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ADAPTATION GRANTS OF UP TO €40,000 AVAILABLE IN SOUTH DUBLIN

An increase in grants to adapt homes will allow disabled and older people to live more independently, a local Fine Gael candidate said. As part of Budget 2025, Fine Gael increased the Housing Adaptation Grants for the disabled and elderly to allow them to remain in their own home.

Speaking recently, Minister Emer Higgins and local TD for Dublin Mid West encouraged people in the South Dublin County Council area to apply for these grants "Housing

Adaptation Grants have a transformative impact on older people and those with a disability; enabling them to live more independently, in their own home and community, for as long as possible.

The local Dublin Mid West TD commented "Budget 2025 saw an additional €25 million allocated to these schemes so that people can now receive grants of €40,000 under the Housing Adaptation Grant for Disabled People, an increase of €10,000. €10,700 under

the Housing Aid for Older People Grant, an increase of €2,700. And €8,000 under the Mobility Aid Grant, increased by €2,000".

"Applications commence under this new scheme with increased rates on December 1st from South Dublin County Council and I would strongly encourage anyone who is eligible to make an application".

Minister Emer Higgins continued "So far this year, over 11,000 adaptation

grants have been paid out to help people remain in their own home and in their community".

The local TD concluded "Fine Gael are committed to supporting the elderly and disabled across Ireland and help them to live independently as long as is possible. "I really encourage local people when the new scheme is open in December, that those in need of such adaptations contact South Dublin County Council to apply for these grants."

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TALLAGHT BMX STAR CARLY HAYES HONOURED BY MAYOR OF SOUTH DUBLIN AT RECEPTION

Following her recent success in the British National Series, The Mayor of South Dublin, Cllr. Baby Pereppadan welcomed 15-year-old Carly Hayes from Tallaght to County Hall to honour her achievements on the BMX track. Carly was joined at the reception by friends and family, Councillors Patrick Holohan and Alan Edge along with her BMX and British Championship Trophy.

Carly who currently attends Tallaght Community School, started BMX racing when she was just 5 years old and has

been racing competitively in the UK and Europe since she was 6. Carly is the current Leinster Champion, Ireland BMX champion, 2024 British champion and is ranked 3rd in Europe as well as winning the British national series in the past number of years.

At such a young age, Carly's passion for her sport is incredible and inspiring; training 4-5 times a week she has big dreams to one day become world champion and to compete at the Olympics.

Speaking at the Reception,

Mayor of South Dublin, Councillor Baby Pereppadan said; "To have achieved what she has done is a testament to her hard work and dedication, and the

support of her coaches and family who tell me the high passion she has for the sport and for travelling to the UK and Europe every year not only to race but to meet up

with friends.

We would like to express our support for Carly for her achievements at the highest level of her sport.

We will be cheering her on for many years to come as I am told that her plan is to keep moving forward in the hope of competing in the Olympics in 2032."



Pictured: Mayor of South Dublin - Cllr. Baby Pereppadan with Carly Hayes, friends and family. Pic credit: Ben Ryan.



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CLONDALKIN OPTICIANS AWARDED OUTSTANDING CUSTOMER CARE MEDAL BY SPECSAVERS FOUNDERS

A Clondalkin opticians has been honoured for going the extra mile for customers by the founders of Specsavers. The Dame Mary Perkins Award for outstanding customer care has been awarded to Specsavers Clondalkin for going above and beyond. It is one of only of seven Specsavers businesses in the UK, Northern Ireland and the Republic of Ireland to receive the award this year.

‘Caring for our customers is at the heart of what Specsavers is all about and the winners of this award are shining examples of how our colleagues do that every day. Congratulations to all of them,’ says Dame Mary Perkins.

Sean Daly, Retail Director from Specsavers Clondalkin, says: ‘The team is honoured to receive the award. It is in recognition of achieving consistently high levels of customer service, satisfaction, and positive feedback.’

‘At Specsavers Clondalkin, the team believes that going the extra mile is what makes the difference between good and great. From the moment a customer walks through the doors, they are greeted with respect, kindness, and exceptional care,’ says Mr. Daly.

Specsavers Clondalkin’s great customer care was demonstrated recently when Sean went out of his way to help a young girl who

was struggling with the idea of needing her first prescription and even coming into the shopping centre.

He picked out 10 pairs of glasses that he thought would suit her, and he brought them out to the girl in the carpark. He took the time to explain each pair to her and to answer any questions that she had. In the end, the girl picked two pairs that she liked, and Sean promised to look after her. After this, she felt much more comfortable - so much so that we were all delighted to welcome her into the store to collect her glasses.

Her mother said that her daughter will never forget getting her first glasses, and for all the right reasons.

Mr. Daly adds: ‘For those in need of extra care and attention, our team is there to provide compassion and empathy. ‘We understand the importance of choosing glasses as they live on your face, which is why we are there to guide our customers every step of the way. We also have a keen eye for fashion and love to help customers choose the perfect frame for them, making sure we offer whatever support they may need from us.’

The store’s commitment to community service is also noteworthy. They proudly support the Hope Foundation, an organisation dedicated to improving the lives of children living on the streets in Kolkata, India.

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CAIRN LAUNCHES SEVEN MILLS COMMUNITY FUND WORTH €30,000

Cairn Homes plc is pleased to announce the launch of the Seven Mills Community Fund, worth €30,000, aimed at supporting innovative, community-driven projects in Dublin 22. The fund is part of Cairn's commitment to help local groups, clubs, and societies to deliver greater community benefit, cultural enrichment and social progress in the communities it builds homes in. The Seven Mills Community Fund consists of grants aimed at local community groups across Arts, Music & Culture, Sports & Recreation, Education, Social Advocacy, Wellness, Neighbourhood Initiatives, Social, Youth and Seniors. The grants are structured to empower successful local group applicants that are working to make a positive impact in Dublin 22 through their volunteering efforts.

Local groups are being encouraged to apply in advance of the application

deadline on December 20th. Seven awards will be available to the successful applicants: 1 x up to €10,000, 1 x up to €5,000 and 5 x up to €3,000. Grants will be awarded to projects that are deemed new, clever and which make a real difference in the local community. The judging panel tasked with choosing the successful projects consists of: Kenneth Egan, former Olympian, Aideen Darcy, Neighbourhood Network, Maura Winston, Cairn Homes, and Dr Con Kennedy, TU Dublin.

Speaking on the fund Maura Winston, Chief People Officer, Cairn said: "The Seven Mills Community Fund is part of Cairn's commitment to building sustainable communities where people can thrive. We are confident that the new fund will enable community initiatives that make a lasting, positive impact in Seven Mills and the wider Dublin 22 region. The fund builds on our continued

support in the community. We are encouraging all community groups in the area, big and small, to apply to the fund to help them achieve their goals in 2025 and beyond."

Applications to the Seven Mills Community Fund will be evaluated based on three essential criteria: creativity and innovation, project feasibility, and social impact. Projects should be designed to be complete by the end of 2025 and demonstrate unique, realistic approaches to addressing local needs in Dublin 22. Community groups interested in applying can find more information at <https://sevenmills.com/community-fund/>. Applications close on Saturday, December 20th.

Cairn began construction on Seven Mills in 2022, with over 200 residents calling Parkleigh in Seven Mills home since November last year. Almost 2,000 of the

5,500 planned new homes that Cairn will deliver at Seven Mills have been granted planning permission. Situated between Lucan and Clondalkin on the banks of the Grand Canal, Seven Mills

forms a major component of the Clonburris Strategic Development Zone (SDZ). When complete, Seven Mills will be home to over 15,000 people with significant commercial, retail, and

office space which will employ over 10,000 people. It will also consist of eight new schools and 10 creches. Every home will be within a five-minute walk of services and amenities.



Pictured (l-r) Seven Mills Community Fund judges Aideen Darcy, Kenneth Egan, Maura Winston, and Dr Con Kennedy at the launch of the Seven Mills Community Fund. Pic credit: Damien Eagers Photography.

Rest assured. Have your own say.

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Proudly supporting our community in Dublin 22

Introducing the Seven Mills Community Fund

At the heart of Seven Mills is a real desire to further contribute to the community in Dublin 22. So far, we have participated in the computers for schools programmes locally, provided almost 1,000 books to local school libraries and we proudly support Round Tower GAA. Through these activities we've seen the great work that so many local volunteer groups are doing daily, so now we'd like to work with you to support what you do. We know that by coming together, we can make an even bigger difference, because it's better for everyone in the community when we work as one.

More than just a grant

The Seven Mills Community Fund is a €30,000 fund designed to support local clubs, community groups and societies like yours who are already working hard to make a real difference in your area. Broken down into seven awards, our aim is to empower volunteer-led groups that enhance everyday life and foster community connections to do even more. So, whether you're looking to

upgrade your local sports facilities, grow a social initiative, or promote arts and culture in your neighbourhood, we want to hear about what you've been doing and what you would love to do next!

Seven grants are available

Ranging from €3,000 to €10,000, these grants are designed to help bring seven amazing local projects to life. No matter the size of your initiative, if it can spark joy, build connections, or inspire change, we're ready to support it - because this is for the community, by the community.

Ready to make an impact?

Apply today at SevenMills.com for your chance to win your share of the €30,000 fund to keep up your great work in the community. Entries close on December 20, so don't miss out!

We're building more than homes; working together with the Dublin 22 community, we're creating a brighter future, one community initiative at a time.



Seven Mills Community Fund

7 grants available from €3,000 - €10,000



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Entries close December 20.

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FORÓIGE VOLUNTEERS GATHER AT THE ANNUAL VOLUNTEER CONFERENCE IN GALWAY

Foróige volunteers from all over Ireland came together in Salthill, Galway recently for the organisation's 52nd annual Volunteer Conference. This year's event welcomed over 220 dedicated volunteers, celebrating their essential

role in youth development across the nation. This year's conference featured psychologist Shane Martin as the keynote speaker, who addressed the resilience in volunteer work. "Empowering volunteers not only enhances their well-

being but also enriches the lives of the young people they interact with," Martin noted. "The impact of dedicated volunteers on young people is immeasurable."

The event included a variety of workshops and

group discussions designed to foster collaboration and idea-sharing among volunteers. Participants connected with speakers and each other, exploring new ways to enhance their impactful work within their communities and sharing stories of how volunteering has changed their lives.

Odhrán O'Mahony, Chairperson of Foróige, opened the conference with a message of gratitude and inspiration: "Each of you plays a crucial role in shaping young people's lives. Your dedication and passion are what make Foróige a pillar of strength in communities throughout Ireland."

Reflecting on the future, O'Mahony added, "Foróige aims to ensure that every young person who wishes to engage in youth work has the opportunity to do so. Our vision is to have flourishing Foróige clubs and projects in every county, attracting and retaining passionate volunteers to continue our

mission." Foróige, now in its 72nd year of service, boasts over 4,500 volunteers across 450 clubs and 180 projects and programmes. Initiatives such as Leadership for Life, Be Healthy Be Happy,

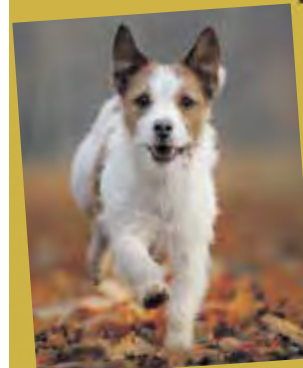
Network for Teaching Entrepreneurship (NFTE), and Big Brother Big Sister engage over 50,000 young people each year, empowering them to take responsibility for their futures.



Pictured The Big Picture Foróige Club Tallaght - Geraldine Mooney, Anthony Clinton and Wayne Travers.

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SAOIRSE DOMESTIC VIOLENCE SERVICES CELEBRATED ITS RE-LAUNCH!



On November 14th, Saoirse Domestic Violence Services celebrated its re-launch of services with their new freephone number, online training service and office. Officially cutting the ribbon, Minister and local TD Emer Higgins gave huge thanks to the Saoirse team, to outgoing Chair David for guiding the service through its growth, to Allison for her exceptional leadership, and to Nadine for ensuring Saoirse is always considered for every grant opportunity. The event was attended by Cuan, the Gardai, Ellen O'Malley Dunlop from Fine Gael Women's Network, and General Election Candidate Cllr Vicki Casserly PC.



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SOMEONE IS GOING TO BE KILLED IN QUARRYVALE FEUD

TD for Dublin Mid-West Mark Ward TD has warned that someone will be killed if the feud in Quarryvale is allowed to continue. This is after another firebomb attack last night that has destroyed 3 homes.

An 11-day old baby had to be evacuated recently. Deputy Ward has been calling for a task force to be put in place to tackle the ongoing feud between warring criminal gangs in North Clondalkin. The feud has been going on for over a year now and has resulted in numerous arson attacks on people's homes and most recently a young man charged with attempted murder. The day after the

attack happened Teachta Ward commented "Last night's firebomb attack on a house in Quarryvale has left the area traumatised.

"One house is completely destroyed and the two homes either side are now also uninhabitable. "I spent time with families this morning who told me that they had to evacuate their home with an 11-day old child. "This feud needs to be tackled before someone is killed. "I personally made the Guards and South Dublin County Council aware that the home that was attacked last night was under threat, but nothing was done about it. "This has

resulted in ordinary decent families having their homes destroyed. "People in North Clondalkin are living in fear. "There has been an ongoing feud going on in Quarryvale between rival criminal gangs. "We have had homes burnt out, shots fired in the open and machete attacks. "Most of these attacks are being played out on social media which is increasing fear and a sense of lawlessness in the area. "This feud has resulted in a young man arrested for attempted murder last month

"Things are escalating, and families are living in fear. It is like living in a war zone. "I contacted the Minister for Justice in June and asked for a task force to be set up. "The local Gardai are doing their best but are under-resourced. "Last month I again contacted the Minister, the Garda Commissioner and South Dublin County Council and called for an urgent task force, similar to what was set up in the North Inner City.

"This plea fell on deaf ears and has led to this further

firebomb attack.

"I am aware that the local Garda station is putting resources in the area, but

they are limited. "We need a dedicated task force with the appropriate resources. "South Dublin County Council also has a role to

play in the solution on estate management grounds. "The good people of Quarryvale need solutions to make their area feel safe again.

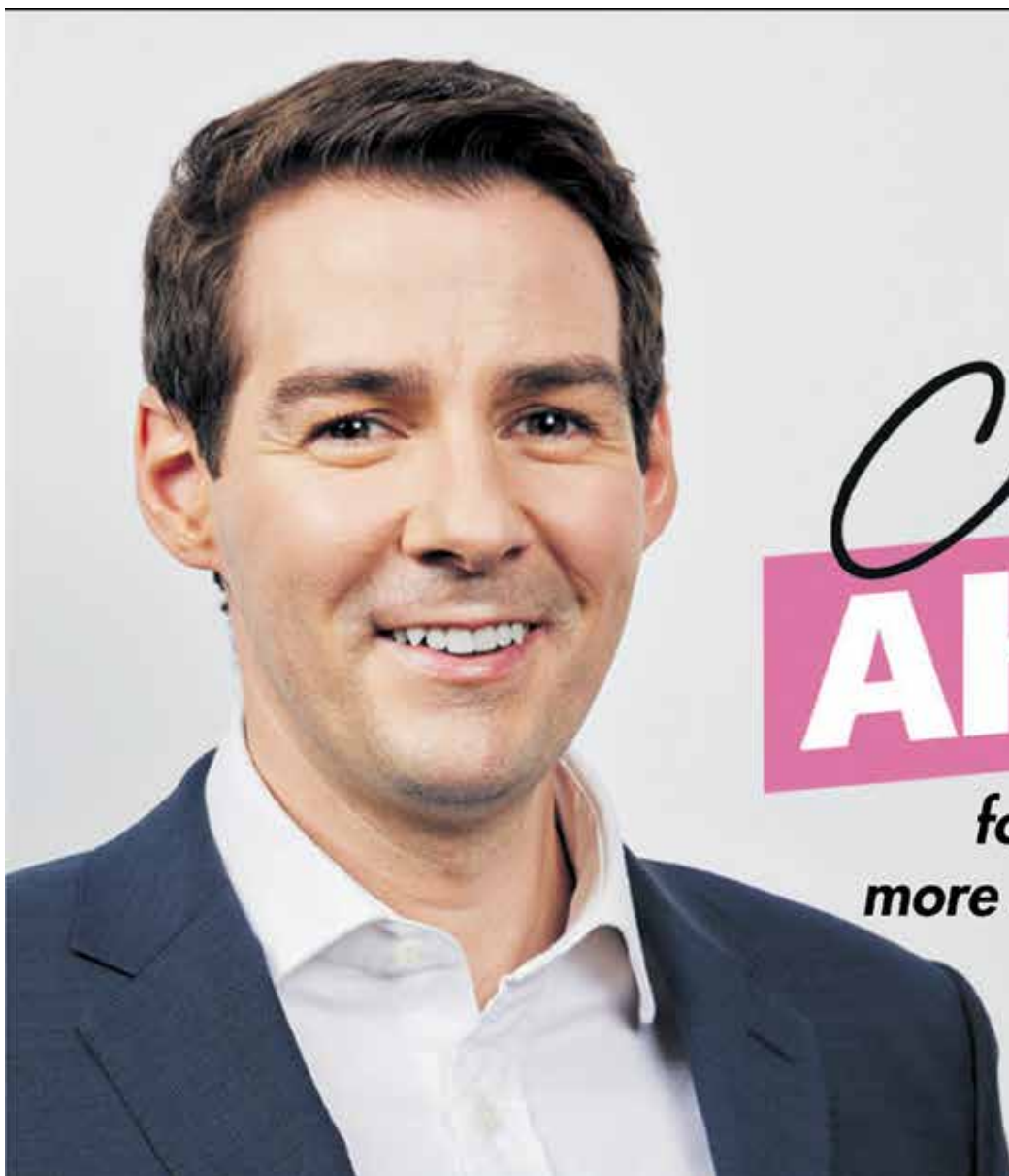


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BUILDING BETTER TOGETHER

COUNCIL RENTS SET TO DOUBLE FOR WORKING FAMILIES

At the SDCC budget meeting on Thursday 14th Nov, Councillor William Carey sought the scrapping of rent increases that were introduced in the 2021 council budget. According

to Cllr Carey these increases which have yet to be fully implemented by SDCC but are now being put into effect by all AHBs and has led to increases of rent in some cases of up to 63%. Cllr Carey

stated that these levels of rent increase are clearly punitive and are having devastating effects upon families with adult children who are forced to stay at home. Unfortunately for Cllr

Carey his motion was ruled out of order by management as this was deemed to be an executive function. This led to heated discussion where Cllr Carey complained that previous motion's around rents had been taken at budget meetings. Cllr Carey also complained that a report and analysis of rents in South Dublin had only arrived one hour prior to the start of the council meeting.

of the private market are now being penalised with these increases, and quite often they are reduced to room sharing due to family sizes. Cllr Carey added, I had a motion down at our budget meeting today to scrap these increases, but it failed to make it on to the floor for full debate.

FG controlled council is dipping straight into the pockets of those families whose adult children are forced to remain at home. Cllr Carey concluded, they have failed to recognise the damage being caused by this excessive increase upon working families. They have no excuses and cannot claim ignorance here. This is the second time I have tried to have this matter dealt with, said Cllr Carey, I have no doubt that for many families they will struggle to collect this level of rent and the onus will fall upon the head of the household here.

Cllr Carey continued, this is particularly galling given the impression that the government parties are claiming to be putting more money in the pockets of people through the recent budget whilst FF/

This had denied him an opportunity to incorporate data into the motion for consideration. Cllr Carey however read from a prepared statement outlining the purpose of his motion and pointed out that the full implementation of the new rents policy would lead to huge disruption within families and that we will see this manifest over the coming months. The increases that being imposed have seen rents of adult children who work, being doubled from 10% to 20% of their income.

According to Cllr Carey, many young people who are forced to remain living at home because of the state

PLAN TO STRENGTHEN AND SUPPORT URBAN COMMUNITIES

Fianna Fáil General Election candidate Cllr Shane Moynihan has welcomed the launch of a policy document to enhance and support urban living across Ireland. With two-thirds of the population residing in towns and cities, Fianna Fáil's plan will make urban areas cleaner, safer, and more resilient. Fianna Fáil will introduce a new Urban Communities Initiative, backed by €175m over the term of government. This initiative will focus on addressing the unique challenges faced by communities in areas of high disadvantage.

Gardaí visible across our communities.

"Fianna Fáil will expand the Garda force by 5000, the largest expansion ever in the history of the An Garda Síochána. This expansion will prioritise community and town-center policing, helping to create a safer environment across our towns and cities. We will also fund improved training facilities and equipment to support Gardaí as they adapt to the demands of growing urban populations.

Moynihan said, "The Gardaí play an essential role in safeguarding the most vulnerable among us. Garda visibility on our streets and in our communities is vital to ensuring families feel safe. Without a strong Garda presence, we risk chaos in our towns and cities. "Since 2020 the Garda training allowance has been increased, we have raised both the age limit for entry and the retirement age to aid Garda recruitment and retention. However, we need to do much more to ensure that there are far more

Fianna Fáil has long advocated for the need for a dedicated Transport Police unit, focused on preventing and tackling crime and anti-social behaviour on our national public transport network.

"Public transport should not be a space where crime can thrive unchallenged," said Cllr Shane Moynihan. "With a dedicated transport police, we will ensure that our transit system becomes a safer, more secure environment for everyone."

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82% OF SOUTH DUBLIN RENTALS DID NOT MEET MINIMUM STANDARDS

People Before Profit has expressed deep concern over new figures showing that 82% of rented properties in South Dublin failed to meet minimum legal standards upon initial inspection in 2024, up from 72% in 2023. Environmental health inspectors for South Dublin County Council conducted 4,285 inspections from Q1 to Q3 this year, uncovering a worsening crisis of substandard housing conditions across the county.

Commenting on these figures Deputy Gino Kenny said “These numbers reveal an appalling disregard for tenants’ safety in South Dublin. Landlords are clearly failing to meet basic legal standards, and tenants are paying the price”.

Despite rising rates of non-compliance, South Dublin County Council has only issued seven improvement notices to landlords this year, after issuing none in 2023. This figure stands in stark contrast to Dublin City Council, which issued 946 improvement notices to landlords in 2023. Improvement notices are essential first steps toward enforcing standards, as they outline the specific repairs and upgrades that landlords must make to bring properties up to legal requirements.

“For too long, South Dublin County Council has allowed landlords to get away with renting unsafe properties. Tenants are living in poor conditions, yet enforcement is virtually non-existent. We need real action to hold landlords accountable,”

“The government has failed to address the housing crisis, allowing landlords to ignore basic standards because they know people are desperate,” said Deputy Kenny.

SUPPORT CHILDREN LIKE GRACE THIS DECEMBER WITH CHILDREN'S HEALTH FOUNDATION'S CHRISTMAS JUMPER DAY

Children’s Health Foundation invites communities, schools, workplaces, and families across Ireland to spread holiday cheer by taking part in Christmas Jumper Day 2024.

Supporters can participate anytime during the week of 9th December. By wearing a festive jumper, supporters can help raise vital funds to provide supports to patients and families, purchase life-saving equipment and provide Play and Music therapies for children in Children’s Health Ireland hospital sites and urgent care centres at Crumlin, Temple Street, Tallaght, and Connolly.

This year’s Christmas Jumper Day spotlights Grace, an 11-year-old with a steadfast spirit from Dublin. Active and joyful, Grace was an avid gymnast, footballer, and dancer until a sudden medical emergency changed her life in an instant. She suffered a brain bleed that required immediate surgery, leading to an extended journey of recovery and resilience at Children’s

Health Ireland at Temple Street.

While in Children’s Health Ireland, Grace received round-the-clock care from dedicated medical teams who helped her regain strength day by day. She continues to make strides in her recovery and is preparing for further treatment. Grace’s journey underscores the critical need for resources and support for young patients and their families.

“Christmas Jumper Day is a way for everyone to come together and make a real difference for children like Grace,” says Fionnuala O’Leary, Chief Executive of Children’s Health Foundation. “By wearing a jumper, each participant becomes part of a meaningful cause that brings hope and supports to thousands of children and families across Ireland at Christmas and every day of the year.”

To sign up for Christmas Jumper Day, go to childrenshealth.ie/christmas-jumper-day

Supporters can choose their ideal setting, from hosting an event in a school, workplace, creche, community group, or even at home.

Every jumper worn will directly support Children’s Health Ireland hospitals and urgent care centres, enabling the Foundation to provide vital resources, enhanced patient care, and ongoing supports for young patients and their families during challenging times. Your jolly Christmas

style can help sick children smile! Together, our festive jumpers can bring comfort and supports to children like Grace and their families across Ireland.

Sign up today for Christmas Jumper Day 2024 and Children’s Health Foundation will send you a pack with posters, stickers and more. For more information on how to participate, visit childrenshealth.ie/christmas-jumper-day



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 Email:
Lynn.boylan@europarl.europa.eu



A message from **Lynn Boylan,** your Sinn Féin MEP

A chara,

I was delighted to be elected to the European Parliament as your Dublin MEP in June. It has been a busy time since then so I want to take this opportunity to say thank you to all who voted for me to be your representative. Moreover, please rest assured that even if you did not vote for me, I will be a representative for all Dubliners in Brussels and Strasbourg.

It is important for me to keep in touch with you all, so this note is intended to give you an outline of the topics that I have been working on since my election. Needless to say I cannot cover everything here and if you need further information please do not hesitate to use my contact details provided.

My workload to date has included taking part in EU committee work on the Committee on International Trade and the Committee on the Environment, Public Health and Food Safety. Some of my ongoing work has also included:

Supporting Dublin sports

- Hosting a football club delegation, along with its partners, to learn about EU funding possibilities
- Organising an FAI delegation to Brussels to support the FAI's ambitions for youth academies

Leading on Trade and Palestinian Solidarity

- Representing the European Parliament at a meeting of the World Trade Organisation Public Forum
- Raising the EU-Israel Association Agreement
- Taking up the elected role of Chair of the European Parliament's committee on Palestine

Pushing for fair climate action

- Quizzing the new European Commissioners on fossil fuel lobbyists, toxic chemicals
- Addressing the Commission on the need for more international climate finance at COP29
- Raising the issue of energy poverty and the number of households in arrears with their payments

Tackling greenwashing

- Being appointed as a negotiator on the proposed new laws concerning 'greenwashing'
- Ensuring that the mobile phone company Vodafone removed misleading advertisements

Championing Animal Welfare

- Highlighting many dog welfare and animal welfare issues

I hope to keep in touch with you on a regular basis and please keep in touch with me.

Is mise le meas,

Lynn Boylan
Lynn Boylan



LABOUR'S PLAN TO TACKLE THE COST OF LIVING CRISIS

Councillor and Dublin South-West general election candidate Ciarán Ahern spoke following the launch of Labour's new finance policy, highlighting its commitment to tackling the cost of living crisis, which is hitting households across Ireland.

knocking on doors across Dublin South-West, and hearing the same story over and over: people are struggling to keep up with rising costs. Ireland is a wealthy country, yet so many feel fleeced. Prices have skyrocketed, while wages and welfare payments have lagged behind. This

government has allowed the cost of living crisis to spiral out of control, and once-off payments like those in the recent budget are simply a sticking plaster—they don't address the long-term problem of incomes falling behind inflation.

"Workers and their families deserve more than reactive measures. Labour will make sure incomes are protected from inflation by linking tax credits and welfare payments to rising prices. It's the only sustainable way to ensure people aren't left behind. Ireland has the third-highest household electricity prices in the EU. This isn't just unfair—it's unacceptable. Labour will establish an expert review group to identify ways to bring electricity prices in line with the European average within six months.

"Labour also pledged to strengthen protections for consumers in Dublin

South-West and across the country. We're committed to protecting people from price gouging. Labour will increase funding for the Consumer Regulator and ensure it has the powers needed to crack down on bad practices. We'll also remove penalties for paying state services in instalments, like motor tax, which unfairly punishes those without large disposable incomes. And to make justice more accessible, Labour will raise the Small Claims Court limit from €2,000 to €8,000—something that hasn't been updated since 2006.

"We cannot continue on the current trajectory. People in Dublin South-West and across Ireland are under immense pressure just to make ends meet. Labour's plan will deliver real change by protecting incomes, reducing living costs, and ensuring fairness for all. It's time for a Government that prioritises people, so we can build better, together."

OVER €33,000 FOR LOCAL ANIMAL WELFARE CHARITIES

Fianna Fáil General Election candidate Lynda Prendergast has welcomed confirmation from her party colleague, Minister for Agriculture, Food and the Marine, Charlie McConalogue T.D., that 101 animal welfare charities nationwide are in line for funding of €6 million. Locally, Animal Trust Fund in Clondalkin will receive €15,200, Clondalkin Animal Aid €14,050 and North Dublin Cat Rescue in Ballyowen €4,000. Lynda Prendergast said, "My party colleague in government Minister McConalogue has championed these grants. It underlines Fianna Fáil's commitment to supporting these organisations in the vital work they do across the country, protecting, rescuing and taking care of animals, and providing education and guidance so as to prevent welfare problems from arising in the future. "I would like to thank animal charity staff and volunteers for their hard work and inspiring dedication."

NEW REPORT ON THE CULTURAL ROLE AND VALUE OF IRELAND'S BOOKSHOPS LAUNCHED IN LIFFEY VALLEY



On Monday, 11th of November, Local Fine Gael TD and Minister of State for Business, Employment, and Retail, Emer Higgins, launched the report 'Bringing Culture into the Heart of Communities - The Cultural Role and Value of Ireland's Bookshops' with Bookselling Ireland's Chair Dawn Behan and Cian Byrne. The event, held at Dubray Books, Liffey Valley Shopping Centre, highlights the many ways in which the bookselling sector actively supports communities, culture, creativity and contributes to inbound tourism across the country. Minister Higgins expressed thanks to Dubray and to Liffey Valley for hosting and to Dawn and Cian from Bookselling Ireland for their work and advocacy for Ireland's bookselling sector.

An evening Christmas Concert in aid of Peamount Healthcare
 Wednesday 11th December 2024
 The Lucan Spa Hotel, doors open at 7.00pm

Terry Clancy conducts:
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 Featuring: The Aristocrats Big Band,
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DUBLIN'S BELOVED CHRISTMAS TRADITION: THE MOVING CRIB CELEBRATES 68 YEARS OF JOY!

The cherished tradition of The Moving Crib is returning to enchant visitors at 42 Parnell Square West, Dublin 1, from November 28th to January 5th. This historic attraction invites individuals and families to immerse themselves in the wonder of Christmas with FREE entry for all. Known for its engaging displays and heartwarming atmosphere, The Moving Crib has created unforgettable memories for generations.



For nearly seven decades, it has captivated visitors with exquisitely handcrafted nativity scenes that vividly bring the Christmas story to life. Marvel at the hand-painted figurines of Mary, Joseph, the baby Jesus, shepherds, kings, and animals around the manger while the three wise men and their camels make their journey, as described in the Bible. This enchanting experience reminds us of all of the true meaning of Christmas.

Christmas celebrations for generations," said Darragh Murphy, General Manager of the Saint Martin Apostolate. "We're thrilled to welcome our visitors to this unique tradition that fosters faith, community, and joy again this year!"

On December 1, don't miss the energetic performance by the Bray Gospel Choir, filling the air with classic Christmas carols, gospel, and soul music from 12 noon to 3:30 PM. Everyone is invited to attend and join in with this festive sing-along! Entry to The Moving Crib and

the choir performance is FREE—no booking required! Donations are appreciated to sustain this beloved event for years to come. The Moving Crib will be open seven days from 11 AM to 5:30 PM, except Christmas Day, St. Stephen's Day, and New Year's Day. For more details, visit www.stmartin.ie/crib or follow @StMartinDublin on social media.

This Christmas season don't miss your chance to experience the magic of The Moving Crib—an unforgettable event for everyone!

"The Moving Crib has been a part of Dublin's



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Our garden sheds, insulated buildings and garden rooms are designed for maximum strength and low maintenance. Our garden sheds are ideal if the space you have is limited and if you need an extra room our insulated buildings are perfect for a home office, gym, games room or even a home bar. These sheds and garden rooms are built using exactly the same galvanised steel framing as our larger buildings and have maintenance free PVC coated cladding.

All garden sheds and buildings come with a non-drip roof to prevent condensation in cold weather and an optional clearlight providing loads of natural working light. Our sheds have a 34" (86cm) door for easy access with lawnmowers, wheelbarrows, garden furniture, etc.

Garden sheds & buildings can include a wooden floor which is raised off the ground and has steel framing under the 18mm OSB flooring, insulated door with handle, PVC door, double doors, french doors, roller door and optional woodgrain cladding and six great colours to choose from for free.





Range of Colours:



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Mushroom



Woodgrain



Moorland Green



Goosewing Grey



Brown

Shed Size	Price	+ Timber Floor	+Wood Grain
6'9" x 4'6"	€1350	+ €175	+ €175
6'9" x 6'6"	€1450	+ €175	+ €175
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8' x 6'6"	€1550	+ €250	+ €225
8' x 8'	€1700	+ €250	+ €250

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CELEBRATING EXCELLENCE: HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE LSMD EXCELLENCE AWARDS 2024

The Leinster School of Music & Drama recently held its highly anticipated Excellence Awards for 2024, a celebration of exceptional talent from students across Ireland who take LSMD grade examinations.

At Rua Red Theatre in Tallaght, the Head of The LSMD Faculty, Karen Casey, warmly welcomed attendees to this year's Prizewinners Concert, acknowledging the dedication of students and their supportive families and teachers. This annual event is a platform for showcasing the hard work and commitment of the LSMD students, many of whom received Special Recognition

for their remarkable achievements.

Among those honored were Beata Nazarova, Daniel Minto, Christoph Werner, and Alzbeta Bundova, who were recognized for their outstanding performances. The event also celebrated the Excellence Award Quarterfinalists, who each received a cash prize and a silver medal. The highest honours of the day were awarded to Londi Ndlovu, named the Overall Winner for Speech & Drama Performance, and Dayna Quinlan, recognized as the Overall Winner for Music Performance. Both winners received the coveted LSMD

Perpetual Cup, symbolizing their excellence and commitment to their craft.

In her closing remarks, Karen Casey celebrated the remarkable legacy of the Excellence Awards, spotlighting past winners like broadcaster Laura Whitmore. Former LSMD students Aoibhinn and Doireann Garrihy carry forward this tradition, upholding the values of The LSMD and guiding their students as they prepare for exams.

The event was a wonderful celebration of artistic achievement and a testament to The LSMD's role in nurturing Ireland's next

generation of performers. If you are interested in starting

your journey with The LSMD, please email leinster@griffith.ie for more details.

school@griffith.ie for more details.

TALLAGHT'S CALLIE WEIR STARRING IN BAD SISTERS AND FAIR CITY

Callie Weir is a rising young Irish talent hailing from Tallaght. Although the young actress is only 11 years old, viewers at home will already be familiar with her on their screens as little Kim Duff in Fair City. However, Callie will be making an appearance in another beloved series very soon that will be of global fame!

Callie started her career in shows with her drama school 'Talented Kids', she then went on to appear in Films and TV series such as 'Here Are The Young Men', 'Sisters', 'Layla' as well as numerous commercials, voice overs and recently being one of the select few to be a featured Actor in the recent Abbey Theatre production of SAFEHOUSE.

About to be added to Callie's long list of credits is the Apple TV series 'Bad Sisters'! Callie will be joining household names such as Sharon Horgan, Eve Hewson, Anne-Marie Duff and Daryl McCormack. Callie plays

Jessie Loftus in the show and is delighted to be a part of this amazing series, which she filmed in Dublin and London. Catch Callie in the new season of 'Bad Sisters'.

The series is now streaming on Apple TV!

Or alternatively tune in to RTE's Fair City to see her up to her menacing antics as Kim!!!





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MOTORING LIFE WITH**NEW RENAULT RAFALE – THE HEIGHT OF DRIVING PLEASURE**

By Breda Corrigan

Expressing French flair for excellence and intrepid design, the stunning new Renault Rafale Coupé-SUV connects with Renault's prestigious past in the French aviation industry, and the records notched up by the Caudron-Renault Rafale aircraft, which reached a speed of 445km/h in 1934 and went on to win multiple awards.

Dramatic Style.

The new Renault Rafale delivers the dramatic looks buyers want, the tech on-board is excellent and space is plentiful. The Rafale is equipped with a self-charging, full hybrid engine and underpinnings part-developed by sports-car manufacturer Alpine. The Rafale is 4.71m long, 1.86m wide, and 1.61m tall, placing it squarely in the D-segment, while its impressive 2.74m wheelbase allows for a profiled, flowing roofline, gently curved to maintain maximum headroom for rear seat occupants. The Rafale boasts a dynamic and sporty look, with its upright front end, pronounced shoulders, sloping tailgate and a distinctive front and rear lighting signature. The visually-impactful radiator grille is made up of small diamonds arranged in a 3D design around the central logo. The background of blue or slate grey (depending on the version) seems to appear and disappear depending on the angle of vision. Additionally, this diamond theme is carried over to the light signature for a strong and robust effect. At the back the taillights are narrow in the middle before fanning out to the sides, giving the car a tall and imposing stance. Their shape is inspired by Chinese tangram puzzles, in which a square is divided into seven pieces. When switched on, they are brought to life by micro-optical technology, and when they are switched off, they resemble 'floating ice cubes'. Stylish body cladding around the car's lower edges give it a rugged look, as does the inclusion of gloss black wheel arch protectors.

Self-Charging Hybrid Power.

For now, the sole powerplant option is a 1.2-litre petrol engine with two electric motors that produce a combined power output of 200hp (197bhp), with power sent to the car's front wheels. In a similar fashion to regular hybrids, the Rafale is capable of driving on electric power alone in urban settings, with Renault claiming that up to 80% of urban driving can be completed without the use of the petrol engine at all. With an official fuel consumption figure of 60.1mpg (4.7l/100km) on a WLTP combined driving cycle, the Rafale should prove itself to be a cost-effective travel

companion. A Co2 emissions figure of 107g/km results in annual road tax of just €180. The Rafale Hybrid will soon be joined by a 300hp plug-in hybrid (PHEV) version, with a bigger battery and an additional electric motor to drive the rear wheels, providing the car with all-wheel drivability. Trim grades consist of techno, esprit Alpine and esprit Alpine+ (plus), all of which are supplied with a comprehensive array of comfort, convenience, safety, and infotainment features as standard.

Plush, Hi-Tech Cabin.

The Rafale's plush cabin features a 12.3-inch digital instrument cluster and a 12.0-inch infotainment touchscreen in a portrait format which runs Google's Android-based operating system, and it includes Google Maps navigation and Google Assistant, among other features. The system is called OpenR Link and remains one of the best infotainment systems available. The screens are incredibly sharp and responsive, while the menus are always quick to load and intuitive because they're laid out in a similar fashion to those on an Android smartphone. Thankfully, there are physical controls for the heating and ventilation system, so there is no need to have to use the touchscreen for that purpose at all. The Rafale features special new seats with lateral reinforcements for exceptional support. The Alcantara upholstery contributes to the sporty ambience, while also being eco-responsible as the first Alcantara to be recycled, up to a level of 61%. Delivering generous interior space in the front and rear compartments, the Rafale raises the bar in terms of travelling pleasure and overall comfort. For an enhanced onboard experience, the new Rafale features an ingenious rear armrest, dedicated to multimedia activities. This high-tech armrest includes two USB sockets, storage space for tablets and smartphones, and two fold-out supports for viewing the screens in comfort.

Up front, the centre console features an elevated, padded wrist rest designed to provide a stable platform when you are making inputs on the touchscreen, while ambient lighting can be set to change colour subtly every 30 minutes to match the time of day or night it is. Solarbay technology allows the panoramic glass roof to be made opaque in sections at the touch of a button - keeping occupants cool in the rear seats, for example, while allowing you to enjoy the sunshine up front. The Rafale boasts class-leading boot space of 530-litres, and this can be expanded by dropping the rear seat backs when necessary. Standard safety systems

across all trims include: lane departure warning, lane change warning, occupant safe exit warning, lane keeping assist, blind spot warning, rear cross traffic alert, rear automatic emergency braking, automatic emergency braking with pedestrian and cyclist detection, traffic sign recognition with speed alert, and driver attention alert.

Test Car Details.

My Rafale esprit Alpine+ test car was finished in Shadow Grey metallic paintwork with a Diamond Black metallic roof and striking 20-inch sonic black diamond-cut alloy wheels.

As powerful as it is efficient, the 200hp E-Tech full hybrid engine combines power and fuel economy. The 4Control advanced 4-wheel steering system makes trajectories clear, precise and safe, ensuring that curves and bends remain under control. The 4Control system provides the Rafale with a turning circle of just 10.4-metres, which is close to that of a city car and it works in such a way that at speeds of up to 50km/h, the rear wheels turn in the opposite direction to the front wheels to reduce the turning circle and facilitate manoeuvring. At speeds in excess of 50km/h, the rear wheels turn in the same direction as the front wheels to improve road holding and safety. The petrol engine drives the front wheels via an automatic gearbox, and a 67bhp electric motor is located between the petrol engine and the main gearbox. The second motor is an integrated starter-generator that collects energy when the car coasts or brakes, and can assist acceleration if needed. There is a 2kWh battery under the driver's seat that allows electric-only driving for short distances, and Renault claim that in town, electric driving allows you to save up to 40% on fuel, with the car's battery recharging itself during deceleration and braking. With 200hp (197bhp) and 205Nm of torque on offer, the Rafale can accelerate from 0-100km/h in 8.9-seconds, on its way to a top speed of 180km/h (where permitted).

Verdict & Price.

With its generous dimensions, dynamic design and strong personality, the Renault Rafale takes up a natural position as the Renault brand's new flagship. The Rafale introduces a new design language for the whole Renault brand, with an interesting combination of curved surfaces and hard edges that its creators say provide 'tension and definition'. Pricing starts at €51,495. Visit www.renault.ie for further information.

THREE TALLAGHT STUDENTS RECEIVE FITZGERALD FAMILY SCHOLARSHIP AWARDS TO FURTHER THEIR EDUCATION

Three Tallaght students have been awarded educational scholarships through a community-based initiative organised by An Cosán community education centre in Jobstown and sponsored by Sherry FitzGerald estate agents. The students, who successfully completed their Leaving Certificate exams this summer and are now settling into third level education, were presented with the FitzGerald Family Scholarship Awards at a special ceremony held recently in An Cosán.

Uche Disu, Kevin McCarthy and Jide Lawal were presented with their awards by Will Moore, Regional Director, Dealbha Prendergast, HR Director, of Sherry FitzGerald, and Heydi Foster, CEO of An Cosán. They were joined at the celebration by proud family members and representatives of the students' former schools. An Cosán set up the scholarship (originally known as the Joan FitzGerald Award) in 2004 in memory of Joan FitzGerald, wife of the late Dr Garret

FitzGerald, former Taoiseach of Ireland. The award scheme strives to break down barriers, creating equal access opportunities to third-level education.

Uche Disu, from Rossfield, attended Old Bawn Community School, and is now in Dublin City University studying Psychology and Disruptive Technologies. Uche is a keen athlete and wishes to continue to develop her athletic career while studying at DCU, and states receiving the scholarship will help to ease financial pressures. Old Bawn described Uche as "an exceptional student".

Kevin McCarthy from Mount Seskin Community College is in TU Dublin studying Sustainable Energy Engineering. Kevin states that receiving the scholarship will allow him to invest in a laptop, as he was conducting research for his course using his phone, and the computers in college. The ACE co-ordinator in Mount Seskin Community College - Susan O'Connor,

described Kevin as "a very hard-working student with excellent attendance records throughout his years attending the college"

Jide Lawal from St Marks Community School is in TU Dublin studying Mechanical Engineering. Jide also plans to use the funding from the scholarship to purchase a laptop, which is essential for his studies. The Assistant Principal from St Mark's Community College - Janice Martin - commented that "Jide always pushed himself to the max in terms of academic achievements, and was always available to support his peers and the younger members of the school community"

Speaking at the awards ceremony, An Cosán's Chief Executive Officer, Heydi Foster said, "The co-founders of An Cosán, Drs Ann Louise Gilligan and Katherine Zappone, had the privilege of knowing Joan in her later years and described her as an inspiration to their work in West Tallaght. They spoke of the many

conversations they had with Joan about life, learning, family, women, and theology, and how her comments and questions were always filled with insight and challenge.

"Joan's love of learning and her passion for justice were the seedbed of her extraordinary wisdom. Joan was committed to the advancement and empowerment of women and to an Irish society characterised by justice. "In

2004, to honour Joan and to keep the memory of her spirit alive, An Cosán initiated the Joan FitzGerald Award. Over the past 18 years this award has been presented to local students, who were nominated by their schools, and going on to study at third level institutes. The awards, which are now funded by Sherry FitzGerald were at first presented by the late Dr Garret FitzGerald and, after he passed away in 2011, by one of his three children -

John, Mary, or Mark - and, more recently, by one of his grandchildren."

Will Moore, Regional Director of Sherry FitzGerald said it was a privilege to fund the scholarship and to present the scholarships to three such deserving students. "They should all be very proud of themselves and I wish them every success in the future," he said. "I am happy to present this award in Joan FitzGerald's name.



Pictured L-R at the presentation of the FitzGerald Awards 2024 are Heydi Foster, CEO, An Cosán; Dealbha Prendergast, HR Director, Sherry FitzGerald; Kevin McCarthy, FitzGerald Award recipient; Uche Disu, FitzGerald Award recipient; Jide Lawal, FitzGerald Award recipient; Will Moore, Regional Director, Sherry FitzGerald.

NOVENAS FOR LAURA LYNN

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

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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) I.B

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: NEWSGROUP, Unit 3 Floor 2 St Dominics Shopping Centre, St Dominics Road, Tallaght, Dublin 24. If you require any further information please call 01 45 19 000 or email: info@newsgroup.ie.

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NATIONAL AGE FRIENDLY RECOGNITION AND ACHIEVEMENT AWARDS

South Dublin County Council is delighted to announce that their age friendly housing development at Brady's Court, Old Bawn, Tallaght has been recognised

in the 2024 National Age Friendly Recognition and Achievement Awards winning in the Housing Award category.

necessary. The development also integrates communal spaces for residents to foster social connections and reduce isolation.

to high quality, secure and accessible homes. I would like to particularly thank our Housing, Community

and Architects staff for their hard work and dedication which has been instrumental in securing this award"



The 'Age Friendly Housing' award celebrates excellence in social housing development that addresses the unique needs of our aging population. Brady's Court, Old Bawn represents thoughtful urban planning, prioritising accessibility, safety, and community engagement for residents. This innovative approach ensures that the development not only meets the physical needs of older residents but also supports their health and social well-being.

The Council has a number of similar age-friendly housing initiatives across the County that incorporate the successful elements of Brady's Court, which will help to create age-friendly neighborhood's tailored to the specific needs of residents.

Speaking on the announcement, Colm Ward, Chief Executive of South Dublin County Council said; "Winning the Age Friendly Housing award for our development at Brady's Field, Old Bawn recognises our commitment to the continued development of high-quality housing developments across the County. It is great to achieve this prestigious award for our age-friendly development that offers our older citizens access

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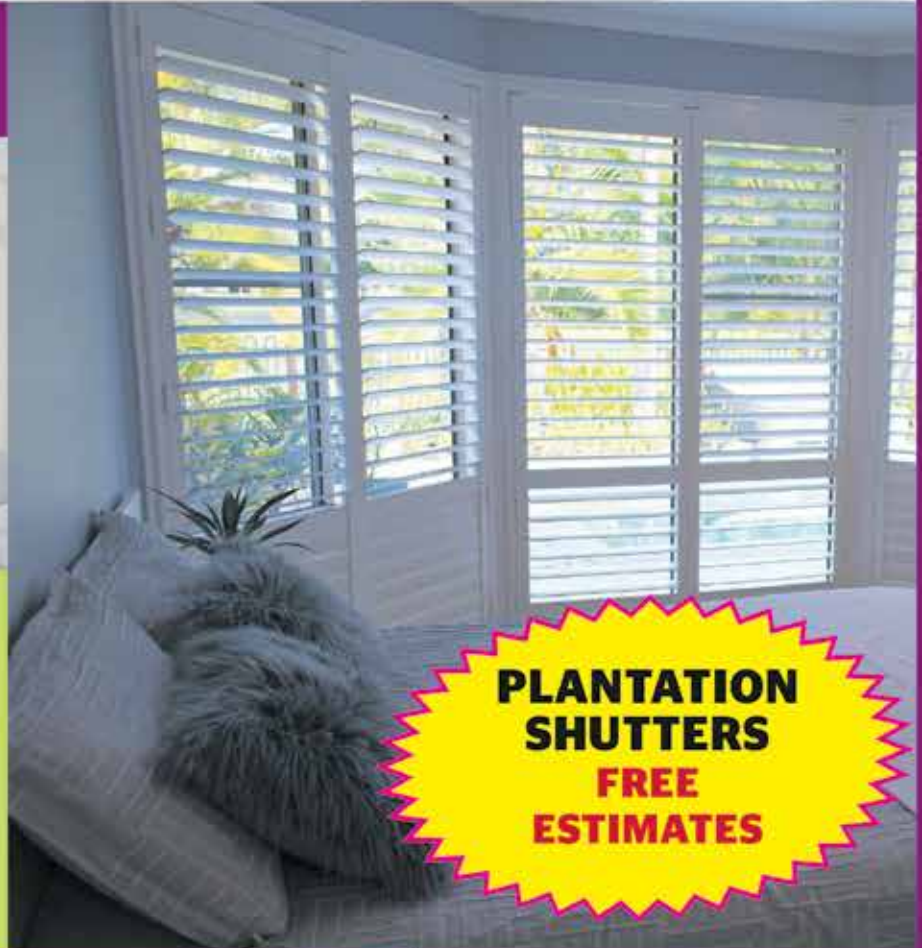
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