climate targets and will make it next to impossible to achieve our climate goals.

People Before Profit will continue to campaign for a moratorium on Data centres in South Dublin and nationally."

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ENTERPRISE MOBILITY AND CHILDREN'S BOOKS IRELAND DONATE OVER 864 BOOKS TO CHILDREN

Enterprise Mobility and Children's Books Ireland have launched their 3rd year of partnership by donating 864 books to children at fourteen schools

in Dublin. This donation is part of a larger initiative distributing 4,600 books across Ireland. Recipient schools in Dublin include St Philips National School, Scoil

Áine, Raheny, Grace Park Educate Together, Sacred Heart Senior School, Scoil Moibhi, Skerries, Pelletstown Educate Together, St Martin's National School, St Mary's

National School, St Francis Xavier Senior National School, Holy Trinity National School, Griffeen Balley Educate Together National School, Mother of Divine Grace Primary School, and St Mark's Senior National School.

The aim of the book gifting programme is to increase book ownership among children, enhancing literacy levels and inspiring a life-long love of reading. Additionally, the focus this year is also on supporting young readers with dyslexia, a condition affecting an estimated 1 in 10 students in Ireland*.

Serena Molloy's *Wider Than the Sea* was chosen for this book drive. The Galway-based author struggled with dyslexia during her formative years and now writes stories that celebrate neurodiversity. Her book, *Wider Than the Sea*, features a dyslexic protagonist, enabling many young readers to see themselves reflected in the story. The book has

also been designed with accessibility in mind, using larger, well-spaced font and black-and-white illustrations by George Ermos. Author Serena Molloy expressed her gratitude, saying: "I truly believe that reading, and developing a love of reading, can change lives. The ROAD Forward initiative is such a wonderful project, and I am delighted that my book has been selected this year."

Brendan Grieve, General Manager of Enterprise Mobility in Ireland, remarked: "We are immensely proud of this book gifting programme, which has expanded significantly over three years. Every child should get the support they need to reach their full potential, and we hope this donation will spark a love of reading, and promote feelings of self-belief, inclusion and confidence."

Through our partnership with Children's Books Ireland, we are investing in the future of our youth and striving to enrich the communities

where we live and work."

Elaina Ryan, CEO of Children's Books Ireland, said: "We are thrilled to continue working with Enterprise Mobility for a third year. The ROAD Forward partnership is based on shared values and a common commitment to social equality and inclusion. Serena Molloy's powerful debut verse novel will inspire thousands of children at a crucial point in their reading journeys as they transition to secondary school. We are so grateful to Enterprise Mobility for enabling us to give this gift to children and to be able to reach so many young readers with this beautiful story."

This project - which has gifted more than 10,000 books in Ireland to date - is funded by Enterprise Mobility's global ROAD Forward initiative. Launched in 2020, this initiative represents a €50 million commitment over five years aimed at advancing social and racial equity in communities worldwide.



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SECONDARY SCHOOL ENROLMENT CRISIS SET TO CONTINUE

TDs Eoin Ó Broin and Mark Ward have called on government to address the delays in school capital projects in Dublin Mid-West immediately. An unpublished school capacity survey found that three out of four parents are unable to secure spots at oversubscribed secondary schools.

Teachta Ó Broin said "Shortages of school places

in this area are a result of poor planning and delays in providing school buildings by government. "They are also a direct failure of a broken modelling system, that focuses on capacity in existing schools, while failing to take demographic changes or decades of long under-resourcing of schools into account. "Students are being forced to travel far and wide to find an available

school. "Some are being left with no other option but to get home tutoring as a result of enrolment pressure.

"Many parents and their children, who in some cases live within metres of their school, are not able to secure a school place for the next school year. "It is placing avoidable stress and pressure on families. "Families and students in Dublin Mid-West

deserve better. Teachta Ward said "Oversubscription of schools naturally equates to increased class sizes and we all know the detrimental impacts large class sizes can have on a child's education, particularly those with special educational needs. "They create barriers to effective learning and hinder students' academic and personal development. "Sinn Féin believe that smaller class sizes in Dublin Mid-West are vital as they can facilitate greater student participation and engagement.

"Smaller class size will help increase individual attention and make it harder for students, particularly those with SEN to get left behind, this in turn will lead to enhanced academic performance. "We also need to see the urgent delivery of school building projects in Dublin Mid-West. "This will benefit students in Lucan Community College, Divine Mercy, Griffeen Community School, Scoil Áine, Holy Family Community School, Coláiste Pobail Fóla, Gaelscoil Cluan Dolcán, Gaelscoil na Camóige, St. Thomas, Adamstown Castle Educate Together National School and Scoil Mochua. "Government must address this crisis immediately. Every child should have a school place come September."

COLM WARD ANNOUNCED AS NEW CHIEF EXECUTIVE OF SOUTH DUBLIN COUNTY COUNCIL

Following a meeting of the Council held recently, South Dublin County Council formally appointed Mr. Colm Ward as its new Chief Executive, following a recruitment process conducted by the Public Appointments Service.

Mayor of South Dublin County, Councillor Alan Edge said: "I'm delighted to say that Colm Ward has been appointed as Chief Executive of South Dublin County Council, following ratification by Councillors of

the recommendation of the Public Appointments Service at a specially convened Council meeting. On behalf of my fellow Councillors, we are delighted that Colm; with his breath of experience as a member of staff here in South Dublin for over 25 years, has been appointed and we look forward very much to this exciting new chapter in the life of our County."

Commenting on his appointment Mr. Ward said, "I am honoured and

privileged to be formally appointed as Chief Executive of South Dublin County Council. I look forward to continuing to work with our Elected Members and all of our staff to serve the citizens, communities and businesses of South Dublin and to deliver on our key priorities and ambitious plans for a County that I am proud to be from."

Before taking up the permanent role of Chief Executive, Colm held the position of Interim Chief Executive with the Council since the retirement of his predecessor Mr. Daniel McLoughlin in June 2023, having previously served as Director of Housing, Community and Social Development and as Head of Enterprise among various other roles during his 27 years working in South Dublin County Council.



RAMS ENTERTAIN AT ST PATRICK'S DAY PARADE

The sun shone brightly on the day as the RAMS in Rhythm, Retired Active men's Social, performed at the annually parade at the Clondalkin Parade, in celebration of St Patrick's Day. Their voices were echoed through the streets of Clondalkin as the RAMS did the "warm up" of the parade, by singing for 75 minutes before the start of the parade. It was an honour for the group to be part of such a vibrant and spirited event.

The RAMS in Rhythm were invited by Cllr Francis Timmons to participate in the 2024 Clondalkin Parade and were so pleased to sing and entertain the huge crowd, who turned up to hear their music. 12 members performed and to the delight of young and old, with many lilting along at 1.30 pm in the day. Some of our songs were so well received, and the RAMS in Rhythm finished off with wonderful rendition of "Ireland's Call". Ireland Ireland together standing strong. With everyone singing along, and clenched fists in the air.



Pictured were Mayor of SDCC Cllr Alan Edge, Matt Dowling Secretary RAMS, Ciarán Dowling and Michael Baneham.





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WORLD FAMOUS CIRCUS GERBOLA COMES TO LUCAN FOR EASTER HOLIDAY TREAT

The sensational and internationally acclaimed Circus Gerbola is coming to Lucan at the Lucan Centre from Wednesday April 3rd to Sunday April 7th with a show that guarantees to enthral the whole family.

The two hour show boasts an international galaxy of stars featuring some of the most famous acts in Circus including the legendary 'Flying Trapeze', 'High Wire' and the 'Globe of Death'.

The show also features Tik Tok Sensation Chloe Jayne's Hair Hanging act which

promises to be a much talked about highlight of the show and has to be seen to be believed.

Chloe has amassed nearly 400,000 followers on Tik Tok with her daring display in which she literally hangs by her hair high above the Circus ring. Her social media accounts profile her life as she tours the world with her act as well as a unique 'behind the scenes' look into the magical world of Circus. Chloe has performed all over the world and most recently headlined an award winning Dutch Circus near

Amsterdam over Christmas.

The show also features 9 YEAR OLD 'Princess Gabriella' who performs as part of the Flying Trapeze Troupe. She is one of the youngest circus performers in the World and is no doubt a circus superstar in the making.

The Lucan Centre will host the Big Top again this year and is a fantastic location for the beautiful all new Circus Gerbola Big Top and there is free parking on-site. General Manager David Fitzgerald says 'Our spectacular 2024 show has something for everyone and will keep young and old enthralled. We are really looking forward to our visit to Lucan and we can guarantee Dublin families that an afternoon under the Circus Gerbola Big Top will create memories that will last a lifetime. We are Ireland's Favourite Family Circus for a reason.'

Tickets can now be purchased on www.circusgerbola.ie/lucan

Early booking is advised.



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120,000KG OF LITTER AND RUBBISH ILLEGALLY DUMPED IN THE BEAUTIFUL WICKLOW DUBLIN UPLANDS

The environmental project, Pure (Protecting Uplands & Rural Environments) has recorded a 70% decrease in illegal dumping in the Wicklow/Dublin since 2008. Pure removed over 830 individual sites in 2023, with the collection of over 120,000kg (120 tonnes) of illegally dumped waste from the remote, beautiful, and scenic, Wicklow/Dublin Uplands. The initiative has made huge progress in reducing illegal dumping in the Wicklow/Dublin Uplands. If you compare the amount of dumping collected by Pure in 2023, which was 120 tonnes of waste, to 2008 which was the projects busiest year, when they removed 440 tonnes, the initiative has seen a 72% reduction in illegal dumping in Wicklow/Dublin Uplands.

Minister of State at the Environment, Climate and Communications, Ossian Smyth TD, said: "I think all of us who get to enjoy the Wicklow/Dublin uplands every year owe a debt of gratitude to all the local volunteers, both young and not so young, who take part in Pure Project and the Pure Mile for their continuing efforts to fight the scourge of illegal dumping in their local areas. I am delighted to confirm that my Department have recently committed to funding this important work

for another 3-year period until 2026'.

The Pure Truck is on the road every day, and since Pure was established in 2006, it has removed over 3,950,000kg (3,950 tonnes) of rubbish from over 14,800 illegal dumping sites in the Wicklow/Dublin Uplands, with the project processing over 15,900 reports/complaints. If you were to put all the rubbish that Pure has removed from the uplands into standard household rubbish bags, they would fill over 790,000 bags. If you lined up all these bags on the road, they would stretch all the way from Dublin Airport to Mizen Head in Cork, and back again.

Ian Davis, Pure Manager, commented 'The Pure partnership approach, incorporating statutory and non-statutory organisations, and members of the public, has proven extremely successful in combating illegal dumping in the Wicklow/Dublin Uplands and we are now recording an annual reduction. This reduction in dumping is a direct correlation with the increase of Pure Mile areas. The Pure Mile makes a huge difference to the environment, especially in areas that are affected by littering and illegal dumping. Pure Mile

volunteers have totally transformed the upland regions and because of their dedication, determination, and enthusiasm, they have not only reduced illegal dumping, but in some areas, eliminated the problem. A huge amount of progress has been made since Pure was established, however, there is absolutely no room for complacency, and it is vital that we continue to monitor the situation, or we will see a return to the old days, and dumping will increase.'

Pure has been recording and mapping every location and incident of illegal dumping in the Wicklow/Dublin Uplands since 2006 and they have built up a base-line-data of all illegal dumping activity in this region, the location of dumping, type of dumping, landowner, and approximate amount of dumping, and for several years now they have been recording an annual reduction. The data collected by Pure is valuable information providing indicators into the nature and extent of illegal dumping in Wicklow/Dublin Uplands, and statistical evidence for all illegal dumping incidents in this region.

Pure utilises a multi-disciplined approach in combating illegal dumping, incorporating a number of educational initiatives,

environment/community/heritage projects - The Pure Mile, public awareness campaigns, regional/national media campaigns, enforcement and preventative measures, GPS/GIS data-base to record all illegal dumping sites, and they also have a dedicated vehicle, the Pure Truck, which removes all illegal dumping from the Wicklow/Dublin Uplands. A new Pure Truck has just arrived with funding provided by the Department of Environment, Climate, and Communications, and Pure has recently confirmed that the department has agreed to continue to provide funding for Pure until the end of 2026.

Pure is a partnership approach, incorporating statutory, non-statutory organisations, and members of the public, and for the past seven years they have recorded an annual reduction in illegal dumping activity. This reduction in dumping coincides with the huge increase in Pure Mile groups, which is now numbering over 950 miles (1,529 Kilometres) of road, mountains, woodlands, valleys, forestries, upland amenities, car parks and pull-ins currently being adopted in Wicklow, South Dublin, Dun-Laoghaire, uplands. The Pure Mile is an

environmental, community, heritage initiative, that encourages communities and groups living in rural areas of Wicklow, South Dublin, and Dun-Laoghaire, to adopt a mile of road, or miles of road, in their local area, or in the Wicklow/Dublin Uplands and organise litter picks, clean-ups, anti-dumping campaigns, research information about their local wildflowers, plants, trees, animals, and the built, cultural, and social heritage of an area.

Thousands of Pure Mile volunteers, ranging from individuals to family groups, community groups, walking groups, hiking groups, running groups, cycling groups, schools, scouts, beavers, businesses, and organisations, removed hundreds of tonnes of illegally dumped waste and thousands of bags of litter and rubbish from the Wicklow/Dublin Uplands. Pure provide all groups with Pure Mile signage, Pure Mile high-vis vests, Pure Mile bags, gloves, litter pickers and they also remove all of the rubbish collected by the groups. In 2023, Pure Mile groups organised clean ups and litter picks of the Wicklow/Dublin Uplands which resulted in a visible decrease of litter and rubbish in upland areas. These clean-up events carried out by Pure Mile Groups

resulted in the removal of over 5,000 bags of litter and rubbish, and it further demonstrates the necessity and importance of The Pure Mile Project, and the need for continued collaboration and engagement to protect the Wicklow/Dublin upland environment.

With the introduction of the new deposit return scheme in early February this year, Pure anticipate that their Pure Mile Volunteers will see a reduction in the number of bottles and cans littered throughout the countryside.

Pure is the first initiative of its kind in Ireland incorporating statutory and non-statutory organisations and stakeholders, including, the Department of Environment, Climate, and Communications, Wicklow County Council, South Dublin County Council, Dun Laoghaire Rathdown County Council, Coillte, National Parks & Wildlife Service, and the Wicklow Uplands Council. This unique partnership initiative was established to combat illegal dumping in the Wicklow/Dublin Uplands and was officially launched in September 2006.

Pure are urging the public to report all incidents of illegal dumping in the Wicklow/Dublin Uplands to 1800 365 123 and Pure will remove it.



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M&S FOOD NOW AVAILABLE AT APPLGREEN RATHCOOLE

Applegreen, one of Ireland's leading roadside retailers, has recently opened a new M&S Food shop within its existing Rathcoole site.

Located on the Naas Road, this is now Applegreen's tenth location for its highly successful partnership

with M&S Food. A further 12 additional M&S Food at Applegreen "shop-in-shop" stores are planned by the end of this year. The addition of the M&S range in store involved a significant redevelopment of the Rathcoole location and is part of Applegreen's

continuous development to bring the best customer experience on the road to Irish customers.

The new Rathcoole store will now offer up to 400 M&S products, including Irish customers' favourite M&S Food ranges such as fresh fruit, salads, Irish sandwiches, great quality fresh flowers and convenient lunch and dinner options. Ever-popular M&S treats, such as Percy Pig sweets, M&S cookies, and Colin the Caterpillar cakes, will also be available on-site. Applegreen's partnership with M&S Food complements the company's leading roadside proposition in the Irish market and brings the M&S Food range to a much wider Irish customer base.

Applegreen Rathcoole will also feature Click & Collect for selected M&S Clothing and Home product ranges.

Applegreen Rathcoole Store Manager, Karl Fitzgerald, said "We are delighted to bring the M&S Food range to our customers in the local Rathcoole area. This is a really exciting new concept



Pictured from left to right, Applegreen Rathcoole staff, Paige Braiden, Larisa Ioana Moaca, Elaine Connolly, Karl Fitzgerald, Store Manager, Natasha Gilshenan, and Andrius Safronov, with Percy The Pig and Colin The Caterpillar. Pic Credit: Damien Eagers

for customers, and since Applegreen launched the partnership with M&S last year, stores throughout the country have seen a very positive customer reaction to the new range.

We now have top quality trusted M&S Food products available at our store and that will offer customers

more choice and greater convenience." M&S Country Director for Ireland and Northern Ireland Eddie Murphy said "After a very successful trial period, I am really proud to see our partnership with Applegreen reach the milestone of 10 outlets across the country. One of the primary objectives of our partnership

with Applegreen is to expand the footprint of M&S Food in Ireland, enabling us to offer top quality, trusted value M&S products to a broader customer base. We are delighted to have our products available in the very popular Rathcoole site on the N7 and we look forward to more sites opening across Ireland throughout the year."

Cllr. Charlie O'Connor PC

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THE ORIEL HOUSE HOTEL - CORK CITY NEWLY REFURBISHED 4 STAR HOTEL

The Oriel House Hotel invites you to discover the exciting new design transformation of our Deluxe family guestrooms. This amazing property has built its reputation as a 4-star luxury hotel which offers a unique mix of old and new. Splendour and elegance are woven into the smallest details, promising perfect moments no matter how the guest chooses to spend their time.

The Talbot Collection's 4-star Oriel House Hotel worked with Richard Duggan of Transcend Interiors, to create true luxury and style in the form of the new Deluxe Family Rooms.

Along with our Ellis & Tobin Collection rooms recently refurbished. Nominated for the "Fit Out Awards 2017", these newly transformed bedrooms and suites provide guests with the perfect place to escape and relax.

Uncover the reinvention of the Oriel House Hotel located in one of Cork city's trendiest suburbs, Ballincollig. Our guest rooms with expansive in room facilities, thoughtful touches, and newly updated surroundings. Designed with the corporate and leisure traveller in mind, the new guest rooms are the epitome of comfort and productivity.

The new deluxe family rooms comprise 21 premium deluxe double and single bedrooms

as well as deluxe family rooms that can cater for families, up to five guests. Oriel House is a listed building which dates back to 1805 and, with its city adjacent location, it's the perfect base for a weekend in the rebel county.

Their vintage décor provides an illuminating atmosphere, unique to this stylish property on the outskirts of Cork city centre. The new Deluxe family rooms are exquisitely decorated with stunning designs that cleverly merge old and new eras together. These new deluxe rooms, are the epitome of comfort and style, is comprised of 21 premium executive double guest bedrooms. Ensuring no detail was overlooked when creating these decadent guest rooms, each bedroom is fitted with a luxurious bathroom, which boasts underfloor tile heating.

Both collection and the new deluxe family room refurbishments follow their own distinctive theme which runs through, not only the rooms themselves, but also the corridors. Every room have hand-picked statement pieces and furniture, with the eye being drawn to so many Instagram worthy details.

No ordinary venue, the Oriel House Hotel exudes a fairy-tale feel, thanks to its unique blend of classic elegance and modern



style. The historic Georgian manor house, a charming, listed building that dates back to 1805, stands proudly next to the modern spacious lobby, while the chic guest bedrooms and grand ballroom all provide the perfect mix of comfort and opulence.

Those that tie the knot in the Oriel House Hotel receive the royal treatment in the expansive Honeymoon Suite, situated in the exclusive 18th Century tower, where the happy couple can enjoy total luxury during their stay. Event hosts in search of something a little different also have the option of hosting their guests inside the stunning Leslie Suite. Along with the new Deluxe Family Rooms, Ellis and Tobin Collections the Oriel House Hotel boasts 99 guest bedrooms, along with a state-of-the-art leisure centre and Talbot Tiger Kids Club for mini-VIP guests.

Oriel House Hotel is a great base point for an array of activities and attractions in the local area including Fota Wildlife Park, Blarney Castle & Gardens, Farran Woods & ZipLine and Ballincollig Regional Park, to name just a few.

Oriel House Hotel also house's one of **Rooms available from €159.00**

Cork's most popular eateries The Oriel Bar & Bistro. Our renowned head Chef Ian O'Reilly is committed to using the finest quality ingredients. Oriel Bar & Bistro provides relaxed environment for our guests & customers choosing to enjoy a meal or just relaxing and having a beverage. With surround sound system music ensuring the perfect ambiance in modern designed surroundings with outside patio area.

The 4-star Oriel House Hotel, a proud member of the Talbot Collection, has become synonymous with class and style, with guests their number one priority. Location in the centre of bustling Ballincollig town, and just 8km from Cork's city centre, the Oriel House Hotel allows for convenience without compromising on glamour or privacy, offering guests a 5-star experience in this affordable 4-star hotel.

Given the success of the Talbot Collection in locations such as Wexford, Dublin, Carlow, Midelton and Tipperary this is sure to be the number one choice in the area for all your business and leisure needs in Cork City.





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CIRCLE VHA CELEBRATES COMPLETION OF 38 SOCIAL HOMES IN ADERRIG SQUARE ADAMSTOWN

Circle VHA is delighted to announce the ribbon-cutting for the completion of 38 social homes at Aderrig Square, Adamstown, Lucan. Comprising 19 one-bedroom and 19 two-bedroom apartments, the development marks a significant milestone in providing quality housing to the community, with tenancy having already commenced. The development is part of a larger endeavour aimed at enriching the lives of residents and enhancing the fabric of the neighbourhood. This project stands as a testament to the fruitful partnership between Circle VHA, the developer Quintain and South Dublin County Council. Aderrig Square represents Circle VHA's inaugural project with Quintain, a developer renowned for its contributions to the local community. Quintain's commitment to building not only homes but also amenities such as shopping centers, cafes, and parks exemplifies its dedication to creating thriving, self-sustaining communities.

Designed by BKD Architects, Aderrig Square offers contemporary homes built to the highest standards, catering to individuals and families seeking a vibrant,

inclusive community. The thoughtful design provides a variety of house types within the scheme, ensuring that every resident finds a home suited to their needs.

John Hannigan, CEO of Circle VHA, expressed his excitement about the completion of Aderrig Square, stating, "This project represents a significant step forward in our mission to provide quality, affordable housing to those in housing need. We are proud to partner with Quintain and grateful for the support of Mayor of SDCC, Cllr. Alan Edge, South Dublin County Council, the Credit Union AHB Fund and all those involved with the project in making this vision a reality."

Mayor of South Dublin County Council, Cllr. Alan Edge, says "It is with immense pleasure that I, as the Mayor of South Dublin County Council welcome the completion of these new homes at Aderrig Square in the growing community of Adamstown, Co Dublin. The Council are delighted to collaborate with Circle VHA in delivering quality new homes, which will allow people to embed and thrive in the local community. A key objective of our Housing Delivery Action Plan is to provide

appropriate housing options for our citizens using best practice in location, design, management and supports. The wider Adamstown Strategic Development Zone is based around walkable neighbourhoods located in close proximity to high quality public services. I wish all the new residents of Aderrig Square many happy and successful times ahead in their new homes".

Michael Hynes, CEO of Quintain Ireland, added "We are proud to celebrate the completion of this development at Aderrig Square. It stands as a shining example of what can be achieved through collaboration and dedication to community-building. At Quintain, we strive to create spaces where people can truly thrive. Aderrig Square embodies this ethos, offering not just homes, but a vibrant and inclusive environment where residents can live, work, and play. We look forward to continuing our partnership with Circle VHA and South Dublin County Council to deliver more projects that make a positive impact on the lives of individuals and families in need of quality housing."

Furthermore, this development marks Circle



Pic Credit: Donal Coghlan

VHA's first significant project funded by the Credit Union, highlighting the organisation's commitment to supporting innovative funding solutions for social housing initiatives. With the Credit Union's partnership, Circle VHA aims to continue expanding its remit, providing much-needed housing across Ireland.

Brian Murphy, Chairman of the CU AHB Fund expressed his pleasure of this successful collaboration between credit unions and Circle VHA via the CU AHB Fund "The CU AHB Fund provides a platform to facilitate the natural synergies between AHBs such as Circle VHA and credit

unions, two like-minded not-for-profit sectors rooted in their local communities. The provision of these 38 impressive social homes here in Aderrig Square, demonstrates the power of ordinary people coming together doing extraordinary things. The provision of local social housing is fundamental to the creation and preservation of local communities, something central to social and national cohesion but also central to the avowed values and ethos of both credit unions and AHBs."

Colin Creedon, Director of Finance at Circle VHA, says "We are delighted

to establish a trusted relationship with a new funder into the AHB sector. Circle VHA is pleased is work with the Credit Union whose values are aligned as pillars of the community with a not-for profit people first approach. The team in Circle VHA would like to thank the Directors of the CU AHB fund and their advisers for their support and persistence in getting this funding for these quality homes at Aderrig . We look forward to continue working with the CU AHB fund as it creates a unique opportunity for two community-focused sectors to co-operate in addressing the current national housing emergency".



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MOTORING LIFE WITH

NEW JEEP AVENGER REDEFINES EV MOBILITY



By Breda Corrigan

Having already been awarded such prestigious titles as European Car of the Year 2023 and Best Family SUV in the Women's World Car of the Year awards, the new Jeep Avenger is a pure-electric small SUV that is definitely worth getting excited about.

The new Avenger is the first Jeep to have been designed and engineered in Europe, manufactured in Europe, and sold exclusively in Europe, and it sets the theme for a host of new Jeep models coming our way in the years ahead. The Avenger is the first EV from the US firm, and it successfully manages to look compact and robust on the outside, and substantial on the inside.

Sets New Standards.

Designed with functionality in mind, the Jeep Avenger sets new standards for comfort and convenience in urban commuting or off-road adventures. Its innovative shock-resistant design protects the lights and skid plates from low-speed impact, with the vehicle completely shielded by the 360-degree bodywork protectors. The perfectly-proportioned muscular shapes that embody the exterior of the Avenger are enhanced by Jeep's trademark seven-slot front grille, while the full-LED headlights and distinctive rear lights make the Avenger a car recognisable at first glance. Traditional Jeep design cues work exception

lly well on the small SUV, and when you are seated in the stylish cabin, it is easy to forget that you are in a car that measures just 4.08-metres in length. The Avenger's standard 380-litre boot capacity can be expanded to 1,250-litres by dropping the rear seat backs.

Eco-Friendly Adventure.

The Avenger offers an eco-friendly powertrain that combines zero emissions with a sense of adventure and excitement. The Avenger is front-wheel drive only (for now, anyhow) and it uses a lithium-ion battery with a 51kWh usable capacity to produce 154hp and 260Nm of instant torque. As a result, it can sprint to 100km/h from a standing start in 9.0-seconds, and a fully-charged battery can provide up to 404km of range on a WLTP combined driving cycle, with up to 550km achievable on an urban cycle. The Avenger can charge at a rate of up to 100kW at a public fast charging station, and this can provide a 20-80% charge in just 24 minutes, or a 30km range boost in just 3 minutes if required. It can also be charged at a rate of up to 11kW via a domestic wallbox charger.

Trims & Specifications.

The new Avenger is offered in three trim guises: Longitude, Altitude and Summit, each adding progressively more standard equipment. Key standard equipment in entry-level Longitude trim includes a 7-inch TFT display, 10.25-inch DAB radio & infotainment system with 6 speakers, Apple CarPlay and Android Auto with wireless mirroring, front central armrest with storage, height adjustable cargo floor, 16-inch painted alloy wheels, LED reflector headlights, an All-Terrain mode selector, alarm, automatic air-conditioning, cruise control, EV drive mode selector, hill descent control, keyless start, rear parking sensors and Vulnerable Road User Recognition (AEB) - pedestrian & cyclist. Additional standard specification in Altitude trim includes a 10.25-inch colour TFT display, 17-inch alloy wheels, passive

entry, tunnel pad cover for centre console, adaptive cruise control, handsfree tailgate, traffic sign information, and a rear view camera with dynamic guide lines. Upgrading to range-topping Summit trim will bring with it heated front seats, front & rear velour floor mats, 18-inch diamond-cut alloy wheels, automatic high beam assist, bi-function LED projector headlamps, power-folding door mirrors with integrated puddle lamps, LED front fog lights, LED tail lights, rear privacy glass, 360-degree parking sensors, adaptive cruise control with lane centring & traffic jam assist, heated windscreen, urban blind spot monitoring, welcome & leaving lamps and wireless smartphone charging. No matter what trim level is chosen, the Avenger comes with All-Terrain drive modes that provide the driver with the choice of Snow, Mud or Sand modes to suit road and weather conditions, in addition to Eco, Normal and Sport drive modes too.

On The Road.

My test car was a Jeep Avenger Summit, which was finished in striking 'Sun' metallic paintwork with a Volcano (black) roof, and stylish 18" diamond-cut alloy wheels. The Avenger's short front and rear overhangs, wide track and significant 200mm of ground clearance give it a chunky look. The cabin feels roomy - even for adults over 6 feet tall - and overall build quality is excellent, while drivers will find the logical dash layout easy to use. Jeep claims there are 34 litres of storage in the cabin, with the space underneath the central screen particularly useful. The infotainment system is right up-to-date in terms of the technology used, the screen is a good size, and it is responsive too. The climate controls sit on a row of piano-

style buttons underneath the touchscreen, and this will come as good news for many drivers. On the road, the Avenger's dynamic ability really shines through, with the characteristically rigid structure and firm suspension keeping the car's body control in check, without compromising overall comfort in the process.

The Avenger is a really easy car to drive around town, where its light steering, compact size and relatively-high seating position prove invaluable. The punchy electric motor enables quick progress, and even though the regenerative braking system doesn't allow for one-pedal driving, it does slow the car sufficiently enough to allow for smooth and well-controlled braking. The push-button drive gear selector is located at the bottom of the central dash, and is easy to get used to. For drivers who do wish to take advantage of the regenerative braking function, all that is required is a double press of the 'D' button when required. In terms of efficiency, the Avenger is capable of consuming as little as 15.6kWh/100km on a WLTP mixed driving cycle, with annual road tax costing just €120.

Verdict & Pricing.

The new Jeep Avenger is a really likeable and immensely capable small SUV that is cleverly packaged, efficient, and great to drive. The Avenger redefines what it means to be an electric vehicle by seamlessly blending power, versatility and cutting-edge technology into one exceptional package specifically tailored for every driver's needs. Pricing for the new Jeep Avenger starts at just €35,995 (including Government incentives). Price as tested: €42,495.

LOCAL WALK AND TALK GROUPS JOIN 5K



Pic Credit: Lafayette

On March 23rd, seven walk and talk groups gathered to celebrate the success of the community walking groups under the banner of Walk & Talk Dublin. Led by the Walk and Talk founder Stephen Brennan, and organized by Active South Dublin, the event drew over 100 participants of varying ages and abilities who joined Stephen for a 5k stroll through the park. Accompanied by music and capped off with refreshments, the gathering highlighted the social aspect that is integral to the Walk & Talk initiative. The program began to promoting physical activity within Jobstown while also addressing the mental health needs of local residents. Presently, seven groups are operational across Jobstown, Mac Uilliam, Brittas, Rowlagh, Clondalkin Village, Lucan, and Adamstown. If you're interested and enthusiastic about starting your own Walk & Talk group in your local area, contact Active South Dublin for support and to answer any questions you may have at info@activesouthdublin.ie.

INCHICORE STUDENTS AWARDED FIRST CONSTRUCTION QUALIFICATIONS

Transition year and senior cycle students from Inchicore College of Further Education recently completed their Safe Pass training with the Construction Industry Federation and SOLAS.

They were pictured recently receiving their first professional qualification after successfully

undertaking the training course. Safe Pass is the national mandatory safety training for the construction industry and students from Inchicore College of Further Education undertook the training as part of their curriculum for this year.

Dermot Carey, Director, Safety & Training at CIF

congratulated the students and expressed his gratitude to staff at the school. "Congratulations to Inchicore College of Further Education students on completing their Safe Pass training. Mr Ingle and the school must be commended for giving their students every opportunity to develop their skills and their career options."

Students from across Dublin and across Ireland are undertaking Safe Pass training with Construction Industry Federation as part of Transition Year, Leaving Cert and Leaving Cert Applied courses in schools this year. The initiative is part of the CIF's Careers Campaign to support students interested in a career in the construction industry.

"Safe Pass is a key qualification we all have in the construction sector. From architects, site managers to work experience labourers, Donegal to Dublin, everyone working in the sector starts with a SafePass. I hope this qualification is the first of many for the students at Inchicore College of Further Education, and leads some to a rewarding career in our industry," said Dermot Carey, Construction Industry Federation.



Pictured Students from Inchicore College of Further Education at SAFEPASS training with Construction Industry Federation

FUNDING SHORTFALL LEADS TO MENTAL HEALTH REDUNDANCIES AT JIGSAW

Mark Ward TD has called on the Government to reexamine its decision to reduce funding for Jigsaw. Deputy Ward was contacted directly with reports that Jigsaw has received almost €1 million less this year from the HSE which has already led to redundancies at the youth mental health organisation.

Teachta Ward said "The reports of a shortfall in funding for Jigsaw is extremely worrying. "Jigsaw plays a vital role in early intervention in youth mental health that can reduce the need of CAMHS. "Jigsaw are the only primary care youth mental health service provider in Ireland, for young people aged 12-25. "It has been reported to me that this year there will be a shortfall of almost €1 million in funding to Jigsaw from the HSE. "This has already led to redundancies in the organisation and will likely lead to more. "At present there are 33 active vacant posts in Jigsaw and my understanding is that because of the

shortfall in funding, Jigsaw will be unable to recruit for these positions.

"There is a crisis in youth mental health right through from primary care to the specialist services of CAMHS. "Early intervention is key to addressing mental health needs in young people. "We have seen the demand for CAMHS greatly increase since 2020, a reduction in staff for Jigsaw will only make this situation worse. "What is worrying about this is that the Jigsaw waiting list is finally coming down. At one stage these waiting times were up to 30 weeks, the most recent figures we have received have the highest waiting times is 15 weeks but lowest times at just 1-2 weeks. "Jigsaw operates across 15 different sites, often setting up in areas most in need of mental health support for young people. "I have contacted Minister Butler's office and asked her to reexamine this so that Jigsaw can continue to carry out the vital work that they do in our communities."

20 SCHOOLS ACROSS IRELAND COMPETE IN GRIFFITH COLLEGES ANNUAL SCHOOLS DEBATING COMPETITION

On March 22nd Griffith College held their annual Schools Debating Competition and saw 20 Schools from all over Ireland compete. Finalists on the day were CBS Kilkenny & Saint Brigid's Killarney who debated on the motion "This House believes that the age of majority should increase from 18 years of age to 21 years of age." CBS Kilkenny were crowned this year's winners with Saint Brigid's Killarney Runner Up. Leading up to the competition, students were asked to prepare and submit a 1,000-word essay on the above motion to present on day. Griffith Law Faculty had the difficult decision of reading and reviewing all essay submissions and narrowing it down to 20 schools to present on the day.



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MIRACLE PRAYER Dear Heart of Jesus in the past I have asked for many favours. This time I ask you for a very special one. Take it, dear Heart of Jesus, and place it within your own broken heart where your Father sees it. Then in His merciful eyes it will become your favour and not mine. Amen. Say this prayer for three days. Promise publication and favour will be granted no matter how impossible. Never known to fail. With grateful thanks to Our Lady for favours received. And thanks to the Sacred Heart for favours received. H.B

MIRACLE PRAYER Dear Heart of Jesus in the past I have asked for many favours. This time I ask you for a very special one. Take it, dear Heart of Jesus, and place it within your own broken heart where your Father sees it. Then in His merciful eyes it will become your favour and not mine. Amen. Say this prayer for three days. Promise publication and favour will be granted no matter how impossible. Never known to fail. With grateful thanks to Our Lady for favours received. And thanks to the Sacred Heart for favours received. S.H

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

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Prayer to Our Lady of Mount Carmel O most beautiful Flower of Mount Carmel, Fruitful Vine, Splendour of Heaven, Blessed Mother of the Son of God, Immaculate Virgin, assist me this my necessity. O Star of the Sea, help me and show me herein you are my Mother. O Holy Mary, Mother of God, Queen of Heaven and Earth, I humbly beseech you from the bottom of my heart, to succour me in this necessity; there are none that can withstand your power. O, show me herein you are my Mother, O Mary, conceived without sin, pray for us who have recourse to thee. (3 times) Sweet Mother, I place this cause in your hands. (3 times) G.L

PRAYER TO ST ANNE TO OBTAIN SOME SPECIAL FAVOUR Glorious St Anne, filled with compassion for those who invoke thee, and with love for those who suffer, heavily laden with the weight of my troubles, I cast myself at thy feet, and humbly beg of thee to take the present affair which I recommend to thee under thy special protection. Vouchsafe to commend it to thy Daughter, the Blessed Virgin Mary, and lay it before the throne of Jesus, so that He may bring it to a happy issue. Cease not to intercede for me until my request is granted. Above all obtain for me the grace of one day beholding my God face to face, and with thee and Mary and all the saints praising and blessing Him for all eternity. Good St Anne, Mother of her who is our life, our sweetness and our hope, pray to her for us, and obtain our request. (Say three times.) M.M.

Unfailing Prayer to St. Anthony "Blessed be God in His Angels and in His Saints" O Holy St. Anthony gentlest of Saints, your love for God and charity for His creatures, made you worthy, when on earth, to possess miraculous powers. Encouraged by this thought, I implore you to obtain for me (request). O gentle and loving St. Anthony, whose heart was ever full of human sympathy, whisper my petition into the ears of the sweet Infant Jesus, who loved to be folded in your arms. The gratitude of my heart will ever be yours. Amen.M.M

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

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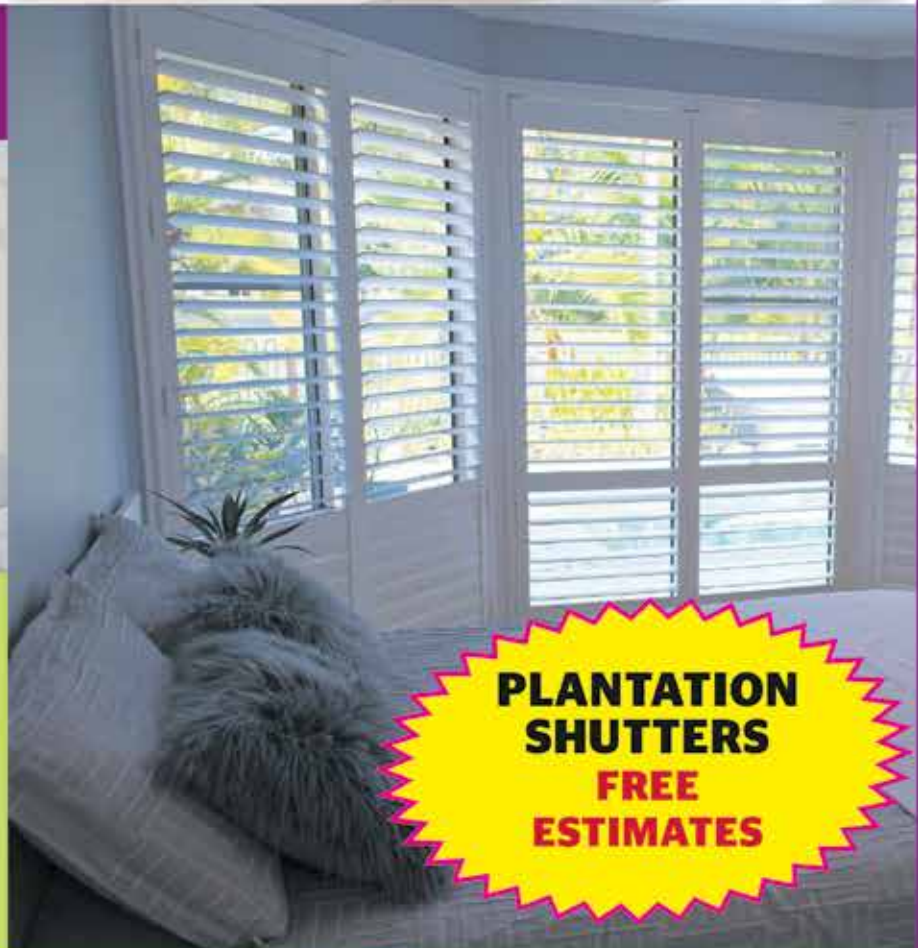
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