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FREE PRIMARY SCHOOL BOOK SCHEME FOR 563K CHILDREN FROM SEPTEMBER

Welcome news in recent weeks as the extension of free primary school books for local school children from September is a great boost for families, Minister of State for Business, Employment and Retail, Emer Higgins TD has said. Nationwide, more than 563,000 pupils will benefit from this important scheme in over 3,227 schools, including 138 special schools.

Minister Emer Higgins said: "Fine Gael is working to reduce the cost of education for families in Dublin and across the country. "I know how stressful school and

college costs can be for families and we in Fine Gael have been working over the past number of years to reduce that burden. The primary school free book scheme removes the cost of books, copybooks and workbooks for hundreds of thousands of families.

The Dublin Mid- West TD commented "This year, it will be also extended to families with children in secondary school too, up to Junior Cert year. "We have also expanded the Hot School Meals scheme to ensure parents don't have to worry about

the lunchboxes either. "We are reducing college fees and increasing the student grant. This is all aimed at ensuring we can put more money back in your pocket and give your children the best start in life."

"The scheme means no parent will be asked to purchase any schoolbooks, workbooks, or copybooks. Funding will be issued to schools this month to allow schools adequate time to prepare for the upcoming school year. Schools will also be given a grant to assist with the additional work required to

implement the scheme, Emer Higgins TD concluded."

Minister for Special Education Hildegard Naughton also commented "Fine Gael is working to dismantle any barriers to accessing education because we believe in equality of opportunity for everyone. "Education gives every child an equal start in life. By removing the cost of books and school meals, we are ensuring every child can access school and their parents do not have to worry about the significant cost it can bring."



Are you looking for a new garden shed? See pages 9 to 12 for more information.



FINE GAEL ★

Have a Query?
Get in touch with my office

Minister Emer HIGGINS TD

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FIANNA Fáil THE REPUBLICAN PARTY

NO TO STUPID PROPOSALS TO BLOCK CLONDALKIN ROADS

Clondalkin local election candidate Sarah Adedeji has outlined her and Fine Gael's opposition to ideas regarding the banning of traffic from Clondalkin Village.

Sarah Adedeji said "The biggest issue new councillors will have to work upon after the local elections this summer will be a Local Area Plan for Clondalkin Village. This will be one of the most important issues councillors will address in the first 12-18 months of the new council.

The initial consultations carried out by unelected council officials about the Clondalkin Local Area Plan caused widespread justifiable anger and distress for local residents. Floating

ideas such as road closures for Main Street, Tower Road, and Orchard Road caused great alarm and anxiety. If these proposals were put into effect, our cherished village's use and accessibility would be greatly impacted. I've spoken to many residents terrified of added congestion at Newlands Cross due to the closure of Main Street to Tower Road. This would turn the already acceptable 5-minute trip into a nightmare of worsening traffic, which will have an impact on local businesses, residents, and commuters alike".

Sarah has with her Fine Gael colleagues opposed these traffic management ideas for Clondalkin. Sarah's

colleague, Cllr Shirley O'Hara, is at this month's Clondalkin area committee of the council, demanding big changes in advance of any future consultation on the local area plan.

"I will be asking my council colleagues to support the motion that any options, designs and concepts for the future Clondalkin Local Area Plan delete the ideas floated at the most recent consultation that have caused so much needless anxiety for residents. I acknowledge that the Planning Department has said in its response to councillors that, feedback from residents will inform the ongoing preparation of the draft Local Area Plan. However, we want the options presented at the next round of consultation to remove the bad ideas causing so much needless distress".

Sarah Adedeji has met with local residents who have outlined in detail their opposition to the traffic proposals. Sarah concluded "This is the biggest issue facing local councillors in

the next 18 months and it is important Clondalkin elects local councillors that will only adopt common sense proposals and not schemes

that waste taxpayers' money and put a burden on local residents and businesses. If elected in June I will fight to ensure any future Clondalkin

Village Enhancement Scheme or Local Area Plan, reflects the community's view and not that of unelected planners".



NEWS GROUP

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AVAILABILITY OF GRAVE SPACES IN SOUTH DUBLIN AREA

Local Councillor, Charlie O'Connor recently enquired on the availability of grave spaces in the County into the future.

The reply from South Dublin County Council gave a detailed summary on the grave availability in the

area. "The preparation of a burial grounds strategy is currently underway and this process is examining among other things the provision of grave spaces in the County. The examination of related issues will look at the current and future provision of grave spaces in privately

developed graveyards as well as Council owned ones".

"There are 3 Council owned graveyards where graves are available for sale and these are Bohernabreena, Saggart and Newcastle graveyards. Following the recent completion of construction works on section A3 there are now 646 plots available for sale in Bohernabreena with scope for the development of another 1,600 plots in the undeveloped sections of A5 and A6. There are also cremation plots and angels plots available in Bohernabreena and these are being developed in accordance with need and demand for them".

"The extension to Saggart graveyard in 2001 provided approximately 700 additional spaces with 300 of these still remaining. There is no scope for further development of additional plots in Saggart graveyard. The Muslim graveyard at Newcastle currently has 69 plots available for both adults and children and this section will be further developed as required. There is scope for the development of an

additional 800 plots in the Muslim section. In the non-denominational section of Newcastle graveyard there are 454 plots available with scope to develop a further 1,600 plots in the future".

"There are no grave plots remaining in Esker graveyard however provision has been

made for the development of a Columbarium Wall for cremation urns, a tender process to procure the necessary construction contract will commence soon. A new privately operated graveyard, Esker Lawns Cemetery, has opened recently in the area with 3,400 grave plots available

there". The reply concluded "The privately operated graveyards at Newlands Cross, Mount Venus and Kilmashogue continue to operate and the available capacity at these locations will be established through the review process and preparation of the burial grounds strategy."

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CLONDALKIN ROSARY GROUP GATHER



Rosary Group from the Clondalkin Parish Church of the Immaculate Conception, who attended St Brigid's Well on Boot Road every evening at 7.00pm during the month of May to recite the rosary. Pic credit: Tommy Keogh

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GAELSCOIL NA CAMOÍGE GETS GO AHEAD

After 30 years, Cllr Trevor Gilligan Welcomes GaelScoil na Camoige Minister Announcement. 2 x 16 Classroom Primary Schools + PE hall, he said “I welcome the Ministers’ decision on this, it has been delayed on so many occasions and so we hope we do not get let down again. This has been 30 years in the making. Former students now teach in the school.

This affects not just Camoige, not just Gael Scoil Chluain dolcain but in general, the greater Clondalkin area. I met with príomhoide Aoife Ni Raghallaigh recently and I commend her on her hard work, on top of her role as principal, in pushing this along. They held a peaceful protest outside the Dail and I feel they brought the issue to the highest levels with a professional manner. My child attends Gael Scoil Chluain dolcain and I witness on a daily basis how much time and effort the teachers put into the children and their education. I hope to meet with Minister Foley to keep on top of the issue and to make sure there are no more delays or hiccups along the way including construction of the buildings.”

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ACTION TO BE TAKEN ON GLEBE HOUSE RATHCOOLE UNDER THE PROVISIONS OF THE DERELICT SITES ACT

Local Fine Gael Cllr Shirley O’Hara has welcomed the outcome of the inspection of Glebe House by the Council. The council is to take action after Cllr Shirley O’Hara repeatedly sought this.

The Council’s Planning Department reported to Cllr O’Hara recently “I confirm that the Senior Clerk of Works carried out an inspection on the 15th of March 2024 and confirmed that the property constitutes a derelict site within the definition contained in section 3 of the Derelict Sites Act 1990. The Senior Architect has endorsed the report of the Senior Clerk of Works. Efforts are being made to identify the current owner of the site and some progress has been made in this regard. Once we have received confirmation of ownership, a decision will be made as to the most appropriate course of action to be taken under the provisions of the Derelict Sites Act”.

Cllr O’Hara said “Originally built in the 1740s, Glebe House was a Charter School. Not only is the site

an eyesore in our village, but the deterioration of the complex also threatens one of the major heritage buildings in our community.

I welcome that the Council is finally taking action on this. This month Rathcoole Village will receive a major

lift when the Court House is opened as a new community venue and coffee shop.

Many residents lament the poor state Glebe House has fallen into and would like to see these buildings rejuvenated and bring that section of the main street

back to life. The future of Glebe House is a major priority for me in the next council. I want to see it restored and the dereliction cleared up.

This will make a big difference to the environment for Rathcoole residents”.



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TRANSFORMATIVE POWER OF COMMUNITY EDUCATION FOR LONE PARENTS

Tallaght-based organisation An Cosán is one of the eight community education providers featured in a report launched recently, which revealed that increased and sustained funding for community education could have a transformative effect on the lives of lone parents and their families. The report was launched by Norma Foley TD, Minister for Education, on behalf of The Bechaire Fund and Community Foundation Ireland

Lone parents with low levels of education face disproportionate risks of poverty and social exclusion (ESRI 2023). *Research conducted between June 2022 and July 2023, by the Centre for Effective Services (CES) on behalf of the Bechaire Fund, found that lone parents engaging in community education programmes experienced a transformative impact on their lives. The report, titled 'The Power of Community Education: Supporting lone parents to fulfil their potential in education,

employment, and society", concluded that by removing barriers to their educational success and personal growth, community education empowers lone parents to create a better future for themselves and their families. The report also highlighted how community education providers are improving employability for lone parents by identifying and responding to skills gaps and local employment opportunities and delivering tailored courses accessible in their local areas.

Avril Hannifin, who started her community education journey with Ronanstown Women's Collective Ireland before progressing to An Cosán where she now works as Digital Learning and Development Officer, spoke at the launch. She said of her learning experience "The impact of community education is more than receiving a piece of paper. For lone mothers it is discovering your self-worth, your voice, your passions in a society which historically demonised us. I gained

confidence and inspired by An Cosán's founders, I dared to dream."

"I'm now working full time and paying the investment made into me forward. The Degree and all of the other qualifications helped me to pave my own path in my own time and allowed me to learn in a way that suited me. Community education allowed me to flourish from a girl to become a woman and community leader. The most important impact is that my daughter also progressed and is involved in the community. We have a roof over our heads, food in our bellies and are blessed with caring community support. My mental health and confidence improved as I became more autonomous, assertive and adventurous."

Esther Chahira, who earned a QQI Level 5 in Business Administration with Digital Skills at An Cosán, said "I joined the program when I arrived in Ireland from Kenya, where I had been serving in the National Police Service. I joined

the An Cosán program as I sought to be relevant to the Irish job market and did not have an Irish education. The course was fully sponsored and the hybrid physical and online program delivery also suited my needs since at the time, I just had a newborn and another child who was a toddler.

"This course gave me the best foundation and experience for my profession. The course also gave me most of the skills and competencies to pursue further opportunities such as the Garda Trainee programme. My self-confidence significantly increased learning with participants from different parts of the world. I also got to learn technical skills in business management, leadership and communication. The program gave me an introduction to the Irish community. For the first time I experienced diversity and inclusion where I felt a sense of belonging."

Alanna Wade, who also completed a Business

Administration with Digital Skills qualification with An Cosán, said "If I'd known there was a place like this for me to come when my kids were younger, I would have started a long time ago. The mentoring was the help I probably didn't know I needed! I have so much more confidence now, I feel equipped and ready to return to the workforce and have a successful career. My mental health has improved greatly and I feel empowered by the other ladies on the course!"

Speaking at the launch, Minister for Education, Norma Foley, TD, said "The key role for Community Education in tackling disadvantage and social exclusion of lone parents, is in affording a trusted engagement or re-engagement with education, with a key focus on the learners' personal wellbeing which is complemented by progression opportunities into further and higher education, training, paid employment, and involvement in the wider community.

"The report's findings reach into a whole range of responsibilities across several Departments. Following extensive stakeholder engagement, SOLAS is currently finalising a new Community Education Framework that will ensure a consistent learner approach and aligning Community Education with common Further Education and Training requirements. Meanwhile, the REACH Fund, operated through the Education and Training Boards, supports educationally disadvantaged learners to access and participate in community education. "These initiatives align with the report's overall recommendation to maximise the power of community education to deliver specific policy commitments. It is my true belief that Education is our greatest power so I'm delighted to be at this launch and to congratulate all those involved in the journey of the Report on Community Education as a support for Lone Parents."

Sharon Burke, Funder Advisor

at the Bechaire Fund stated "This research shows that community education transforms lives. Where the wraparound support for programmes includes 1:1 mentoring support and provision for childcare, lone parents can pursue education without worrying about their children's care, enabling them to fully engage and achieve their goals, progress in further and higher education and training, paid and better paid employment, and involvement in their community

"It's time to increase investment in community education in Dublin and to improve access for lone parents. The key to unlocking its full potential lies in three critical areas: increased funding and streamlined funding processes; providing robust wraparound supports including childcare; and using uniform measurement techniques that capture the full impact of community education, in terms of both benefits to learners and participation numbers. "As it stands, community education operates on the edge of a funding crisis every year. By streamlining funding and making increased funding available on a multiannual basis, we can reduce administrative burdens and free up staff to focus on providing quality education and support for even more lone parents."

Denise Charlton, Chief Executive, Community Foundation Ireland, added "Access to community education is essential if we are to achieve equality. This pioneering research, made possible by philanthropy, makes the compelling case for investment to ensure all parents enjoy that access. The provision of wrap-around services such as childcare and a switch to reliable multi-annual funding are essential not just for lone parents, but also for educators so they spend less time worrying about balancing the books and more time in the classroom.

The Community Foundation supports these findings and encourages all policymakers in Dublin to act."



Pictured at the launch of the Bechaire Fund and Community Foundation Ireland Report on Community Education as a Support for Lone Parents were l-r: An Cosán Community Education Lead Debra Crawley; Cllr Lilian Guéret; An Cosán Senior Administrator Lily Ward; Cllr Lyn Hagin Meade; Heydi Foster, CEO of An Cosán; Cllr Alan Edge, Mayor of South Dublin; Avril Hannifin, Digital Learning and Development Officer, An Cosán; Alanna Wade, An Cosán adult learner; and Adelaide Nic Chárthaigh, Adult Community Education Manager, An Cosán (Photo credit: Barry Cronin)

RUBY BYRNE (13) FROM CLONDALKIN CROWNED MISS IRELAND TEEN JUNIOR

Ruby Byrne (13) from Clondalkin and currently in 1st year in Louis High School, Rathmines was crowned Miss Ireland Teen Junior at a spectacular ceremony hosted by Brendan Marc Scully at The Hilton Hotel Dublin Airport on May 4th. Ruby also won

the coveted Sports sash on the night and the overall People's Choice Award. She has a passion for Dance and is a Ballroom Dancer and Latin Dancer with Xquisite Dance and judges were most impressed by her charity projects and community involvement already at such

a young age. Established in 1947, Miss Ireland has been the launch pad for many eminent, successful, and inspiring women in Ireland. In recent years the Miss Ireland Franchise has raised over €400,000 for various charities including Laura Lynn, Temple Street, Alzheimer's Ireland, Pieta House, The Cari Foundation and The Julian Benson CF Foundation.

This year for the first time, The Miss Ireland Organisation introduced Miss Ireland Teen to bring the values of Miss Ireland to the younger generation. The finalists were put through their paces in a challenging process testing their skills in debating, public speaking, talent, sports, modelling and each finalist shared details of their charity projects and community involvement as part of the 'Teens for Change' initiative.

Ruby loves to help charities and give back to the community. Being part of Xquisite Dance has given her the opportunity to work with lots of charities. "At Christmas we help Barnardo's with their Christmas Shoebox Appeal and at easter we help Shoulder to Shoulder Outreach with their Easter Egg Drive. Last year my Dance Federation started the Ukraine/Ireland Dance

Appeal. I was so happy to be part of this, helping my dance School and Federation raise funds to bring over 100 child dancers to Ireland to attend one of the biggest competitions and give them the chance to have a war free weekend full of fun and dance. My whole family got involved and even my nanny gave up her house so that we could be host to some of these amazing dancers. I also participated in a Dance A Ton to help towards raising funds. I made lots of new lifelong Ukrainian friends that weekend. This charity taught me how lucky I am that I still get to go to school, go to dancing, and go out with my friends without worry. The most heartbreaking thing for me was that most

of these children had lost parents and siblings in the war, I could not even begin to imagine the Nightmares they were facing in their home country. This charity really touched my heart. I hope to encourage other teenagers to help charities and get involved in their communities like I do." she said

Judges on the night were current Miss Universe Ireland Aishah Akorede, singer & former Miss Ireland finalist Luiza Hogan, former Love Island contestant Shannen Reily McGrath and Jenny Russell of Hairitage. Miss Ireland Teen finalists will take an active role in the Miss Ireland Organisation, inspired by current Miss

Ireland Jasmine Gerhart who was thrilled to be crowned the 76th Miss Ireland at the end of last year. The stunning law graduate from Dublin aspires to work for the United Nations, enabling her to travel to developing nations where women's voices often go unheard. She has just returned from India where she was working with the Hope Foundation a journey of compassion and advocacy as she takes on the role of Ambassador for The Hope Foundation (HOPE), the Cork-based charity dedicated to supporting street-connected and slum dwelling children in Kolkata, India.

See www.miss-ireland.ie for more information.



Pictured: Brendan Marc Scully with Miss Ireland Teen Junior winner Ruby Byrne.

CALLING ON TALLAGHT SOUTH TO COME OUT AND MAKE YOUR VOICE HEARD

RTE recently isolated Tallaght South as not having an interest in politics or voting due to having the lowest voter turnouts in the last local election.

"This is certainly not my experience " says local election candidate Adam Smyth. "I have been out on the doors of Fettercairn, Citywest, Jobstown, Killinarden and Brookfield, and I have found residents engaging and interested in local politics and the future of their area" says Adam Smyth.

"I decided to put my name forward for election because I am frustrated at the slow progress of development in Tallaght South" "I am active in my community and I can see a real need for action and development. I am in touch with 100's of others who are active in our community, and can't understand why Fettercairn, Citywest, Jobstown, Killinarden and Brookfield are not getting the same amenities that the rest of Tallaght and the county have. A low voting turnout is not due to the lack of political interest or love for

our community" says Adam Smyth.

"I'm calling on Tallaght South to come out and make your voice heard. We are one of the youngest constituencies in the country, and I will be one of the youngest councillors on SDCC if elected. I share all the experience of those I hope to represent, growing up in Tallaght South, I went to one of our amazing schools but was aware of the underfunding, I live in my family home and share the same struggle of many trying to move out and own my own home".

"I'm aware of the anti social behaviour and the effects this has on our lives and in particular public transport. I see the gaps in infrastructure and support, so do the people of Fettercairn, Citywest, Jobstown, Killinarden and Brookfield, I am calling on all residents of Tallaght South to come out on election day and vote, and vote for someone who is prepared to make a change for our area, a change for good".

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SDCC AND LOCAL COMMUNITY GROUPS COME TOGETHER TO PLANT MINI WOODLAND

Following the recent vandalism in Dodder Valley Park, South Dublin County Council in conjunction with The Stepping Stone Forest Group, Dodder Action, Cherryfield Dog Walkers, Dodder Valley Cycling, Tallaght Rugby Club, Tallaght Litter Mugs, Knocklyon

Network, other groups and park users, will commence a new mini woodland in Dodder Valley Park.

encouraging genetic diversity as well as providing a natural refuge in urban and parkland areas. The area chosen within Dodder Valley Park is along the M50;

the planting of dense native woodland in this location will not only strengthen the ecological corridors present, but also greatly assist in combating climate change

and dust particles from the motorway.

The event will run from 10am-1pm on both days. Please note that parking is limited.

Cllr. Charlie O'Connor PC

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The Fianna Fail Team is Barry Andrews M.E.P, John Lahart TD, Cllrs Yvonne Collins, Teresa Costello, Lilian Gueret, Emma Murphy & Charlie O'Connor. Local area Reps Lynda Prendergast, Adam Smyth & Thyes Kavanagh



On May 31st, and June 1st, community volunteers will come together, along with Cllr. Alan Edge, Mayor of South Dublin County Council, for the first step in the mini woodland process. This is a two-step project; the first step is to add cardboard and mulch to the ground. The second is the planting over 3000 mini woodland trees, this will happen in the Autumn.

For every 1 tree vandalised in the recent attack in Dodder Valley Park, 40 mini trees will be planted as part of this mini woodland. Mini woodlands are small, dense, rapid-growing plantations of entirely native species in an urban setting.

They are sometimes referred to as Stepping Stone forests as they allow wildlife to move from one woodland to the next woodland



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OFFICIAL OPENING OF GLENASMOLE COMMUNITY CENTRE

The newly redeveloped Glenasmole Community Centre was officially opened by the Mayor of South Dublin County Council, Councillor Alan Edge on the 24th of April, bringing to fruition a 5-year long redevelopment project led by the Glenasmole Community Association.

The Community Association reharnessing the local community spirit and voluntary efforts that had led to the construction of the original community centre building back in 1973, set out on the latest chapter of community development for the valley in January 2018 and after a series of community meetings and a community wide consultation, set their sights on achieving the vision of extending and modernising the community hall to help address the local community needs of today and into the future.

Five years on and overcoming many covid pandemic related delays, the original community hall has been transformed into a modern multi-purpose community facility, with

the redevelopment works totalling a cost in the region of €1.1mill, providing a facility housing a multi-purpose community hall, community meeting room, large kitchen facilities, multi-purpose café area and an adjoining all weather multi use games area.

The costs of the redevelopment works were met from a combination of local community fundraising, support from Community Finance Ireland and the Community Association securing significant funding from a number of funding bodies, including Rural Dublin Leader, South Dublin County Council, the Department of Tourism, Culture, Arts, Gaeltacht, Sports and Media through the Sports Capital Programme and the Department of Rural & Community Development through both the Connected Hubs and Community Enhancement Funds.

Speaking at the Official Opening the Mayor stated, 'that he was hugely privileged both as Mayor but more particularly as a local Glenasmole resident to have the honour of officially

opening the re-developed centre and that this ranked as the highlight of his time as Mayor of South Dublin'.

John Lee, Chairperson of the Community Association, stated that 'Today marks a historic day for the

community of Glenasmole, our new redeveloped community centre is now available for the community to use, enjoy and make the next set of local memories; all of which would not have been possible without the sheer dedication and hard

work of both the local committee and the buy in and huge support received from the external funding bodies of whom we will be eternally grateful to.' In the coming months, the community association will start to focus on phase

2 of the project, which will see the development of a community campus on lands surrounding the Community Centre, with the communication association having secured €140,000 of funding through the Council's Have Your Say Initiative.



Pic Credit: Ben Ryan



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LOCAL ELECTION CANDIDATE LYNN TIERNEY SHINES SPOTLIGHT ON CHILDCARE CRISIS IN CLONDALKIN LEA

Lynn Tierney, Social Democrats candidate for Clondalkin Local Electoral Area (LEA), has highlighted the pressing issue of inadequate childcare services in the area, impacting families in Saggart, Rathcoole and Newcastle. Tierney, a strong advocate for community welfare, has

uncovered several examples where developers have built childcare facilities in the local area but failed to open them despite receiving planning permission to do so, leaving families without essential services. "I am deeply concerned about the shortage of childcare services in our community,"

Tierney states. "It's unacceptable that facilities lie dormant while families struggle to find adequate care for their children."

With the local population surging and further development on the horizon, Ms Tierney has made addressing this issue

a priority. She has already taken action by raising the matter with Social Democrats colleague and party Spokesperson for Children, Jennifer Whitmore TD, signaling a commitment to finding solutions to this pressing local concern.

The issue, Tierney suggests, is multifaceted. "One aspect is lax planning enforcement and it's time for accountability," Tierney

remarked. "Developers must be held responsible for delivering on their commitments to our community. Councils must do more to ensure that where they have given planning permission for this most basic of services, these services are delivered". Thirdly, Tierney understands childcare providers are struggling with rising costs such as fuel, rental and costs associated with

regulatory compliance. "Where childcare services are in place, more support should be made available by the Department of Children, Equality, Disability, Integration and Youth to protect the future of these services. Tierney's dedication to resolving this issue underscores her commitment to creating a more inclusive and supportive environment for all residents.

RAMS GROUP VISIT BLARNEY CASTLE



All 26 members of the Retired Active Men's Social RAMS had their first trip for 2024 to Blarney Castle, Co. Cork recently instead of their usual activity day of bowls, pool, and socialising. A lovely fine day as the group embarked on the coach, with all happy men looking forward to their day out. Although Cork is a three-hour drive, it did not deter any of our members, as they had their first stop at the Cahir House Hotel in Tipperary. Lots of banter and talk on the way. RAMS received a wonderful warm reception at the Cahir House Hotel, and all members enjoyed their morning coffee and hot scones. In Blarney, a good walk around the old castle, and some members venturing to climb the old castle to "Kiss" the Blarney stone. Then on the way home, they had a late lunch at the Cahir House Hotel.

Recently, the RAMS in Rhythm were fundraising for the 4 District First Responders in Avoca, and they received a great response for all the shoppers, and patrons of Avoca Rathcoole. In early May, the group were fundraising for a local charity in Spar in Newcastle and singing at the Mill Centre in Clondalkin in aid of the Simon Community.



Pictured Lynn Tierney, Social Democrats candidate for the Clondalkin LEA stands in front of a vacant childcare facility granted planning permission 20 years ago.

COUNCILLOR CALLS FOR A REVIEW OF THE HELLFIRE VISITOR CENTRE

People Before Profit Councillor Madeleine Johansson has called for a review of the Dublin Mountains Visitor Centre at the Hellfire Club. She has raised concerns about the scale of the development and the impact it would have on biodiversity in the area.

The proposal for the Visitor Centre with a restaurant, car park and treetop walk has been controversial since it was first proposed in 2017. It has gone through a number of legal cases but ground investigations have recently been started in the area.

Cllr Madeleine Johansson said: "I've had concerns about this project since the very beginning. The scale of the proposed centre and car park is not appropriate in this area. This will have a significant impact

on biodiversity in the area which should be protected. "In my opinion this project is catered towards international tourists with coach parking and a restaurant. This could end up being a profit driven centre rather than a public amenity."

People Before Profit representative for Firhouse-Bohernabreena Phil Foster said: "As a local person I'm very concerned about the scale and nature of this development. We need improvements to the car park and basic facilities such as toilets but the proposed centre is out of proportion.

"I want to see the preservation works to the Hellfire Club itself and other heritage structures in the area but this could be done without having to build a huge centre."

PUBLIC BIN REMOVAL CAUSING INCREASE IN ILLEGAL DUMPING

Sarah Holland has called on South Dublin County Council to rethink their recent spate of litter bin removals across South Dublin. She said "I wrote to the council querying

the removal of public litter bins in Whitechurch and in Pearse Brothers Park.

I was given a very vague answer but a bit of digging

revealed that SDCC have removed bins from estates across the county and have no plan to replace them. Residents have reported an increase in litter blowing

through estates due to the losses of the bins, and there have been complaints about more dog poo left on the streets or worse - bagged dog poo left to dirty the streets.

I raised this with Seán Crowe who had also been in touch with residents across the county." Seán Crowe TD wrote to the council in February regarding the removal of bins in Springfield and in Whitechurch and was told that the bins were removed due to the dumping of domestic waste. Ms Holland has said that the removal of the bins is

counterintuitive, saying "If people can't afford bin charges and are dumping into public bins, the removal of the bins will not act as a deterrent in any way.

In fact, residents have been reporting an increase in litter. I would ask the council to reconsider the installation of bins to help keep our areas tidy."

A VISION FOR THE CASTLE STABLES AND COURTYARDS AT RATHFARNHAM

South Dublin County Council is inviting the public to help shape a vision for the Castle Stables and Courtyards at Rathfarnham through an online consultation. The Castle Stables and Courtyards at Rathfarnham have been earmarked for redevelopment as a new public amenity in the county's tourism strategy,

published earlier this year. The development of the site will be heavily informed by both this tourism strategy and the county's development plan.

Speaking ahead of the opening of the public consultation, Mayor of South Dublin County Council, Cllr Alan Edge said: "Drawing

on the tourism strategy and county development plan, the Council wants the Castle Stables and Courtyards at Rathfarnham to be sustainable from a climate and economic perspective. It's also important that the space is developed in a way that is sensitive to its heritage, and which contributes to the inclusive

development of Rathfarnham village.

"This consultation is an opportunity to step back and think about the activities and offerings that the site might accommodate to meet the needs of the community in Rathfarnham, as well as visitors to the area. There is huge potential to create a mixed-use space that is welcoming for everyone, and a space that will be sustainable in the long term."

Following the consultation, South Dublin County Council will run a series of focus groups to consider the vision for the site in greater detail. The results of this deliberation will feed into the development of site plans. The online consultation will run till 26th May and can be accessed, as follows on <https://bit.ly/RathStablesCyard> and in hardcopy from Ballyroan Library, Orchardstown Avenue, Rathfarnham, Dublin 14.



Pic Credit: Ben Ryan

DUBLIN SPORTS CLUBS TO GET €6.6M FOR NEW EQUIPMENT

More than 170 Dublin sports clubs have secured a total of €6.6M for new equipment, according to Dublin MEP Barry Andrews.

"This is the largest ever allocation of funding for equipment to sports clubs nationwide. 175 sports clubs across Dublin will benefit," the Fianna Fáil MEP explained.

"These clubs are the heart of their local communities. The funding they have now secured will allow them to invest in equipment across all their teams at mini, youth and adult level. A range of clubs right across Dublin city and county, covering water sports, soccer, GAA, tennis, basketball, badminton, martial arts, cycling, and more are benefiting from today's announcement.

"This round of funding is just the start. It's specifically for equipment. A new round of capital works grants for sports clubs is due shortly. This funding will allow clubs to upgrade their facilities and increase their footprint in their local communities.

"I strongly welcome this record investment in our local sports clubs. In particular, I want to commend the Minister for Sport Thomas Byrne for the focus he is putting on gender equality in sport at a community as well as national level, and across all age groups."

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PURE REMOVE 4 MILLION KG OF LITTER AND RUBBISH FROM THE WICKLOW/DUBLIN UPLANDS

The environmental initiative, Pure (Protecting Uplands & Rural Environments), which was established to combat illegal dumping in the Wicklow/Dublin Uplands recently recorded a landmark number with the collection and removal of over 4,000,000kg (4,000 tonnes) of litter and rubbish from the beautiful, scenic, Wicklow/Dublin Uplands, since the project was launched in 2006.

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 and was established to combat illegal dumping in the Wicklow/Dublin Uplands.

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, 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 database 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.

Although illegal dumping continues to plague our environment the Pure initiative has made huge progress in reducing dumping in the Wicklow/Dublin Uplands. If you compare the amount of dumping collected by Pure in 2023, which was 120,000kg (120 tonnes) tonnes of waste, to 2008 which was the projects busiest year, when they removed 440,000kg (440 tonnes), the initiative has seen a 72% reduction in illegal dumping in Wicklow/Dublin Uplands.

Earlier in the year, Minister of State at the Environment, Climate and Communications, Ossian Smyth TD, commented on the success of Pure, stating, "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, and it has now removed over 4,000,000kg (4,000 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 800,000 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, Manager of Pure since the project was initiated in 2006 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. However, we have been extremely busy in 2024 and in the first four months we removed 60,000kg of illegally dumped waste which is an increase compared to past years. A recent dumping



site of 1,500kg of timber decking in the remote and scenic Wicklow Mountains, reported to us on our call line 1800 365 123 by the National Parks and Wildlife Service, is now under investigation by Wicklow County Council. We have made huge progress in reducing illegal dumping, but we cannot become complacent, and it is vital that we continue to monitor the situation, if not we will unfortunately see a return to the old days, with an increase in illegal dumping in the Wicklow/Dublin Uplands'.

There are now over 950 miles (1,529 Kilometres) of roads, mountains, woodlands, valleys, forests, upland amenities, car parks, pull-ins, and even some coastal areas, involved in the Pure Mile, the largest number ever since the initiative began. Thousands of litter picks and clean-ups undertaken by Pure Mile Volunteers have resulted in the removal of hundreds of tonnes of illegally dumped waste and thousands of bags of litter and rubbish from the Wicklow, South Dublin, and Dun-Laoghaire, uplands. The success of the Pure Mile demonstrates the importance and necessity of the initiative and the need for continued collaboration and engagement to protect

the Wicklow/Dublin upland environment.

2024 is the 15th anniversary of the Pure Mile and Pure are currently working with all types of groups and businesses who are assisting Pure to 'Clean Up The Wicklow/Dublin Uplands'. A number of litter picks and cleanup events have already been held this year and recently Pure had to cancel an event due to the lack of litter in the environment. The Wicklow/Dublin Uplands is a unique landscape and environment and although Pure have removed tonnes of illegal dumping from this beautiful scenic landscape, they only have one truck and one driver, so they are unable to remove the unsightly small-scale litter from the area. The Pure Mile Groups make a huge difference to the appearance of the Wicklow/Dublin Uplands and Pure would like to congratulate all of the Pure Mile Volunteers involved in the initiative over the past 15 years. Further Pure Mile litter picks, clean-ups, anti-dumping initiatives, community projects, biodiversity, and heritage projects, are currently being organised throughout the year.

Pure supply all Pure Mile Groups with Pure Mile Signs,

Pure Mile Bags, Pure Mile High-Vis Vests, litter pickers and gloves, and the Pure Truck collects all rubbish and litter gathered by groups. All groups who register with the Pure Mile are invited to the Pure Mile Awards Night, and all receive a Certificate of Participation, a selection of Native Irish Trees, and all feature in the Pure Mile Calendar.

To celebrate the 15th anniversary of the Pure Mile, Pure are looking for groups, communities, individuals, schools, walking groups, cycling groups, running groups, scouts, businesses, organisations, EVERYONE, to get involved. People can contact Pure at info@pureproject.ie or download an application from www.pureproject.ie/what-we-do/the-pure-mile/. You can also write to Pure Project, Unit 6 B, Riverside Business Centre, Tinahely, Co Wicklow, Y14 R978, and they will post out all the information, or request an application form and information pack by phoning Pure on 0402 28662.

Further information on Pure can be found on www.pureproject.ie

TO REPORT DUMPERS AND DUMPING IN THE WICKLOW/DUBLIN UPLANDS CALL 1800 365 123



PREMIER INN AND CHILDREN'S HEALTH FOUNDATION ANNOUNCE A THREE-YEAR PARTNERSHIP TO SUPPORT SICK CHILDREN WITH CHRONIC PAIN

Premier Inn and Children's Health Foundation are delighted to announce they have partnered for the next three years to support sick children attending Children's Health Ireland hospitals and urgent care centres. Through staff and customer

fundraising, Premier Inn will aim to raise €30,000 by 2027 in order to fund rehabilitation treatment for children across Ireland with chronic and disabling pain.

The partnership has been unveiled as Premier Inn

continue to grow their number of locations in Ireland and will help connect their team members across its six hotels (five in Dublin and its recently opened Cork hotel) with a shared fundraising goal. The new partnership complements Premier Inn's long-standing 12-year partnership with Great Ormond Street Hospital which continues to raise funds in their UK hotels.

Children's Health Foundation raises vital funds to support sick children and their families in Children's Health Ireland hospitals and urgent care centres at Crumlin, Temple Street, Tallaght, and Connolly. It has been instrumental in driving cutting-edge research into childhood illness and treatment while also supplying funds for state-of-the-art facilities, advanced equipment, and enhanced services for Ireland's most critically ill children.

The project, in the Complex Pain Service at Children's Health Ireland, aims to set up a programme of intensive rehabilitation for children who experience chronic and disabling pain. The planned multi-disciplinary approach has been proven to help sick children suffering from pain. It will be the first programme of its kind to offer this intensive level of rehabilitation in Ireland. There are numerous benefits to the programme including reduced pain, improved movement, a general increase in quality of life; all of which have been shown to help with returning to normal day-to-day routine. Children can go back to playing and enjoying their childhood. The reduction in pain can also help with

improving school attendance for the children suffering from chronic pain.

Orlaith Mohan attended the partnership launch along with her mother, Fiona. When she was 11 years old, Orlaith attended Complex Pain Service at Children's Health Ireland. Thanks to the team, Orlaith, now 17, was able to return to her regular school timetable having had to be absent for weeks at a time due to pain. She has returned to normal life, being able to go to concerts and spend time with her friends. She now dreams of working in the film industry.

Also in attendance was another patient, nine-year-old Chloe, and her family. Chloe was excited to see herself in the posters that will appear in the six Premier Inn locations in Dublin and Cork to promote the charity partnership. Guests staying at any of the Premier Inn hotels in Ireland will be offered a range of ways to donate, to help children like Orlaith and Chloe, as well as plenty of opportunities to support Premier Inn's fundraising activities.

Chief Executive of Children's Health Foundation, Fionnuala O'Leary said; "It's fantastic to announce our partnership with Premier Inn. Children's Health Foundation relies on the vital support of companies like Premier Inn. We are extremely grateful for their support in helping sick children and their families. To help children with chronic pain is to help them return to a normal life. They can go back to attending school regularly, and playing with their friends, giving them back their childhood. Premier Inn

is making this possible and we look forward to many years of this partnership to come."

Managing Director for Premier Inn UK & Ireland, Simon Ewins said; "We are really excited that we have this amazing opportunity to support such a pioneering project alongside the Children's Health Foundation and help them raise funds for such a vital service. We know that our team

members are passionate about supporting charities close to their hearts and the Children's Health Foundation is a great example of how we can better serve the communities where we are operating with our expanding Irish network of hotels. I know the teams will put their hearts and souls into coming up with some great ways to raise money and I can't wait to see how this partnership develops over the coming years."



Pictured Nine-year-old Children's Health Ireland patient Chloe, with her photo on a new Premier Inn poster.

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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. F.R

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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. J.R

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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) I.B

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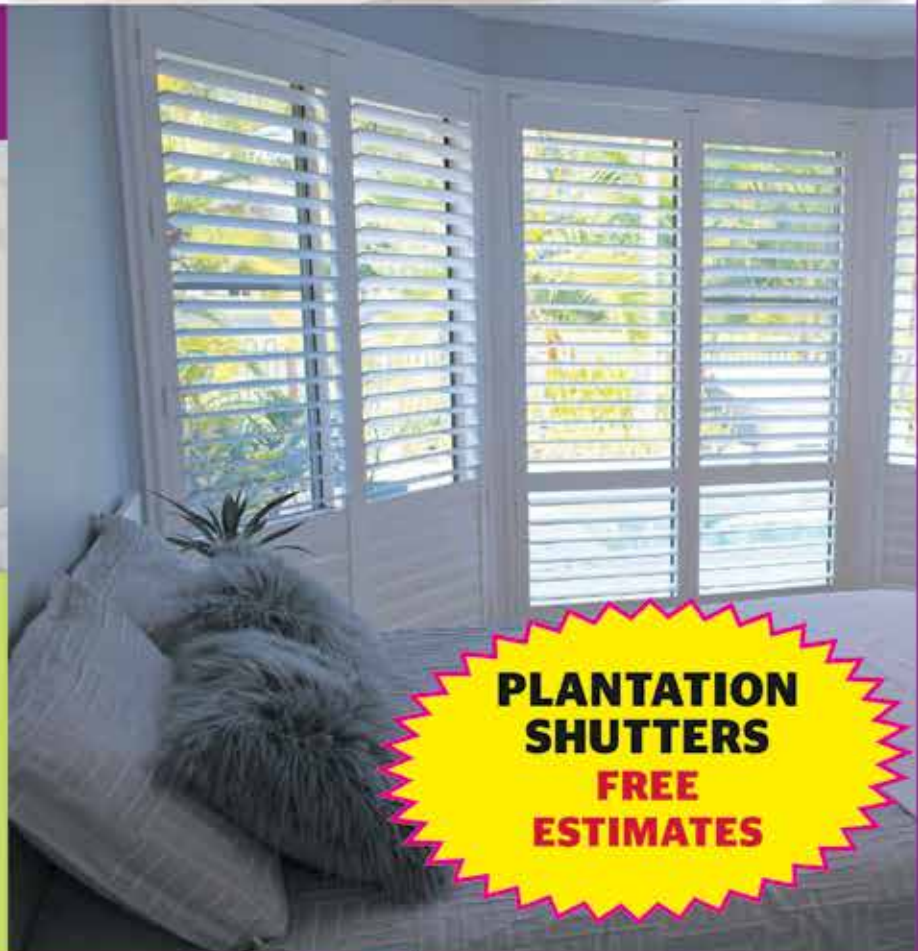
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