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CALLS FOR AN OUTRIGHT BAN ON SINGLE-USE VAPES IN IRELAND

As the country marks 20 years since the introduction of the Smoking Ban, the Dublin MEP has written to the Minister for Health and the Minister for the Environment spelling out the opportunity to show the same courage and initiative in relation to vaping.

“While I welcome the recent ban on selling vapes to minors, it doesn’t go nearly far enough. Efforts so far limit the use of vapes are not working. Walk down any street in cities and towns across Ireland and you quickly come across plastic vapes discarded on paths, roadsides, in parks, under trees and lamp posts, in canals and on beaches. It

also remains the case that those under 25 account for the highest usage of vapes,” said MEP Andrews.

“The fact that it is still perfectly legal to vape indoors in Ireland, in restaurants, bars and workplaces is totally unacceptable. I understand that banning vapes is a radical move. But we, in Ireland, are not afraid to take radical measures to protect future generations from the harmful impact of tobacco products. This week marks 20 years since Micheál Martin introduced the ground-breaking Smoking Ban, which has saved 1,500 lives every single year since its introduction. We can lead

the way on this issue too. “Disposable vapes contain lithium batteries which are highly toxic and harmful to the environment. When disposed of improperly, they leach toxic chemicals into the soil and water, posing a significant threat to our ecosystems. Most disposable vapes contain metals which can take years to decompose. They also contain plastic which never fully decomposes. It turns into “microplastics,” or tiny pieces of plastic, which continue to pollute the environment and pollute our food and drinking water.

“We are yet to fully understand the harmful impact of vaping on human

health but the warning signs are stark. Research here in Ireland already shows that acute effects may include poisonings, burns, asthmatic attacks and stress to the brain, heart and lungs. The Irish Heart Foundation and the Irish Cancer Society have flagged the potential risks, particularly regarding lung inflammation and DNA damage.

“The time for tinkering around the edges of a ban has long-since passed. By failing to introduce an outright ban on these harmful products, we are walking younger generations into an environmental and health crisis that is entirely avoidable.”

HARAMBEE EDUCATION PROGRAMME



Pictured in TU Tallaght at the celebration of the Harambee Education Programme, an initiative of students and staff at the College sponsoring secondary education for children living in the Mukuru slums of Nairobi, Kenya were (L to R) former Mayor Maire Ardagh, Mayor Alan Edge and Councillor Charlie O'Connor.

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CLONDALKIN STUDENTS AWARDED FIRST CONSTRUCTION QUALIFICATIONS

Transition year and senior cycle students from St. Kevin's Community College, Clondalkin 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 St. Kevin's Community

College 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 St. Kevin's Community College students on completing their Safe Pass training. Mr Sheridan and the school must be commended for giving their students every opportunity to develop their skills and their career

options." Speaking about the training Fintan Sheridan, a teacher at St. Kevin's Community College said the day was very rewarding. "The course was very well received by the students and is an important resource to be able to access through school for many of

our students" he said. 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 St. Kevin's Community College, and leads some to a rewarding career in our industry," said Dermot Carey, Construction Industry Federation.



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O'CONNOR NOT CONTESTING LOCAL ELECTION

Longtime Tallaght Public Representative Charlie O'Connor has confirmed that he will not be a candidate in the forthcoming Local Elections. In a statement, the Fianna Fail Councillor stated that he had "taken

this difficult decision, after much careful consideration, for personal reasons". He was first elected to Dublin County Council in 1991 and was a founder member of South Dublin County Council in 1994.

He was reelected in 1999, topping the Poll, and became Cathaoirleach of the Council for the Millennium Year. He was elected to Dail Eireann, succeeding Chris Flood, in 2004 and reelected in 2007 before losing his seat in 2011. He was elected back to the Council in 2014 and reelected, topping the Poll, in 2019.

He is currently Chairperson of the Council's Housing Strategic Policy Committee and represents the Council on the Regional Health Forum of which he was Chairman and the South Dublin county Partnership. He is also a member of Tallaght Drugs and Alcohol Task Force and Tallaght Rehabilitation Project.

Charlie O'Connor was a long time member of the Tallaght Hospital Planning Board and the Amnch Board which opened the hospital. He is the Chairperson of the Dublin Dunlaoghaire Education Training Board and is a member of a number of School Boards including Kingswood Community College, St Marks Community School, Tallaght Community National School and is Chairperson of St Kevin Girls National School, Kilnamanagh.

He is a Board Member of Loreto Playschool & Little Children Creche, Fettercairn. He has served on many community boards including Trustus (Tallaght Welfare Society) Partas (Get Tallaght Working of which he was Chairperson) and was Chairperson and long time officer of Tallaght Community Council.

He is a member of St Mark's GAA Club and Shamrock Rovers Members Club.

1,422 ENVIRONMENTAL COMPLAINTS TO SOUTH DUBLIN COCO RESULTING IN 410 FINES

Local Councillor Trevor Gilligan recently commented on stats released by South Dublin County Council "Each fine carries a €150 value. The total value of the issued fines was €61,500. SDCC receipts from fines in 2023 was just under €24,000. This gives an actual litter fine collection rate of 39%. Not all fines would be paid for various reasons, e.g. if an alleged offender decided to contest a fine, provided evidence it wasn't them or maybe they have just ignored the fine and may be the subject of legal action yet to be decided."

"South Dublin Co Co currently employs 5 anti-litter wardens each assigned to a geographical area of the County. In relation to CCTV systems, there are currently no live systems in operation. The proposed amendments to the WASTE MGMT and litter pollution Act include provisions for the approval of CCTV schemes by local authorities, subject to conditions, for the purposes of deterring environmental pollution and facilitating the deterrence, prevention, detection, and prosecution of offences under the Act of 1996 or the Act of 1997." stated Cllr Gilligan.

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Cllr Madeleine Johansson

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600 CHILDREN'S PLAY THERAPY KITS DELIVERED TO CHILDREN'S HEALTH FOUNDATION

The team at Amazon's fulfilment centre in Dublin has delivered 600 children's play therapy kits to Children's Health Foundation for the patients and staff of Children's Health Ireland hospitals and urgent care centres. The team from Amazon in Dublin packed the boxes, along with 3 pallets of children's toys, games and personal hygiene products which they then delivered to Children's Health Ireland at Temple Street, Connolly, Crumlin and Tallaght.

Speaking on the donation, Darragh Kelly, General Manager at Amazon in Dublin, said "The team at Children's Health Foundation, and all the staff within Children's Health Ireland, have changed the lives of many families across Ireland, and continue to do so. I couldn't be prouder of the team's efforts to support the charity and show our gratitude."

Edita Sveikatiene, an

employee from Amazon in Dublin who packed some of the boxes, added "It's very fulfilling to be part of a team that gives back to the community. So many members of our team were involved in packing the kits for Children's Health Foundation and it was a joy for me to personally deliver them."

Nessa O'Reilly, Head of Strategic Giving of Children's Health Foundation, added "A massive thank you to the staff at Amazon in Dublin for the generous donation of 600 play therapy kits. Play therapy helps to support the overall wellbeing and recovery of patients receiving care by alleviating stress within a hospital environment, enabling patients to express their emotions, and enhance their coping skills."

It was lovely to have the Amazon team deliver the packages to Children's Health Ireland hospitals and

urgent care centres. We, along with Children's Health Ireland staff appreciate the efforts of Amazon to better the care of sick children.

The donation to Children's Health Foundation was made as part of Amazon's

programme to support the communities in and around its operating locations in Ireland. Since opening its doors in 2022, the Dublin fulfilment centre has supported many community organisations locally, with donations totalling €46,000.

Charities supported by the team at the fulfilment centre include Cliona's Foundation, Jigsaw and LauraLynn Children's Hospice.

The Amazon fulfilment centre in Dublin, the first of its kind in Ireland, opened in

August 2022 providing more than 500 new permanent jobs. The 630,000 square foot centre at Baldonnell Business Park in Dublin holds millions of items that are picked, packed and shipped to customers across Ireland and the rest of Europe.



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MAYOR LAUNCHES NATIONAL SPRING CLEAN

The Mayor of South Dublin County Council, Cllr Alan Edge launched National Spring Clean in the company of Adamstown Tidy Towns on 2nd April 2024.

National Spring Clean is Ireland's largest anti-litter initiative, running throughout the month of April, interested community groups who are planning a community clean-up during the month can apply online

at www.nationalspringclean.org.

The National Spring Clean campaign Ireland is largest and longest running anti-litter campaign. It is operated by the Environmental Education Unit of An Taisce and is supported by Local Authorities who help co-ordinate clean-up activities for communities within their counties and the Department of Communications, Climate

Action and Environment. Local authorities also provide for the disposal of all rubbish and waste materials collected. Over the past 25 years, through the National Spring Clean; Over 85,000 clean-ups have been organized. 42,000 tonnes of litter have been removed. And 12 million hours of work have been put in by volunteers.

All clean up groups

registering with the National Spring Clean campaign receive a FREE clean-up kit comprising of refuse sacks

and protective gloves to keep participants clean! Groups can register at www.nationalspringclean.org or at

envawareness@sdbublincoco.ie for equipment/supplies and to arrange for your Spring Clean Event.



DAVID GARDINER SELECTED TO STAND IN PALMERSTOWN-FONTHILL

The Workers' Party is proud to announce that David Gardiner will be standing in Palmerstown-Fonthill at the upcoming local elections.

Gardiner, a firefighter who has lived in Palmerstown for almost 30 years, said: "I want to give working people a voice on South Dublin County Council. The Workers' Party believes that class politics should be central to every level of government. If elected, I will fight for public housing, to bring waste collection back into public control, and to make sure working communities have our concerns heard and addressed."

"Fine Gael, Fianna Fáil, the Greens and their lackeys have failed workers both

at the national and local level. We need to elect more people who aren't afraid to call the establishment parties out and take the fight to them on the issues that matter to working people."

"There are a number of issues that I've been active on locally. I've pushed for more bins in the area, more regular tree maintenance and street sweeping, enforcement of the HGV ban on Kennelsfort Road, restoration of the Silver Bridge, better traffic management and more facilities. These are all things that I want to continue to fight for in the council chamber."

Workers' Party President Michael McCorry said: "David is a socialist, a republican,

a trade unionist and a community activist with a proven track record of fighting for working people. We are glad to have him standing for the Workers' Party in Palmerstown-Fonthill."

"The Workers' Party is standing in these elections to give everyday working people a voice in local government. There is no issue too big or small for us to fight on so long as doing so benefits the working class." "We want to put strong socialist fighters in the councils to take on the establishment parties on the basis of class politics, and I would urge all voters who want to see workers put first to give David Gardiner their number one vote in Palmerstown-Fonthill."

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PRIVATISATION OF TALLAGHT POST OFFICE MUST NOT DISADVANTAGE WORKERS OR CUSTOMERS

TD for Dublin South West Seán Crowe has said that the changes to Tallaght post office when it moves from An Post management to a private contractor cannot lead to a disruption of services for the local community and that workers must not lose out on employment, their rights as workers or redeployment.

Teachta Crowe said "While it

is welcome that the future of postal services may be preserved in Tallaght, the recent announcement that management of the post office from An Post to a private contractor has created uncertainty and worry locally. "It is vital that any relocation does not take the post office away from the central location it currently holds and where it is easily

accessible by those who need its services. Workers must not lose out on the possibility of employment with the new postmaster, redeployment within An Post or a voluntary severance package.

"We cannot afford to have any more black spots within

the postal network and while I appreciate that post offices that are run directly by An Post are a small minority of the network, this cannot mean that Tallaght and its local population does not lose out. "Despite the crucial role post offices provide in our local communities, the network has suffered

from years of neglect by successive governments, with hundreds of closures and the loss of vital outlets right across the state.

"A Public Service Obligation must be introduced to secure the future of the network and allow post offices to continue to provide excellent

services. "Post offices provide a crucial service in both rural and urban areas and Sinn Féin have been advocating for a PSO to secure the future of the network for over a decade now. This needs to happen sooner rather than later and end the uncertainty facing loyal staff and customers."

PORTRAITS ON THE STREET

Palmerstown Camera Club are in winning form, they recently won a plaque as Top Club in group B Monochrome in Photographic Society of America and also came in the top Quartile of the World Photographic Cup. The group meet weekly



every Wednesday from 8pm to 10pm in the Palmerstown Parish Hall. Why not attend one or two meetings FREE of charge to see how your photography could benefit from being a member just drop in or contact Secretarypcc82@gmail.com. Recently in Palmerstown Camera Club, they held a judging night for panel competition.

Winning images featured were Advanced Winner Portraits on the Street by Lorraine Morris and Non-Advanced Winner Whistle Blowers by Miriam Power.

COUNCIL TO AUDIT WHEELCHAIR ACCESSIBILITY

At the April council meeting South Dublin County Council agreed to produce an audit of all council owned buildings for wheelchair accessibility and accessible toilets. This was agreed after a motion proposed by People Before Profit Councillor Madeleine Johansson was passed. Council management also agreed to update information about accessibility on the council's website. Councillor Johansson had originally asked for an annual audit of buildings to be published on International Wheelchair Day 1st March, however council management said they wouldn't be able to do so "due to resource constraints".

Cllr Madeleine Johansson commented: "I'm happy that my motion was passed and that an audit of council owned buildings will be carried out. While accessibility is very good in many buildings such as County Hall and many of the libraries there are others such as community centres that don't have that.

"People with disabilities, and particularly wheelchair users, face a daily battle trying to do the simple things such as accessing buildings and public spaces. The council has a role to play to ensure that at the very least buildings owned by the council is accessible for everyone in our community regardless of ability. "I'm disappointed that the management wouldn't agree to an annual audit. This would have allowed detailed reporting every year to make sure that accessibility is improving in our public buildings. I'm committed to continue to fight for this in the future."

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JOHN WEST MARKS FÉILE ANNIVERSARIES WITH NUTRITION CAMPAIGN FOR DUBLIN FAMILIES

John West, proud sponsors of the GAA's under-15 annual Féile Peile na nÓg (football) and Féile na nGael (camogie and hurling) competitions has launched John West Féile 2024 with a strong nutrition message for families. And young players from Lucan Sarsfields and Whitehall Colmcille were present at the Croke Park launch. John West Féile brings together thousands of young hurlers, camogie players and Gaelic footballers in a celebration of the GAA's community ethos through underage competition.

Throughout its sponsorship of Féile, John West has focused on the importance of natural nutrition in fuelling families, whilst encouraging teenagers to participate in Gaelic games and enjoy an

active, healthy lifestyle. Coinciding with the launch of John West Féile 2024 at Croke Park, John West revealed the details of its latest nutrition campaign.

The company is to promote better, healthier lunch options as canned fish is a nutritious and convenient - yet often forgotten - alternative to processed, salty, less healthy options. John West highlighted how processed products contribute nearly 30% of the total salt intake of teenagers, according to the National Teens' Food Survey. The survey was undertaken by the Irish Universities Nutrition Alliance (IUNA).

In addition, the latest National Nutrition Survey, also undertaken by IUNA,

found a staggering 94% of teenagers and 66% of adults are not getting enough Vitamin D. Speaking at the launch, Noreen Roche, Kilkenny senior hurling team dietician, highlighted how two portions of fish per-week significantly increases Vitamin D levels. "Tuna is high in natural protein and contains less than 120 calories per-tin. It provides other key nutrients we are lacking, such as vitamin D. Also, tuna, when canned in water, is low in salt."

The importance of healthy meal options was also stressed by John West Féile 2024 Féile Ambassadors and inter-county stars: Derry's Conor Glass (Gaelic Football), Kilkenny's Eoin Murphy (Hurling), Mayo's Danielle Caldwell (Ladies

Football) and Waterford star and PwC GAA/GPA Camogie player of the year, Beth Carton.

According to John West Ireland Head of Marketing, Anne-Claire Monde, those seeking high protein foods are often looking in the wrong places. "Many popular lunch and snack options are high in calories, salt and sugar, but tuna is a healthier choice and a much better alternative."

This is the ninth year of John West's sponsorship of Féile, and the competition has grown to become one of the biggest underage sporting events in Europe. For a second year, John West will partner with SuperValu to promote John West Féile in stores across the country, as retailers continue to recognise the popularity of the competition. The company will also mark the 50th anniversary of the Camogie competition, and the 30th anniversary of Féile's LGFA element this

year. This year's John West Féile na nGael national division one finals will take place at Leinster venues on Saturday, June 22. The 2024 John West Féile Peile na nÓg national division one finals will take place at Connacht venues on Saturday, June 29. Regional finals in all four codes for counties outside of division one will also take place on the second last Saturday in June (Féile na nGael) and the last Saturday of that month (Féile Peile na nÓg), at venues nationwide. Féile na nGael county competitions will be played over the month of April, with Féile Peile na nÓg county competitions taking place over the month of May.

Uachtarán CLG, Jarlath Burns, said John West Féile is an integral part of the GAA calendar. "It nurtures an enthusiasm for our games, where friendships and memories are made," he said. "Generations have experienced the joy of being a part of Féile na nGael and Féile Peile na

nÓg, and I look forward to seeing this tradition continue this year. "Our thanks to John West for their support in the promotion of this competition and to the national organising committee for their work on John West Féile 2024."

Ladies Gaelic Football Association President, Mícheál Naughton, highlighted John West Féile's emphasis on fun, friendship and participation. "Players will make new friends and re-connect with old friends. John West Féile will once again provide young players with lifelong memories."

Hilda Breslin, Uachtarán, The Camogie Association, said John West Féile na nGael is, for many players, their first time to compete in a national competition. "I hope their experience will be positive, both on and off the field, and pay tribute to the volunteers who make such a valuable contribution to make John West Féile so special."

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Pictured: John West Féile and Ambassador Waterford camogie player Beth Carton with Jo Malone of Whitehall Colmcille and Erin Hynes of Lucan Sarsfields during the launch of the John West Féile 2024 at Croke Park. Photo by Ramsey Cardy/Sportsfile .



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23 YOUNG PEOPLE FROM ACROSS DUBLIN PARTICIPATE IN DÁIL NA NÓG 2024

Over 160 young delegates from Comhairle na nÓg (local youth councils) across Ireland met in Dáil Éireann to debate the critical issue of mental health, one of the biggest topics of concern to young people in Ireland, particularly since the pandemic. Mental health was identified by over 3,000 young people across Comhairle na nÓg as their priority issue for discussion in advance of the day, which they feel that the Government should do more to address. Shriya Mishra, Dun Laoghaire-Rathdown Comhairle na nÓg member addressed delegates during the opening ceremony.

The Minister for Children, Equality, Disability, Integration and Youth, Roderic O'Gorman, said "I thank the Ceann Comhairle and the Houses of the Oireachtas Citizen Engagement Team for working with my Department to make Dáil na nÓg 2024 happen. I know that Minister Foley and her officials have engaged very positively with the outgoing National Executive on their topic of Relationships and Sexuality education. I am also grateful to Minister Butler for attending to hear directly about the mental

health issue selected by all the Comhairlí na nÓg for debate by their delegates to Dáil na nÓg. The incoming National Executive will work on this issue over their two year term, and the support of Minister Butler and officials in the Department of Health will be a critical element in the impact they can have."

Dáil na nÓg, Ireland's National Youth Parliament, now in its 22nd year, tackled a range of issues related to mental health, including body image, school stress, and mental health services. The biennial parliament, which provides a platform for young people to speak about and make recommendations on the issues that most affect them, was hosted by the Ceann Comhairle, Seán Ó Fearghail, who chaired the Opening Session in the Dáil Chamber. There were closing remarks in the chamber from Minister of State for Mental Health & Older People, Mary Butler.

Delegates from Comhairle na nÓg - representing each of the 31 local authorities across Ireland - filled the committee rooms in Leinster House where they took part in workshops to debate the three mental health topics.

Discussions were held around how mental health affects the lives of young people in their communities and what changes need to be implemented to address these challenges and improve the experiences of young people in Ireland. Following a formal vote in the afternoon where delegates processed through the lobbies of the Dáil, school stress was selected as the priority topic. This will inform the work of the incoming Comhairle na nÓg National Executive 2024-2026, who are tasked with advocating for policy change in this area during their tenure.

Previous years' themes have included equality, climate action, education, and transport. 2022's delegation voted for 'A more inclusive Relationships and Sexuality Education' as the priority topic. To progress this the National Executive 2022-2024 contributed their views to two National Council for Curriculum and Assessment submissions, attended round table discussions hosted by the NCCA on the content, and conducted surveys with Comhairle na nÓg members. They have also invited and taken part in discussions with relevant

experts in the field from the Department of Education, Dublin City University, the Health Promotion Research Centre and the World Health Organisation. They have made a proposal to the Department of Education who welcomed their work and committed to consider ways in which to implement their recommendations.

Chairing the debate, Ceann Comhairle Seán Ó Fearghail, told those gathered: "The young people gathered in the chamber are a powerful force for change. At a time when parts of the world are in turmoil with war, hunger and the devastation of climate change, it is you who hold the keys to your own future. Your discussions today on the themes of Mental Health, Body Image and School Stress will evoke thoughts and compassion for your peers and colleagues. If there is one thing I would encourage you to do in this Chamber today, it is to listen completely. When you listen you play one part of the conversation. The golden rule of being a good speaker is to be a good listener."

In her closing remarks to delegates, Minister of State for Mental Health & Older People Mary Butler added:

"I was really pleased to listen and engage with 160 articulate young people across all 31 Comhairle na nÓg. The voice of younger people must be heard and listened to, particularly on issues such as youth mental health. I want to thank each and every one of these young people for the valuable contributions they are making to society. As advocates representing young people across Ireland, I have heard your voices today and I share your vision for improvement and progress, especially in relation to signposting services that are available for young people to support their emotional wellbeing and to support positive mental health. I am familiar with the fantastic work that Comhairle na nÓg do. Our young people are the future leaders and it great to see them here in the Dáil chamber today discussing such an important topic."

Dáil na nÓg is organised by the Department of Children, Equality, Disability, Integration and Youth in association with members of Houses of the Oireachtas and Government. Dáil na nÓg is an initiative of the Department for Children, Equality, Disability, Integration and Youth and was first established in 2001. The topic of school stress voted on at Dáil na nÓg will form the basis of the incoming Comhairle na

nÓg National Executive's formal workplan for the next two years. The National Executive is made up of one representative from each of the 31 Comhairlí na nÓg and follows up on the recommendations from Dáil na nÓg to make changes for young people in those areas. The National Executive has a term of office of two years and meets once a month, and is facilitated and supported by the National Participation Office and the Department of Children, Equality, Disability, Integration and Youth who ensure that they get the opportunity to engage with appropriate Ministers, policy-makers, Oireachtas Committees and other decision-makers.

Minister O'Gorman further said "I am very pleased that Dáil na nÓg sat in the Dáil chamber, with delegates from each of the 31 Comhairle na nÓg local youth councils. This youth parliament convenes every two years and is an important way for members of the Houses of the Oireachtas and Government to hear directly from children and young people on the priority issues that need to be addressed. I have been very happy to support and promote the voice of children and young people in Government decision-making and applaud the young people who have come here today to advance this important work."



Pictured: Freffy Molloy, Em Phelan, Liam Kelly and Ash Kennedy

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UNCERTAINTY HANGS OVER POPULAR CORKAGH PARK MARKET RETURN

Local Clondalkin Councillor Trevor Gilligan has raised his concerns over the uncertainty of the local market "SDCC must publish a date for a return of the Corkagh park. It was noticed on social media that the Tymon park market has returned, yet no date has been set for the Corkagh market. Tymon park started on the 6th of April. It's fairly clear, succinct and straight to the point. With Corkagh, we have no clarity on the matter. The 1st year was a

huge success, with 1000's in attendance. The 2nd year was a flop. There was an issue with a contractor, by the time SDCC engaged with a new contractor, it was too late. Summer was nearly over. I fear a similar outcome this year. Visitors had arrived, only to find out that the market was cancelled, with no prior warnings. Vendors decided to set up stalls at the popular, electric picnic instead. I understand the reasoning behind this. However, no such issues

arose with any of the other markets in SDCC."

"It's not good enough, the other markets in SDCC are now up and running, with no date for Corkagh park market. Another point to note, is that due to the Corkagh park upgrades, taking place for the duration of the summer. Both car parks are out of action. This would result in vendors hesitating to get involved. SDCC should have foresaw this. Again, Clondalkin

gets left behind. It is my understanding that SDCC will clarify the situation in the next few weeks." - Stated Cllr Trevor Gilligan PC.

"The Council tendered for suitable market operators to operate summer markets in Tymon and Corkagh Parks. The operator for Tymon was ready to put in place the steps to start their event early and therefore Tymon Food and Craft markets will commence this coming Saturday 06/04/24. The



Pictured Cllr Trevor Gilligan PC & daughter Chloe at the popular Corkagh Park market

Council is still in discussions with a third party who has expressed an interest in offering a series of markets in Corkagh Park over the summer. Further information will follow as soon as details have been agreed."

KICKBOXING IRELAND'S JUNIOR TEAM KICKS OFF WORLD CHAMPIONSHIP CAMPAIGN WITH STRONG TRAINING SESSION

Kickboxing Ireland's Junior World Championship journey commenced with remarkable vigour during the first squad training session of the year. Over 70 talented junior athletes fighting in the point fighting, kick light and light contact divisions participated in two intensive 90-minute development sessions, signalling a promising start to their preparations.

Head Coach Dave Heffernan said "Great to see such positive energy and talent from all our young athletes from clubs all over the country working together. The future looks bright for kickboxing in Ireland."

Additionally, we are thrilled to announce that the next squad session is scheduled to take place in tandem with the first ring sport session on May 5th. Furthermore, Forms squad sessions are planned in the coming weeks.

With such robust training schedules and enthusiastic participation, this half of the year is shaping up to be an exciting and productive period for Kickboxing Ireland

This year, the Junior Team is set to proudly represent Ireland at the prestigious WAKO World Championships in Budapest, Hungary. With 54 positions already secured, the team is gearing up for the upcoming All Ireland Championship Round 2 in Carrickmacross on April 21st, where the remaining spots will be fiercely contested.

Kickboxing Ireland is excited to announce sponsorship opportunities for both the Junior and Senior Teams for the upcoming championships. Organizations interested in partnering with us to support our athletes are encouraged to contact us at pro@kickboxingireland.ie for further details.





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MOTORING LIFE WITH**NEW VW ID.3 OFFERS STYLISH SUSTAINABILITY****By Breda Corrigan**

The new ID.3 continues to advance electric mobility at Volkswagen. The clear lines of the exterior give the new ID.3 a more mature look, and the interior is characterised by high-quality materials, while numerous assistance systems are included as standard features. While it was very well received by Irish EV buyers at launch, the original ID.3 was let down by indifferent material quality, a clunky infotainment system and cumbersome controls, but the revised ID.3 promises to address these issues.

Upmarket Look & Feel.

In order to address the first issue, the new ID.3 features upgraded materials throughout the cabin, with the most obvious areas to receive attention being the seats, dashboard and door trims - all of which was done in an effort to create a more upmarket interior look and feel. The infotainment system now features VW's latest software, and this makes the system more user-friendly and quicker to respond to commands than before, with the central touchscreen display now offering even greater clarity and higher resolution. As before, there are very few physical buttons on the dashboard, with most functions controlled courtesy of the infotainment screen or with voice commands. Touch-sensitive slider controls for adjusting the media volume and interior temperature are still located at the bottom of the touchscreen, and are relatively easy to use when on the move. The revised ID.3 benefits from a light reworking of the exterior, which provides the car with a more cohesive overall appearance that does without the black plastic trim that featured on the bonnet of the original model. Other exterior tweaks include a reprofiled front bumper and a revised rear light cluster. The

ID.3's microfibre seat upholstery is made from 71% recycled materials and no animal-derived products are used inside at all.

Four Trim Levels.

There are 4 trim levels available in the new ID.3: Pro, Pro Plus, Pro S, and top-spec Pro S Plus. Key standard features in entry-level Pro trim includes; adaptive cruise control with speed limiter, Keyless-Go central locking with SAFELOCK, armrests for both front seats, 10-colour ambient lighting, central control unit, Climatronic air-conditioning, DAB radio, driver alert system, drive profile selection, electric auxiliary air heater, electrically-operated and power-folding door mirrors, heat-insulating windscreen, heated washer nozzles, high beam control (Light Assist), LED headlamps, LED rear combination lamps, leather steering wheel, mobile phone interface, Park Distance Control (parking sensors), Natural Voice Control, lane keeping assist, 'Play' & 'Pause' foot pedals, private emergency call system, sound deadening package, Wired & Wireless App Connect, dynamic road sign display, and manual height adjustment for the front seats, along with ISOFIX child seat anchorage points on outer rear seats and on the front passenger seat with airbag deactivation. Enhanced levels of functional equipment, comfort and assistance packages come as standard on a varying scale across the other ID.3 trim levels, and a host of optional extra packages are available for buyers looking for ultimate personalisation.

Impressive Power & Range.

Power comes from the same permanent magnet synchronous electric motor as before, with power provided to the rear

wheels via a single-speed transmission. Pro and Pro Plus versions of the ID.3 come with a 58kWh battery with a range of up to 428km, while Pro S and Pro S Plus versions benefit from a bigger 77kWh battery with a range of up to 557km from a full charge. Producing 204hp and 310Nm of torque, the ID.3 58kWh can sprint from 0-100km/h in just 7.4-seconds, with the slightly heavier 77kWh versions taking just 0.5-seconds longer to reach 100km/h. The ID.3 can achieve a full charge (0-100%) via a domestic wallbox charger (11kW) in approximately 7.5 hours, while a 5-80% charge at a DC public fast-charging station can be completed in as little as 30 minutes.

Test Car Details.

My ID.3 Pro S 77kWh test car looked stunning in its Dark Olivine Green metallic paintwork with a contrasting black roof and black door mirror covers, along with its optional 20" Sanya alloy wheels in lieu of the standard 19" Wellington alloys that come as standard. Additional standard Pro S equipment includes heated front seats, unsplit rear seat bench with a split-folding backrest and a centre armrest, 4 seats (2 up front and two at rear), and a front passenger-side exterior mirror lowering function (when reverse gear is engaged). As before, the regenerative braking function is accessed by pressing the B mode button on the gear selector, which is still conveniently located on the end of the 5.3-inch digital instrument display. The high seating position allows for excellent outward vision, and the flat floor provides above-class-average levels of accommodation for all occupants, with impressive leg and headroom throughout. Boot capacity measures in at a respectable 385-litres with the rear seats in place, but

this can be expanded to 1,267-litres when the rear setbacks are folded down. The ID.3 feels equally at home on a twisty back road as it does on a fast-moving motorway, as the well-damped chassis provides impressive body control, irrespective of the road surface. The car responds swiftly when the accelerator pedal is pressed and its nimble steering set-up operates in a light and precise fashion. The original ID.3 was known for its predictable and dependable handling characteristics, and the revised ID.3 also excels in that respect, while its impressive refinement, comfortable ride quality and competent driving dynamics ensure it remains one of the best electric hatchbacks on sale. With 'We Connect digital services', drivers can transform their ID.3 into a connected car, as the built-in SIM card can connect it to the internet on request. In addition, the 'We Connect ID smartphone app' provides the driver with important information about their car even when on the move. For example, you can check the remaining range, or if all of the doors and windows are closed, along with the option to start and stop charging, and adjust the air-conditioning system to your individual preference.

Verdict & Pricing.

With the introduction of the revised ID.3, it is clear to see that Volkswagen has succeeded in addressing the shortcomings of the first generation car. The minor tweaks that the revised ID.3 has received will undoubtedly boost its appeal even further than before. The new VW ID.3 is priced from just €37,112 (after state subsidies, and inclusive of delivery & service plan). Price as tested (excluding extras fitted to test car) is €42,440.

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SPECSAVERS CLONDALKIN HOSTS GAA DAY

Specsavers Clondalkin teamed up with Round Towers Clondalkin GAA club in an initiative that aims to reconnect older and more vulnerable people within the GAA community.

As part of the initiative, Specsavers Clondalkin provided a bursary fund to Round Towers Clondalkin GAA club to bring the elderly and more vulnerable in the local community to the Dublin vs Tyrone Allianz league football match.

The initiative, now in its second year, is a nationwide

campaign by Specsavers to support those who may have fallen out of the habit of going to GAA games in recent years and who otherwise might not have the opportunity to attend, enjoy a day out watching their favourite sport. The success of last year's initiative saw a growth in clubs' interest to participate and so, Specsavers are delighted to facilitate the initiative in all 32 counties across the island of Ireland.

Speaking about the GAA day out, Specsavers Clondalkin, Director Lisa

Walsh says: 'Looking out for our community is so important to us, so this was another way for us to help those who may have been shielding during the pandemic and to encourage them to re-connect with the wider society and get back to enjoying the activities they love the most. We were delighted to work with Round Towers Clondalkin GAA club on this initiative and we hope that everyone enjoyed the day.'

Sharon Jordan, Secretary at Round Towers Clondalkin GAA club, adds: 'I would like to thank all the staff at Specsavers Clondalkin for organising a great day trip to Croke Park. It was a great day out and one which our community members will remember.'

Those who attended the game really enjoyed the day and extended their thanks to the staff at Specsavers Clondalkin and Round Towers Clondalkin GAA club for

organising a memorable day out.

Lisa continues: 'Our customers are at the heart of our Clondalkin store, and our older customers are a key focus for us. We know that regular social interaction, the forming of relationships and connections within social networks generates higher levels of physical and mental wellbeing in older people which is why we were delighted to work with our local GAA club on this initiative.'

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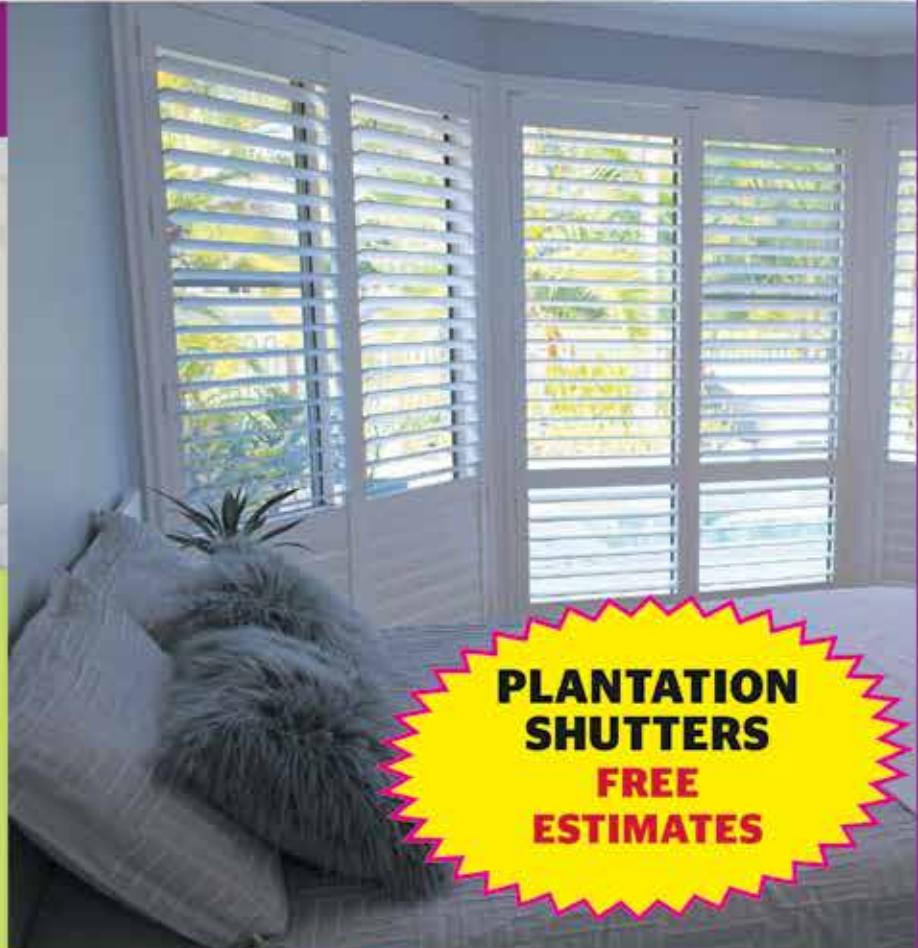
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