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€4.5 MILLION IN HOUSING ADAPTATION GRANTS FOR SOUTH DUBLIN COUNTY COUNCIL

South Dublin County Council will receive increased funding this year to make the homes of older people and people with a disability more suitable to live in, a local Councillor has said. Councillor Shirley O'Hara said: "The Housing Adaptation Grant is so important as it assists with the necessary adaptations, repairs or improvement works to make accommodation more suitable to the needs of older and disabled people supporting them to live in their homes.

"80% of the grant comes from Exchequer funding through the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage. The remaining 20% in funding comes from the relevant local authority which administers the scheme. "I am delighted that South Dublin

County Council will receive a total allocation of €4,529,269, which represents an almost 20% increase on last year's funding.

"Overall, grants of up to €30,000 are available to assist disabled people carry out necessary works to make a house more suitable for their needs. "This is in addition to grants of up to €8,000 which are there to assist older people to have necessary repairs or improvements carried out on their homes and grants of up to €6,000 are available for mobility aids.

"When combined with the local authority contribution, overall funding of over €93 million in 2024 will deliver some 13,000 grants nationwide for older people and disabled

people to facilitate them living independently in their own homes.

Minister of State for Business, Employment and Retail and local TD, Emer Higgins said: "Fine Gael is working to deliver stronger safer communities and it is important we support people to live in their own homes for as long as they possibly can. These grants have a positive impact on the quality of life of the people who benefit from them and they play an important role in helping people with a disability and people who are reaching an age in life when they are less mobile, to continue to live independently in their own homes.

Minister of State for Local Government and Planning,

Alan Dillon TD said: "I am delighted that we can allocate increased funding in 2024 to ensure delivery of these much-needed grants which will allow local authorities to continue to support older and disabled people to live independently and in their own homes.

"As I travel around the country I am regularly meeting and speaking with people who have received assistance through these grants and the difference they make in helping people to live independently for as long as possible is remarkable. These grants also support local economies, creating employment opportunities for local contractors and businesses which is very important," he concluded.



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



Cllr. Shane Moynihan

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Minister Emer **HIGGINS** TD

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(01) 401 3416 emer.higgins@oir.ie

Working with Cllr Shirley O'Hara, Cllr Vicki Casserly, Cllr Kenneth Egan & Frances Fitzgerald MEP

62 YEAR OLD DISABLED FATHER TAKES HIS PROTEST TO DÁIL GATES

A 62 year old disabled father protested outside the Dáil recently as part of his campaign for suitable housing. Christopher Moran was awarded a medical priority transfer almost 6 years ago by South Dublin County Council. His 22 year old son Michael has Down Syndrome, autism and is a wheelchair user. He requires 24 hours care and suffers from respiratory chest problems. He has been on permanent antibiotics everyday all his life and uses nebulizers two times daily. Michael's parents, both

father and his mother, have to lift him in and out of the bath.

Michael's parents also have lots of health problems, his mother has arthritis and a hole in her heart. Michael's dad Christopher suffers from COPD, diabetes, sleep apnea and an enlarged heart. Christopher has himself been in and out of hospital 6 times in last 5 years with COPD and had pneumonia 3 times over the years.

Their current accommodation is full of dampness and

mould, and the windows are drafty. Christopher is also disabled man who uses a 4 wheel stroller for walking. As well as having to lift his son in and out of the bath, he also find it hard to get in out of the bath. He even had a fall a couple of months ago while getting out of the bath fell and he had to get help from his neighbours to lift him up off the ground. They are in urgent need of accommodation with a wet room suitable to Michael's needs.

Christopher is also concerned about the impact of anti-social behaviour in the area on the family and their health. His son Michael is sensitive to noise and finds it difficult to sleep at night with the noise from outside.

Councillor Madeleine Johansson who has been assisting the family said: "I'm shocked that this family has been waiting almost 6 years for a medical priority transfer. Their living

conditions are completely unacceptable and the council should act urgently

to transfer them into suitable accommodation. People with disabilities

and their rights are being neglected by the council and the government."



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ST CUTHBERTS PARK SOD TURNING CEREMONY

Cllr. Francis Timmons Chair of the Clondalkin, Newcastle, Rathcoole, Saggart and Brittas Area Committee of South Dublin County Council officially performs the sod-turning ceremony

for the upgrade works at St Cuthberts Park. Recently, Councillor Timmons of South Dublin County Council, officially turned the sod to mark the commencement of works on the upgrade

works at St Cuthberts Park. He was joined by fellow Councillors and Deputy Mark Wark, staff of South Dublin County Council and guests to celebrate this event. Speaking at the event Cllr.

Francis Timmons said "The park will provide improved walking and cycling routes, a range of play facilities for children of all ages, a space for teenagers, improved sports pitches,

an all-weather MUGA, more tree planting, increased biodiversity and better views into St Cuthberts Church. The Councillor acknowledged and thanked the community for their assistance and input during

the design stage and their support for St Cuthberts Park in general". Works are commencing in the park this month and will be under progress through the Summer and into the Autumn.



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TAXASSIST UNVEILS NEW BRAND LOOK AND ANNOUNCES CREATION OF 20 JOBS THIS YEAR

Ireland's leading network of Accountants, TaxAssist, have unveiled their new look brand and announced the creation of 20 new jobs as the business continues to expand.

Located in shops in town centres and cities across Ireland, TaxAssist Accountants, has experienced double digit sales growth in the past three years and demand for its services continues to grow.

Already an employer of over 120 people, TaxAssist will actively begin recruiting for the new roles in the coming months. Positions available will range from graduate to management level accountants. Alison McGinley, Managing Director

of TaxAssist Accountants, said: "We are looking for people who want to work local to where they live and will enjoy getting to know and service their local business community. We know that most people want and need more from their accountant. Detailed customer research identified that our previous branding did not reflect the range of services that we offer so we are delighted to announce this rebrand and recruitment drive."

The company's newly evolved branding maintains the personal, friendly and professional feel that TaxAssist is renowned for and incorporates a new strapline 'We can do more for you' to reflect the extensive services clients can expect.

The services that the TaxAssist Accountants team in Tallaght offer include:

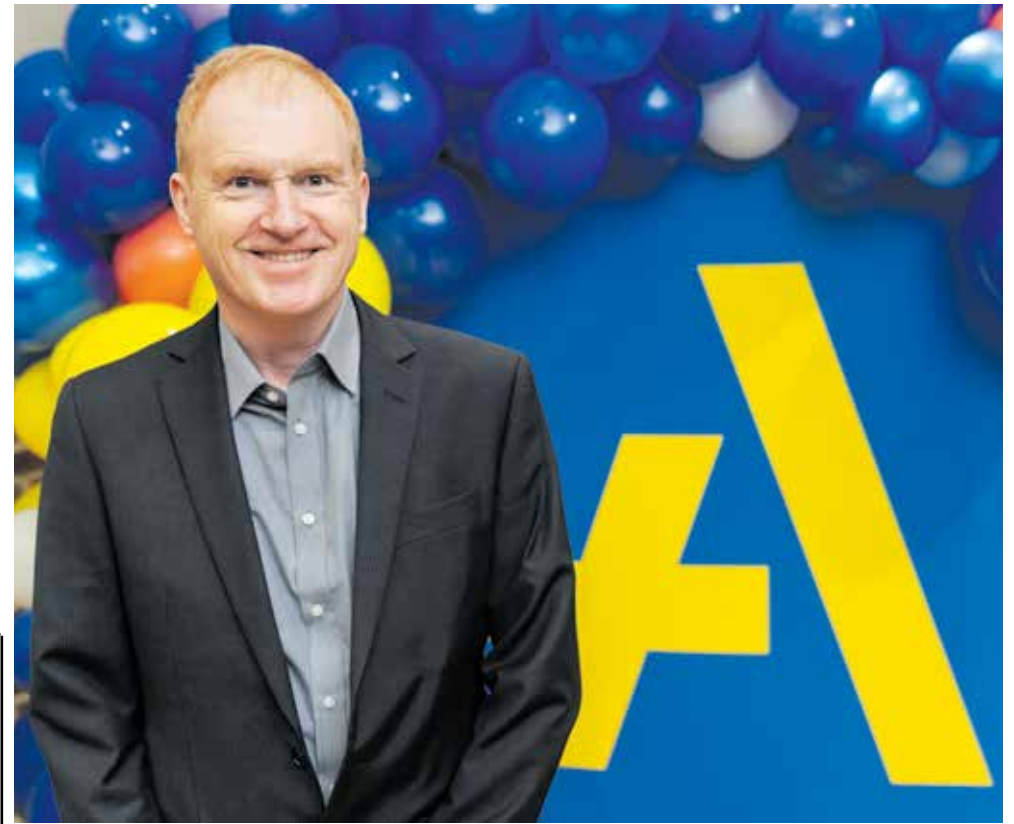
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Hugh Connolly, owner of

TaxAssist Accountants in Tallaght, said: "We are delighted with the modernisation of our brand and are really excited about

revamping our shopfront on Main Street in the near future. We have grown our team so that we can do more for our clients to support

them towards a successful future, while continuing our focus on delivering friendly, personal, and expert advice that can be trusted."



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SOUTH DUBLIN BUSINESSES TO BENEFIT FROM NEW SUPPORT PACKAGE

Targeted measures aimed at reducing costs will deliver certainty and much needed relief for small businesses across South Dublin, a Fine Gael Minister

has said. Minister of State for Business, Employment and Retail, Emer Higgins has confirmed that a new business support package has been announced by Fine Gael colleagues, Minister for Trade, Enterprise and Employment Peter Burke, Minister for Social Protection Heather Humphreys and Minister for Further and Higher Education, Research, Innovation and Science Patrick O'Donovan.

Cost of Business Grant was already very well received by businesses here in South Dublin, so it is great to see it re-opened for new registrations, as well as the announcement that a second payment will be made to all businesses in the retail and hospitality sectors, as we recognise that they are the businesses most exposed to increased costs.

Enterprise Peter Burke said after engaging with businesses across the country that he understands the issues they are facing and is committed to providing further support.

will continue to engage with our cafes, our butchers, our hairdressers, our pub-owners and our corner shop enterprises. These are the backbone of our local economy and provide much valued employment up and down this country."

"When the Taoiseach was elected recently, he said he wanted to prioritise our small businesses, and we have seen that Fine Gael has delivered on this. Businesses need certainty and some much-needed relief, and I

"Today is a positive day for small businesses, and we will continue to meet with and talk to all sectors ahead of the Budget later this year." Minister Burke concluded.

The new package includes a range of measures, targeted specifically at reducing costs for small businesses across the country, including in South Dublin. Minister Higgins has welcomed the new supports and says they will be a significant help for local small and medium sized enterprises. "This package is very welcome news and comes at a time where businesses have faced increased costs due to inflation, energy increases and rising labour costs.

This will mean a further payment of up to €5,000 will be available to all such businesses, paid directly into their bank accounts. "It is also really positive to see energy grants increased, so that any business in Dublin which wants to upgrade their equipment to ensure better energy efficiency and lower bills will now only have to pay 25%, with the Department providing a 75% grant of up to €10,000.

Equipment covered includes heating or lighting upgrades, new refrigeration units, electric ovens and industrial dishwashers." Minister for

"I know the increased

LUCAN LODGE RESIDENTS AND STAFF NEED ASSURANCES ABOUT FUTURE OF NURSING HOME

The residents and families of Lucan Lodge Nursing Home are facing the proposed closure of the nursing home. The nursing home is home to 73 residents, most require significant support, and some are nearing end of life care. Recently, management at the nursing home informed the residents and staff that the company who run the nursing home will be de-registering the facility. The company Passage Healthcare International (Ireland) stated that due to the lack of funding due to a failed investment that they can no longer run the service. Presently the HSE has taken charge of the running of the nursing home.

People Before Profit TD Gino Kenny who raised this issue with the Minister for Health in the Dail said, "The situation at Lucan Lodge Nursing Home is unacceptable for the residents, staff, and relatives of those residents. There is now great uncertainty in terms of the future of the nursing home and this is causing great stress. Passage Healthcare are absolving themselves of any responsibility in terms of the viability of the nursing homes and this led to the HSE now intervening. A solution needs to be found very urgently either by another party or the HSE directly themselves that secures the nursing home for the 73 residents and dedicated staff".

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CHARTER ON THOSE SEEKING INTERNATIONAL PROTECTION LAUNCHED

Following a successful information initiative aimed at correcting myths about those seeking international protection, Mayor of South Dublin, Alan Edge, launched a Charter on Those Seeking Asylum at an event at Tallaght Stadium recently. The Charter has to date been signed up to by 77 community groups countywide. Mayor Alan

Edge said "It is important in the context of discussions about immigration policy and resources that we don't lose sight of the fact that these are people we are talking about, often very vulnerable people. The right to seek international protection is fundamental. We all have it. It's really a question of human dignity. The Irish people understand

migration, it is in our DNA. The Charter is a recognition of that and a commitment to treat others as we would wish to be treated, with humanity, dignity and fairness."

Sandra Mpofu said "Volunteering in Ireland has been a transformative experience for me, significantly aiding my

integration into the community and of course leading me to getting a job and contributing to Ireland's GDP.

I am now employed by the Volunteer centre as a Development officer supporting volunteer organisations and in creating inclusive volunteering spaces within their organisations

through a project called THRIVE." "My volunteering journey has been very important to me through volunteering I have had the opportunity to connect with local people, learn about Irish culture and contribute to the society in meaningful ways. Volunteering has provided me with a sense of purpose and belonging and I have developed lasting friendships and valuable skills. The generosity and inclusivity of the Irish community have made my volunteering journey incredibly rewarding and I am deeply grateful for the chance to give back to the country that offered me refuge, support, family and friends after leaving everything that I had behind."

of access to public services - that we don't permit the scapegoating of people coming to Ireland to claim a basic human right, the right to claim asylum."

John Kiberd, of Stepping Stones Forests, one of the signatories, said: "I'm absolutely delighted to sign the Mayor's Charter. As a once poor country whose people were forced to forge new lives in other countries, I am delighted that Ireland is now in a position to provide refuge and a home for less fortunate people from other countries. I have some personal experience how some of these people that are new to our shores have contributed very positively to their new communities."

The Charter follows a Fact vs Fiction info sheet which was delivered to 70,000 homes across the County, a joint initiative between the Mayor, South Dublin County Partnership, The South Dublin Volunteer Centre and South Dublin County Council. The document aimed to counter some of the myths surrounding those seeking international protection.

The Mayor also added "In addition to the community groups who have signed up, a broad range of elected representatives and candidates from across the political spectrum have also pledged their support. We need a united front to ensure that while we address the fundamental problems in our society -lack of housing, lack



Pictured Cllr Eoin O'Broin, Darragh Conway SDCC, Nicoletta Coppola SDCC, Elaine Leech SDCC, Mayor Cllr Alan Edge, Edel Clancy SDCC, Ololade Olawale Adeniyi SDCC, Trevor Keppel SDCC and Cllr Francis Timmons.



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€200,000 FOR LUCAN VILLAGE UNDER THRIVE, THE TOWN CENTRE FIRST HERITAGE REVIVAL SCHEME

The first round of funding under THRIVE, the Town Centre First Heritage Revival Scheme will support the regeneration and rejuvenation of Lucan, a local TD has said. Minister of State for Business, Employment and Retail and local TD Emer Higgins said:

“Minister of State for Local Government and Planning at the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage, Alan Dillon TD announced the €5M being awarded to 26 towns all over Ireland.

“I was very pleased to

see that Lucan has been included. As a party Fine Gael understands that communities are the backbone of our country, and their development is at the heart of this funding. Lucan is already a wonderful place to live work and visit, and with this funding we can make it even better. THRIVES main goal is to give citizens and local authorities a chance to reimagine their town centres by renovating and reusing vacant or derelict heritage buildings and eventually bringing them back into use.

“Walking the streets of Lucan, you see these once loved spaces lying vacant. This funding will ensure they can be rejuvenated to benefit the community again. “This is just the initial tranche of funding under THRIVE, awarded under Ireland’s two European Regional Development Fund (ERDF) Regional Programmes.

This first injection of capital will facilitate the development and

enhancement of integrated urban strategies, using a Town Centre First Approach. “This will help South Dublin County Council to determine the right projects for Lucan and ensure they are ready

to begin capital works. “The funding is further evidence of how Fine Gael is delivering for Dublin and in Government, collaborating to come up with innovative ways of making the areas

where we live, work, shop and socialise better. “For Lucan this is an exciting time. I think we all very much look forward to seeing projects come to fruition,” Minister Higgins concluded.



STUDENTS WIN TOP PRIZES IN ART COMPETITION

Three South Dublin students were amongst 29 young artists from the county to have won top prizes in this year’s 70th Texaco Children’s Art Competition. They were: Silvia MacCarthy (age 11), a pupil at St. Mary’s National School, Saggart; Krystal McFaul (12), from St. Raphael’s National School, Ballyfermot and Lauren Kearney (12) from St. Michael’s Special School, Chapelizod. All were winners of Special Merit Awards for artworks that Final Adjudicator, Gary Granville, Professor Emeritus of Education at the National College of Art and Design, said ‘demonstrated high levels of skill and imagination’. The Texaco Children’s Art Competition is popularly regarded as the longest-running sponsorship in the history of arts sponsoring in Ireland, with an unbroken history that dates back to the very first Competition held in 1955. This year, as has been the case throughout its life, it has been a platform on which young artists from Dublin and counties throughout Ireland have had their talents recognised and their creativity commended.



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COUNCILS MUST BE PROPERLY EMPOWERED TO BUILD AND MAINTAIN THEIR OWN HOUSING STOCK

TD for Dublin South West Seán Crowe has said that the diminishing of the ability of local authorities to build and maintain their social housing stock has led to their inability to retrofit or adapt social housing to their tenants' needs, leading to energy poverty and homes unfit to people's medical needs.

heat right out through the walls and roof. "On top of that, it is simply taking too long to bring vacant and derelict properties back into the system. Some local areas are littered with properties that would make perfectly good homes, but they lie idle, boarded up, sometimes for years.

retrofitting programme is vital for energy efficiency and reducing energy poverty, but it is a boom time for registered companies doing this type of work. Councils are always going to struggle to retrofit existing housing stock when they cannot do the work themselves in most cases.

maintain their own stock like they were in the past. They should be properly staffed and resourced to

retrofit and adapt social housing to their tenants' needs. We cannot stand over a system that leaves people

in energy poverty or homes that are entirely unsuited to acquired conditions or medical needs."

Speaking after the Dail debate recently, Teachta Crowe said "Ending the housing crisis is not just about building homes. It is about maintaining the homes we have to a high standard. "Too many social housing tenants are living in poorly maintained homes and that is affecting quality of life and in too many cases, contributing directly to energy poverty as too many social houses are pumping

"We should create a dedicated annual fund for local authorities to supplement their existing response maintenance budgets. But we should also try and undo the damage that Fine Gael caused ten years ago when Phil Hogan gutted the local authorities' ability to build and maintain a housing stock without relying on private sector contractors.

"The same goes for increasing the funding for local authority adaptation grants for older persons and people with disabilities. I have had more than one case where the long, drawn out process for approving adaptation grants has finally been concluded and a work order issued, only for the person to have died in the meantime.

"Councils must be empowered to build and

DELIVERY OF OVER 390 AFFORDABLE APARTMENTS IN ADAMSTOWN

The Land Development Agency (LDA) has announced the planned delivery of 392 apartments in partnership with Quintain Ireland at The Crossings, Adamstown. The scheme consists of 9 studios, 189 one-bedroom apartments, 185 two-bedroom apartments and 9 three-bedroom apartments across 3 blocks ranging in height from 5 to 9 storeys. The LDA apartments are under construction and are due to be fully completed by 2026. They will then be rented to eligible households on a cost rental basis by the Agency.

process of delivering 8,000 homes through its Project Tosaigh initiative by 2028. These homes will be in addition to those delivered through the LDA's direct delivery channel, which involves new developments on state-owned or acquired land. To date, the Agency has already agreed terms for almost 3,000 homes through Project Tosaigh with over half of these already delivered and others under construction. The 392 cost rental units being built by Quintain in Adamstown form part of a larger 436-unit development with the remaining 44 apartments allocated for social housing.

The LDA apartments form part of the third phase of The Crossings at Adamstown. Quintain launched The Crossings, an urban village and retail centre, in September 2023 and the new development serves as the central core of the Adamstown Strategic Development Zone. A social, community and retail hub, The Crossings will ultimately include 1,000 apartments and a wide range of shops and services. The development also features an urban park spread out over 2-acres with amenities including a 14-metre play train, soft play trails, biodiversity corridors, a large plaza space and outdoor seating.

All of the apartments will be A-rated and built to a high standard. The development is located in the heart of Adamstown near to schools, community amenities and shops including The Crossings Urban Retail Village, which features a Tesco and an Aldi store in addition to a number of other outlets.

John Coleman, Chief Executive of the LDA said "We are delighted to announce the purchase of 392 homes in Adamstown through our Project Tosaigh initiative. These apartments are being delivered in partnership with Quintain and once completed, will be made available to eligible households at rents that will be significantly below market rates. The LDA is continuing to deliver high quality homes in the right places, and Adamstown is a great location. It has great transport links, a thriving community and excellent amenities. These apartments will provide long-term, secure homes in a well-connected Dublin suburb."

The new apartments have been secured under the LDA's Project Tosaigh initiative, whereby the agency steps in to provide the financial commitment needed to kick-start stalled or unviable housing projects. The LDA then makes the new homes available to renters on a cost rental basis or to purchasers at an affordable cost. In this case, all the homes involved are going to be cost rental. This is a new tenure, which provides a secure, long term rental option at below market rates.

Michael Hynes, Chief Executive of Quintain said "We are excited to partner with the LDA on this apartment development, which we are delivering with finance supplied by AIB. We believe this development will add greatly to the new village centre we have created at the heart of Adamstown. At Quintain, we seek to deliver new communities in addition to new homes and this is a vision we share with the LDA. Adamstown is well served by transport links, community facilities and new schools, so we are looking forward to completing the apartments for the LDA and welcoming yet more residents to this rapidly growing area."

To be eligible for cost rental housing an individual or household must meet a number of criteria. Their net household income must be below €66,000 per annum for applicants for homes in Dublin or €59,000 per annum for those outside Dublin.

This is the first time that the LDA and Quintain have partnered together as part of Project Tosaigh. The development is being financed by AIB and the LDA will purchase the apartments on completion. The LDA is in the

LACK OF PARK RANGERS IN TYMON PARK

There is a chronic lack of Park Rangers in Tymon Park, resulting in security concerns and huge overtime bills, according to reports from Park Rangers. People Before Profit candidate for Tallaght Central Jess Spear has been contacted by Park Rangers raising concerns about the issue, following her involvement in the successful campaign to increase maintenance and monitoring at the Watergate Park. Now she is calling to hire more Park Rangers, for Tymon Park and other parks in Tallaght.

overtime bills. With one of these now retiring, the Council has moved to hire two new Rangers, one is starting in June and one in July, but we need more. We need to hire a whole team of Park Rangers, not just for Tymon Park, but also to monitor and maintain our other parks. For instance, the staff informed me Watergate Park used to have two Park Rangers before they were cut six years ago.

"I was shocked to hear that there are only two Park Rangers for Tymon Park, compared to six for Corkagh Park in Clondalkin. Those two rangers are run off their feet, trying to maintain what is the second biggest park in all of Dublin. I've also been informed that they lack the proper equipment, and have no vehicle capable of going off-road in the park, meaning that if there was an incident or security issue in the park it could take over 20 minutes for them to get there as they have to leave the park and travel via the main roads.

"These parks are a beautiful asset to our community, and the Park Rangers do a great job, but we need more to ensure it is properly maintained and a safe place for everyone. Over the last few years, I've been working with Paul Murphy TD and local communities to fight for proper investment into our parks, but we keep coming up against resistance from the Council. It seems the Council and many Councillors do not realise just how important these parks are to families and our communities, and the crucial role Park Rangers play in keeping them safe and secure.

"With only two rangers for the whole park that means whenever someone is out sick or on leave, other council staff have to be drafted in to help out, building up large

"As a Councillor I will fight for investment in our parks, and work with communities and Council workers to fight for more Park Rangers."



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EXPECTED PASSING OF ASSISTED HUMAN REPRODUCTION BILL IN THE DÁIL IS A WELCOME RELIEF FOR FAMILIES

The passing of the Assisted Human Reproduction (AHR) Bill in the Dáil recently is a very welcome relief to the families waiting to apply for lifelong recognition of their parent child relationships, a Senator has said. The AHR Bill provides a regulatory framework for reproductive interventions in Ireland as well as transparency in donor assisted human reproduction. The Bill will move to the Seanad before the Summer recess.

Senator Mary Seery Kearney said: “Historically the Bill provides a regulatory framework for domestic and international surrogacy ensuring the rights and protections for surrogates, children and intending parents. “The Bill also crucially provides a means by which children born from past surrogacies can regularise their relationship with both of their parents. “To date there has only been legal recognition of the biological father as the life long legal parent, mothers and second fathers can only apply for guardianship and custody which expires on the child’s 18th birthday. At that point those parents become legal strangers to their own children.

“Extraordinary work has been done to bring a complex mix of legal rights to this point and it is most welcome. There are some matters which can’t be completed in time by the summer recess and they will be dealt with in a supplementary bill in September. “This bill will provide a pathway for parents to apply for their parental orders in circumstances where their relationship with the biological father is estranged and there is a danger that the parental order application process would be weaponised by that parent. The Minister is mindful of the needs of those parents and will acknowledge them today when addressing the house.

“I have campaigned for our surrogacy community families to have an equal recognition so this is a relief - now on to the Seanad and the bill being signed into law. Applications for parental orders, including my own, will hopefully commence this autumn,” Senator Mary Seery Kearney concluded.

WHITESTOWN STREAM PARK UPGRADE



Recently, the Mayor of South Dublin County Council, Councillor Alan Edge officially opened Whitestown Stream Park upgrade. Speaking at the event Mayor Cllr. Alan Edge said: “It brings me great joy to warmly welcome you to Whitestown Stream Park today, where we celebrate the recently completed park upgrade. This space, once an under-utilized green area, has been transformed into an 8-acre park that now meets the growing needs of our community. Whitestown Stream Park is part of a network of park developments strategically connected to promote pedestrian and biodiversity connectivity. The park upgrade includes new park entrances, a play-exercise trail, a footpath exercise loop, a cycle south Dublin link that will connect to the wider cycle infrastructure, two new bridges, planting, signage, seating, an informal kick-around area, and areas for biodiversity. I would like to thank the Public Realm Section in South Dublin County Council, who along with Nicholas de Jong Associates Landscape and Urban Design Consultants have carried out the planning, design work and project management. A special mention goes to the project contractor, Clonmel Enterprises Ltd, for conducting the work. I would like to acknowledge and thank the local community and elected members for their assistance and input during the construction stage and their support for this project in general”.



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TALLAGHT INNOVATION QUARTER NOW OPEN



On Thursday 23rd of May, the Mayor of South Dublin, Councillor Alan Edge was joined by the Minister for Health, Stephen Donnelly to officially open the Tallaght Innovation Quarter, which has seen the completion of a €16 million purpose-built innovation centre, Work IQ, as well as an €8m public realm scheme, which links Work IQ with County Hall, the Cultural Quarter, the future Tallaght Transport Interchange, as well as Tallaght Town Centre.

Supported by the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage through the Urban Regeneration and Development Fund, the Innovation Quarter has transformed the urban landscape of Tallaght, supporting its regeneration and the delivery of the Tallaght Town Centre Local Area Plan.

The Tallaght Town Centre Local Area Plan set the framework for the development of 11,000 homes and the creation of up to 15,000 jobs, with the development of the Innovation Quarter an integral part of meeting the plan's vision. Work IQ

comprises a four-storey, 2,980m² building offering three floors of flexible office accommodation to support businesses, local entrepreneurs, start-ups, or SMEs. The centre also features a public area on the ground floor with town hall space and a café facing directly onto a stunning new urban plaza.

Work IQ will accommodate up to 60 businesses and play a major role in developing start-up enterprises and is projected to support the future creation of over 700 jobs worth €80m to the economy. Key features of this cutting-edge facility designed as a hub for businesses that are serious about innovation, technology and scaling-up will include: Private or shared office space and co-working options; A variety of meeting and conference rooms; Tailored business supports including training, mentoring, funding supports and skills development; Regular onsite networking events, workshops and innovation showcases; and, Collaboration opportunities through partners including the Local Enterprise Office Enterprise Ireland, South Dublin Chamber,

Technological University Dublin, Tallaght University Hospital and the South Dublin County's many major multinational businesses.

Strategically located on land owned by South Dublin County Council in Tallaght Town Centre, Work IQ is a key part of the new Innovation Quarter Tallaght urban district being developed by the Council that also includes a new cost rental apartment scheme (which, along with Work IQ, will be served by the Tallaght District Heating Scheme, Heatworks) and the new flagship public park called Innovation Square.

The building was designed for South Dublin County Council by a multi-disciplinary team led by McCullough Mulvin Architects and its delivery will complement a combined investment of over €80m in infrastructure projects in the centre of Tallaght, including the aforementioned Innovation Quarter, new link roads, major public realm enhancement, a fourth stand at Tallaght Stadium (making it a 10,000-seater, UEFA Category 4 stadium capacity) and a proposed new Heritage Centre.

Expertly constructed by

Clancy Construction Ltd., Work IQ will be operated on behalf of the Council by Oxford Innovation, the organisation responsible for managing the largest network of innovation centres in the UK, housing over 1,000 innovative early-stage businesses. Oxford Innovation will bring vast experience in supporting local entrepreneurs and with new businesses about to take up residence in Work IQ, demand for space in the new Innovation Centre is proving extremely popular, which augers well for the future of entrepreneurship in the County.

The creation of the new Innovation Quarter is underpinned by an ambitious public realm project, which has seen the development of a transformational necklace of public open spaces at Innovation Square, Chamber Square and at the newly proposed transport interchange, seamlessly knitted together by mixture of planting, urban and soft landscaping, biodiversity features, new seating and the establishment of new pedestrian and cycling desire lines, which links Cookstown. Designed by

Dermot Foley Landscape Architects and constructed by Clonmel Enterprises Ltd, the new public realm has set the benchmark for the future development of public realm in Tallaght Town Centre, whilst also providing inviting and animated public open spaces that will foster social interaction, bringing vibrancy and vitality to the area.

Speaking at the Launch Alan Edge, Mayor of South Dublin County Council said; "This regeneration has transformed Tallaght Town Centre into a modern, vibrant town centre which now links the cultural, commercial and civic elements of the area. With the hospital, university, Civic Theatre, Rua Red Exhibition space, The Square Shopping Centre, Tallaght stadium and now the addition of the Work IQ Innovation centre, which stands as the jewel in the crown, the future for Tallaght is one of progress, Innovation and enhanced community. It's my honour to be here to witness it's opening."

Colm Ward, Chief Executive of South Dublin County Council commented; "Today is a landmark day for the

Council with the opening of the Innovation Quarter and Work IQ Innovation Centre. We are investing in the economic and social future of South Dublin County, and particularly Tallaght, a place of city-scale befitting such investment.

This work maximises the potential of Tallaght town centre to be a hub for innovation, enterprise and culture for many years to come. I thank Minister Donnelly for attending the launch today and acknowledge the support and significant funding from the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage, under the URDF fund. I am very grateful to our local elected representatives for their ongoing support for our progressive vision for the area and I also sincerely thank all our staff involved in delivering these major projects."

The launch of the Innovation Quarter represents an exciting chapter in the County's development, delivering an urban district of transformational nature, which will support job creation, community development, as well as enhancing the cultural identity of the County.

RATHCOOLE COURTHOUSE REOPENS FOLLOWING €800K INVESTMENT

The Rathcoole Courthouse marked its official reopening on May 24th following total funding of €800,000 by South Dublin County Council (SDCC) and Minister Heather Humphreys Town and Village Renewal Scheme. The event was a testament to the hard work of staff from SDCC including CEO Colm Ward, Senior Community Office Paul McAlerney, volunteers of the Rathcoole Old Courthouse Facility including Alan Fairman

and the Rathcoole Community Council. Local Fine Gael TD and Minister of State Emer Higgins attended the event and was joined by Cllr Shirley O'Hara, Cllr Francis Timmons deputising for the Mayor, Cllr Trevor Gilligan and Lynn Tierney.

The celebrations continued over the weekend with an art exhibition, highlighting the community's vibrant cultural scene.



SAGGART COMMUNITY CENTRE OPENING



Kit Brady (Former Pupil) and Pauline Molineaux (Former School Secretary) Pic credit: Tommy Keogh



Pauline Molineaux, Mr Mc Dermot (Former School Principal) and Mervyn Ennis. Pic credit: Tommy Keogh

€6.89 MILLION TO TACKLE ASSESSMENT OF NEED WAITING LISTS

More funding for our Community Healthcare Organisations aims to help address the backlog for families of children with disabilities waiting longest for Assessment of Needs (AONs), A Fine Gael Minister has said. Minister of State for Business, Employment and Retail, Emer Higgins said "This funding boost is great news for Dublin. With rising numbers of families requiring AONs around the Country, it's crucial we do everything possible to provide assessments.

"The €6.89 million increase will provide 2,500 private assessments nationwide over the next six months and will

start in the coming days. This is in addition to the existing HSE core funding of €5m which already aims to complete 1,800 AONs in 2024. "No family in Dublin or elsewhere should have to wait excessively long periods of time for the needs of their child to be assessed. The quicker the assessment takes place, the sooner the family can access the right services. This new funding will prioritise the families who have been waiting longest.

"Crucially, parents will not be expected to pay any initial costs as the HSE will reimburse these private clinics directly. "Since taking

office, An Taoiseach Simon Harris has put a massive emphasis on breaking down silos across Government and creating the swift change this country needs.

"The Special Committee on Children, Education and Disability which he recently set up, and where the decision was made to proceed with this initiative, is looking at many ways to further improve disability services like recruiting more specialists to contribute towards nationwide Children's Disability Network Teams to provide important therapies to children. "This announcement and the continuing work is further evidence of Fine Gael's commitment to solving the issues that are most important for people with disabilities and their families and ultimately providing the best start for every child," Minister Higgins concluded.

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

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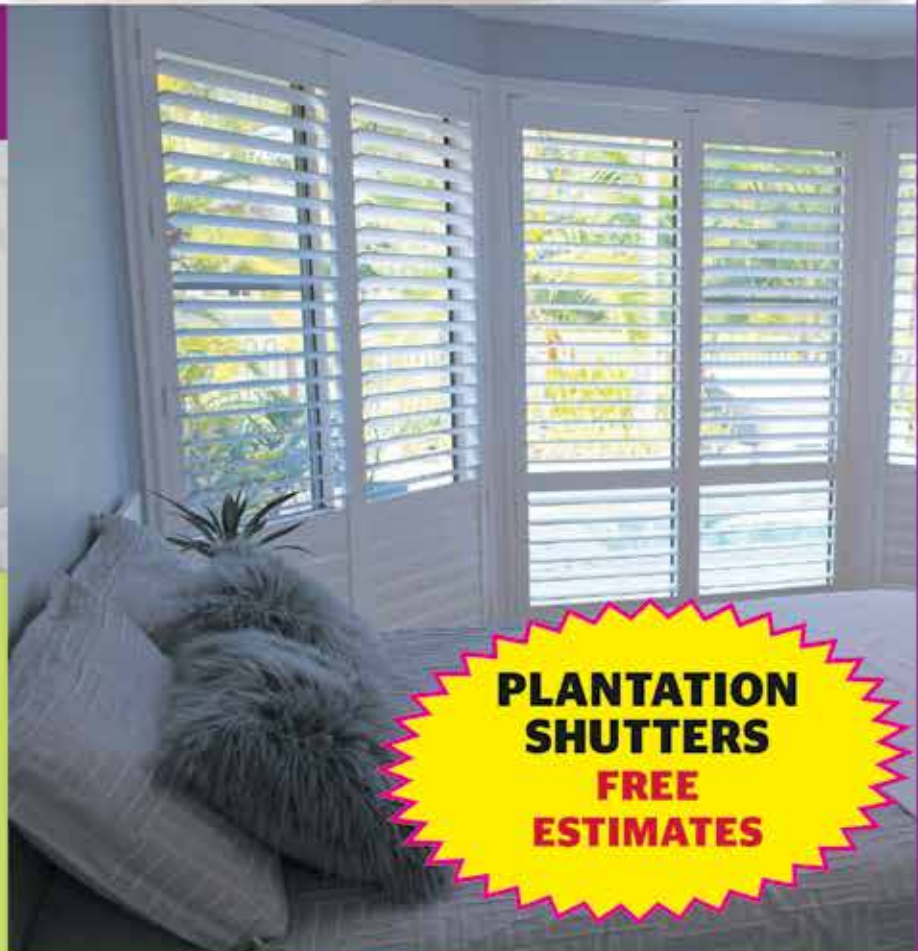
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