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81% INCREASE IN CHILDREN WAITING FOR CAMHS APPOINTMENT

Mark Ward TD, has described the increase in waiting lists for CAMHS first time appointments under this Government a disgrace. There has been an 81% increase on young people waiting for first time appointments since the Government was formed in 2020. A staggering increase of 120% in the amount of young people who are waiting for over a year for an appointment with this vital service.

The Dublin Mid-West TD said "Nationally, there are 3842 of our young people currently waiting for appointments with CAMHS. When this Government was formed in 2020 the waiting list stood at 2115 children. "This equates to an 81% increase in young people waiting

for first time appointments since the Government was formed in 2020 "491 of these children have been waiting for over a year for CAMHS services. When this Government was formed in 2020, those waiting over a year stood at 223 children.

"This equates to a staggering 120% increase in the amount of young people waiting for over a year for vital mental health support from CAMHS. "It is unacceptable for one young person to be waiting over a year, let alone 491 children. "CAMHS is for young people with moderate to severe mental health problems and children with dual diagnosis of mental health and ASD are falling through the cracks.

"Those children with ADHD are often the children left longest on the waiting list.

"And whilst there has been some decrease recently in waiting times the overall picture is stark. "The Government delayed Sinn Féin legislation that will give statutory powers to the Mental Health Commission to regulate the Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services (CAMHS). "We have now had several damning reports by the Mental Health Commission into CAMHS. The most recent report the Mental Health Commission made 49 recommendations to improve CAMHS services for patients, parents, and staff. "Whilst the Mental Health Commission can make recommendations on governance and clinical reforms in CAMHS they do not have the statutory authority to ensure that these recommendations will be implemented. "That is what this legislation will do. I am calling on the Government to implement this legislation as empowering the Mental Health Commission with the powers to improve CAMHS is the right thing to do.

"This legislation will help implement the governance and clinical reforms to help guarantee that all children have access to evidence-based and safe services, regardless of geographical location or ability to pay. "CAMHS is only for a small percentage of children

in the population, for those with moderate to acute mental health problems. However, if children do not get the early intervention they need, they are going to need the more acute services.

"This Minister was appointed in July 2020 when the number of children waiting on a first-time appointment with CAMHS was 2115. An 81% increase under her watch is a disgrace. "This Government has failed our most vulnerable children. "We can all get lost in statistics but behind each statistic is a young person, with hope, dreams and ambitions who are being denied by this Government the opportunity to reach their full potential."







PALMERSTOWN STUDENTS TAKE PART IN **WORK EXPERIENCE**

Students from Palmerstown Community School have taken part in a hybrid work experience programme with Liberty IT which provided a unique insight into the world of technology.

During the action-packed three days, students completed four workshops, giving an insight into the world of Software Engineering, Product Thinking and Cybersecurity and took part in challenges with other students in

breakout groups. They also heard from Liberty IT's Emerging Technology team about the Future of Tech and Talent team, who provided lots of helpful hints and tips on CVs and interview techniques.

Jamie, age 17, a pupil from Palmerstown Community School said: "I really enjoyed my work experience with Liberty IT and found the three days really informative. It was great to learn new code and explore thinking through

a fun learning experience and has given me an interest to explore a career in tech."

June O'Flaherty, Liberty Organisational IT's Enablement Specialist and Work Experience Coordinator said: "For the last eight years we have been working with Palmerstown Community School on various educational programmes and we were delighted to once again offer students the opportunity to take part in our hugely popular work experience programme. At Liberty IT, we are committed to investing in STEM as we are passionate about helping pupils develop their IT skills and inspiring the future talent of our industry.

work experience programme has been designed by our STEM Employee Resource Group which actively promotes STEM careers to

Work Experience is hugely important for this age group, to expose them to paths they may not have considered.

We are confident that the programme gives a fun and exciting insight into what it's like to work in technology inspires students to

consider it as their future career, and who knows, be a future Liberty IT Intern or Graduate in the years to come!" June added.



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RIVER PODDLE FLOOD ALLEVIATION SCHEME

O'Donnell Minister of State with responsibility for the Office of Public Works (OPW), joined Cllr. Alan Hayes, Deputy Mayor of South Council Dublin County (SDCC) recently to launch the construction of the River Poddle Flood Alleviation Scheme. The scheme is the combined initiative of South Dublin County Council, Dublin City Council and the

The River Poddle has caused flooding in the region in the causing significant damage to private residents and businesses. The River Poddle Flood Alleviation Scheme aims to address this and provide added protection to property along the river in a 100 year flood event. This project is an adaptation action by South Dublin County Council in response to future threats posed by climate change and is included in the current South Dublin Climate Change Action Plan.

The scheme is estimated to cost in the region of €19 million and is funded by the

OPW

Speaking the investment, Minister O'Donnell said; "The River Poddle Flood Alleviation Scheme, which is being funded by the Office of Public Works will make a real difference to local residents, families and businesses that live with the risk and impact from flooding along the River Poddle, delivering vital protection and adaptation measures that respond to current and future needs. The scheme includes flood protection, flood storage and flood prevention measures at locations along a 6km stretch of the Poddle River.

I want to thank the local community for its constructive and valuable engagement with the scheme's design and its patience during the design and planning process. Furthermore, I am delighted to announce that OPW staff will construct this scheme with a substantial completion date of Q2 2027."

Colm Ward, Chief Executive of South Dublin County

Council added; "Today is a significant moment in the River Poddle Flood Alleviation scheme as we commence works to adapt to climate change impacts and which will provide resilience for future flood events with the aim of keeping local residents and businesses safe. This is just one of many actions in South Dublin County Council's Climate Action Plan 2024-2029,

outlining our commitment to tackling climate change in South Dublin and the wider Dublin region. I would like to thank Minister O'Donnell, the Office of Public Works and our colleagues in Dublin City Council for working closely with us to deliver this scheme."

Cllr. Hayes said; "I am delighted to be here to represent South Dublin

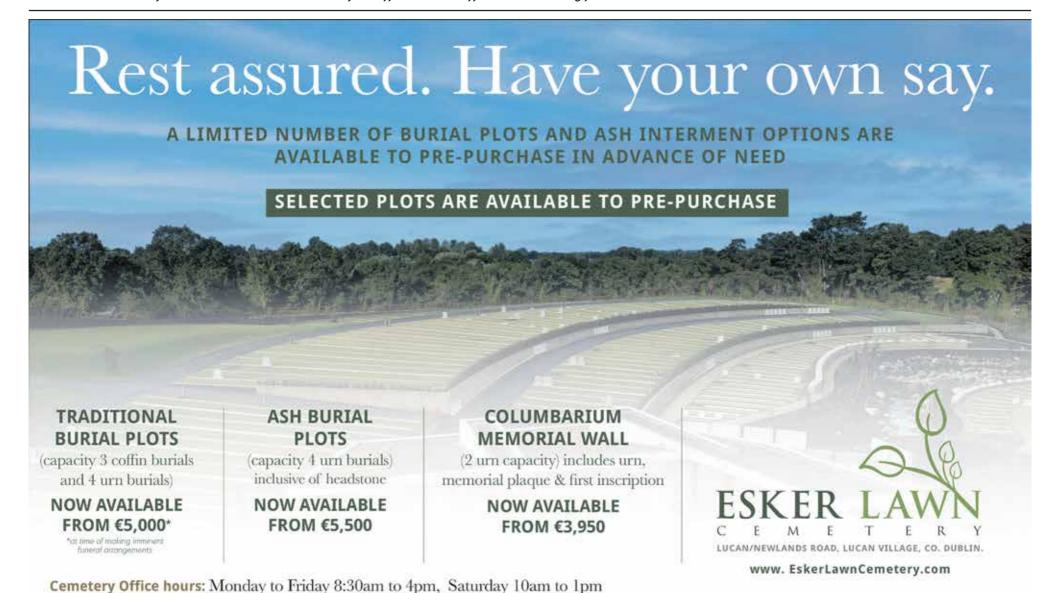
County Council and the local residents for this, the launch of construction of the River Poddle Flood Alleviation Scheme. Flooding has also been identified as a key climate change risk to the Dublin region, so this scheme also highlights SDCC's and the OPW's commitment to the flood resilience theme contained in the current South Dublin Climate Change Action Plan and also shows

SDCC's , DCC's and the OPW's endeavour in trying to alleviate this risk."

Works have now begun on the River Poddle Flood Alleviation Scheme, which is being delivered by South Dublin County Council, Dublin City Council and the Office of Public Works. Please visit http://www.poddlefas.ie/ for more information.



Pictured Deputy Mayor of SDCC Cllr Alan Hayes, Kieran O'Donnell T.D. Minister for State for the OPW and Colm Ward SDCC CEO, Local resident Pauline Foster, Teresa Walsh (SDCC Director of Service), Cllr. Fiona Connolly DCC, Cllr Lynn McCrave, Vincent Rhatigan OPW, Gerry O'Connell, David Grant SDCC, Cllr. Pamela Kearns, Barry Dunphy from Nicholas O'Dwyer, OPW staff and SDCC Staff at the Sod Turning for the River Poddle Flood Alleviation Scheme



For further information or to arrange an appointment please contact: 083 165 8604 or email all enquiries to: info@EskerLawnCemetery.com

'HORRIFIC SITUATION" OF SEWAGE FLOODING BACK **GARDENS IN TALLAGHT**

Multiple cases of raw sewage 'flooding' back gardens in Tallaght were highlighted in the Dail recently by Paul Murphy TD. The Taoiseach himself described this as a 'horrific situation', after the issue was raised by the People Before Profit representative.

Dublin South West TD highlighted cases in Alderwood Grove and Glenview Park which were raised with him during the

recent local elections, but said there are "hundreds of such cases across the country".

"People have raw sewage coming out through in their back manholes gardens whenever there is heavy rain because there are simply too many housing developments connected to the one pipe. Whenever the system is overstretched or blocked up, it overflows into the garden of the house at

"This is an issue I have raised repeatedly, but now two new cases have emerged in Glenview Park and Alderwood Grove. The families are being sent from pillar to post, with the Council and Irish Water refusing to take responsibility for the matter.

"This is a serious problem and it is being exacerbated by the kind of offloading of the responsibility from the council to Irish Water, and the refusal by Irish Water to take responsibility for this situation,'

Responding to the issue, An Taoiseach Simon Harris described it as "a horrific situation" and said it points "to the need to invest a great deal more in the water network". He also said he was "hopeful that the Government will be able to make some concrete decisions shortly to increase levels of public investment through Uisce Éireann in some basic infrastructure". However, he stopped short

FREE PARKING

to take responsibility for and said that the investment for Uisce Éireann'

of calling for Uisce Éireann these specific situations, decisions "will be a matter

PEOPLE BEFORE PROFIT OPPOSES NEW GOOGLE **DATA CENTRE IN GRANGE CASTLE**

People Before Profit TD for Dublin Mid-West Gino Kenny, and People Before Councillor, Darragh Adelaide, have expressed deep concern over a new planning application by Google to construct a 72,400 square meter data centre in Grange Castle, Clondalkin. The representatives have highlighted the significant impact this development will have on the local electricity grid and the broader implications for Ireland's climate targets.

"Data centres consume vast amounts of electricity, and this new development will put unprecedented strain on our local grid," stated Gino Kenny TD. "We cannot afford to jeopardize the stability of our electricity supply for the sake of a multinational corporation's profit margins. People Before Profit will be making a formal objection to this planning application to protect our community and ensure sustainable development."

Councillor Darragh Adelaide echoed these

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Sun - Closed (Bank Hols 2.00pm - 5.30pm)

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concerns, emphasizing the environmental impact of the proposed data centre. "The 224,250 tonnes of CO2 emissions projected from this data centre are alarming. This development contradicts Ireland's climate targets and undermines our efforts to combat climate change. It is crucial that we prioritize green energy solutions and sustainable growth over projects that exacerbate our carbon footprint.'

representatives also criticized the decision in 2022 by the Fine Gael/ Fianna Fail/Green Party government to overturn People Before Profit's proposal to ban new data centres in South Dublin. "We proposed a sensible ban on new data centres to manage their excessive energy consumption and environmental impact. Unfortunately, the government chose to side with corporate interests instead of protecting our planet and local communities," added Kenny. "This decision is a step backward for Ireland's climate policy, and we must hold them accountable for it."

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RAMS TAKE THEIR SECOND ANNUAL TRIP

All 30 members of the Retired Active Men's Social, RAMS from Newcastle, Co. Dublin,

had their second annual trip in 2024 to The Royal County, Newgrange Co. Meath. One

SOUTH DUBLIN'S LONGEST SERVING CLLR. TREVOR GILLIGAN, SEEKS NOMINATION TO RUN IN NEXT GENERAL ELECTION

Following on from Gilligan's fifth successful local election spanning 20 years of service. Gilligan will highlight several local issues including 1) More funding for public health nurses in Dublin Mid West. 2) School works - Gael Scoil na Camoige is waiting 30 years for their new building. 3) Traffic needs to be tackled via an outer ring relief road, also promised in the past. Reliable and frequent bus services. 4) Creche workers deserve more rights than they currently have. They work tirelessly for our children so that we can contribute to the economy. Provide better pay and benefits. 5) One-off housing - Residents who are third, fourth and fifth generation, yet they are not allowed to build on their own land, beside their loved ones.

Gilligan celebrated turning 40 last July as well as twenty years elected to SDCC. "Having dedicated my entire adult life to serving my community, I feel I have to explore the opportunity to take a seat in Dublin Mid West. I have lived here all my life. My wife and I, now rear our children here locally" commented Cllr Trevor Gilligan.

counties. The coach trip to Newgrange takes about one hour, and there was lots of banter on board, talk of politics, Euro football, health issues, and TV programmes. On arrival at Newgrange, and disembarked, as they availed of more morning coffee and beautiful freshly baked scones in the Bro na

Bru cafe.

The staff were so friendly, and so helpful to all members, and all smiling young people, rather than do the usual queue for counter service. On hearing they had a singing group among our membership, the Manager requested they give them a song, and brighten their day, and also for the overseas visitors who were visiting the "site".

Musical Director, Liam O'Donnell duly obliged, and gave a wonderful rendition of The Ferry Man, and The Galway Girl. It was great to see the young staff, encourage the singers, with their clapping along, and everyone all smiles, dancing and jiving.

Travelling on to Navan town centre, where the "RAMS in Rhythm" performed at the shopping centre, and sang there for 30 minutes, all to the delight of the patrons, shoppers, proprietors, and staff. They sang a few songs

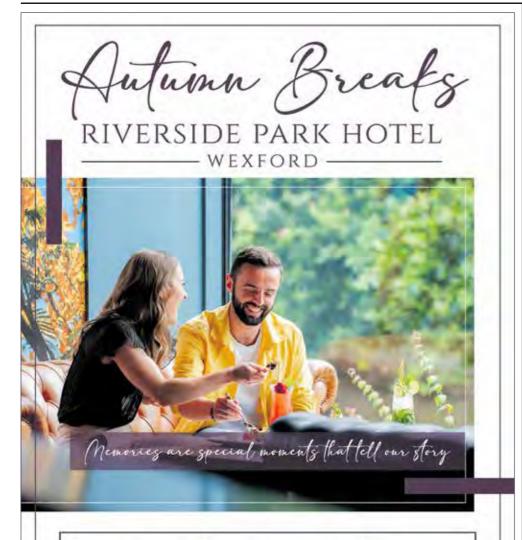
to raise funds for local St. Vincent de Paul. The patrons and shoppers were so generous, and enjoyed the singing, that they raised €500.

The group then headed on to the Boyne Valley tour. The group enjoyed a meal in the Headford Arms in Kells. The Headford Arms Hotel is one of the hotels who entertain and give great hospitality to Active Retirement groups, like the Retired Active Men's

Social RAMS. Following on from dinner, the RAMS adjourned to the library for more beverages, and Liam O Donnell again obliged again, with a few more songs, to entertain our now weary members and to rejuvenate them with some lively songs.

The RAMS will be singing and fundraising again on the 27th July at the Square Shopping Centre Tallaght, and fundraising for Our Lady's Hospice Harold's Cross.





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An community Cosán education centre in Jobstown is now accepting applications for its Further Education courses starting in September.

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needed to progress in both education and work. Courses on offer include Community Care, Community Development, Early Learning and Care, Business Administration with Digital Skills for Work, WorkAbility (Business Administration with Digital Skills for Work Coaching), and Career Women in Leadership, and

Community Care for Work.

All courses are part-time (some day-time and some evening) and take place in An Cosán's centre in Kiltalown Village Centre, Jobstown. Many are free of charge, thanks to sponsorship by DDLETB, Rethink Ireland, and Macquaire.

Applications from early school-leavers, parents, migrants and people returning to education are especially welcome.

An Cosán offers additional supports, including free early years' education and care, IT support, laptop loans, parenting support, financial supports, and one-to-one tutoring and mentoring. Learners can also avail of An Cosán's counselling service.

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www.ancosan.ie for further information.

MAYOR ATTENDS SOD-TURNING CEREMONY FOR THE WORKS AT CARRIGMORE PARK

On the 5th of July 2024, the Mayor of South Dublin County Council, Cllr. Baby Pereppadan officially turned the sod to mark the commencement of works for Carrigmore Park. The Mayor was joined by Staff of South Dublin County Council and members of the Citywest Community Council to celebrate this event.

Speaking at the event Mayor Cllr. Baby Pereppadan said "The works about to commence will include an upgrade of the existing playspace, a teenspace, a calisthenics workout area, a boules court, a pump track, a mini woodland, reinstatement of the pitches, new wetland areas, a new bridge, new planting, as well as footpath works and upgrades to the existing entrances".

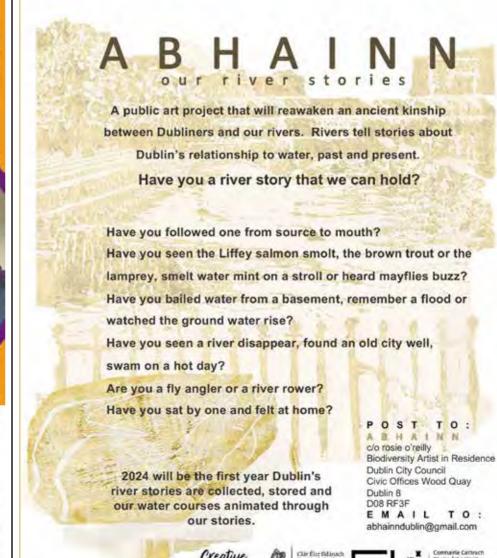
This project is funded by South Dublin County Council's 3-year capital budget, 300k Have Your Say, and the Community Recognition Fund. The Public Realm Section in South Dublin have carried out the planning and design work on this project to date. First phase of construction work on site will be carried out by Play and Leisure Services, with the natural play expansion of the playspace and a teenspace.



Pictured Mayor of SDCC Cllr. Baby Pereppadan at the Sod Turning at Carrigmore Park Upgrade Scheme with Laurence Colleran (Senior Executive Parks Superintendent), David Musa Aboki, Hannah Johnston, Roisin O'Riordan and residents from the local community. Pic Credit Ben Rvan.









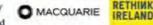
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Councillor Madeleine Johansson of People Before Profit has expressed deep anger and concern over the revelation that only 16 fourbedroom social housing units

are scheduled for delivery in South Dublin County until December 2025. This alarming information was disclosed at the July South Dublin County Council

meeting in Councillor question regarding expected availability of such homes in the next 12 months. Councillor

response to Johansson's Johansson

highlighted the urgency and gravity of this issue, emphasizing the severe impact on large families who are in desperate need of suitable housing. "It is absolutely unacceptable that only 16 four-bedroom homes are planned for the entire county over the next year and a half," she stated. "This paltry number falls woefully short of meeting the needs of our community, particularly for larger families who are already

struggling in overcrowded

and inadequate conditions."

The distribution of these limited homes across various local electoral areas (LEAs) further underscores the insufficiency of the current housing plan. According to the report, 14 new builds are slated for the Clondalkin/ Newcastle/Rathcoole/ Saggart/Brittas area, with minimal allocations in other regions, including just one in Tallaght Central/South and Lucan/Palmerstown/ North Clondalkin areas. Councillor Johansson is calling for immediate action and a significant increase in the provision of fourbedroom social housing units to address the pressing needs of families and ensure

that everyone has access to adequate and appropriate housing.

MAJOR GAS INCIDENT AVERTED AT HOUSE IN TALLAGHT

said that it was only by luck that there wasn't a major incident involving a house that had been allowed to fill with natural gas in Cushlawn Park in West Tallaght recently.

Teachta Crowe said "I was contacted by upset residents in Cushlawn Park, who informed me of a very serious incident involving a recently refurbished house that had been allowed to fill with natural gas after the supply was switched back on. "A cap had supposedly not been refitted to a gas pipe during the refurbishment, so when the supply had been switched back on, the whole house just started to fill up over the course of hours. The new tenants arrived at their home and immediately knew something was wrong.

"Something as simple as flipping a light switch could have spelled disaster for the new residents and their neighbours on that block of houses. "A Bord Gais engineer was

TD for Dublin South West Seán Crowe has on site for over 5 hours until after 1am to source the leak and ensure the house was ventilated and that no drains or shores had become saturated with gas.

> "This raises very serious questions about who signed off on the works after the recent refurbishment of a social house. "A gas explosion can be utterly devastating in a residential area and these types of accidents should never be allowed to happen. The next morning, we could have been waking up to multiple deaths or injuries, but thankfully someone smelt gas and contacted the relevant people in An Bord Gáis.

> "The local residents need answers on this near tragedy and reassurance from the local authority South Dublin County Council that these life endangering errors will never happen again in any of their properties. At a minimum, they need answers and an apology should be given to those who had leave their homes during this incident."

BRIDIE SWEENEY RECEIVES PAPAL "BENEMERENTI" MEDAL



Pictured in St Martin's Church, Aylesbury, at the presentation to Bridie Sweeney of the Papal 'Benemerenti" medal for her service as a volunteer with St Vincent de Paul and dedicated and faithful service to the parish were (L to R) Fr James Daly PP, Bridie Sweeney and Charlie O'Connor.

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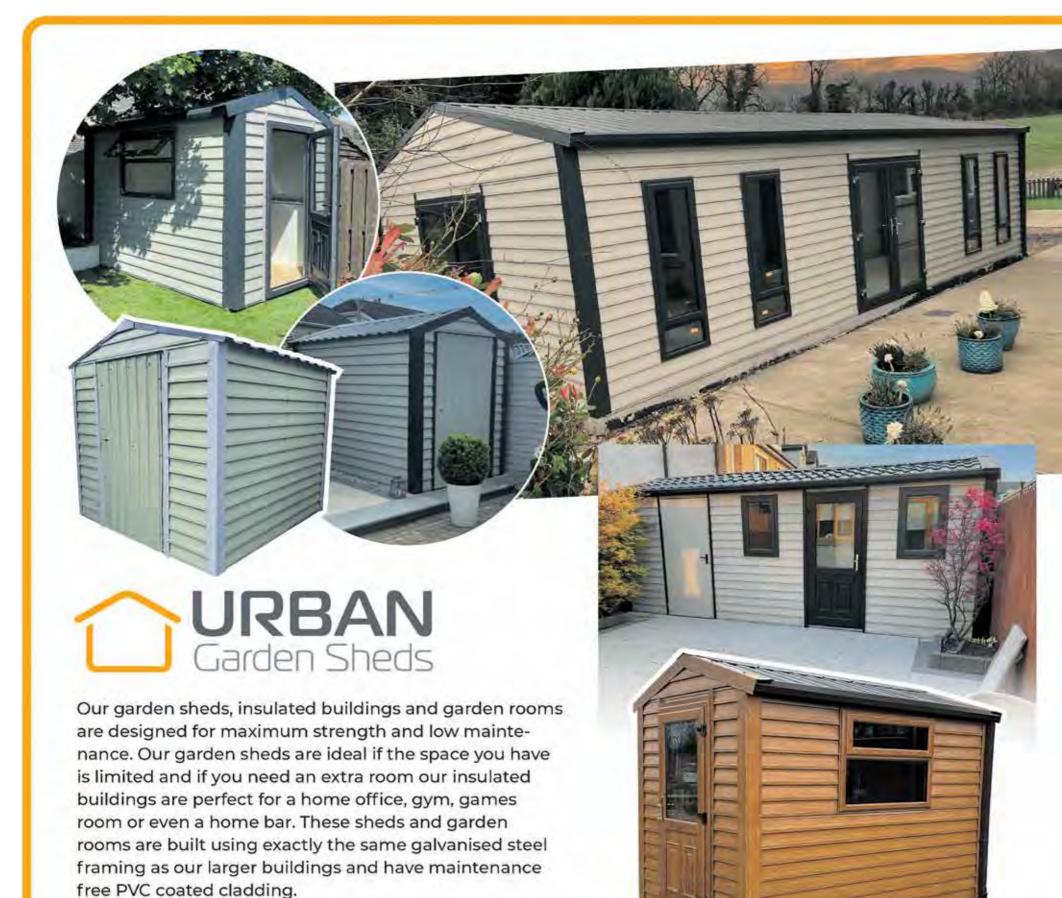
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6'9	" x 6'6"	€1350	+ €175	+ €175	
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8'	x 6'6"	€1450	+€300	+ €250	
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CLONDALKIN'S ROUND TOWER VISITOR CENTRE OPENED SEVEN YEARS AGO THIS MONTH

The Mayor of South Dublin County Council, Cllr Baby Pereppadan, marked the seventh year since the opening of the Brú Chrónáin Round Tower Visitor Centre in Clondalkin on Thursday 11th July by cutting a cake in the shape of the famous 1,000 year tower.

'I'm delighted to be here today in this wonderful visitor centre to mark incorporates an interactive the seven years since the doors opened,' said Mayor

help and determination of the local community of Clondalkin, South Dublin County Council was able to refurbish the 19th Century Mill Cottages at the junction of Tower Road and Nangor Road in the heart of this historical village, and bring us the Brú Chrónáin Round Tower experience, which visitor centre, monastic gardens, a café, terraced

space and shop, all under the shadow of the historic Round Tower.' 'Over those seven years, the centre has welcomed 500,000 visitors. That's 500 visitors for every year the famous landmark has been standing' he said. Surrounded by local councillors, staff of South Dublin County Council, and members of the public, including guides from Chlann Chrónáin tour guiding group, Mayor Pereppadan cut a specially prepared cake made by a member of the community.

'In 2017, SDCC developed the Brú Chrónáin Round Tower Visitor Centre to narrate the tale of Clondalkin's Round Tower, established in over a thousand years ago by St. Mochua. It is one of only four remaining round towers in County Dublin', said Ralph McGarry, of the Council's County Promotion Unit. 'The visitor experience brings to life the monastic origins, Viking legacy, and the bustling 19th and early 20th-century village of Clondalkin. It also explores the social and political roles of round towers in Ireland,' he said.

The centre regularly hosts For more information on the

events and is very popular with school tours. A local tour guiding group Clann Chrónáin offers free tours of the centre during the week and garden tours on weekends. Visitors can also self-guide through the centre by downloading the interactive multilingual guide onto their phone. The app is available in five languages including Spanish, French and German as well as English and Irish.

'The Brú Chrónáin Round Tower Visitor Centre is open daily from 9 am to 4 pm, with free admission to the exhibition and gardens' said Ralph. 'It's a great place to visit during the summer, and if you have friends or family visiting from near or far, we'd encourage you to drop by, learn about the area's rich history, and maybe even enjoy a coffee and a great meal in the café.'

To book a free tour guided by a tour guide from Clann Chrónáin, or to arrange a school tour later in the year, visit https://www. dublinsoutdoors.ie/roundtower-clondalkin-village/ book-tour-now/.

in Clondalkin, please visit County, and various visitor www.theroundtower.ie. For information on tourism dublinsoutdoors.ie

events please visit www.





Cllr William Carey has accused the ESB of dragging their heels when it comes to providing connections to various infrastructural projects. "Time after time I am being told by council management that projects are being delayed because of the need for electrical connections to project's " said Cllr Carey. Cllr Carey was reacting to information supplied by SDCC at the July council meeting. In response to a question put down by Cllr Carey the manager listed 14 projects under traffic management such as pedestrian crossings etc. Of the 14 only 3 had had been connected and 11 where awaiting attention from the ESB. Many of these relate to pedestrian safety such as signal crossings on main routes throughout the county.

Cllr Carey added, "I had fought for 5 years to have a pedestrian crossing installed on Fonthill Rd junction with St Johns estate following the death here of a local woman, and after finally seeing it come to fruition it remains inoperable after the structural work was completed 6 months ago. This is shocking and is putting the lives of pedestrians at continuous risk with these delays.



TAOISEACH WELCOMED TO SEVEN MILLS DEVELOPMENT AT CLONBURRIS SDZ

South Dublin County Council,
Respond and Cairn Homes
recently welcomed An
Taoiseach Simon Harris to
Seven Mills, Clonburris.
This significant project will
deliver a mix of private,
social, cost rental and
affordable homes, providing
secure accommodation
at affordable prices to
thousands of families and
individuals upon completion.

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completion
Mills will
5,500 new
overall SD2
approximat

Located between Lucan and Clondalkin, Seven Mills is part of the Clonburris Strategic Development Zone (SDZ), the largest residential development of its kind in Europe. Upon completion by 2030, Seven Mills will comprise over 5,500 new homes, with the overall SDZ accommodating approximately 9,500 homes and 25,000 residents. An

commented "Clonburris is exactly the kind of development we need to see more of in Ireland, A development mix of tenures - private, social, affordable, cost rental - served by public transport and regenerating an area so well located in Dublin City. It's fantastic to see different arms of the State and the private sector working so well together. It's also great to see first-hand the use of Modern Methods of Construction, such as the installation of pre-fabricated bathrooms made off-site."

Niamh Randall, National Spokesperson for Respond, said "Respond are delighted to be delivering 372 much needed social and cost rental homes here at Seven Mills. We have already advertised for the first 48 of the cost rental homes for which there were 1.271 applications. We

tenants here to their new homes later this summer. Respond have 2,242 homes in construction all around the country right now and we are determined to deliver high quality homes to people who are waiting for the opportunity to put down roots with their families and become part of a community. "The Parkleigh development, part of this ambitious scheme, exemplifies Respond's innovative construction-led approach. Respond utilise Fixed Price Contracts to finance construction, saving up to €30,000 per home here in Parkleigh compared traditional housing acquisition models. Our average saving per home nationwide is €65,000. 83% of Respond's developments are construction-led."

Colm Ward, Chief Executive

of South Dublin County Council added "The delivery of this project is only possible by working closely with partners such as Respond, Cairn Homes and other landowners in the area with ongoing support from Government and today gives us all a great opportunity to show the significant progress which has been made to date."

Michael Stanley, CEO of Cairn Homes "Seven Mills is now more than an ambition. Cairn commenced construction in January of last year on what is the largest new residential development of its kind in Europe. When completed in just over five years' time it will be home to more than 25,000 people. Seven Mills is being delivered using our scale and capability at a faster pace than any comparable development is providing mixed and

tenure homes built to the highest energy efficiency standards in a sustainable community environment.

It will take over €4billion of investment to deliver this new town. Cairn along with our partners, many of whom are here today, including SDCC, Respond and the LDA are committed to completing this entire project by 2030. This is a truly ambitious delivery target, particularly when one considers that large settlements and towns of a similar size to Seven Mills, for example Naas, Newbridge, Portlaoise, Kilkenny, usually take decades and longer to emerge.

Seven Mills is a true demonstration of what can be achieved with real partnership and collaboration between the private sector and the state."

GOVERNMENT MUST TACKLE CHILDHOOD OBESITY

TD for Dublin South West Seán Crowe has said that the government must do more to tackle childhood obesity as Safefood Ireland evidence to the Oireachtas Health Committee indicates that they have done little to move the needle since the last obesity action plan was introduced in 2016.

Teachta Crowe said "Evidence from Safefood Ireland to the Oireachtas Health Committee recently indicates that this government has failed to tackle the issue of childhood obesity in any meaningful way. Safefood's evidence indicated that 1 in 5 children suffer from obesity and that this figure rises to 1 in 4 among children in poor and disadvantaged areas.

"This figure is in line with evidence given by the HSE to the Oireachtas Committee on Children in 2018. In six years, we have not moved the needle when it comes to confronting this issue and it is young and poor children who are suffering most.

"A range of additional measures must be considered in the fight against childhood obesity. We must radically increase funding for Healthy Ireland through sugar tax revenues. We should restrict television marketing of unhealthy food and drinks to after 7pm. We also need to work with retailers so that parents do not have to run a gauntlet of unhealthy foods when they are out shopping with their children.

"A key policy would be to consider the implementation of a tax on high salt, high fat products, similar to the way we tax sugar. That led to lower levels of sugar in many drink products and it is time we tackled the other major contributors to unhealthy weight.

"Some of these measures may seem extreme but with childhood obesity leading to ever greater levels of diabetes and other health concerns, we cannot afford not to. It is well past time that we started taking the issue of childhood obesity seriously."





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MOTORING LIFE WITH





By Breda Corrigan

The stunning BMW i5 Saloon is the pure-electric variant of the brandnew, eight-generation 5 Series, and it is built at the same Dingolfing manufacturing plant in Germany as units with combustion engines and plug-in hybrids. Underpinning the new 5 Series is an updated version of BMW's Cluster Architecture (CLAR) platform, and it also underpins all BMW models featuring either a longitudinally mounted combustion engine or electric powertrain.

Compared to its predecessor, the new 5 Series is 97mm longer, 33mm wider and 36mm taller, and it also features the longest wheelbase in its class at 2,995mm. Incredibly, this is the first 5 Series to breach the 5.0 metre barrier on overall length, and this makes it longer than the flagship 7 Series from just two decades ago.

Trim & Drivetrain Options.

The new i5 is available in M Sport, M Sport Pro and Sport Edition trim levels - all of which are rear-wheel drive, and fall under the eDrive40 model designation - along with an all-wheel drive M60 xDrive model that delivers the performance typical of a BMW M. In the i5 eDrive40, a BMW-developed electric motor is paired with an 84.3kWh battery pack to produce 335bhp (340PS) and 400Nm of torque when Sport Boost or Launch Control is active, with power sent to the rear wheels. The i5 M60 xDrive benefits from an extra electric motor up front, and this allows for a massive 593bhp (601PS) and 795Nm of torque to be sent to all four wheels. The M60 also gets standard adaptive suspension, a 0.3-inch lower ride height than the eDrive40, and upgraded brakes. The i5 can adjust its braking energy regeneration based on battery level and traffic situation, thought the driver can manually select low, medium or high braking regeneration as well, with a 'B' transmission mode providing the option of one-pedal driving. A new Max Range mode optimises the remaining charge in the battery by up to 25% by limiting the top speed to 90km/h and it shuts down the climate control, the ventilated/ heated seats, and the heated steering wheel.

BMW Iconic Glow Lighting.

Side by side with the latest 5 Series, the i5 can be distinguished by a blanked-off front grille and small 'I' badges, but the styling differences are otherwise minimal. The exterior design of the i5 incorporates gloss black sills and lower body trims, along with a re-worked version of BMW's iconic 'kidney' grille that features BMW's eye-catching Iconic Glow lighting technology (depending on the model chosen). White light highlights the contours of the grille when the car is being driven, or when stationary with the power button switched on. This provides the car with a uniquely-distinctive look, especially in the dark.

Charging Options.

The onboard Combined Charging

Unit (CCU) supports AC charging at up to 11kW as standard, and this allows for a 0-100% charge via a domestic 11kW wallbox charger in just 8.5 hours. DC fast charging is supported at up to 205kW, which can take the battery from 10 to 80% in about 30 minutes. When fully charged, the battery in the eDrive40 can return a driving range of up to 575km on a WLTP combined driving range. The 400-volt lithiumion battery is located below the floor, inside the centre tunnel and under the rear seats for ideal weight distribution. With BMW Charging, you can charge across Europe in one of the largest, and constantly growing, charging networks - all with your BMW Charging Card or via the My BMW App.

BMW Curved Display.

The new 5 Series is the first BMW to feature the updated iDrive 8.5 infotainment system based on the Linux operating system. The interface is accessed via the BMW Curved Display that combines the 12.3-inch instrument cluster and the 14.9-inch infotainment system with a redesigned touch interface within a single unit. The operating system offers additional digital content, including a range of video streaming options and some in-car gaming features via the AirConsole, a free app that uses the smartphone as a controller for the suite of apps on offer. The BMW Interaction Bar. which made its debut in the latest 7 Series, is a standard feature on the i5. It adds touch-sensitive control points for the air-conditioning and the hazard warning lights, and the ingenious backlit control panel stretches across the entire dashboard and into the front doors. BMW's excellent rotary infotainment controller is located on the centre console, and it is the most intuitive way of navigating the infotainment system when on the move. Also standard is a Bowers & Wilkins premium sound system, along with wireless phone charging for up to two devices.

Test Car Details.

My test car was a BMW i5 eDrive40 M Sport, which was finished in gorgeous Brooklyn Grey metallic paintwork, with perforated and quilted Veganza man-made leather upholstery in smoke white. The plush cabin in the new 5 Series/i5 takes inspiration from the larger 7 Series/i7, and the scope and style of the digital technology employed within is truly outstanding. Excellent head, leg and elbow room awaits front seat occupants, and it is easy to find the perfect driving position thanks to ample electric adjustment options on the driver's seat, while the leather-clad, flat-bottomed steering wheel can be adjusted for height and reach. The rear seats offer generous room for up to 3 occupants, with the ergonomicallydesigned cushion angle providing terrific support for longer legs.

Boot capacity is class competitive, with 490-litres of usable space on offer behind the 40:20:40 folding rear seatbacks. The standard load length of 1100mm can be increased to 1940mm with all, or any of the

rear seats folded down. With 335bhp and 400Nm of torque on offer, the i5 eDrive40 can sprint from 0-100km/h in just 6.0-seconds, on its way to an electronically-limited 193km/h top speed (where permitted), while official energy consumption is rated at 18.7-16.1kWh/100km. The i5 has BMW-typical progressive initial steering response and it changes direction confidently in linear proportion to driver inputs, with the car remaining balanced and composed when accelerating out of fast bends. The car has excellent straight-line performance, and this allows for overtaking manoeuvres to be executed with great confidence, while its engaging driving character is evident on every journey. Other note-worthy characteristics that the i5 has in abundance are its agility, nimbleness, luxurious comfort and its overall driver appeal.

Verdict & Pricing.

The new BMW i5 is a supremely refined and well-rounded fully-electric executive car that is sure to entice private buyers and company car buyers alike. The i5 is available in both saloon and Touring (Estate/ Station Wagon) guises, and is on sale at BMW dealership nationwide now.

Pricing starts at €91,105 and a tempting 4.9% APR finance rate is available through BMW Financial Services at present, subject to lending criteria. Terms and conditions apply. BMW Financial Services (Ireland) DAC trading as BMW Financial Services is regulated by the Central Bank of Ireland.

MINISTER BUTLER MUST PUBLISH THE MENTAL HEALTH ACT

Mark Ward TD, has expressed his disappointment with the Minister for Mental Health, Mary Butler, who has failed to prioritise the legislation reform the Mental Health Act 2001 before the Deputy summer recess. Ward was speaking ahead of the summer recess where legislation will not be able to be published.

Teachta Ward said "I am calling on Minister Mary Butler to publish the Mental Health Act without further "This Government delay. have failed to published legislation to reform the Mental Health Act 2001. Minister Butler made a commitment to publish the Bill in the summer session. "It seems that mental health is not a priority for this Government. "This is disappointing for all of the mental health organisations that have been calling for this to be published as a matter of urgency, but it is also disappointing for the thousands of people who use

our mental health services.

"This Bill is an opportunity to put in place a robust, person-centric health legislation that will protect the rights of people with mental health difficulties in the decades ahead. "With the possibility that a general election could be called at any point, the delay in the publication of the Bill may mean that it may not be completed in the lifetime of this Government. "A delay in reforming the Mental Health Act 2001 has real consequences with a continued lack of regulation of CAMHS under the Act, for example. I have introduced legislation to regulate CAMHS and give the Mental Health Commission statutory powers to oversee the implementation of their recommendations, made in following their review into CAMHS.

"We have had review after review into CAMHS, but no urgency from Government

This delay is letting our young people down once "Pre-legislative again.

to prioritise this legislation. scrutiny for the update of Mental Health Act 2001 was carried out on in October of 2022. The fact that we are

nearly two years on and it has still not been introduced shows to me that it is not a priority for Government.

"The longer this is delayed. the longer that service users and frontline mental health organisations have to wait.

THE DUBLIN PARK & TRAILS CHALLENGE

The 4 Dublin Local Authorities are delighted to come together under the Active City Dublin banner to run a Parks & Trails Challenge during the month of July. The aim of the initiative is to encourage people to discover their local parks and trails and also explore parks and trails in the greater Dublin area.

This is the first time such an event has been held across the 4 council areas. Participants can win prizes by completing walks in the parks and trails in all 4 Local Authority areas. As an incentive for taking part in the challenge, participants will be entered into a draw to win some amazing prizes. There are a total of 24 walks to choose from, a mix of parks and trails have been chosen in each area. The challenge has been uploaded on to the Dublin Trails App where all of the 24 locations are listed along with maps of each walk. You can enter by downloading the Dublin Trails App from the App store or from the QR code on posters advertising the challenge and follow the steps.





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ENAS FOR LAURA

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Heavenly Father, you filled Saint Charles with your Holy Spirit. In love with Christ Crucified he spent his life in prayer at the foot of the Cross. From the Cross he went forth to bring Good News to the poor, healing to the sick and dying, forgiveness to the sinner. Look now on your people who cry to you. Through the intercession of Saint Charles give us the graces we need. Heal our aches and pains, our hurts and wounds, our anxieties and bad memories. Free us from depressions, habits of sin, and all evil. Strengthen our faith, deepen our hope, and increase our love. We make our prayer through Christ our Lord. Our Father, Hail Mary, and Glory be to the Father. Saint Charles, pray for us. M.M

Saint Ann, beloved patroness, I come to you with confidence as a sick person, not only because you are powerful and kind, but also because you have experienced life's oppressive trials. Over the centuries, you have obtained from your Grandson Jesus instant relief for countless infirm and sick people. Pilgrims to Saint Ann have never ceased thanking you for such favors. At this moment, you know I am suffering. But, I want to unite myself with the suffering Christ. I offer my pains to the Lord so that His redemption be accomplished in all the hearts. I count on your intercession, Saint Ann, for courage and peace of mind. Do implore God to heal me, for everything is possible to Him and He answers your prayer. I pray to you also on behalf of all the suffering and sick people of the world, especially those I know and assist personally. Amen. M.M

O Holy St Anthony, the gentlest and kindest of Saints, your burning love of God, your exalted virtue, and your great charity towards your fellow creatures, made you worthy, when on earth to possess miraculous powers such as were given to no other saint. Miracle waited on your word, and that word you were ever ready to speak at the request of those in trouble. The anxious prayer of bitter trial was never addressed to you in vain. To the sick you gave back health; you restored what was lost; the sorrow stricken were the objects of your tender compassion; even the dead you raised to life when the wounded heart cried out to you from the depths of its bitter anguish. When on earth nothing was impossible with you, except not to have compassion on those in distress and sorrow. Encouraged by this thought, and convinced of the efficacy of your holy intercession, we kneel before your holy image, and full of confidence, we implore you to obtain for us (here mention your request). The answer to this our prayer may require a miracle. Even so, are you not the Saint of Miracles, who, when on earth, had but to speak the mightiest wonders were wrought! O gentle and

loving St Anthony, you whose heart was ever full of human sympathy, whispers our prayer into the ears of the Infant Jesus, who loved to linger in your arms. One word from you and our prayer will be granted. O, speak but that word and the gratitude of our heart will ever be yours! Amen. M.M

NOVENA TO THE HOLY SPIRIT. You who solve all problems. who lights all roads so that I can obtain my goal. You who give me the divine gift to forgive and to forget all evil against me and that in all instances of my life, you are with me. I want in this short prayer to thank you for all things and to confirm that I never want to be separated from you even and in spite of all material illusion. I wish to be with you in eternal glory. Thank you for your mercy toward me and mine. (mention favors) This prayer must be said for 3 consecutive days and published immediately After 3 days the favor requested will be granted even though it may appear difficult. This prayer must be publised immediately and after 3 days the favour will be granted.

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

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

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